

## Ideas for a "My Pages Wizard" feature in Mahara

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### 1. Aim of the wizard

- The wizard would allow the administrator to create custom pages à la "My Skills" and "My Goals" for learners to easily integrate the statements made in the forms on these pages in their portfolio views.
- Thus, basically, the wizard is a form creator / generator / builder.
- The administrator decides which "My" pages will be visible to the learners of particular study programs / institutions within the installation, e.g. BA 1 may need "My Skills" whereas BA 2 may need "My Competencies" and "My Lectures". BA 1 will not see the latter two pages and BA 2 will not see "My Skills".

### 2. Background information for this feature request

Students in the BScE keep their developmental portfolio for the entire duration of their studies (4 years). They need to include certain things like basic information on their internships, details about their internship experience, reflections on public lectures they visited as well as information and artefacts that demonstrate that they gained knowledge and experience in a number of competency areas.

Some of the information or details can be gathered in blogs as Nigel already suggested during our initial proposal of the idea to Catalyst. However, other things may be better gathered on "My" pages for an easier and quicker overview, e.g. a list of internship details (in case of our students 8 internships in schools during 4 years of studies, 1 internship in an organization) including the type of internship, the place, the class grade in which the student teaching took place, the internship mentor at the school, the internship tutor of the university, the final internship report and academic paper of the research conducted, feedback from the tutor.

As the "My" pages allow for a certain structure due to their form entries, students would be guided. Blogs are great for expanding ideas, for reflections etc., but not so for giving organizational / structured information as there is only one text entry field.

Using a wizard for the creation of such "My" pages is preferable to the hard coding of individual "My" pages because then an administrator can create these pages easily on demand. Thus, the portfolio can be tailored to the individual needs of any study program / institution.

### 3. Form creation

- Admins can create new forms in "Site Administration".
- Admins have a form wizard with which they can create forms easily in a WYSIWYG way like with JotForm (<http://jotform.com/>). The following screenshot with which desired functionalities of this form builder are presented, is from a JotForm form (cf. Image 1).

