CS-Alumni News Application (Requirements)

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Stories

S1: Pluggable architecture

As an administrator the architecture must be configurable allowing the insertion of new broadcast modules. This is required since new ways of broadcasting will develop. This is evident from the number of social networking sites that have appeared in the last few years. Some have even declined in popularity.

S2: Support for broadcast to all associated broadcast channels

As a member of CS staff I must be able to broadcast news and job information to all broadcast channels as a single administrative action. Alternatively, I should be able to selectively broadcast to a subset of the available channels. A core motivation for the application is to reduce administration overhead. It would be unacceptable to require the staff member to send the news article to each channel separately. This said, since Twitter has a 140 character limit for tweets it is useful to allow staff to broadcast a longer message to most of the channels first and then selectively broadcast the cut-down version to Twitter.

S3: Support for broadcast by email

As a member of CS staff I must be able to email news articles to cs-alumni and cs-alumni-jobs mail lists. This is required since a recent survey of cs-alumni indicated that the majority would prefer to continue to receive news via email as the core push technology.

S4: Support for broadcast by Facebook

As a member of CS staff I must be able to broadcast news articles to cs-alumni and cs-alumni –jobs Facebook feed. Facebook was the second most popular choice of push technology in the cs-alumni survey.

S5: Support for broadcast by RSS

As a member of CS staff I must be able to broadcast news articles to cs-alumni and cs-alumni –jobs RSS feed. RSS was the third most popular choice of push technology in the cs-alumni survey.

S6: Support for broadcast by Twitter

As a member of CS staff I must be able to broadcast news articles to cs-alumni and cs-alumni –jobs Twitter feed. Although Twitter was only the fourth choice of push technology in the cs-alumni survey it adds some interesting restrictions (e.g. 140character length) that will help illustrate some UI features in SE314 when used as an example. This restriction must be supported in the user interface: e.g. the character count is decremented as a user types. A shorten URL function is provided to reduce URL size as part of the tweet.

S7: Single sign-on

As a member of CS staff I should only be required to authenticate myself once when accessing the application's administration functions; including the broadcast function. Where technically possible it would be preferable to be able to broadcast to each social network site without explicitly requiring the staff member to re-authenticate. This is to reduce administration overhead and to remove the need to remember multiple passwords and identifiers. Also, the system must tie into the university authentication mechanism. Authentication must also be carried out over a secure channel, e.g. HTTPS.

S8: cs-alumni instigated registration/edit/un-registration of contact details from cs-alumni and cs-alumni-jobs lists

As a cs-alumni I must be able to register new contact details (especially email address) via the system or to edit or remove contact details. [Authentication? How is this done at the moment? We don't want just anyone to break other users' emails]. Self registration/un-registration reduces administration overhead.

S9: Staff instigated registration/edit/un-registration of contact details from cs-alumni and cs-alumni-jobs lists

As a member of cs-staff I must be able to find and then edit or remove the contact details of a cs-alumni registered user. [Do we want mass creation of accounts at graduation?] Although cs-alumni are requested to maintain their own details, on occasion it might be necessary for staff to administer the accounts directly.

S10: Blogs of news articles and job adverts

As an anonymous user I should be able to browse news articles on the application website that have been previously broadcast by the application to the various broadcast channels. As a member of CS staff I should assume that anything broadcast to cs-alumni or cs-alumni-jobs will be also added to the appropriate blog. This will provide users with a chronologically ordered history of news items that they can browse. Some users might miss a news article that was broadcast and might want to find the original via the blog (pull technology).

S11: Removal of items from blogs

 As a member of CS staff I must be able to remove entries from the blog as one of the application's administrative functions. Mistakes occur, and so it is important that entries can be removed if required.

S12: Accessible through a web front-end

Any user must be able to access the application through the web. However, the functions available to the user will depend on access control rights. An anonymous user will see the blog. cs-alumni members (once authenticated) will also be able to change their email details. Members of cs-staff (once authenticated) will be able to run administration functions detailed in other stories. A web front-end means that staff are able to access the application from any location.

S13: Internationalisation support (support for English and Welsh)

The application's user interface must be internationalised to at least support Welsh and English. The bi-lingual policy of the University must be implemented. Users must be given the choice of English or Welsh. It should be easy to support further languages as part of the I18N infrastructure.

S14: W3C XHTML/CSS standards compliant

The application's user interface must be W3C XHTML/CSS standards compliant with icon links to the W3C website to prove this. This demonstrates a professional approach to the development of the web application and improves browser interoperability.

S15: Accessibility compliance

The application should meet accessibility guidelines as set out in W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines: http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG10/. This is to support blind or partially sighted alumni and staff.