

Autoposter

ICS 370

8/12/2021

Description & Requirements

Our Java application will have two components

- [a] Schedule Generator
- [b] Auto Poster

Scheduler: Based on starting day and time inputs, generate the schedule (a CSV file)

- The user can modify the CSV file (for example, change the slide numbers; Or delete some rows from the schedule)

Auto Poster: Based on these inputs

- (a) Schedule (csv file)
- (b) The directory in which the images are hosted
- (c) One line message that accompanies each post

Auto Poster component will schedule all the posts.

While connecting to FaceBook Group (or Page), the AutoPoster app will rely a configuration file.

Java Development

Additional Java API just to talk to Facebook Graph API was required.

- RestFB

Also required creating a Facebook app.

- Acts as an authentication and authorization gateway between the Java application and Facebook.
- Need to set specific permissions based on what tasks are needed, like *publish_to_groups*.
- FB app needs to go through a review process before going live but can be tested while in-development mode (with restrictions).

Resource information for Java/Facebook interactions was a bit scarce.

Started project by establishing a connection to Facebook, making a post, and gradually building out the program from there.

Issues

Issue #1:

Despite allowing an Admin of a Group to schedule posts from the Group page itself, Facebook Graph API does not allow to publishing to a Group schedule.

- Solution: create an internal timing mechanism.

Issue #2:

In order to allow other people to see the posts, the Facebook app must have completed the review process and be connected to the Group page. Includes reviewing the application we are planning on using with the Facebook app.

- Our app needs to be web based in order to be reviewed.

Issue #3:

Only a verified business or organization is allowed to use the needed `publish_to_groups` permission in the Facebook app.

Python Development

Python as built-in Facebook library.

Autoposter in Python runs identical to Java version but with much less coding.

Python version has same issues as the Java program.