

**INTELLIGENT SCHOOL COMPUTER  
LABORATORY RESERVATION SYSTEM  
BY USING MULTIPLE AGENTS BASED**

**A thesis submitted to the College of Arts and Sciences  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of  
Master of Science (Intelligent System)  
Universiti Utara Malaysia**

**by**

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## **ABSTRACT**

One of the problems about school computer laboratory is to handle the reservation for class subject (non-computer based relation) or any events in Malaysia. The reservation process was still using manual approach. To make reservation, a user must fill the form; meet the administrator to check lab availability and lastly the admin will approve it. A computer system must be developed to manage the reservation for user request. This system was used multiple intelligent agents that assist the user and the admin to manage the lab reservation based on a few constraints such as holiday and permanent classes. The agents also try to give alternative session if the request session is not available. The agents have ability to evaluate user authentication based on inconsistent action on the system and will keep up the security level based on individual authentication. The collection of user action pattern is recorded then gives direction to the agent to reconstruct its internal action related to user behavior. FIPA-ACL as communication standard between the agents to make them able to be socializes in their environment.

This system was developed by using JAVA computer programming language. JAVA programming is the best choice to create multi-agent functions and reacted base on intelligent agents approach. The system will be deployed as a stand-alone system and also might share through internal local area network (LAN). MS Access was used as the database for storing the data and might it easy to integrate with Education Management Information System (EMIS) that already exist. The level of user' acceptance was determined using Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) by Davis (1989) where data is gathered through a set of designed questionnaire. In conclusion, this system has a great potential to encounter school computer lab reservation problem by using intelligent multi-agent as human behalf.

## ABSTRAK

Salah satu masalah mengenai makmal komputer sekolah ialah menangani tempahan untuk kelas (mata pelajaran yang bukan berorientasikan komputer) atau apa-apa majlis di sekolah di Malaysia. Proses tempahan makmal masih lagi menggunakan pendekatan manual. Untuk membuat tempahan, seseorang pengguna perlu mengisi boring khas; bertemu dengan penyelia makmal untuk memeriksa jadual makmal komputer dan seterusnya penyelia akan meluluskan permohonan tersebut. Oleh yang demikian, salah satu untuk menguruskan tempahan yang dibuat oleh pengguna ialah dengan membangun sebuah system komputer untuk tujuan tersebut. Sistem ini menggunakan agent-agent pintar yang membantu pengguna dan penyelia makmal untuk menguruskan tempahan makmal komputer dengan mengambil kira beberapa kekangan seperti cuti dan kelas makmal tetap. Agen-agen pintar ini akan mengambil inisiatif untuk memberikan pendapat atau alternatif sesi yang sesuai sekiranya sesi yang dipilih tidak kosong. Agen-agen juga mahir untuk menentukan tahap capaian pengguna berdasarkan tindakan yang tidak konsisten semasa menggunakan system. Satu set koleksi paten tindakan pengguna akan direkodkan dan ia akan memberi panduan kepada agen-agen untuk membina semula tindakan dalamannya yang bersesuaian dengan kelakuan pengguna. Piawai komunikasi FIPA-ACL dipilih sebagai komunikasi piawai untuk perhubungan antara agen dengan agen yang lain dan seterusnya membolehkan mereka saling berinteraksi dalam persekitaran sistem.

Sistem ini dibangunkan dengan menggunakan bahasa pengaturcaraan JAVA. Bahasa pengaturcaraan JAVA merupakan pilihan yang terbaik dalam pembangunan agen-agen pintar dan fungsian-fungsian. Sistem ini akan dipasang ke dalam komputer sebagai system berdiri-sendiri (stand-alone) dan akan dikongsi oleh pengguna-pengguna lain melalui rangkaian komputer dalaman (LAN). MS Access juga digunakan sebagai pangkalan data dan ia memudahkan system untuk integrasi dengan system pangkalan data yang sedia ada iaitu Sistem Maklumat Pengurusan Sekolah (EMIS). Tahap penerimaan pengguna diukur dengan menggunakan Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) oleh Davis (1989) dan set data dikumpulkan berpandukan satu set soal selidik yang direka untuk pengguna. Kesimpulannya,

system ini mempunyai potensi yang besar untuk menangani masalah tempahan makma komputer sekolah dengan menggunakan pendekatan agen pintar yang mewakili pengguna.

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SQL	-	Structured Query Language
TAM	-	Technology Acceptance Model
TCP	-	Transmission Control Protocol
TRA	-	Theory of Reasoned Action
UAT	-	User Acceptance Testing
URL	-	Uniform Process Locator
UUM	-	Universiti Utara Malaysia
XML	-	Extensible Markup Language
WAP	-	Wireless Application Protocol

# **CHAPTER 1**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter provides some overview of the project. It covers the scope and the objectives of the project. It also covers the significance of developing a School Computer Laboratory Reservation System. Besides, the project framework was included in this chapter.

### **1.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW**

In the new era of information age, computer skill becomes important skills that anyone must have it. ICT would change human work and increase the efficiency itself. Knowing about the importance of ICT, Malaysia wants to become one of the most role players in ICT technology by developing MSC strategies. MSC was established in 1995 in order to become one of the global hubs for ICT and multimedia innovation, operation and services, transforms Malaysia into a knowledge-economy and achieve Vision 2020 to become a developed nation (Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) Malaysia, 2009). One of the core strategies is to develop human capital in ICT. It brings the motivation for government to improve education quality that supports this new transformation. The government has taken the initiatives like building the particular emphasis on science and IT learning facilities for schools; increased educational support programs; revising the syllabus for mathematics and science; introducing Computer Literacy Program and computer-aided learning methods; teacher training on computer usage (Ramasamy, *et al*, 2004). A part of its strategy is to develop at least a computer laboratory for each school and there are around more than 10,000 schools in Malaysia. According to Saadiyah & Luin, (2008) many secondary schools in Malaysia were supplied with computers, notebooks, LCD projectors and software and at the same time many new schools also have rooms that are specially equipped with computers for students to attend classes. Every student will have chances to learn about computer technology and how to use it efficiently.

The contents of  
the thesis is for  
internal user  
only



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