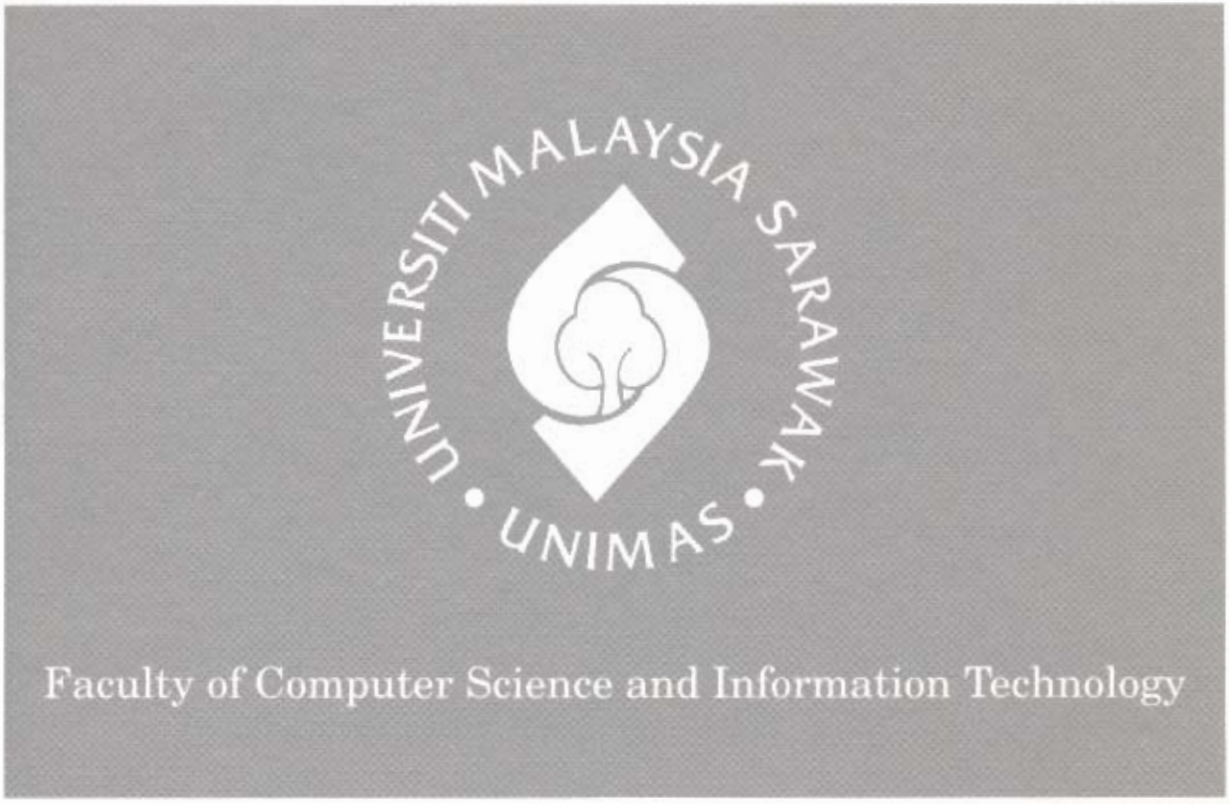

ONLINE METHODIST CENTRE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (ONLINE - MCMS)

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TING SIONG HUI

This project is submitted in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Computer Science
with Honours
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Abstract

Online-Methodist Centre Management System (Online-MCMS) is a web-based application designed for Samarahan Methodist Centre (SMC). This system provides a place for the members of SMC to update their personal information aimed to ease the job of the SMC management board. Besides, a calendar is implemented to be used as event planner for the church committee to do their activities planning. This calendar will also act as event reminder. With this system, members of SMC are able to share photos and messages online regardless of the location where they are. This system will be the solution for SMC in facing their current problems. Online-MCMS is developed using ASP.net, JavaScript, Cascading Style Sheet (CSS) and also Hypertext Markup Language (HTML). As for the database, Microsoft SQL server is utilized to store information.

