Find-a-Room

"But dear sir professor, I did not know where to go" is no longer an excuse

What Is It All About?

Find-a-room is a mobile web application that you can use to find a lecture hall or some other teaching facility in Aalto University campus area—whether you are a student or a normal person.

Once you know the name or unique WebOodi code of the room you are looking for, input it into Find-a-Room's search view. The application then shows you a list of matching rooms and you can choose to display the building's location on a map or the room's exact location inside the building on a floor map.

If you phone is gps-enabled or otherwise location-aware, the application plots your location in a map and shows you the distance and direction of your destination. Sorry, no more excuses like "I am late because I could not find my way."

Sometimes, there is an error in the world. Should you find a misplaced room, just tap the correct location and send it to us. But pranksters beware: suggested corrections go through a painstaking moderation process before being published!

Next Steps

In the limited time scope of this course we have been able to implement only some of the ideas that we had in mind for this application. Here are some possible future improvements that could be implemented in order to make Find-a-Room even more useful and pleasing to use.

Localisation

At the moment, Find-a-Room's user interface language is English. As a minor improvement, UI could be offered also Finnish, Swedish, Chinese—the list goes on.

Extended Room Information

Find-a-Room could be extended to display more information about each room. This could include for example a schedule or information about the equipment available in the room.

Route Finder Integration

Aalto University extends to multiple campuses in the Helsinki region. If campuses other than Otaniemi are included, it would be a good idea to integrate the Helsinki region route finder (Reittiopas) into Find-a-Room to make it easier for students to move from one campus to another.

HTML5 Goodness

Find-a-Room depends on some techniques closely associated with HTML5 to deliver a good user experience.

- **Web Storage** is used for storing building data and floor map images for off-line usage. All required data is stored locally and periodically updated from server.
- **Geolocation API** enables the application to pinpoint the user's current location on the map and give directions to your destination.
- **Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG)** makes it possible to store nicely scalable floor maps in a small space in order to display smooth and accurate views inside the buildings. The graphics are embedded in the HTML source code, making it possible to add functionality to the image itself!

Aalto University

Powered By

Find-a-Room has been implemented using

- Ruby
- Sinatra
- jQuery Mobile
- Google Maps
- Kaarlo Haikonen (Aalto University)
- Antti Risteli (Aalto University)
- Sampsa Toivanen (HiQ Finland Ltd)