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Student-alumni network web app

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ABSTRACT

Alumni are the most important asset for an institution's development so an efficient alumni network system is needed. The existing alumni system is not highly interactive and is errorprone. The proposed system will help alumni and the concern institution to create strong bonding through sharing their experiences, views, ideas, guidance, motivation inputs and strategies. Not only this, under this work the student and alumni are brought under one system so that the collaboration and communication between them is more and results in the institution's development. The design is engaging and ensures user's satisfaction. Latest in demand technologies are used in this system.

Keywords: Students, Alumni, Alumni Network, Connection, Institute.

1. INTRODUCTION

As we all know that alumni are the people who represent the Institution in the real world. After graduating, the students become alumni and they only stay in touch with the close friends, not with the other alumni and juniors. So there is a need to develop an effective alumni network which assures that the alumni are taking part in the Institution's development. They can participate in the institution's developmental activities such as fund raising, placements, mentorship, scholarships, career guidance and seminars. The "ST-AN" as the name suggests is a web application portal that provides an engaging, supportive alumni and student network which is crucial to an institution's success. The application allows former students to take advantage of the benefits and services that an institution offers after graduation. It also allows the students studying in the institution to reach out to them and form connections and can communicate to each other.

2. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Universities have started to harness the power of alumni through an alumni network system built with excel sheets that are created by each user. These sheets are then combined by an alumni organization and shared with all the alumni but this activity may not be frequent. E – Mail IDs

may be freely shared and can lead to excessive spam mails. This leads to lack of privacy and will force many alumni to avoid sharing their details with fellow alumni. A system like this is difficult to manage on a regular basis by a small group of students and is also error prone. Also by creating their alumni groups and profiles on various networking platforms like LinkedIn, Facebook and twitter, the attention and time spent by the alumni on each of them gets dispersed. We researched and found that many universities were using an alumni web portal but there were not many features provided. Their web portal only provided the accomplishments and gallery of the alumni. In rare cases there would be an alumni network which lets you find the alumni and students and contact them through mail. Therefore, in this research we brought the alumni, students and college together to collaborate and communicate on a single platform. Also this portal provides a dashboard for coordinator, department coordinator and alumni to share their ideas, guidance and experiences. This alumni web portal will be highly interactive and responsive which will function like a social media app but only for that institution. Alumni and students can make their accounts with their enrollment number.

3. LITERATURE SURVEY

A. College Communicator

This work was carried out in 2015 by Vishal Kenger, Sudarshani Jadhav, Neha Limkar, Mandar Ghade, and Mrs. Vidya Kawtikwar.

The old existing way of notifying students and faculty through noticeboard was time consuming and also notifications targeted towards particular student could not be given. Then the SMS feature was introduced where mobile phones were used as a medium to send and receive notifications. But it also had some limitations, finally a new way of providing notifications was introduced in this research which is "College Communicator" where a web app or mobile app was used to send and receive notifications via internet. This work uses a unique identification number i.e., the enrollment number provided to students and alumni during admission to the institution.

We will be using such a notification system integrated in our

web app which will be a little more efficient to provide the notification to the students as well as alumni, about the events that are going to happen in the Institution so that they can come, participate and contribute to its development.

B. An Innovation System that can quickly respond to the needs of students and alumni

This work was carried in 2014 by Vittavas Rattanmethawong, Sukree Sinthupinyo, Emeritus Achara Chandrachai. This work proposed an innovative system for the alumni and university relation management. University or institution needs cooperation from the students and alumni, and they need information from the university as well. Alumni Association serves as a bridge between university and alumni. The alumni are not much actively engaged in the communication. In this all the factors were studied that are contributing to the level of alumni relationship management. Some of them are: demographic, communication, value creation, motivation, collaboration, engagement, satisfaction. The study also researched about the best channel for communication. It finally concluded that in digital era, social media networks provides communication channel to all demographics.