Abstrak

Online-Methodist Centre Management system (Online-MCMS) juga digelar sebagai Sistem Pengurusan Pusat Methodist berasaskan Web merupakan satu sistem berasaskan web yang dibangunkan untuk keperluan Pusat Methodist Samarahan (PMS). System ini membolehkan para ahli PMS membaharui maklumat peribadi melalui laman web. Dengan itu, kerja bahagian pengurusan PMS dapat diringankan. Tambahan pula, maklumat peribadi ahli yang terkini dapat direkodkan. Selain itu, satu kalendar telah diaplikasikan bagi tujuan perekodan aktiviti-aktiviti dalam PMS. Kalendar ini juga berfungsi sebagai penggera aktiviti yang akan dilangsungkan. Akhir sekali, sistem ini menyediakan satu tempat bagi semua ahli PMS untuk berkongsi gambar dan juga mesej. Kesimpulannya, sistem ini berjaya menyelesaikan masalah-masalah yang dihadapi oleh PMS pada masa sekarang. Online-MCMS dibangunkan dengan menggunakan ASP.net, JavaScript, Cascading Style Sheet (CSS) dan juga Hypertext Markup Language (HTML). Bagi pangkalan data, Microsoft SQL Server digunakan bagi tujuan tersebut.

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Background

Computer is designed to help human to perform complicated task and calculation. With the help of the computer, a task that is usually done by a human in few days can be done by a computer in only a few hours. By understanding the advantages of computers, many tasks can eventually be accomplished by using computer.

Due to the popularity of the Internet, mobile application is advancing fast. Most applications developed today are web enabled. This means the application can be used online or shared through network connections. Sharing of data is important as many users today will travel around different places to perform their duty. They cannot rely on particular computers to access required data or to do certain job. By making an application web enable, users can use a system nearly anytime and anywhere.

From the Christian point of view, a Methodist Centre has mission to spread the words of the God to all people. This is what Samarahan Methodist Centre (SMC) is doing now, as the only Methodist Centre around Unimas. The SMC is providing Christian Students of Unimas a place to worship and fellowship. Therefore, a system like Online-Methodist Centre Management System (Online-MCMS) is important. It helps to manage and keep members information up to date. By using the Information Technology, the Methodist Centre can make the entire ministries more efficient.

1.2 Problem statement

Over the past few years, Samarahan Methodist Centre (SMC) has grown into an organization that consists of hundreds of members.

- Managing the members' information manually is troublesome.
- Lack of communication when members are back to hometown.
- Announcements and notices cannot be informed spontaneously and effectively.
- Events that are planned cannot be carried out accordingly due to lack of event notification

1.3 Objectives

Online-MCMS should archive these objectives:

1. To develop a system that provides a place for members to update their own information.
2. To assist in activities planning and to help the notification of incoming events
3. To provide a place for members to share and communicate.

1.4 Scope of the Project

This system will only design according to the organizational structure of SMC. The following is the scope of the project:

1. Member information update page will include:
    a. Adding, editing, deleting, and viewing members' information
2. Schedule Management will include:
    a. Adding, editing, deleting, and viewing schedule
    b. Activity notifying

3. Message board
4. Photo sharing

1.5 Project Significant

This system will help in managing SMC by improving some of the difficulties faces by SMC. With Online-MCMS, members can easily update their information. Apart from that, schedule can be properly planned and notification will be make when the time comes. Finally, a place for members to communicate and share online.

1.6 Expected Outcomes

Online-MCMS is expected to bring conveniences to Samarahan Methodist Centre. Members can update information easily, making schedules, and provide a place for members to share. There will be different type of users with different access level. Users can be divided into two types, the administrator and member. Administrator has full access to the system while members have limited access to the system.

Chapter 2: Literature Review and Research Methodology

2.1 Literature Review

2.1.1 Introduction

In this chapter, literature review had been done to look into four related systems which are similar to the proposed Online-Methodist Centre Management System (Online-MCMS). The reviewed systems are fulfilling the following requirements.

