Info263 Group 15 Project Documentation

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# Introduction

The purpose of designing this interface is to support staff from the UC School of Mathematics & Statistics in managing event activities. In addition, the interface consists of several pages including a login page, home page, create event page, a past events and a future events page. This interface enables users to easily view current, past and future events as well as create new events in a simplistic one step process. This report outlines the description of the features functionality and reasonings of our implementation.

# Decision Making Process

First and foremost, we evaluated the problem faced by the lecturers or staff with the current scheduler. The video provided to us showed us an example of how they currently define events. The current system is very nitpicky and requires an expert to create each event this is impracticle and time consuming. Staff in the mathmatics department should be able to simply create an event when they need to without having to go through a third party.

The purpose of this interface is to simplify the current process. This is to ensure the users with various level of IT experience will be able to use all the features easily. Staff should not have to be experts with databases and should not require aditional training in order to create a new event.

We looked at UCs current interfaces including UC Learn the UC website and UCPeopleSoft to ensure our design was consistant with UCs design templates. This is to provide consistency to the users, which is crucial in designing an interface. Furthermore, we outline features that we suppose possible and narrow it to the most necessary features to avoid crowding.

Lastly, we analysed our options in design layout. We chose the simplest layout for this interface to serve the initial purpose fitly, which was to simplify the process in creating new events. Our interface also makes it easier for staff to see an overview of events.

# Design Layout

Our interface was styled using the Bootstrap Library, jQuery library and AJAX library as well as our own CSS documents. Our interface was designed using PHP, JavaScript, CSS, and SQL. Stored procedures have been used to link the database with our interface.

## A picture containing chart Description automatically generatedThe Login Page (login.php)

The design of the login page is aimed to be simple yet elegant. We did not include a sign-up option as all users will already have username and password from the UC Human Resource Department. It is crucial for users to key in the correct username and password for them to access the interface. When the username or password is invalid, the user will be alerted.

## Navigation Bar

The navigation bar is at the top of all our website’s pages and allows users to navigate between the pages in our system, which include the Home, Create Event, Past Events and Future Events pages. The navigation bar also includes a search bar where users can search for events by event name. Users can select an event from the dynamically populated pull down menu or use the search button to search what they have typed. This each will redirect users to the search results page. Users can also log out at any time with the logout button in the navigation bar.

## The Home Page (home.php)

The home page displays a list of the current week events once users have successfully logged in. Users will be able to navigate to other weeks using the navigation buttons. We put the current events on the home page to ensure all users knew what events were occurring in the current week. This will save users’ time and allow them to know exactly what is happening during the week on the lab computers.

## The Create Page (create.php)

Users can create a new event on the create page, once submitted, their events will be added to the database. The create event form is very straightforward and simplistic, which simplifies the process of creating a new event. This simplicity was partly achieved with different input pull down menus. The date input is a dropdown calendar and the time inputs have time pull downs for users to select with visual representation. The cluster and machine group also have a pull-down menu for users to select from. Users will not have to manually input primary key or foreign key information when creating a new event like previously as our stored procedures do this automatically. Users will only need to submit one form per event, as our stored procedures automatically log the lab computers being deactivated, the test environment being activated then the opposite at the end of the events.

## Search Results (search\_result.php), Past Events (past.php ) & Future Events Pages (future.php)

The search results page, the future events and the past events page are very similar. They all display event information in a table. The differences between these pages lie in the information being displayed. The future events page displays the events in the future which includes events from today onwards. While the past events page only shows the history of events from today backwards. The search page shows all events that include the searched phrase in the events name. If there are no future events, or the users search doesn’t match anything in the database an alert is shown on their respective pages. The past events page only goes as far back as the first of January 2019.

# Conclusion

All in all, we have learnt a lot throughout the duration of this project. We believe the interface we have designed solves the current issue of defining new events. Our interface simplifies the current process greatly which allows anyone to create an event and will save users a significant amount of time. Our interface is consistent not only within itself but also with UCs brand, this was achieved through the colour palette, pattern, favicon and many more which able to provide positive experience to the users.

# Instructions for Marking

To ensure a successful setup, there are three important steps:

1. Please put your database account in src/db\_config.php to connect your database.
2. Please use MySQL Workbench, execute tserver.sql to create tables used in the web pages.
3. Please use MySQL Workbench, execute stored\_procedure.sql to create procedures and views used in the web pages. (Ignore this if you have already created those procedures in your database)

### Log in Instructions:

Please refer front\_user table to view account information for lecturers  
For example, username: cgo54 and its password: 123456