E-learning for Campus District

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Abstract

This paper chooses Chihlee Institute of Technology (CIT) as an example of e-learning platform to coordinates a wide range of services as a resource for life learning information outside of the classroom experiences through a website. CIT is located in Banciao District, New Taipei City, Taiwan providing students Bachelor's and Master's studies. This web site introduces excellent stores and restaurants in campus districts with lovely bird-view Store Image Maps. Store Members allows updating their own store information, item prices, and adding the advertisement. In order to bring the balance of Store opinions, Guestbook and Message Board provide an e-platform for sharing of students' comments between stores. Membership system allows members to rate and bookmark personal favorite stores.

The website also provides the district bird-view Campus and Street Map and real time public transportation information. Discount Area shares the discount information, useful group rates benefit, and offers some coupons available. Housing provides students e-resources of apartment renting around the campus area. Discussion Section and Chat Room are the concept of Web 2.0 allows users to interact and collaborate with each other.

The Campus District E-leaning website is http://140.131.84.199/district. For maximum quality, display resolution should be set at 1024×768. The website used many lovely characters and bird-view campus and street maps in order to attract attentions by making users feeling pleasant when viewing this website.

Keyword: *CIT, Image Map, Rate Store, Bookmark Store, Discount Area*

1. Introduction

E-learning is an approach for using internet on the classroom teaching. Via this approach, knowledge can be more flexibly propagated and absorbed irrespective of the teaching personnel and learners. Many schools and enterprises are adopting e-learning as their principal instruction or training method [Tucker]. This paper chooses Chihlee Institute of Technology (CIT) as an example of e-learning platform to coordinates a wide range of services as a resource for life learning information outside of the classroom experiences through a website. Chihlee Institute of Technology (CIT) was established in 1965 offering Bachelor degrees. It is located at a very lively Banciao District in New Taipei City, Taiwan. CIT has more than ten thousand students accessing the campus district everyday. A platform captures integrating with many school district resources becomes a very important for the energy and spirit with seamless real-time students engagement.

The E-learning for Campus District platform is a website that coordinates a wide range of services of CIT students and campus visitors, and serves as a resource for life information outside of the classroom experiences and opportunities. This allows easy access for users to obtain various foods and stores guidelines on one website. This platform provides some primary functions: Transportation, Store Map, Discount Area, Housing, Members, and Discussion. The Store Map provides e-learning services of restaurants and stores for students and visitors.

The website address is *http://140.131.84.199/district*. For maximum quality, display resolution should be set at 1024×768. In order to attract viewers' attention, the webpage graphic designer created many lovely characters and bird view campus and street maps.

2. The E-learning for Campus District Platform Approach

The development and popularization of internet application improved the reality of e-communication platform in recent years. The E-learning for Campus District platform includes different resources that can manage application functions. This E-learning platform provides five primary functions: Transportation, Store Map, Discount Area, Housing, Members, and Discussion. "Transportation" provides subway and the real time local bus information as the purpose letting students to catch bus at the station on time. The webpage graphic designer drew many lovely characters and bird view campus and street maps in order to attract attentions by making users feeling pleasant when viewing this website. "Store Map" indicates the location of local stores and restaurants on these lovely street maps. In the detail store information page, students are able to share comments written in individual store's Message Board where many great restaurants, various foods reviews, and affordable prices are recorded. The platform Members allow to rate the individual store and bookmark personal favorite shopping and eating spots. "Discount Area" shares the discount information, useful group rates benefit, and offers some online coupons available for local stores. "Housing" provides resident resource that students are searching for. "Members" contains user's profile and password, password retrieve, and bookmark My Favorite Stores. My Favorite Store allows members to bookmark their favorite restaurants and stores. "Discussion" is a concept of Web 2.0 allows users to interact and collaborate with each other in platform Discussion Section and Chat room.

As for system technical support, the platform uses Internet Information Services (IIS) as the web server and ASP.NET 3.5 as the web application framework. The database server is performed by SQL Server 2008 to organize and manage data. The webpage graphic designer used Ulead PhotoImpact X3 and Adobe Photoshop CS5 as

image-editing suites. The animation design was created by Macromedia Flash CS5. The webpage graphic designer drew many lovely characters and bird view campus and street maps in order to attract attentions by making users feeling pleasant when viewing this website.

