ABSTRACT

A Social Networking and a Virtual Community Website for a Swim Team using Joomla

Goscat.com is a website that supports the Space City Aquatic Team with more than 100 swimmers. It was built traditionally with HTML editors. After years of operation, the site has limited contents and is difficult to navigate and maintain. Moreover, most of its contents are accessible to public making the website less private.

This project aims to quickly build a prototype replacement site using Joomla, a popular open source Content Management Systems (CMS). Joomla allows easy incorporation of popular social network features, such as forums, blogging, chats, photo and video sharing, contents and RSS news feeds. It also eases the maintenance of site content by providing account and administration utilities.

The new website built using Joomla will incorporate all the details of the old website including the social networking features. In addition, the website will concentrate both on the content side of the social networking features as well as the interactive features which are typical to a social networking site.

The team will identify and implement existing features from Goscat.com as well as new social networking features enabled by Joomla using 1.5 RC, Apache, MySQL, and PHP. This reports split ends with two research papers with the moral support of instructor and mentors based on the project experience and outcome. The first one will focus on the use of open source CMS web construction team project in a graduate computing course. The second centers on quick prototyping using CMS to build a domain-specific social networking website.