Manual of BICA (Booking Invoice Confirmation App)

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Introduction

Liberton Kirk uses SKEDDA's web application to book event activities of kirk halls. The SKEDDA website exports an excel file (.xlsx) contains booking data as required. A Kirt staff looks up the .xlsx file data, performs copying and pasting into a Microsoft's word document, editing into a booking contract and an invoice, finally exporting PDF documents as print out or attachments send to clients. It was time consuming and arbitrary, sometime just an email. The Kirk Centre is getting busy with more commercial booking. A standard book contract and invoice is required to indicate hall, time, requirement, equipment, payment, reliability, bank information, and more.

Liberton Kirk Management team has done a good job to generate the requirements and format of the book contract and invoice. These requirements were implemented in a utility software named BICA. The BICA promotes efficiency, automation, and standardisation. The BICA is rich user interface (Rich UI), stand-alone package, and single user desktop application as required. The BICA takes an excel file of data from the SKEDDA as input, regroup and processing, then produces both booking contract and invoice in PDF in standard format. The BICA is very simple to use, anybody without computing knowledge can use it with a few minutes training. It is a tool for a staff to work automatically and in standard way

The manual contains two parts:

- 1. Usage of BICA: for staffs to use the tool.
- 2. Technical Note for developers: for developer to improve, refine, modify, and add new function.

Currently the software was developed by a sole developer. It is welcome for you to join the development. The complete project files including source code is in GitHub: ggyang2018/BICA at master (github.com)

Usage of BICA

This section describes how to use the BICA step by step.

Step 1 load data from xlsx file: On the Menu File | Load xlsx to bring a file chooser



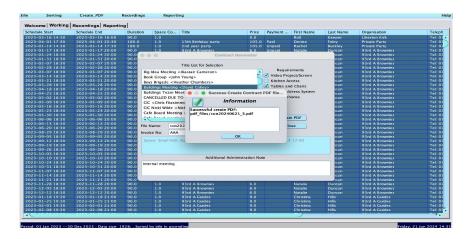
Step 2 In the file chooser, select the xlsx data file, and click open button. The file chooser had filter out other types files, only the directories and xlsx file can be shown.



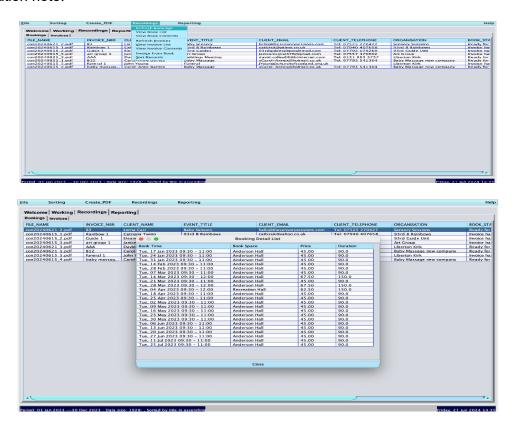
Step 3 Load data on the Working Tab, then you could sort the data in terms of title, start time, space (hall). Sorting titles can make job easy, especially for multiple book contracts.