1. Web-based system.
2. Design for churches.
3. Containing features of member management, schedule management.
4. Still available today.

For each of the system, the features and functionality are studied and reported in this chapter. Screen shots are also provided for some of the features. Further more, advantages and disadvantages are also included at the end of each system analysis. Finally, a comparison is done between the four reviewed systems.

2.1.2 Church Community Builder (CCB)

CCB is one of the web-based church management systems that are available today. It is a combination of church management system, private member community and public website content management.

CCB provides lots of features. These include families and individuals information management, group information management, attendance management, picture directories, online discussions board and more.

In managing members' information, CCB provides each of the members a profile. Each member is able to update their profile by login into their personalized home page. Besides, each member that is family related will be grouped into a family. The advantage of this feature is when it comes to letter or email notifying. Each family will only receive notification once. When taking attendance, any activity that require attendance taking can easily add their event and start taking attendance.

Figure 2.1: Screen shot of CCB Easy Attendance ™

Easy Attendance™ (Figure 2.1) includes a menu on the right side showing which classes' attendances have been reported and which have not been reported. When attendance report is needed, it can be generated according to the date range. For example, report attendance of Mr. John from November 2004 to November 2005.

The pictures of the members can also be shown in CCB. The pictures can be uploaded to both individual profile and family profile. The special about CCB Picture directories is that each individual can determine who can view their picture. This can make the users feel safe to publish their picture, and only let the one they thrust to view their pictures.

CCB provides a place for members or groups to interact and share their opinion online. Forum can be established to discuss about a topic or idea. The forum can be done in groups, public and private.

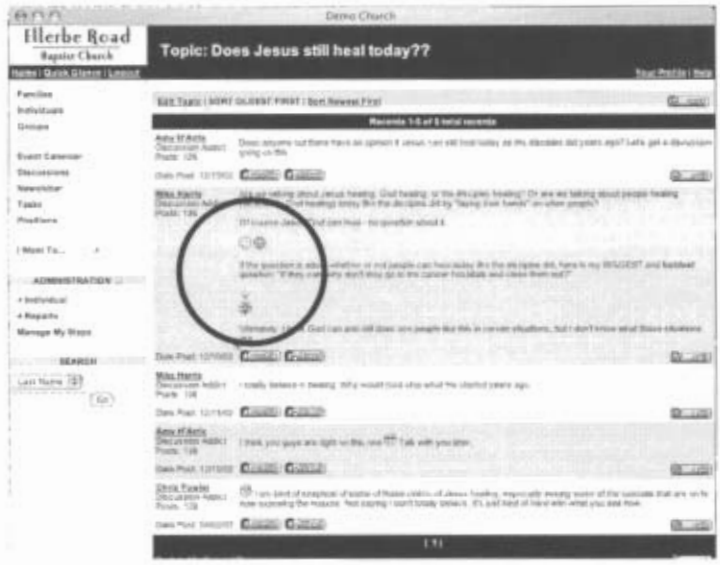

Figure 2.2: Emoticons in discussion board of CCB

Emoticons (Figure 2.2) stands for Emotional Icons can be used to help convey tone, create links to other sites, and bold certain points that the member wish to emphasize. Besides discussion, online registrations can also be done in CCB. For example, when a camp is opened for the members to participate, a form can be created and added to the website for the members to register. The process of generating form is easy as customization can be done for the questions and answer choices. Besides forms, survey can also be done in CCB.

CCB is also helping the church to manage meetings, parties, special guests, classes and more. The event can track schedules for all the activities occurs in the church. Schedules can also be added online. More over, CCB provides a personal calendar for each of the member. If an event is organized for certain group of member, the admin can set privacy for that event. If an event is near, notification will be sent to the people who are related to that event. For example, organizing committee and participants.

Overall, the CCB is a complete set of online church management system which is easy to use interface and has powerful features.

