CEng 491 Proposal:

A Conference Management and Hosting System

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Team: Hawaii

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1. Motivation

Scientific conferences are the meetings providing the opportunity of sharing developments and new ideas in science. With the accelerated improvement of scientific studies, number and capacity of conferences have increased. Thus, organizing and managing conferences without any deficiency has become a common problem.

There are web-based conference management systems that have been introduced to address this issue. These systems present an efficient solution to great extent; however, there is still some lack of usability:

- Permanent Identification. There is no need to register to the same system with different IDs for different events.
- Referee Statistics. Referees should be assigned to papers according to referees’ current statistics for fair evaluation.
- Publisher Access. Publishers should be able to extract the accepted papers of a conference as a list.
- Tourism Agency Access. Tourism agencies should be able to access the system easily and provide accommodation and transportation when demanded.

In this project, a comprehensive conference management system providing a solution with these additional features is to be implemented.
2. Background

Conference management systems are used in the organization and management of professional and scientific conferences. These web-based software systems help conference committees, authors, referees, conference organizers and publishers by supplying necessary tools for their activities. Workflow management, security, scheduling, login authentication and multilingual usage are kept track by these systems.

Current systems serve as a web application providing portability and easy management. Some of the well-known examples of these systems increase event attendance and decrease time consumption [1, 2, 3]. However permanent ID, referee statistics, publisher access, accommodation and transportation support facilities are missing.

For addressing permanent ID problem, already existing alternatives will be referenced [4, 5]. In addition, a separate database for holding referee statistics will be used and tourism agencies will be contacted for handling accommodation and transportation problem in a compact way.

3. Proposal

Paper submissions, paper referee assignment, referee evaluations, scheduling, registration and announcements on the web page are some of the features of current conference management systems. In this project, these already existing features will be combined with new ideas to satisfy needs and increase usability.

There will be a permanent ID to login to the system. This unique ID will be available for all conferences. Besides, referee statistics will be stored in a database and this information will be used in paper referee assignments to guarantee fair evaluation. It will be possible for publishers to reach the accepted papers as a list to increase ease of use. Likewise, tourism agencies will be able to login to the system and reach the list of attendants who demand accommodation and transportation.
References