

Background

I am going to be designing a booking system for the Under Construction music practice rooms in central Cathays. At the moment, the system is based on email negotiations as well and the usage of notepad to store booking times and dates. I have personally had to cancel big gigs due to double bookings and have to negotiate the fees after every practice session due to the dynamic pricing which the staff do not always have a complete understanding of, especially when the front desk employee rotates. I aim to fix these problems by creating a database which will ask the secretary for information about the date/time of the booking and the ages of the musicians. This system will be able to detect and prevent double bookings with an error message and will automatically determine the cost of the session. Eventually, this could be automated so that the musicians themselves can fill in a booking form online for the staff at Under Construction to verify – this will lessen their workload and possibly even increase the volume of bookings they get as the form will show professionalism.

In summary, here is a list of the functions that the system should be able to perform:

- Present the user with an aesthetically appealing form to fill in,
- Present a staff login screen,
- Book a session onto an internal calendar based on the date/time info entered,
- Ability to add and save artists or musicians who regularly book in order to increase efficiency,
- Provide an error message if there is already a booking in place and show the user the nearest available time slots,
- Determine the price of the session based on the number of people, the date/time and the ages of the musicians.
- Check the availability of equipment that is requested to be borrowed and if available add the price of borrowing the equipment to the total cost,
- Present a booking cancellation feature,
- Email a confirmation of booking or cancellation to the customer automatically,
- Produce a report for Under Construction each week and automatically email it to them.

The Under Construction practice rooms are possibly the most popular location for Cardiff's musicians to practice at, as the rooms are soundproofed and the gear available is slightly better than expected considering the low prices. The company also allows youths to use the rooms for a lower price than usual depending on the day and time of the booking. The rooms are managed by the staff of the Cathay's Central Cardiff Youth Club, who also do lots of work for the community and are always busy with organised events – this is why I think they will benefit greatly from a booking system. The staff definitely try to be as helpful as possible and have a very positive work ethos, however the current system in place easily causes undeserved frustration.