**Team Projects – 10COB290**

**Report C**

“Main achievement of the project, possible improvements and knowledge that has been gained from undertaking the team project.”

**Project Achievements:**

Having considered all the points mentioned in the previous deliverables and taking them into account we have made improvements to our system. In our team projects coursework, we have developed a web-based Timetable Support System using Microsoft ASP.NET and C#, together with SQL server 2008. The system allows university timetablers to submit requests for lecture theatres. It has been developed in accordance with a series of requirements and constraints that were originally documented at the beginning of the project in March 2011.

As a team, we have achieved a lot of things in this project. Clearly, from the beginning, there were several changes to previous deliverables. Firstly, due to the changes outlined in the specification, the intended development platform was changed from the PHP/MySQL combination to Microsoft’s ASP.NET and SQLserver 2008. This meant that all of us had to learn an entire new programming language with little assistance and in a very short amount of time.

As part of the project, we implemented a Project Management Website (PMW). It has been updated weekly with the minutes of meetings, task lists and Gantt charts documenting the team’s progress and other useful documentation. This has ensured that all team members could look to one central place for all the relevant information they need on anything from the database structure through to the proposed page layout.

As in previous deliverables we have tried to make our system accessible and portable.

*Accessibility –* meansequal access to web-based information and services regardless of physical or developmental abilities. It is also the benefits that can be gained from the system as well as the ability for any person, in any circumstance, using any device to access content on the web. *Portable**–* refers to software that can be run on two or more kinds of computers or with two or more kinds of operating systems. The term portable implies that the system (web page) was intended for several platforms from the beginning and that this factor was considered throughout the design and implementation. We have made our website work on multiple browsers including Mozilla Firefox, Internet Explorer and Google Chrome

**Good about what we have done:**

We have validated data wherever possible to prevent incorrect data from being entered thus preventing the user from making mistakes and saving him time. Additionally, we have made validation to prevent modules from being selected with incorrect name/code. We have also minimised the user input to prevent incorrect data from being entered. Having protected the system and encrypting the password, we have made our system more secure which will prevent the system from unauthorised access. The login system must not be bypassed by entering a page URL, all pages must check for a user to be logged in this will further ensure security of the system.

Help pages were done to ensure the system is useable with minimal knowledge which made the system easy to use and navigate trough. Providing individual help pages for complex areas of the system can further help the user comprehend the system easier overall.

*Room Filter*- you can give all the specifications e.g. (facilities, capacity, and room type or room style) will tell which rooms offer those facilities. *Ability to enter a new module-* if a module does not already exist, which was not available in previous deliverables. This also allows the user to sort requests and to edit pending requests i.e. delete, re-submit. *Time management*- throughout the project we have learned how to manage and delegate tasks to each other according to each group member’s abilities.

**Possible Improvements:**

We have made the Booking Information Page as a single page, which makes the page look unorganised. The Page could be split into several different pages for easier viewing. Due to the Crash of the servers, we have switched over to the simpler website. Having lost most of the information we managed to stay motivated and start developing the system again. Back up was required throughout the project which could have saved lots of time and effort which was put into reconstructing the website.

Sometimes the server was too slow and was timing out so we couldn’t view information.We could have also been more competent and organised, as well as managing our time better and not leaving everything to the last minute.

**What we have learned:**

All software is to be written using ASP.net with Microsoft's SQLserver database. We had to study and learn this language from scratch. In these circumstances we have learned how to use our initiative and work well as a team. Find whatever you can about the new system from books, the internet, from colleagues or from existing systems using the technology. We have always been thinking of ways we can improve both the functionality and interface of the system. The team had to be in constant collaboration which enabled us to see the project from every prospective and to get a clearer picture of what principles to use when designing it.

As a team, we have learnt a lot through undertaking this project, aside from the obvious things such as web development using ASP.NET, C#, MSSQL and SQLserver. We’ve all learnt how to adapt to situations, which may not necessarily be comfortable- such as working with new people and working with new software. All six of us had to work with people we had never worked with or even met before. This meant that we had to adapt to the different working styles and technical abilities of other people.

Furthermore, compared to the previous deliverables, the addition of our Project Managers gave us a different perspective of how realistic the project is and helped to prepare us for dealing with situations in the future whereby we’re working to please someone other than the end-client, asking certain things to be completed in time for the next meeting. Overall, as a result of this deliverable, we all agree that we feel far more prepared in tackling unfamiliar situations in the world of work.