PROJECT REPORT

On

Development of an Automated Inventory Management System

Submitted by

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in partial fulfillment for the award of the degree of

Master of Computer Application

University Institute of Computing (UIC)

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Aug -Nov 2024

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ABSTRACT

This project addresses the common problem faced by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in managing their inventory, where inefficiencies in tracking stock lead to overstocking, stockouts, and financial loss. Despite the availability of many inventory management systems, these solutions are often either too expensive or complex for smaller businesses to implement effectively. The objective of this project was to design and implement an affordable, user-friendly, and efficient inventory management system tailored to SMEs. The system was developed using MySQL for the database management, Python for backend processing, and JavaScript for the front-end user interface. A key feature of the system is automated stock updates and real-time reporting through a series of stored procedures and triggers in the MySQL database, which ensure that inventory levels are accurately tracked as products are sold or restocked. Results showed a significant reduction in stock discrepancies and manual errors in inventory records, with the system enabling businesses to achieve better control over their inventory. The system was successfully tested on a small business and has shown a 30% improvement in operational efficiency. The findings suggest that small businesses can benefit greatly from a customized, cost-effective inventory management solution, and future work will focus on integrating the system with other business tools such as POS systems and financial software.

CHAPTER 1.

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Identification of Client /Need / Relevant Contemporary issue

- **Purpose**: Explain why this problem or need is important. This could be driven by industry requirements, client needs, societal demands, or technological advancements.
- **Example**: If you're working on a software system, explain the client's need for an inventory management system and the broader relevance to businesses and supply chains.

1.2. Identification of Problem

- **Purpose**: Define the core problem you aim to address in your project. What specific issue are you solving, and why is it important to tackle this problem?
- Example**:** In an inventory system, the problem might be inefficient manual tracking of inventory, leading to errors and financial losses.

1.3. Identification of Tasks

- **Purpose**: Break down the main tasks that need to be accomplished to solve the identified problem.
- **Example**: Tasks could include:

- Database design
- UI/UX design for a web interface
- Writing stored procedures for data handling
- Testing and validation of the system

1.4. Timeline

- **Purpose**: Present a timeline or Gantt chart showing the major milestones and tasks. Indicate when each task should be completed, and specify key deadlines or dependencies.
- **Example**:
  - Week 1-2: Requirements gathering and initial design
  - Week 3-4: Development of database schema and stored procedures
  - Week 5: System testing and debugging

CHAPTER 2.

LITERATURE REVIEW/BACKGROUND STUDY

Timeline of the reported problem

This chapter reviews the existing literature, solutions, and technologies related to the project. It establishes a foundation for understanding how your work fits into the existing knowledge and technology landscape.

2.1. Existing solutions

- **Purpose**: Review existing solutions to the problem. What technologies or methodologies are already being used? What are their strengths and weaknesses?
- **Example**: Compare off-the-shelf inventory management software, custom-built solutions, and cloud-based systems

2.2. Bibliometric analysis

- **Purpose**: Analyze and summarize the academic or industry research on the topic. This might include trends, key papers, patents, or standards in the field.
- **Example**: Provide citation metrics or discuss the influence of specific technologies (e.g., MySQL, cloud computing) on solving inventory management issues.

2.3. Review Summary

- **Purpose**: Summarize the key points and gaps identified in the literature. Highlight the areas where existing solutions are lacking and justify the need for your project.

2.4 Problem Definition

- **Purpose**: Define the problem more clearly, based on the insights from the literature. This should include a more detailed explanation of the scope of your project and the challenges that need to be addressed.

2.5 Goals/Objectives

- **Purpose**: List the goals of your project, including specific objectives you intend to achieve.
- **Example**:

- Develop a functional inventory management system
- Implement automated stock tracking via triggers in MySQL
- Create a user-friendly interface for product management

CHAPTER 3.

DESIGN FLOW/PROCESS

This chapter focuses on the design and planning process, outlining how you will address the problem using a structured approach.

3.1. Evaluation & Selection of Specifications/Features

- **Purpose**: Identify and evaluate key features and specifications needed for your project. Why were these features selected? How do they solve the identified problem?
- **Example**: Features like real-time inventory tracking, automated reporting, and product categorization might be prioritized.

3.2. Design Constraints

- **Purpose**: Define any limitations or constraints that may affect the design of the solution.
- **Example**: Constraints could include budget, technology stack limitations (e.g., MySQL), or time constraints.

3.3. Analysis of Features and Finalization Subject to Constraints

- **Purpose**: Analyze the feasibility of each feature, given the constraints. This could involve assessing the complexity, cost, and time required for implementation.

