

Networking Project

Students interested in media technology

... who want to connect with students from a higher semester to get advice and tips.

Our plan is to offer a possibility for students to get in touch with students from a higher semester. The focus is on questions about media technology in general, the use of media resources of the university and the lectures about media technology. However, we do not plan to restrict students from asking questions about different subjects, such as student life in general.

Given, that we assume that not everybody will be at the campus where the festival takes place at the same time, we want to have an online offering, where people from different places and at different times can partake. We're planning a forum, in which there are two main categories:

- An FAQ where students can ask any question, that they have regarding media technology, and
- A tip-section where students from higher semesters share their experience of what proved to be useful, or that they wished they'd known earlier in their studies.

There should be some examples in the forum, so that participants of the festival can have inspirations on what they can write, or how to write it.

We would send an e-mail to the media studies students beforehand, where we invite them to add their tips and questions before the actual festival takes place. During the festival the forum would be accessible, too - but the goal is, that there are already some postings to browse through by then. Before the festival there should also be some information e.g. on a bulletin board or on StudIP so that other students from different subjects that are still interested in media technology can answer as well. In the same mail or the same postings we could ask students to ask their questions as well. (No one should answer to the email, but there needs to be a link or a qr-code attached. Either to the forum directly, or to a survey tool, so that people can ask their question anonymously. In that case, someone needs to transfer the questions to the forum later on).

For the people that are physically present for the festival, we plan to set up a magnet board, a pin wall or a board to put post it's, where people can stick questions, answers to the questions or tips in general. There could be some icebreaker questions too, that make it easier to start a one-on-one conversation. These could be formulated more like tasks. For example there is a post-it with the label "take me" and when you take off the wall and turn it around there is a task like "Ask someone

in this room, which software they use for their studies". If there is something like a networking area, it seems reasonable to put the board there.

After the festival the questions, answers and tips from the board should be added to the forum, so there is an archive of accessible information.

Our draft is a forum in Stud IP, however, for a final version other options should be explored, that are maybe more intuitive and you don't need to log in to partake. The feedback we got from us presenting the work to the rest of the group, is that StudIP as a platform might not be ideal, because it doesn't necessarily have a nice design and isn't very intuitive. We agree, that it's not the most user-friendly platform for a festival, but we also see the potential for usage during the rest of the student life. Most students visit StudIP daily, and it is possible to set up the forum in a separated study group or "lecture", so that it can be set as a course for each semester, that way, there is always quick access to the collected information.

Alternatively, it might be a nice student project to set up a WordPress website for the forum. It is a lot more effort to set this up, but it could also be a practice ground for interested students to get familiar with the work with WordPress, which is a skill, that many media students might need later in their career.

It should be an option, that people can contribute to the forum anonymously and there needs to be a person responsible for some kind of moderation, so the forum doesn't get abused.