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OPUS - TIMETABLE MODULE

PRELIMINARY REQUIREMENTS

Assumptions:

User has to be authenticated, this is done by logging in to the OPUS system.

A complete roster for all lectures is available.

Constraints:

Target users:

Students/Teachers:

Students and teachers will be able to look at their individual timetables, these timetables show the timeframes of all the lectures and exams the student/teacher is a member of. It might be necessary to provide teachers with the possibility to edit the events of their own courses.

Functionality:

University Timetable:

The goal of this module is to enable every student to access his/her individual university timetable. This timetable will be dynamically generated, upon the users request, by accessing information about the lectures that the student is registered for. It will then display all the lecture-dates in a visual overview. By default the timetable should show the current week (Mo - Fr), but there have to be options to customize the displayed timeframe or the displayed date.

It should also be possible to display all the dates/places of the courses that are offered at the university.

Each event (lecture date) has the following properties:

- I. Name
- II. Place
- III. Start time/date
- IV. End time/date
- V. Name of teacher (optional)

The University timetable may not be edited by the user.

Personal Timetable:

It might be convenient for users to add their own appointments and other dates to the timetable, so the possibility of this extension should be taken into account when designing/ implementing the module, even if this functionality is not implemented right away!

One thing that has to be decided is whether the personal timetable will be integrated into the university TT or if they will be completely separated.

The personal timetable, in contrast to the university timetable, may be edited by the user.

Timetable Export:

To not restrict the users to usage of the OPUS timetabling module, a function to export the generated timetable to standard formats should be implemented. This enables users to import the exported files into the calendar application of their choice.

Another possibility is to enable the module to synchronize the timetable(s) with other calendar programs (Outlook, iCal) through the use of standard technologies (CalDAV/WebDAV). As the implementation of these protocols will most certainly take a lot of time, this functionality might not be present in the first versions of the module.

Visual Representation:

The visualization of the events should resemble a regular paper calendar. The user gets an overview of all the events in the current week or any other user-specified timeframe.

If the personal timetable is integrated into the university TT, then the events of the two timetables should be clearly distinguishable by color. Another possibility would be to group events that belong to the same course, this could be done by assigning them the same color. The color assignment should be done when a course is entered into the system, each course would have its individual color, and the corresponding events in the timetable would use this color to show their course affiliation.