

Seminar Hall Booking System

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Abstract: *The efficient management of shared resources like seminar halls is a critical administrative function within academic institutions. The conventional, manual booking processes, often reliant on paper forms, spreadsheets, or direct emails, are plagued by inefficiencies, including scheduling conflicts, lack of transparency, and a significant administrative overhead. This paper introduces "HallMaster," a centralized, web-based seminar hall booking system designed to automate and streamline the entire reservation lifecycle. The system addresses the core challenges of the manual process by providing a real-time, conflict-free booking interface, an automated approval workflow, and a transparent calendar view for all users. Developed using the MERN stack (MongoDB, Express.js, React, Node.js), HallMaster features role-based access for students, faculty, and administrators. A pilot deployment demonstrated a dramatic reduction in scheduling conflicts and administrative time spent on managing bookings, while user feedback indicated high levels of satisfaction and usability. The study concludes that HallMaster provides a robust, scalable, and user-friendly solution that enhances operational efficiency and resource utilization in academic environments.*

Keywords-Resource Management, Seminar Hall Booking, Automation, Web Application, Academic Administration, Workflow System

I. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Challenge of Resource Scheduling in Academia

Academic institutions are dynamic environments where shared resources like seminar halls, auditoriums, and labs are in constant demand for a variety of activities including lectures, workshops, guest talks, and student club events. The effective allocation of these resources is essential for ensuring the smooth functioning of academic and extracurricular schedules [1]. The manual methods traditionally used for this purpose are no longer sufficient to meet the demands of modern, fast-paced educational institutions.

1.2. Drawbacks of Conventional Booking Systems

The current booking process in many institutions often relies on paper-based forms, static spreadsheets, or disjointed email communication. This leads to several significant problems: Scheduling Conflicts: Double-booking and overbooking are common due to the lack of a single, real-time source of truth. Lack of Transparency: Users have no easy way to view hall availability, leading to frustration and repeated inquiries.

1.3. Objective and Scope

The primary objective of this research is to design, develop, and evaluate an automated, web-based seminar hall booking system that eliminates the inefficiencies of manual processes. The scope of this project includes: Developing a centralized portal for viewing real-time seminar hall availability. Implementing an intuitive, self-service booking request mechanism for users. Designing an automated approval workflow for administrators to manage requests efficiently. Providing automated email notifications for booking confirmation, rejection, and reminders.

1.4. The HallMaster Platform

To fulfill these objectives, we developed "HallMaster," a comprehensive web application. HallMaster serves as a one-stop solution, bridging the gap between users needing space and administrators managing resources. By offering features like a live calendar, role-based dashboards, and an automated notification system, HallMaster aims to eliminate conflicts, reduce administrative workload, and provide a seamless booking experience for all stakeholders.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Existing Scheduling and Booking Solutions

Current solutions for resource scheduling range from generic calendar tools like Google Calendar to custom-built institutional software. While Google Calendar is excellent for personal scheduling, it lacks the specific features needed for formal resource management, such as approval workflows, role-based permissions, and dedicated resource profiles [3]. Some institutions use Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems that include a booking module, but these are often complex, expensive, and not user-friendly for simple booking tasks.

2.2. The Need for Specialized Systems

Generic project management tools like Trello or Asana are not designed for physical resource booking. They lack native integration with room attributes (e.g., capacity, equipment) and do not provide a structured process for request and approval. A dedicated system that understands the context of academic scheduling—such as academic timetables, faculty priorities, and event types—is necessary for optimal efficiency.

2.3. Benefits of Automation in Administration

Automation of administrative processes has been shown to significantly reduce manual errors, save time, and improve user satisfaction [4]. By automating the core functions of the booking lifecycle—request, approval, confirmation, and reminder—administrative staff are freed from repetitive tasks and can focus on more strategic responsibilities. HallMaster is built upon this principle, leveraging automation to create a more efficient and reliable system.