2.1.3 Churchhand

Churchhand is another online management system that is similar to BBC. Churchhand let the users know what to do and what can do at the first glance by displaying all the function at the side bar. After login into the system, the first page user can see is their profile and general information (Figure 2.3). The side bar at the left side is letting users to easily navigate and access to the services.

Figure 2.3: Screen shot of Churchhand Profile view

The users can easily access into any services by just clicking on the side bar. The options that are available at the side bar are people, events, financial, reports and administration.

From the People option, users can access the list of all members. Just like CCB, Family members are grouped together. With a click on the name, information which is related to that person will be displayed. Besides grouped in family, people are grouped in Group. Details about the group will be displayed when the group name are clicked.

Churchhand event management displays a big calendar view with all the events displayed one the date (Figure 2.4).

Figure 2.4: Screen shot of Churchhand Events management

Only admin is authorized to add or edit the events. In each event occurring, attendance taking is available. With the attendance taken, reports can be generated.

As conclusion, Churchhand is user friendly and easy to use. The main disadvantage of churchhand is that the functionality is lesser if it is being compared to CCB.

2.1.4 E-Church Essential

Figure 2.5: E-Church Essential "My Personal Page"

Figure 2.5 shows the E-Church Essential online church management system. It requires login to start the system. After login, "My personal page" will be displayed as the welcome page. My personal page is a platform for managing contents like personal information, personal picture, personal calendar and personal journal. The top of the Personal Page includes a menu with the following headings and corresponding functionality:

1. Home – Returns the user to their Personal Page
2. Calendar – Manage ministry, department and personal events
3. About Me – Expanded personal profile content; Personality, Spiritual Gift and Leadership Style Assessments
4. Teams – My Teams information and the Team Building Matrix for Staff
5. E-Learning – Create, manage and take E-learning courses
6. Websites – Build and manage websites
7. Logout – Close out of the Essential Solution

In addition, three buttons that are always present on the top right of the screen include The bible – This button will open the Bible interface. The Bible includes 21 English versions of the Bible, as well as New Testament Greek Bible and an Old Testament Hebrew/English parallel Bible. The Bible also includes English "Key Word" search capabilities.

Instructions – This button will display information about the function of the current selected page and other instructions.

Help Files – This button for general help files and multimedia system tours.

E-Church Essential is also providing feature in managing schedule. The calendar displayed in the page is a month-at-a-glance view (Figure 2.6). Events in the calendar are colour coded. The colours are red, green and blue. Red indicates personal events; green indicates ministry-wide events and blue indicates department-specific events. To add an event, select the "Add A New Event" link next to the dropdown month selection box, found at the top left of the screen (Figure 2.6).

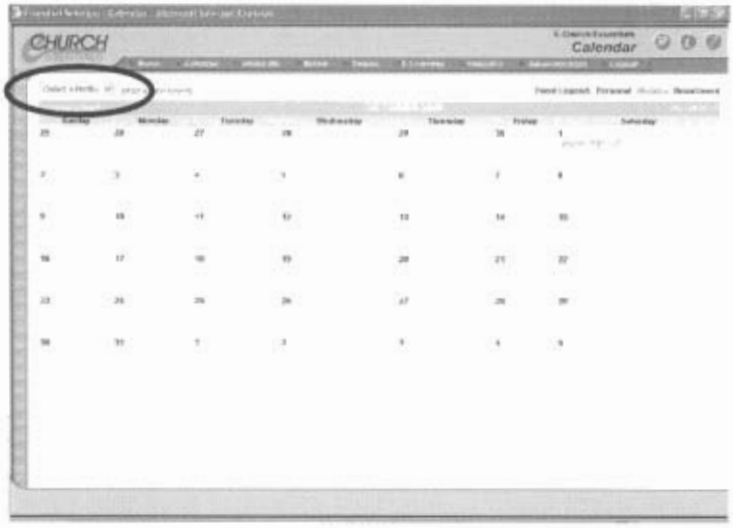

Figure 2.6: Calendar view of E-Church Essential