

PEGevent 0.5 Documentation

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1 Overview

PEGevent is a drupal module designed for Chittenden County Television for scheduling airtimes of TV shows. This module could be used by PEG (Public, Educational and Government) stations who need a flexible scheduling tool that builds air schedules. This module is presently in alpha stages and could use improvement in module packaging and integration.

2 CCTV Scheduling Philosophy and Methods

Channel 17 / Town Meeting TV is a government access channel that serves seven municipalities in and around Burlington Vermont. It is managed by a government access channel trust of municipal officials who contract with CCTV to operate the channel and purchase equipment. Chittenden County Television (CCTV), is part of The Center for Media and Democracy located in Burlington, VT (<http://www.cctv.org/>).

Channel 17 has developed an in-house program scheduler which

- schedules and manages TV production
- schedules and manages Channel 17 playback
- searches public duplication orders and invoices

The translation of Channel 17's current custom database solution (based on C++ and MySQL) to the Drupal platform is designed to meet additional needs of

- web access
- searchability of Channel 17's archives
- integration of program producers with a central CiviCRM database
- cross communication with the Maestrovision playback system (not yet implemented, but coming soon)

Channel 17 is a prolific government access channel and produces more than 100 hours of new programming each month. This programming includes multiple municipal meetings (selectboard, city council, planning, design review meetings, etc.), nightly live call in programs, community produced documentaries and events and speakers related to public issues. Channel 17's archives include 7000 cataloged tapes (VHS, SVHS) and DVD's that date to 1984.

Channel 17's complete 24 hour program schedule is determined by the final length of municipal meetings. This information is available only after the meetings are recorded. Each municipal meeting is scheduled to run four times on specific dates. The balance of the programming day is able to be scheduled once the length of the municipal meeting is known.

In some cases, a day's airtime schedule may not be finalized until 24 hours prior to airtime. Therefore, Channel 17 requires flexible scheduling system that allows the staff to make changes at any time prior to program airtime.

3 Module Interface

The module is interfaced in two ways through the drupal installation: the scheduler page and the air schedule display.

3.1 The Scheduler Page

The scheduler page is where the basic scheduling actions take place.

- Program showings can be added to the air schedule.
- Program showings can be deleted from the air schedule.
- Reruns of program showing blocks can be set up.

3.2 The Air Schedule Display

The air schedule can be viewed in native form through the drupal events calendar interface. The air schedule data are drupal events and are well structured and organized. Custom scripts can access the air schedule events data and display it in any way desired.

An example of leveraging drupal events could be using taxonomies associated with events to get a calendar view showing all live shows.

4 Module Structure and Drupal Interaction

4.1 The Scheduler Page

The scheduler page is a drupal php page that passes information via get variables to the scheduler_page function. The scheduler_page function calls numerous other functions in the cctv module that perform the actions of scheduling. This feature could be more smoothly integrated with the module. At present the php drupal page is **not part of the module**.

4.2 Custom Content Types

Custom Content Types are used for scheduling. These could be better integrated into the module and are **not part of the module** at present.

Programs have a title, catalog number, production date, length, description, etc. Programs can be associated with a series.

Openings are places in the air schedule that will allow a program showing to be inserted. Openings are event enabled: they have a start and end time.

Showings are showings of a program at a certain point in the air schedule. Showings are event enabled: they have a start and end time. They have a title identical to the program name and a node reference pointing to the program to be aired.

It should be noted that a showing contains only a reference to a program. The structure of a program could be modified with minimal or no effect on the scheduling system.

4.3 Blocks

Side blocks are used for some of the scheduling functions and features. Generally the blocks simply call functions in the cctv module. Scheduling reruns and showing details of a certain program are examples of blocks. These blocks call module functions, but at present are **not part of the module**.

4.4 Scheduling Steps

Event repeat is used to set up initial blank days each filled with an opening. Programs are then inserted into an opening and can later be deleted. CCTV uses their rerun system to schedule a day's programming blocks based on the previous days evening schedule.

5 CCTV Module Code

5.1 Module Dependencies

Event, event repeat, date, cck (with event enabling) are the main higher level modules used by cctv.module.

The module relies heavily on the **events** module. Openings and showings are both event enabled CCK node types. Future development changes to the Event/CCK interaction will no doubt still have nodes with start and end times and the module code should be able to be easily modified to work with new implementation details.

5.2 High Level Function Calls

See more detail on these functions below in the function listing and description.

scheduler_page accepts arguments

date date being scheduled (format readable by php)

del_nid nid of node to be deleted.

opening_nid nid of opening.

program_nid nid of program.

time time for insertion.

production_date production date for program selection.

focus_nid nid for sidebar detail block.

num_reruns number of reruns (1, 2, or 3).

num_hours_to_rerun number of hours to rerun (1 to 6).

Rerun Block generates the sidebar that schedules reruns. This is based on an airtime block structure specific to CCTV.

Detail Block generates the sidebar that displays program detail based on focus_nid program. Detail displayed is specific to the program structure and fields as implemented by CCTV.

5.3 Installation

1. Add custom content types "Program", "Showing" and "Opening". Showings and Openings need to be event enabled.
2. Install the module in your modules directory: pegevent.module.
3. Add the scheduler page as a php formatted node: scheduler_page.txt.
4. Add php blocks for rerun scheduling and program detail: rerun.txt and program_detail.txt.

5.4 Potential Improvements

1. The custom content types should be integrated into the module.
2. Side blocks could be integrated.
3. The scheduler page should be integrated.
4. Module permissions should be implemented.

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