Project: CSÁRDÁS

Initial system idea

Informatics Europe (http://www.informatic-europe.org) is the organization of computer science departments in Europe, created in 2005. Its members are universities and research organizations, typically represented by their department heads.

Informatics Europe wants to provide the CS community with some useful services. A first one, launched in 2007 and freely accessible, is the Computer Science Event List. CSÁRDÁS (Computer Science Academic & Research Daily Advertising Service) is the next one planned.

The purpose is to have a central Web site to advertise academic positions in the field, initially in Europe. Such positions include professor appointments, but also (and more often because of sheer numbers) possibilities for PhD students, assistants, postdocs etc. These categories are important: clearly it makes sense for a fresh Master’s graduate to apply to a PhD position but not to a professor position. Among professor positions, there are also various levels (assistant professor/associate professor/full professor), and a distinction between tenured, untenured and tenure-track position. The exact properties of these various ranks are not necessarily essential to the CSÁRDÁS system, but every announcement of a position must specify what the properties of each position are.

Currently positions are advertised on mailing lists such as the ECOOP mailing list (http://www.ecoop.org) and others, which provide a good basis to understand what announcements look like. They are also advertised on general job sites (such as monster.com), but these miss the specifics of academic positions and careers. Hence the need for a special service.

Like the Computer Science Event List, CSÁRDÁS should offer at least three interfaces:

- A reader interface, to find out about available positions.
- A submitter interface, for those advertising positions.
- An administrator interface, available only to a few people with administrator status, to review submissions, since it is expected that all postings will be subject to review and approval (although this initial assumption is subject to discussion and revision).

Example operations are:

- For readers: see all positions, see positions for a given country, a given academic rank etc.; browse by search criteria.
- For submitters: propose a new position.
- For administrators: approve, reject, remove, modify postings.

Although it is not known how many people will use the service and how many positions will be advertised, the aim is to make the service attractive and successful, so the solution should scale up.
Technologies

The technologies are imposed by the customer:

- Web application.
- Web server: Apache
- Operating system: Linux
- Programming language: Eiffel
- Web framework: EiffelWeb
- DBMS: mySQL