**Long Description- Block the Slot**

With coronavirus spreading globally, social distancing is the new normal people around the world are living with and will have to in the months to come. Stores and shopping malls across the globe will slowly and eventually start reopening. Stepping out to shop at stores will pose as an overwhelming trip with concerns around safety and hygiene. Retail industry has also been deeply impacted by the pandemic with most of the countries being under lockdown. Around the world, malls are beginning to reopen as countries attempt to revive economies struggling under lockdown measures. It is imperative for retailers to look into solutions to inspire a sense of safety for consumers.

Our platform provides for a service which works both for the shoppers and retailers. We worked on a platform which will let shoppers book shopping slots at their favorite stores in advance. Our partner stores will only accept limited advance bookings and no walk-ins. This will help shoppers feel safe and follow social distancing regimen and make the most of out of their shopping trips. While retailers will be able to keep a check on influx of people they have in their stores and at the same time rebuild from the setbacks imposed by the pandemic. This platform is available as a web service and will be optimized for mobiles in the months to come.

How is our platform going to help shoppers?

1. Shoppers will be able to filter the city and stores they want to book a slot at. We will be collaborating with mall managements to have their stores listed on the app. For the initial solution, we will be working on Delhi NCR as our base and our plan is to eventually extend it to other cities.
2. Shoppers will be able to book slots of 30 minutes each at partner stores.
3. They can only book a slot till 15 minutes prior to the slot time.
4. They can stay in the mall/shopping complex for a maximum of 3 hours only.
5. A chat box powered by IBM Watson will be there 24\*7 to assist them with booking related questions.
6. In the months to come, we will be working to send notifications to all the bookings made. The sms notification will consist of a QR code and COVID-19 related guidelines.

How is our platform going to help retailers?

1. Stores will be able to collaborate with us and list their stores on the app.
2. Since our App will allow for only for 10 bookings per slot. Stores will be able to plan and rotate their workforce in a much better fashion. In the months to come, the platform will allow for dynamic number of slots based on store area.
3. As a future consideration, we will be working with the stores to have their advertisements and discounts offers listed on our platform.
4. Also in the months to come, store managers and mall management will be provided with a dashboard to look at statistics including but not limited to: Total Bookings, Confirmed Bookings, Popular Stores, Revenue etc.