2.1 The Platform Structure

The current platform of E-learning for Campus District access includes the Main Page, About US, Transportation, Store Map, Discount Area, Housing, Members, and Discussion. The current site map of E-learning for Campus District Platform is shown in Figure 1.
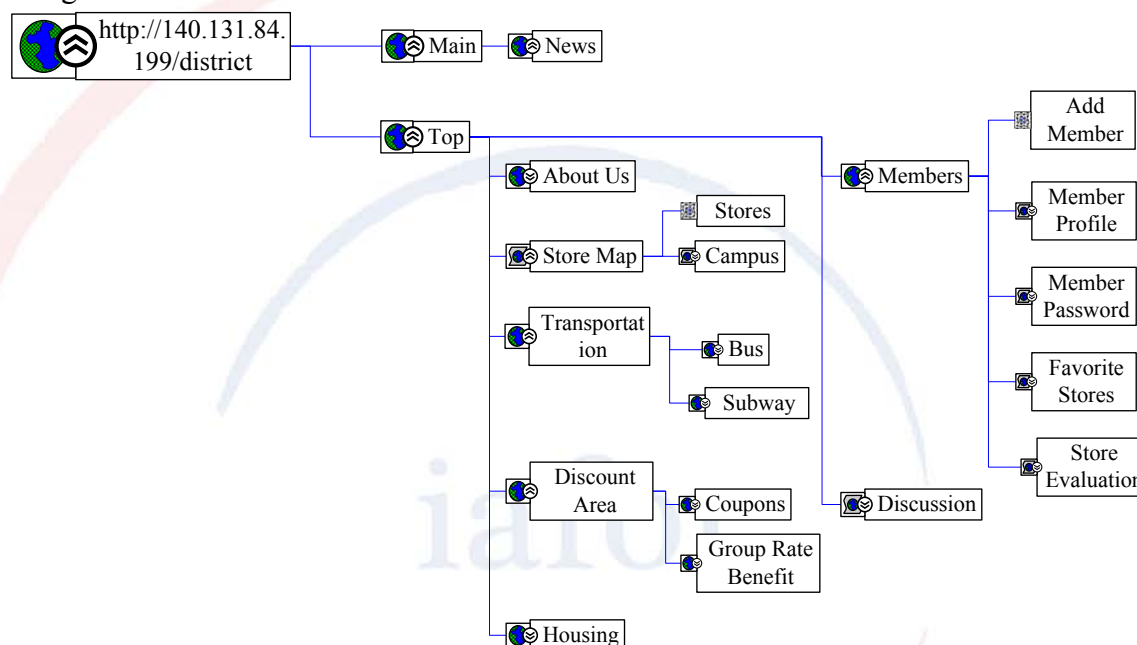

Figure1. The Site Map of E-learning for Campus District Platform

The "Main Page" contains Member Login, Add Member, and new activities and discount information. About Us introduces the motivation and purpose of E-learning for Campus District platform. Subway section provides the information of Scenic Spots near the district subway stations. It then subdivides these spots into small categories such as night markets, famous scenic spots, amusement parks, historical landmarks, humanities art, shopping malls, and etc.

2.2 The Flow Chart for Using the Platform

Figure 2 is a flow chart of using the platform of E-learning for Campus District. Visitors are not only allowed to view the Store detail information, public Transportation , and Housing resources but are also allowed to post messages in "Discussion" access and chat in the Chat Room. The Platform Membership system allows members to evaluate stores and bookmark personal favorite stores as well as posting their messages and comments in "Discussion" access. This platform also allows Store Members to update their own stores and prices information.
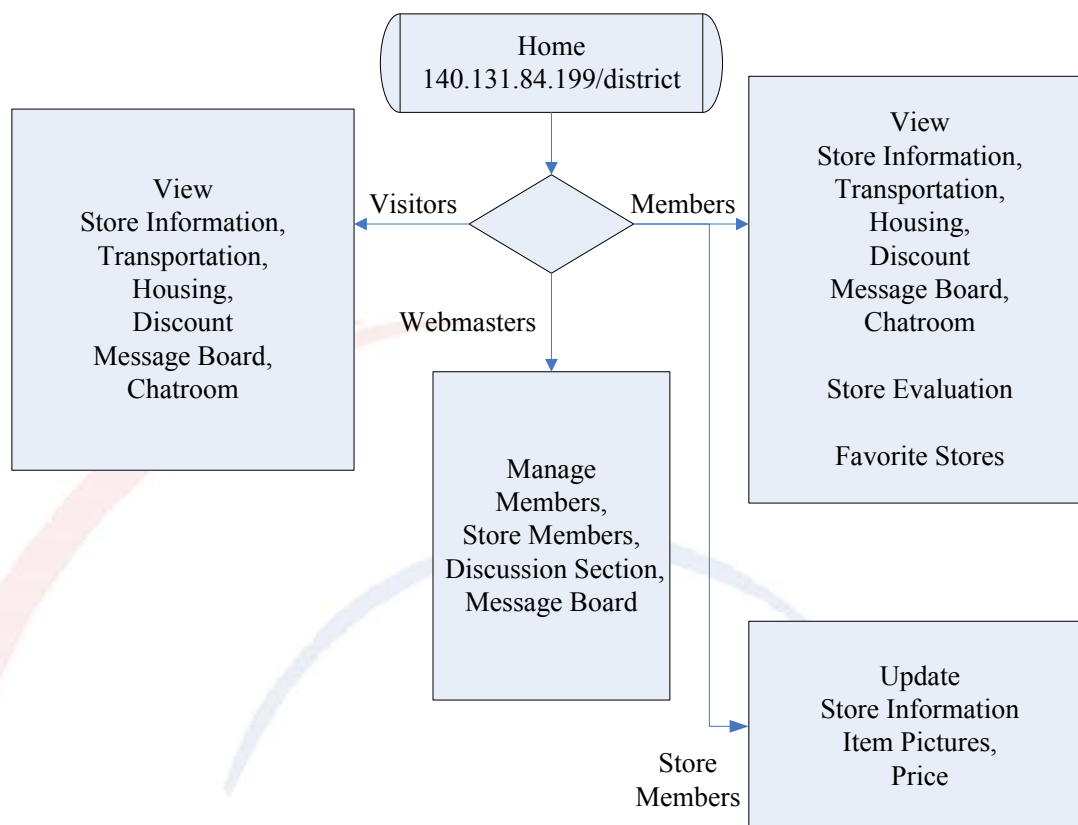
Figure2. The Flow Chart of Using the E-learning for Campus District Platform