So keeping mind to all the factors our web app "ST-AN" is developed which gives the user (alumni and students) the facility to communicate much more interactively. It is just like social media app which is limited to the institution only. The app has many other features which provides user satisfaction and makes it more engaging and fun so that the relation between students and alumni is healthy.

C. Student Alumni System

It was carried out in 2015 by Madhavi Medhe, Rajeshwari Rapelli, Sameer Mahadik, Amit Shirke, Mr. Sachin Barahate. This work proposed a web app system where the student and alumni are brought under one system rather than being two different systems. Earlier alumni website was built using static web pages and more work was done manually and is prone to errors. The web portal in this study was proposed to eliminate all these limitations.

This work concluded with a web portal that provided features like login authentication, content management system, event management, forums and notification system. This work lacked the website design, as it was not much interactive and visually engaging. It was not that much engaging as it only provided features like searching a user and event notifications and all. Our work offers all these features as well as many new features using high end latest technologies. In our work we are providing the features that are much fun and allow better user engagement like providing features such as posting content and liking and commenting to it. Our work is much more like a mini social media app. The main purpose is user engagement and satisfaction.

4. METHODOLOGY

The Front-End of our project is done with using technologies like HTML, CSS, JavaScript and React JS. We used Redux and Firebase for the backend of our web app ST-AN.

Redux is used to save the central state of the user in the application and Firebase is used for authenticating and authorizing the user. The Login feature is working via Firebase authentication which provides backend services, easy to use SDKs and readymade UI libraries to authenticate users to the app.

The Firebase Authentication integrates tightly with other

Firebase services and it leverages industry standards like OAuth 2.0 and OpenID Connect, so it can be easily integrated with the custom back-end.

The core part of website development and design is not necessary for the coding process. Indeed, such technologies as HTML, CSS, and JavaScript give the web we know its shape and define the way we interact with the information. But what usually stays behind the scenes and, at the same time, remains the crucial part of the website development life cycle are the stages of preliminary information gathering, detailed planning, and post-launch maintenance. So, here are seven main steps we took in this project:

- 1) Information Gathering,
- 2) Planning,
- 3) Design,
- 4) Content Writing and Assembly,
- 5) Coding,
- 6) Testing, Review and Launch,
- 7) Maintenance.

Alumni module and student module

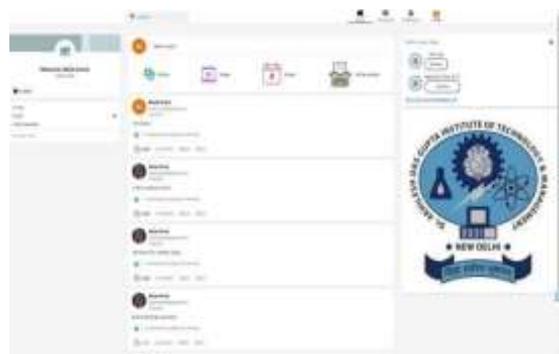
They can sign up or login with their email and password. They can also sign in via their Google account. They are able to add their details, Work experience and even mention their social media accounts like LinkedIn and twitter etc. They can upload their profile pictures to make people recognize them easily. They can also post about something motivational and certain guidance to students. They can even post about internship opportunities for the interested students. They can like other users' posts and even comment on them. They can message other users for good opportunities and many more things.

5. RESULT

Login Page: You can sign in with google or sign up and login then.



Home Page: After signing in. It also provides features such as liking, commenting and sharing.



Adding a post, it can be an article, image or video.



After this post is added, the homepage is updated



6. CONCLUSION

This system will be available for general public use through the web Interface. The web portal will allow the existing students and alumni to create their accounts with their enrollment number provided by the institute during their admission. They can create their profile and also can set their password. Students can communicate with each other as well with alumni and vice versa. This system also allows the users to share posts with each other and provides the features of liking and commenting. The web app uses latest technologies such as: React JS, firebase, HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript, Redux. The system is highly interactive and visually appealing to provide the user great engagement and satisfaction which the previous systems lacked.

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