Smartphone apps for student society

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Introduction
In Hong Kong University of Science & Technology (HKUST), email system is the main communication media for students and society. The student societies need to promote and attract students to join their events through Email. However, the students may easily overlook these promotional emails due to the large volume of emails. Furthermore, student societies promote their events by distributing leaflets and sticking posters, which are not an effective way and not environmentally friendly as well. So it is worth to create another way to promote student events.

Aims
The Android app will be developed for students to search the HKUST society events. The app will receive all events from societies and display with beautiful layout. Also, it consists of the events registration function. Society committees can update their events information directly through the app, it will become the bridge and provide a convenient communication way for students and the society committees.

Objectives
1. Provide a convenient way for student to discover events.
2. Organize a platform for student to communicate with each other.
3. Provide an effective and environmental friendly way for student to inform students.
4. Reduce labor force for promotion of events, such as with printing poster and distribute leaflet.
5. Reduce the cost of printing posters and leaflet.

System Block Diagram

Figure 1 shows the data flow of our system. When users search event information on their smartphones, they request data from the web server and the server then sends SQL Query to the database. The database will then return the data to the server and the server will return the data to the user. And the updated event list will display on user interface. Also, society committees can update their events to the server through the app, the update either on the app or server can receive newly information, the server will be update frequently.

Methodology

Registration and Bookmarks
The app has event registration function. If user is interested in the event, he/she just have to click the “Join” button. The app will send user’s identity and event information to the server from your mobile. The bookmark function is similar to registration function. When you are on an event which you are interested and you are not sure if you will join the event, you can click the “Bookmark” button. The database is stored for your favorite events. If you want to see your favorite events, later you just need to go to the bookmark page.

Administrative function
This function is specific for school society committees. It is a convenient way for them to upload their events information. Each society has their specific account. When they log in, they can add and edit their events information and upload to the server.

Results