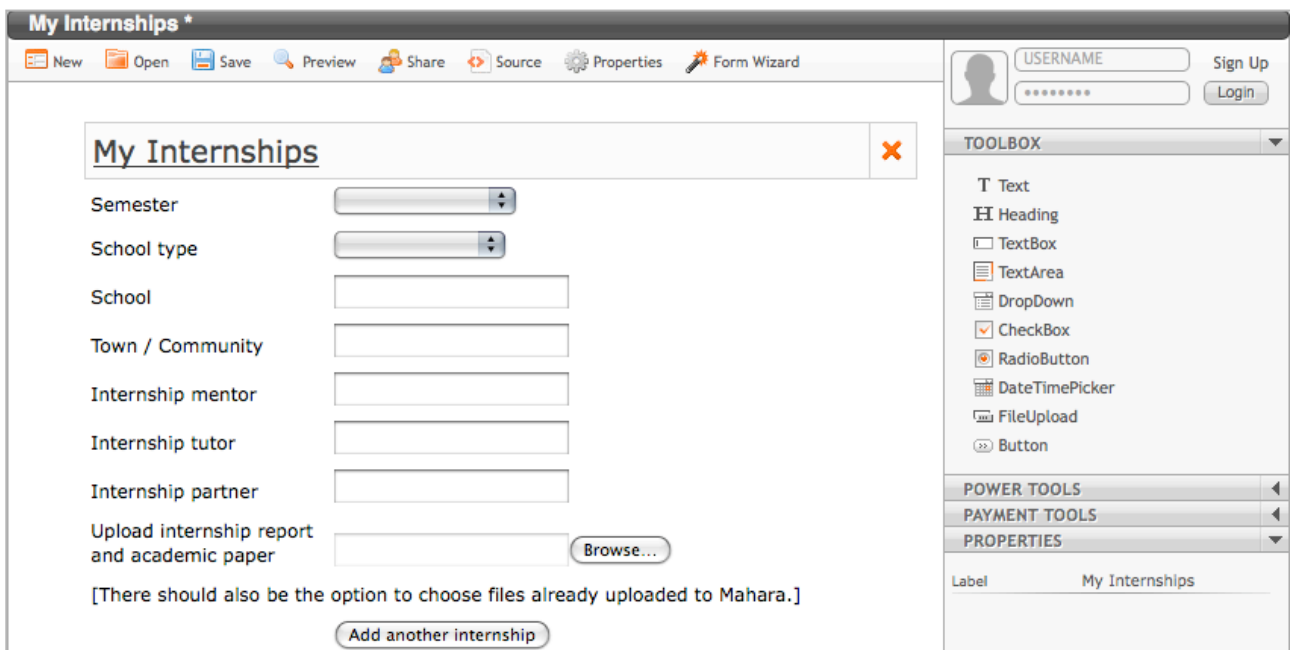


Image 1: Example form created using a form builder

<b>New</b>	new, empty form is created
<b>Open</b>	a form that the admin had already worked on is opened
<b>Save</b>	form is saved on the server; admin can choose a folder in which the form is to be saved; form can also be saved under a new name
<b>Preview</b>	preview and test of the form
<b>Share</b>	admin can post the form (code, screenshot of the preview) to the Mahara community for others to use and change according to their own needs, maybe even discuss the form and make improvement suggestions
<b>Source</b>	source code of the form for advanced changes
<b>Properties</b>	metadata of the; that information could also be used for the database of shared forms in the Mahara community
<b>Form Wizard</b>	guided creation of a form

- Admin can choose whether the form should be available for the entire Mahara installation or just one institution / study program within the installation.
- Admin can choose the placement of the tab in the "Profile" navigation bar.

#### 4. Form output

- In a form like the one in Image 1, learners have the opportunity to decide which information they want to make available in a particular view:
  - in one view they make all information available because their university tutors need to see all of them.
  - in another view, they only show the semester, school type and the name of the school  
⇒ avoid information overload when not all information is necessary / wanted.
- Students can decide whether they want to display the information as "single view" (cf. Image 2) or as a table (cf. Image 3) in a view. ⇒ This resembles the database options in Moodle where one can click through each entry individually or have all of them displayed in a different order / manner with the help of templates.

<b>Semester</b>	Winter 2008/09
<b>School type</b>	kindergarten
<b>School</b>	Child's Play
<b>Town / Community</b>	Luxembourg City
<b>Internship mentor</b>	Jane Doe
<b>Internship tutor</b>	Peter Peterson
<b>Internship partner</b>	Petra Petter
<b>Internship report</b>	<a href="#">[linked file]</a>
<b>Academic paper</b>	<a href="#">[linked file]</a>
<b>Semester</b>	Summer 2009
<b>School type</b>	preschool
<b>School</b>	Happy Faces
<b>Town / Community</b>	Esch
<b>Internship mentor</b>	John Farmer
<b>Internship tutor</b>	Paul Pile
<b>Internship partner</b>	Portia Push
<b>Internship report</b>	<a href="#">[linked file]</a>
<b>Academic paper</b>	<a href="#">[linked file]</a>
<b>Tutor report</b>	<a href="#">[linked file]</a>

Image 2: Single entry view of form entries (all form fields are selected)

Semester	School type	School	Town / Community	Internship mentor	Internship tutor	Internship partner	Internship report	Academic paper	Tutor report
Winter 2008/09	kindergarten	Child's Play	Luxembourg City	Jane Doe	Peter Peterson	Petra Petter	<a href="#">[linked file]</a>	<a href="#">[linked file]</a>	<a href="#">[linked file]</a>
Summer 2009	pre-school	Happy Faces	Esch	John Farmer	Paul Pile	Portia Push	<a href="#">[linked file]</a>	<a href="#">[linked file]</a>	<a href="#">[linked file]</a>

Image 3: Form entries in list view (all form fields are selected)

- In the case of our students, tutors will be supposed to upload a report about the students' internships to have a record for the next tutor. I have not yet figured out what a suitable solution for this upload could be because:
  - having the student upload the file is not good because then s/he may be able to delete it.
  - having a form field on the view output may not be ideal either because then anybody can upload any file.
  - putting students in groups first and only allowing the group creator or tutors in the group to upload a file is cumbersome because then groups need to be created first. Besides, if a tutor only has one student to supervise, that procedure may be a bit over the top.
  - it is not sufficient for tutors to simply give feedback in a view where the internship information is provided because if the view is changed, the comment may not be matched to the correct internship anymore. The tutor's feedback needs to go with the individual internship record.
  - the tutor should be able to upload a file because otherwise the comment would take up too much space, especially in the list view.
- The "My Internships" page is a more difficult one. We would also use the wizard to generate pages that are similar to "My Skills", e.g. "My Competencies" instead with basically only text areas (cf. Image 4).
- The information provided in the "My" pages can be exported as PDF documents.

