Duke University School of Law

CASE NOTE COMPETITION SITE:
A LAMP SOLUTION

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Goals

- Meet individual journal rules/scoring criteria
- Go paperless – Save money!
- Offer reliability (and security) in submissions
  - applicants, editor grading, calculating results
  - Anonymous competition
- Browser based
- Applicant interface
  - including PDF uploads
- Editor interface
  - including zip and PDF downloads
- Administrator interface
  - calculate summary spreadsheets in csv format
  - entering/overriding data as needed

Technology and Resources

- On-hand items
  - internal people and resources

- Linux, Apache, MySQL, HTML, PHP

- Shibboleth via NetID logon

SQL – applicant & editor [info]

- Applicants
  - StudentInfo – twofold: hold various info, list of potential
  - applicants
  - preferences
- Editors
  - EditorInfo – (same idea)
  - editors
  - assignments
  - scores

SQL – other

- Misc. Tables

  - events (for logging interface actions by applicants and editors)

  - holdgpa

  - journals

Security and Authentication

- Login
  - Use Duke University secure login server (shibboleth) by setting up Apache for this new directory on the web server
  - Upon login, we now have NetID as a session variable
  - Agree whether the main page or any other pages are freely available (open)
- Web Server
  - Check form data
  - Check all uploaded documents (PDF, csv)

PHP

- The majority of the code
- Convenient examples available
- _POST for submitted values
- mysqli functions for database interaction
- Uploads are checked
- Downloads are easy
- HTML tables for the bulk of the formatting
- Only system command needed was for forming a zip file

Testing, Test Data

- Something will always be missed the first year!
- Try for realistic scenarios: use current data or mimic previous data
- Test machine: Linux running both Apache and MySQL
- "Dummy" Applicants automatically generated in proper quantities (plus some other in the review group)
- "Real" Editors (plus some others in the review group)

Administrator View

- Minimize direct changes via MySQL and Linux interfaces
  - Correct / Override student application information
  - Editor grading – omissions, corrections, normalizing data
  - Detailed and Summary Spreadsheets
    csv format especially convenient

Determining the "winners"

- ## Non-exclusive journals
  - Plug in the formula
    % casenote, % personal statement, % GPA
  - Show the top x applicants

- ## Exclusive journals
  - Plug in a formula as above for initial ranking, but then additional processing to account for applicant preferences
  - Iteratively go through preference #1. As needed, continue to preference #2 and so on until fill the y slots open

Q&A

- Additional info available on request

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