**Application Vision**

Community-Based Notifications

Ryan Halbrook, UCSB CS 263 Winter 2016, Chandra Krintz

**Problem**

There are a lot of interesting events going on. However, often I forget to attend them or do not know about them until afterwards. Usually, I need to sign up for mailing lists or add myself to an online group and then notifications are sent to my email inbox. The problem with these notifications is that when I see them, they sit in my inbox with a lot of other junk. I tend to think “maybe I’ll look into that later.” It was enough to grab my attention at the time, but not enough to make me stop what I was doing and add it to my calendar. Furthermore, reminders come in the form of further emails and I have no choice to opt-out of further reminders at the event level. Often, I end up remembering the event I wanted to attend right after it happened. Finally, if I am not on a mailing list or group, I may be missing important information.

**Solution**

My app will be based on the concept of communities. For example, a University club might be a community, a couple of friends might be a community, and a university’s Computer Science department might be a community. Certain members of communities may post upcoming events to the community. Each user has a stream of events on their homepage that contains all upcoming events from all communities of which he or she is a member and sorted by date. One way the app may be an improvement over email is that organizations may give a certain style to the way all of their events appears in a member’s stream (i.e. icon and/or color scheme). Furthermore, communities are heavily discouraged from reposting the same event (and in fact cannot post one with the same name) and instead they will issue “updates” to current events if new details emerge. When events appear in the user’s stream he/she may click one button (i.e. Remind Me!) and this will cause them to be sent reminders and updated information as the event gets closer. If they do not opt-in to being reminded, they will never hear about the event again. It will, however, remain in the event stream until deleted or until the event occurs.

**Platform**

Google App Engine (Java)

**Stretch Goals**

Time permitting, I would like to implement a couple of cool additional features including:

* An iOS client that hits my Google App Engine back end. This way the user could receive notifications and view their stream on their mobile devices.
* Community discovery features. Suggest communities based on membership intersection (i.e. you, member B, and member C are part of community X; B and C are also members of community Y; therefore, you may be interested in joining community Y).