Webmasters are also known as the website administrators of whom are responsible to answer questions as well as change and manipulate any comment or messages posted by members. Webmasters are also in charge of maintaining and developing the platform website.

3. E-Commerce, E-Learning, and E-Community Solutions

A key component of the e-learning platform is the use of technology to improve capability of CIT students and visitors to meet the needs of its campus district information with a goal of expanding the capabilities of all CIT campuses to better serve students, faculty, and campus visitors through the e-learning platform.

Internet has the ability to develop a conventional way on all aspects of e-commerce. The "Stores" under the Store Map section is the online platform for not only indicating the store location, but also providing the store detail information. Store Members allows updating their information, sale item or food pictures and prices, and even adding the advertisement in their own store page. In order to balance the individual store common opinion, members' comments and evaluation are also provided in the same page as for the reference. Students and users are able to learn and compare to choose the favorite store in this platform. Introducing more stores to participate the platform stores information is an important issue for future e-commerce and e-community development.

4. Platform Design, Management, and Maintenance

The platform website is a source for CIT students who is living and visiting Chihlee district. The Main Page of E-learning for Campus District platform is posted with new

activities and discount information that attracts website visitors to participate in these events. The website needs to be maintained regularly in order to keep it updated and trendy. More of the disadvantages of the online e-community management are that the members and enterprises have the lower search costs to easily compare the information from similar entities. Also, the members of the online community may expect more and more up-to-date information about products, orders, etc. [Fischer]. Therefore, the content of platform should be up-to-date and events on the website must be current.

Website visitors and members frequently contact webmasters directly via email or message board for answers to their inquiries. Webmasters are also known as the website administrators of whom are responsible to answer questions. Webmasters are also responsible for reviewing error reports and revising webpage bugs.

Protecting platform from losing data or moral reasons, the process of changing and manipulate any comment or messages posted by members as well as backup current data and historical web based evidence is a necessary step to severe consequences in potential security and legal battles. Preventing hackers from hacking member accounts and securing confidential information is also critical. Not only does this have a direct influence on the rating of the website, it can also result in lost of members if security is executed poorly.

5. Future Work

The purpose of the platform of E-learning for Campus District is to support learning by providing students, faculty, community members, and campus visitors with appropriate services from the platform website. Expanding the popularity of the platform of E-learning for Campus District will be continued to execute in order to increase members. One future objective is to expand popularity by raising the website search engine ranking. The technical aspects include containing the most important keywords from its corresponding page in the title bar and containing the most important keywords that potential customers would use to find this website on a search engine [Buresh]. Search engines picks up a lot of keywords and information on what people search for. Therefore, the analysis of visitors' most important keywords used on the platform still requires future work.

It is important that visitors also find what they are looking for to avoid visitors giving up the research or leaving the website. Another future objective is perfecting the experience for users that navigate the platform.

In order to retain visitor interest and regular visits of members, yet another future objective of the platform is that the website should be always up-to-date and enhanced with state-of-the-art features, contents, and events.

6. Conclusion

E-learning for Campus District drives students and campus visitors the opportunities using an online platform to comprehend the school district. This paper has given a detailed description and summarization of the platform of E-learning for Campus District, which integrates many campus living related functions into one platform. "My Favorite Stores" allows members to bookmark their favorite restaurants and stores. For retaining visitor interest and regular visits of members, the content of the platform website must be maintained regularly and always up-to-date.

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