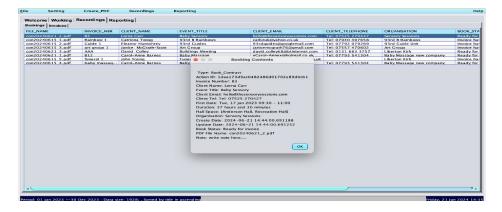
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23-01	-04 10:00	2023-01-	04 12:00	120.0	1.0	Toddler Group Cleaning Toys	0.0		Laura	Skinner	Family Worker	Tel:
	-04 19:00	2023-01-		150.0	1.0	Praise Cathering	0.0		John	Young	Liberton Kirk	
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	-10 10:30	2023-01-		540.0	1.0	Upper Room Prayer Space	0.0		Alastair	Cameron	Liberton Kirk	Tel
	-10 17:15	2023-01-		60.0	1.0	93rd Rainbows	4.0	Unpaid	Miranda	Allaby	93coferainbows	Tel
	-10 17:15	2023-01-		165.0	1.0	Boys Brigade	13.75	Unpaid	Heather	Chambers	Boys Brigade	Tel
	-10 18:30	2023-01-		90.0	1.0	93rd Brownies	7.5	Unnaid	Rosy	Burgess	93rd Brownies	Tel
	-10 19:30	2023-01-		90.0	1.0	SEEPG Worship Team	0.0	Onpaid	Alastair	Cameron	Liberton Kirk	Tel
	-10 19:30	2023-01-		90.0	1.0	Care Team Meeting	0.0		Netta	Rough	93rd 'C' Brownies	Tel
	-10 20:15	2023-01-		90.0	1.0	Scottish Country Dancing	0.0		Mary	Davidson	Scottish Country Dancing	Tel
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	-11 09:30	2023-01-		60.0	1.0	Pilates Classes NO CHARGE N	0.0	_	Nicky	Pender	Pilates	Tel
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	-11 10:00	2023-01-		120.0	1.0	Pram Praise cancelled no heati	0.0		John	Young	Liberton Kirk	1.61
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Step 4 Create book contracts: Click Menu item: Create PDF | Generate Contract to bring Contract Generator dialog box. The selected data will be grouped according to event title<client name>. Once select the group, all booking list will display on the panel (Not editable), modify the pdf file name, write the invoice number(compulsory), check the requirements, then click Generate PDF button. The information box will tell if success. You can repeat the procedure for other groups. Once finished, click the Close button to close the box.

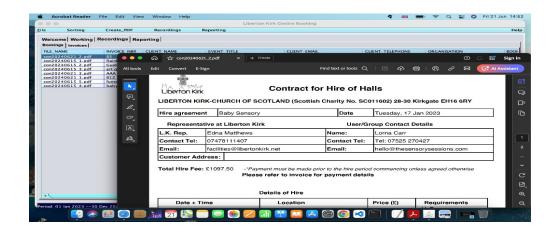


Step 5 All create book contracts are stored in a embedded database. Go to recording TAB with Booking sub-tab, and click the menu item Recordings|Refresh Bookings to display stored booking contracts. First select a contract, you can view the contract's book list, and contents including administration note.

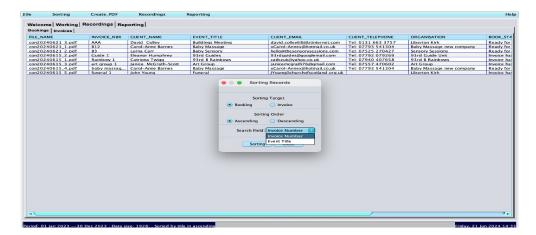




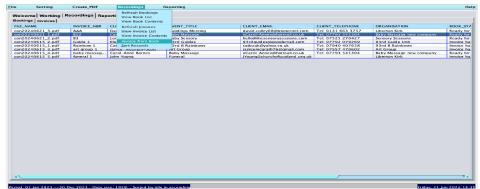
If you double click the PDF file name, it will bring a local app to display the PDF file.



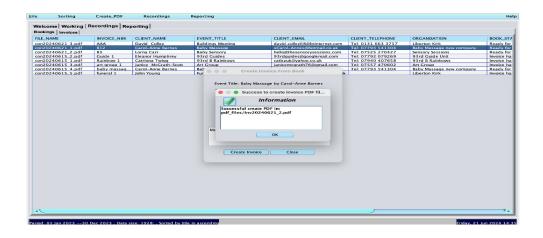
Step 6 Lookup and sorting these book contracts: The record contains pdf file name and status about ready for invoice or invoice being done. You can sort these contracts in terms of invoice number or event title. Click the menu item Recordings|Sort Records to display the Sorting Records Box. Choose the target as Booking/Invoice, order as Ascending/Descending, select the search field: invoice number/event title, the click sorting.



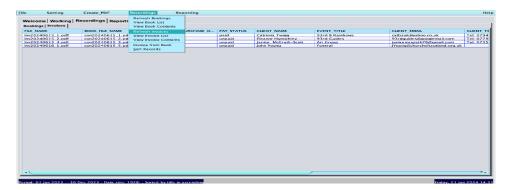
Step 7 Click the menu item Recordings | Invoice from book to bring the invoice box. It will create a invoice PDF from the selected booking.



