Project Proposal Form

Title: College Accountant – College Accounting Software

* *Please describe the type of the system being developed.*

This system ‘*College Accountant*’ is being exclusively developed for colleges/ universities/institutes. It is an all-round software solution for managing the accounts of the college. This would be an online as well as a desktop based application. The online version of the system provides a gateway for the students to pay the tuition fees, examination fees, library fines, late fee fines, re-examination fees etc. Along with these students can view the previous transaction history. Also, students who have to obtain any refunds from the college can apply for the same. The desktop application is mainly to be used by the accountant. The system would very well integrate the payroll system for the faculties and other staffs of the college. The examination fee-fine, library, bus, hostel, mess, cafeteria, bill payment, inventory and store modules are also being integrated to this system. Notifications in the form of SMS and email are being provided. Graphical reports can be generated on the flick of a button. These reports help the management to take better decisions.

* *Who is system being developed for?*

This system is being developed for colleges /universities / institutes. The system would be directly used by the accountant and students. Indirectly the system is being used by the librarian, examination controller, faculties, store and departmental in-charge, bus in-charge, director, college management etc.

* *Why is such a system required?*

In the current scenario the college uses software like Tally, MS Excel for accounting purposes. Though there is wide use of computers in the current system, still it’s not efficient since various departments are not linked with each other. For example, the library is not connected to the accounts module, so if a student needs to pay a fine he/she needs to waste a lot of time jostling here and there to get his/her dues settled. This system is being developed by keeping college in mind and thus has all the necessary modules which would be required. Other software can be expensive and may contain unnecessary modules since those software are created in general and not specific to any organisation. Thus the proposed system helps in saving space, time and cost. There is less wastage of paper which would otherwise be used for record keeping. Also, the reports generated by the system could easily help the management understand the current financial situation of the college and eventually help them take steps either for further improvement or recover losses.

* *What will be the main challenge for you in building the system?*

Since this system deals with money transactions; the system needs to be highly secure. The system provides the students a payment gateway to pay up their fees and fines. Designing and making this gateway secure and user friendly would be the most difficult challenge. Among other challenges would be on how to integrate the modules with this system. Already few management systems have already been implemented in the college like the Library management system etc. hence it has to be checked how data can be fetched from that system and made usable for this system. In the payroll system, the salary is decided on the attendance of the faculties and staff. Since these records are of utmost importance hence these data needs to be stored in a robust database with excellent backup and recovery. The system would be developed in Java since Java is a platform-independent language, hence this system would be compatible with most of the operating system. The payment gateway would be designed in JSP using Struts and Hibernate in order to have maximum security.

* *What new ideas and theory will you need to learn to build the system?*

For the development of this system new technologies need to be studied in detail. The developer has no prior knowledge of JSP, Struts, and Hibernate etc. and would require studying these in detail for the successful completion of this project. Thorough research of Tally has to be done in order to make system comparable but better suited for various Colleges. Concepts of encryption and decryption need to be learned in order to provide good security mechanisms for this project.