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

Software Requirements Specification

Version 1.0

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Software Requirements Specification

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

A Social Networking and a Virtual Community website for a Swim Team using Joomla is intended to help the user easy integration of popular 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.

This document is meant to delineate the features of a Social Networking and a Virtual Community website for a Swim Team, so as to serve as a guide to the developers on one hand and a software validation document for the prospective client on the other.

1.2 Scope

The software requirements specification is connected with the development of a social networking and a virtual community website for a swim team, which will be developed by Atlink Communications Inc., Houston. This document will help a company to build a social networking and virtual community for a swim team. It focuses on the specific requirements of the system needed by the target users.

1.3 Definitions, Acronyms and Abbreviations

- **Acronyms and Abbreviations**:
  
  - CMS - Content management System
  - RSS - Really Simple Syndication
  - UML - Unified Modeling Language
  - GA - General Availability
  - RC - Release Candidate
  - CSS - Cascading Style Sheet
• **Definitions:**
  
  • **Content Management System (CMS):**
    
    A content management system allows one or more authors to prepare and publish information online, without needing to prepare HTML code. Furthermore, a CMS is a system used to manage the content of a Web site.
  
  • **Joomla:**
    
    Joomla! is a popular Content Management System (CMS) that will help you build websites and other powerful online applications. In addition, Joomla is an open source solution that is freely available to everybody.
  
  • **Content:**
    
    The text and pictures that make up a website, as opposed to the display characteristics like font size, colors, positioning, borders, etc. The idea of Joomla is to allow easily organize and control the content of the website without worrying about how it is displayed.
  
  • **Content Item:**
    
    An individual article which forms the lowest layer of the three tier hierarchy used by Joomla to organise the website. Content items can be split into two parts: the 'Intro Text', and the 'Main Text'. This is useful for displaying your content in a 'blog' (short for 'weblog') style - where users can display a list of content items, showing only the intro text, and the visitor has to click on an item to view the full article (intro and main). When not using a blog, you only need to enter your content in the 'intro text' part.
  
  • **Component:**
    
    A collection of files, which can be installed as an add-on to Joomla to provide extra features, those are not available in the basic installation. A component usually has a back-end configuration utility, accessible through the 'components' menu in Joomla Administrator, and usually presents its front-end features in the main area of the screen, but sometimes must be used in conjunction with a module and/or mambot in the website front end.
• **Mambot**:  

A small program that is executed immediately before any content item is displayed in the website front end. The program can manipulate the output, and replace special tokens or tags embedded in the content with some kind of functionality or formatting. For example, there is a mambot available which restricts the visibility of content depending on the access level of a user. There is also a built-in mambot, which allows users to include images in your content. Mambots are usually implemented in content by inserting a special tag delimited by curly braces, and can have parameters which allow you to configure how the mambot works.

• **Module**:  

A 'window' or section of the screen used to present some form of content in the website front end. Modules are normally positioned around the edges of the screen, while the main content is displayed in the centre. Examples of modules include the built-in search box, polls, and who's online. Each menu is also displayed through a module.

• **Plugin**:  

A plugin is also known as Mambot, is a small, task-oriented function that intercepts content before it is displayed and manipulates it in some way.

• **Template**:  

The 'presentation layer' of a Joomla website. A template usually consists of a file called index.php, which defines the general layout of all of the site's pages, and a CSS (cascading style sheet) file to define the formatting to use. Users can apply different templates to different menu options if you want to create a different look and feel for certain pages. The template governs where the different module positions will be physically displayed on the screen, what fonts and colors the site will use, etc.
1.4 References

1.4.1 Websites:

- www.joomla.org
- www.php.net
- www.apache.org
- www.mysql.com

2. Overall Description

Joomla is packed with features, its greatest quality is that it is extremely extensible, allowing any number of complex applications to be cleanly integrated. Forums, social networking profiles, job boards, and real estate listings are all examples of extensions developers have written for Joomla. All of these can run off one Joomla site, while only one database, template, and core need to be maintained.

3. Specific Requirements

3.1 Functionality

The social networking and virtual community being developed using Joomla would have the following functionalities:

The website users should be able to create an account. The registered users of the website should be able rate all the contents on the website. The registered users should also be able to upload videos, pictures and should be able to have blogs and chat sessions. The unregistered users can view only certain pictures and videos that are not private. The website should have easy features which help non-technical persons such as Parents, Coaches to easily maintain their profile. The website should also have RSS based news feeds and should have Google maps to help website users to get swim meet directions.
3.2 Usability

There is a six week tutorial in the website joomla.org which helps Beginners to get familiarized using Joomla. Similarly, there are other manuals available from the Internet, which helps beginners to understand Joomla.

3.3 Availability

The website will be available 24*7. The designing of the website using open source CMS called Joomla will initially take some time for installation and design. Once the Joomla website is designed and is running, the maintenance is simple and easy.

3.4 Performance

Joomla is twice as fast when used with PHP 5.0 above version in comparison with PHP 4.0 above version and another important aspect that affects joomla performance is the template structure. For the best performance users can use CSS templates and remove CSS styles.

4 Design Constraints

- Windows XP Operating Systems
- Apache 1.3
- MySQL 4.0.24
- PHP 4.3.11

The system will have the following plugins

- Community Builder 1.0.2
- JoomlaBoard 1.1.5.2
- Slick RSS 1.4
- All Video 2.4
- JReview
- Google Map Plugins
4.1 On-line User Documentation and Help System Requirements

The official website for Joomla is www.Joomla.org which contains user documentation, guides, help for system requirements and forums where user can get help from other Joomla users.

4.2 Performance Requirements

(a) Should run on 500 MHz, 64 MB machine.

(b) 95% of the responses should be within a second, except for downloading pictures or videos for which more time is acceptable.

4.3 Design Constraints:

1. Security:

   The files in which the information regarding securities and portfolios should be secured against malicious deformations.

2. Fault Tolerance:

   Data should not become corrupted in case of system crash or power failure.

4.4 Licensing Requirements

The website for the Swim team is developed using Joomla which is a open source content management software.