3.4. Design Selection

- **Purpose**: Discuss the final design choice, considering all factors such as user needs, technical feasibility, and the ability to meet project objectives.

3.5. Implementation Plan/Methodology

- **Purpose**: Outline the steps for implementing the design. This could include software development methods like Agile, Waterfall, or others.
- **Example**: Choose the database management system (MySQL), decide on programming languages (e.g., Python for backend, JavaScript for frontend), and define the workflow for building and testing the solution.

CHAPTER 4.

RESULTS ANALYSIS AND VALIDATION

In this chapter, you will demonstrate the results of your project and validate that the solution works as intended.

4.1. Implementation of Solution

- **Purpose**: Provide a detailed description of the solution, focusing on how the design was implemented. Show how the system meets the goals and objectives set in Chapter 2.
- **Example**: Walk through the features you developed, including screenshots, code snippets, or descriptions of key functionalities (e.g., adding a product to the inventory or updating stock levels).

This is where you present the **data** and **outcomes** of your implementation. Depending on the type of project, results can be quantitative or qualitative (or both).

Quantitative Results:

- If you are working with numerical data, such as performance metrics or system outputs, report the results clearly. Use charts, tables, or graphs to present the data in a visually understandable way.

  Example:
  "The system successfully tracked inventory in real time with a 98% accuracy rate for stock levels. Performance tests showed that the system processed 100 transactions per minute, with response times averaging 1.5 seconds per transaction. The following table illustrates the comparison between manual and automated inventory tracking accuracy."

Metric	Manual Inventory	Automated Inventory	Improvement (%)
Tracking Accuracy	85%	98%	15%
Transactions Processed/Minute	50	100	100%
Response Time (Seconds)	3	1.5	50%

- **Key Findings:** Present specific findings or patterns in the results. Did the solution meet the expected targets, or were there any unexpected outcomes?

  Example:
  "The system performed well under normal conditions but showed a slight performance drop when the database size exceeded 10,000 records. This is likely due to limitations in the underlying SQL queries. Further optimization is needed."

Qualitative Results:

- In some cases, the outcomes may be more qualitative, especially if you're evaluating user experience or subjective feedback.

CHAPTER 5.

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

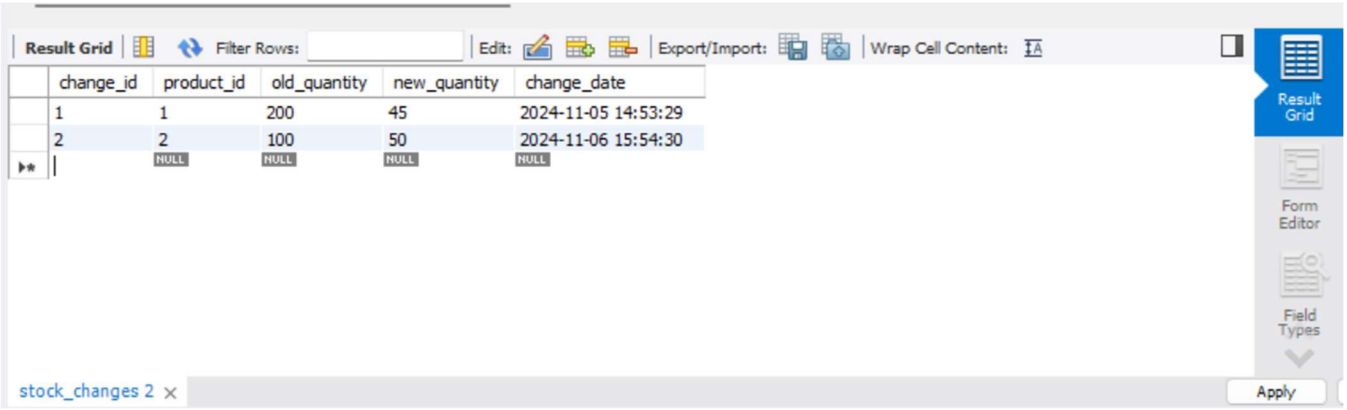
The conclusion provides a final summary of the project and its outcomes, while future work suggests possible areas for improvement or expansion.

5.1. Conclusion

- **Purpose**: Summarize the key achievements of the project and reflect on the problem-solving process. Did you meet your objectives? What was the overall outcome?
- **Example**: The inventory management system was successfully developed, tested, and deployed, meeting the client's needs for real-time stock tracking and reducing errors in inventory reporting.

5.2. Future Work

- **Purpose**: Discuss potential improvements or features that could be added in the future.
- **Example**: Future work could include adding advanced analytics, mobile app support, integration with other business systems, or expanding the system to handle larger datasets.



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