**OSCA – Online Stock Control and Analysis Application**

**Background**

1. Maintaining an accurate record of product sales allows a business to determine the popularity of their products thus enabling them to make key sales and marketing decisions.
2. Maintaining an accurate record of stock levels allows a business to make informed decisions on how much stock is needed and when should it be purchased.

These two processes while seeming relatively trivial can help a business achieve competitive advantage which often means the difference between success and failure, especially in the hugely competitive retail industry. Many medium to large size businesses use custom software for this purpose which while incredibly powerful, is often too expensive for many sole traders or smaller businesses to afford. As a result many of these small businesses end up using general purpose desktop software applications such as Microsoft Excel to record their product sales and stock levels.

**Project Idea**

This project aims to create an online stock control and analysis application to be used by sole traders and small businesses that are looking for a solution to managing their stock but cannot afford customised professional software.

At its simplest, this project will consist of a website that will allow a business to maintain a record of product sales, view up-to-date stock levels and output product sales figures. This will have the following advantages for a business:

1. The ability to maintain an accurate up-to-date record of product sales
2. The ability to view up-to-date stock levels that automatically update based on the product sales
3. The ability to output sales reports which can be downloaded to excel or printed out for further analysis
4. The ability to access this stock control application from any location as long as there is internet connection
5. The ability to record sales from several different locations and store these sales in one central database

While this project will not consist of a mobile app, the website will be styled in such a way that allows it to be used on all screen sizes ranging from large PC monitors to laptops, tablets and even small screen smart phones.

**Overview of functionality offered**

**Login**

* The user will have a username and password to login to this application. There will be an option to create a new account for each of the businesses employees

**Record New Sales**

* The user can record product sales by viewing a list of all available products and entering in the quantity sold.
* The list of products can be sorted and filtered to help the user find the product he is looking for.

**Update Product Details**

* The user can enter in new products, delete redundant products and update the product description and price.
* Based on previously recorded sales data, the bestselling products will be automatically highlighted.

**View Current Stock Levels**

* The user can view the current stock level for each product.
* Stock levels are automatically updated based on product sales.
* When the stock level for each product falls below a certain level a warning will be displayed alerting the user to order more stock.

**View Sales Figures**

* The user can analyse his product sales by viewing a number of sales reports (total sales per product etc).
* These figures can be exported to excel or converted to pdf for printing.

**To Summarise**

This online application would be a low cost but effective tool for sole traders or small businesses to accurately record product sales and stock levels thus improving their competitive advantage.