
City College Norwich

ASSIGNMENT BRIEF

Your task is to implement an online booking system for holiday cottages. The scenario, requirements and guidance give further details. The list of deliverables explains in what form the work needs to be presented.

Scenario

Cities and County of Norfolk (a.k.a. CCN) rents cottages for short holidays and activities. The rental is a small concern but is victim of its own success, and is overbooked.

A web site would let potential visitors know of available times and ideally request bookings only when it is possible, offering a better service for less work. CCN also want to make sure that if two people request the same time, they can be served fairly - most likely on a first come first served basis, but occasionally by speaking to the parties and finding an alternative.

Requirements

Minimal implementation would include:

- A database, containing the dates and times that different cottages are booked;
- A publicly available web site, to show availability and to request bookings by filling a form;
- A password-protected site, through which CCN will check booking requests and turn them into confirmed bookings.

See the guidance section for some support on how to carry out this work.

Better implementations improve on this by making the information easier to handle: view availability and make bookings (for site visitors), check for possible clashes, contact visitors, and confirm bookings (for CCN).

This can include checking clashes automatically in booking requests, a better presentation of times and dates, using calendars for showing availability and for bookings, and carefully worked out links through the site data.

Ideally, when the site is first uploaded, and runs, the home page should check if a database exists, and if not, ask for configuration data to create the database, then save that data in a file on the server, to use from then on.

Guidance

Your database will need to record both confirmed bookings and booking requests for different cottages. This could be done using separate tables, or using a field to note whether or not the booking is confirmed.

When a booking is requested, the data is recorded as a booking request. Times and dates may clash for booking requests, but must not clash for confirmed bookings. When a booking is confirmed, the same data is then used to record a confirmed booking, as well as show the event on the site.

Many systems exist on the World Wide Web that display calendars, timed events, and allow people to carry out bookings. You will find interface ideas and may find some

City College Norwich

ready code that will help you in this work; be aware that ready code does not always save time. If you want to use pre-existing systems, simple code lets you understand and modify it entirely; more complete calendar systems should provide an API for you to refer to.

There is no requirement to process payments automatically with this system, since the bookings are confirmed manually by CCN. Rather, CCN needs ways to support the communication between the company and its customers.

Deliverables

- Web site online (provide address of site);
- Database structure and Data, in the form of SQL files;
- Complete PHP and HTML source of the site, on disk;
- A documentation describing:
 - Installation configuration information for a server running Apache, PHP and MySQL;
 - Sequence diagrams for the site's key processes;
 - Commented screenshots and extracts of the source code, to explain your implementation;
 - Samples of test data for the site.

GRADING SCHEME

Outcomes	0-39%	40-54%	55-69%	70%+
Install and manage a web server	The server setup is poorly documented or not portable.	The server configuration is clearly documented and easy to change.	Documentation makes it clear how to adapt to a new server. Error handling supports the site administrator.	The site's installation and maintenance is facilitated by appropriate scripts and documented.
Develop data-driven applications on a web server	The application does not support the task's minimal requirements	The application supports the task's minimal requirements	The application is made more effective and secure; code shows a systematic approach to development.	The application's security is approached comprehensively. The application supports the site's users through effective viewing and handling of the data.
Develop data-handling client applications		The site is clearly presented and makes the data accessible.	The site's links make it easy to find and update the data.	