

Meeting 2016 August 24th

Soft Booking

Persons present: Kathleen, Anna, Anita, PF

Banner is constantly updating live and it is manual, it is an Oracle database. However there are not that many changes in bookings (i.e. flood in one room and the need to book another one)

There exist Minerva reports which consist of a printout of selected rooms availabilities from Banner for the next XXX weeks (2 for example). AUS and SSMU are actually using this and we could pilot the *softbooking* with them.

Possible issues:

1. Classrooms are booked for classes, otherwise McGill charges for them and then it doesn't go through the Registrar Office. AUS and SSMU have a contract which allows them to not pay for the rooms. Our system might be viewed as bypassing this.
2. People might book rooms and break things inside or to organize paid venues.
3. The actual server space where the software will operate is TBD.

Possible solutions:

1. There is already booking system for library (CyberTech) , we might see with them if they had precedents or problems. (Kathleen did wrote to the associate director of the library during the meeting). Also Management Desautels faculty let students book rooms we might ask them how they deal with the bookings and the students ID that need to be protected if stored somewhere.
2. Right now they can already come freely into a room and break/steal things so the *softbooking* software will not influence this. We should have a disclaimer that the *softbooking* is not usable to other ends than for learning purposes or something in that style.
3. This needs to go through IT services and might require incense sticks burning.

Technical questions from PF:

- What does it takes to have a database « freeze » into a file into an arbitrary format (preferably csv)?
- Is it possible to have the fields of the database?
- How often is it possible to issue the Minerva reports without causing anybody any troubles? (i.e. 1 min, 1 hour, 1 day, ...)
- How can we overcome the fact that the server updates the information contained in Banner possibly every 24 hours only?