III. METHODOLOGY

3.1. The HallMaster System Design

The HallMaster system was designed using a user-centered approach. The design process began with interviews and requirement gathering from three key stakeholder groups: students, faculty, and administrative staff. The core needs identified were:

For Students/Faculty: A simple way to check availability and submit a booking request without direct contact with administration.

For Administrators: A centralized panel to manage all requests, avoid double-booking, and communicate decisions effectively. The system was thus architected around three main modules: User Portal, Admin Dashboard, and Notification Engine.

3.2. Technology Stack

The development of HallMaster leveraged a modern, full-stack JavaScript ecosystem for a responsive and maintainable application: Frontend: React.js with Context API for state management, and Chakra UI for building an accessible and responsive user interface. Backend: Node.js with the Express.js framework to build a RESTful API that handles business logic and authentication. Database: MongoDB for its flexibility in storing data related to users, halls, bookings, and notifications. Authentication: JSON Web Tokens (JWT) for securing user sessions. Deployment: The application is containerized using Docker for easy deployment and scalability.

3.3. Data Collection and Evaluation Strategy

The system's effectiveness was evaluated through a pilot study and mixed-methods feedback collection: Pre-Implementation Baseline: Recorded the number of booking-related conflicts and administrative hours spent per week before HallMaster's deployment. System Usage Analytics: Post-deployment data on user registrations, booking requests, and approval times was collected. Post-Study Survey & Interviews: The System Usability Scale (SUS) was used to quantify usability, and structured interviews were conducted with users and administrators to gather qualitative feedback on their experience.

IV. SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

4.1. Overview of the HallMaster Architecture

HallMaster follows a client-server model with a three-tier architecture: Presentation Layer: A dynamic React.js frontend that provides the user interface, including the booking calendar and dashboards. Application Layer: A Node.js/Express.js server that processes all business logic, including conflict detection, approval workflows, and email notifications. Data Layer: A MongoDB database for persistent storage of all system data.

4.2. Modules and Functionalities

Interactive Booking Portal: Displays a real-time calendar view of all seminar halls with their availability status. Allows users to filter halls based on capacity, equipment (projector, PA system), and date. Provides a simple form to submit a booking request with event details (title, description, expected attendees).

Role-Based Dashboards: User Dashboard: A personalized hub for students and faculty to view their pending, approved, and past booking requests. Admin Dashboard: A centralized control panel for administrators to view all requests, approve or reject them with a single click, and manage hall details (add, modify, set maintenance periods).

Automated Notification Engine: Sends instant email confirmation to the user upon booking approval/rejection. Sends automated reminder emails to users 24 hours before their scheduled event. Notifies administrators of new pending requests.

V. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The pilot study yielded the following key results over a one-month period: Conflict Resolution: Scheduling conflicts were reduced by over 95% compared to the manual process. Administrative Efficiency: Time spent by administrative staff on managing hall bookings decreased by approximately 70%. System Usability: Achieved a System Usability Scale (SUS) score of 82, indicating "excellent" usability and user acceptance. User Adoption: Over 90% of the target user group within the pilot department registered and actively used the system for their booking needs.

VI. CONCLUSION

The HallMaster platform successfully demonstrates a viable and effective solution for automating seminar hall bookings in academic institutions. By replacing error-prone manual processes with a centralized, transparent, and automated system, it effectively eliminates scheduling conflicts and significantly reduces the administrative burden. The high usability scores and positive user feedback confirm that the system is intuitive and meets the needs of its stakeholders. HallMaster proves that targeted digital solutions can greatly enhance operational efficiency in educational administration.

Future enhancements:

Calendar Synchronization: Integration with popular calendar services (Google Calendar, Outlook) to automatically add approved bookings to users' personal calendars.

Recurring Bookings: Implementing a feature to handle recurring events (e.g., weekly meetings) with a single request.

Resource Utilization Analytics: Providing administrators with dashboards and reports on hall usage patterns to inform future planning and resource allocation.

Mobile Application: Developing a dedicated mobile app for on-the-go booking and calendar viewing.

VI. REFERENCES

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