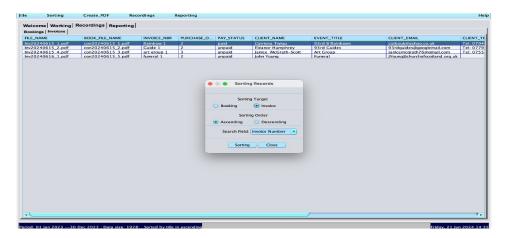
Fill the PDB box with necessary information, such file name, purchase order, additional note, etc. then click Create Invoice button to create the invoice pdf file. An information box tells if success.



Step 8 Invoice operations: similar to bookings, all invoice data are stored in the database. The operation is very similar to booking; go to Recordings Tab with Invoice sub-tab, click Recordings Refresh Invoice to retrieve invoices from database and display. It also can view booking list, contents, and sorting invoice in terms of invoice number or event title.

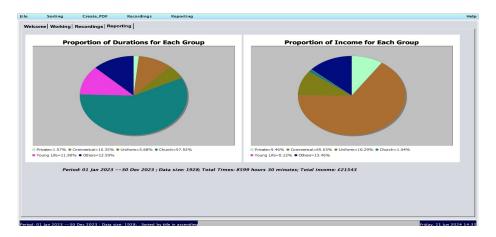


A record contains invoice file name and booking file name. Once the invoice being created, the corresponding booking record' status would be set as Invoice Done. The package would not allow you to duplicate the invoice. The invoice sorting:

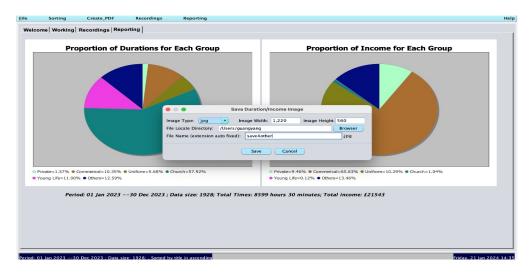


Once xlsx data being load, you could directly create invoice from data by click the menu item Create PDF | Generate Invoice after select data. It has a similar selection box and PDF generate box. If book contracts already stored in database, you could create the invoice without load xlsx data.

Step 9 Statistical Data Display: make sure the xlsx data being loaded due to statistics of xlsx data, then click the menu item Reporting | Duration and Income, it shows:



To save the image into .jpg file, click the menu item Reporting | Save as Image to display the save dialog box, fill the dimension, location and file name, then click the Save button



Step 10 Backup and Cleaning: the structure of software contains a executable jar file: BICA.jar, a lkcdata directory as a database to hold data, a pdf_files directory as file store for all generated pdf files, and a log directory for store logging file. Backup is to copy the the lkcdata and pdf_files directories onto somewhere else and affix date stamps on these directories. Cleanup is to delete the two directories, beware the recycle bin should be clear in case of it overrides your working directory by accidentally recover action.

Trouble Shooting

Problem: Sometimes the contents not rendering or not updating properly.

Solution: It may be caused by tab indexing issue, just click another tab then back to this tab to force UI to update.

Problem: Sometimes the booking or invoice table are not updated.

Solution: Keep refresh the booking or invoice table from menu to sync data with database.

Technical Note for Developers

Project files including source code at: https://github.com/ggyang2018/BICA/tree/master

The development tools:

programming language: Java version 21 (Latest Long Time Support by now) integrate Development Environment (IDE): Intelllij IDEA build tools: gradle with Kotlin DSL (domain specific language)

Libraries(package) being used and

- 1. using apache poi package to parse excel files and transform to java data objects.
- 2. group these data object according the combination of event title and client name.
- 3. using *apache pdfbox* to produce pdf files for both booking contract and invoice.
- 4. The data to create pdf files will stored in an embedded database (<u>hsqldb</u>)
- 5. Statistically parse the excel data file and generated pie chart to indicate groups proposition in terms of income and duration using *ifreechart* library.
- 6. An interactive GUI based on <u>javax.swing</u> makes these operations feasible and visible.
- 7. Apache log4i framework is for logging.

Due to sole development and time scope, there were only limited technical discussions. There are some rooms for improvement, refinement and new functionality. It might be contains following or more:

- 1. Tab indexing and menu item interaction: menu item enable/disable according to current tab choice.
- 2. Data field configuration: date field was hard coding, it may be put into property for flexibility.
- 3. Better looking and feel:
- 4. Logging refine: current logging is coarse only for system error. It may be refined into operations
- 5. And more ...