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JUDUL: ELECTRONIC BOOK SELLING SYSTEM (eBSS)

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**ELECTRONIC BOOK SELLING SYSTEM (eBSS)**

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**This report is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the  
Bachelor of Computer Science (Software Development)**

**FACULTY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY  
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**2007**

**DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that this project report entitled

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is written by me and is my own effort and that no part has been  
plagiarized without citations.

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## DEDICATION

To my beloved parents, your moral support is my greatest divine inspiration.

To my friends, your encouragement is the essence of my determination.

To, Ms. Anusuriya, my supervisor, your dedication and effort has truly been my core of strength in the quest of completing this application.

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## ABSTRACT

The successful deployment and operation of an online second hand bookstore requires knowledge of mechanism design, system architecture, and successful Internet business practices. The purpose of developing Electronic Book Selling System or eBSS is to provide a medium for users to sell and buy second hand books via online. eBSS will become a dynamic new local marketplace that operates 24 hours a day. eBSS will provide a new way of selling second hand books, save time and cost, provide a wider market and will prove to be more interactive compared to the traditional methods. On the target market, eBSS would focus on general web users, book lovers, and also book stores which are still operating manually. The main functions of eBSS would include Registration, Login, Buy Book, Sell Book, Search Books, Web Content Management, Rating System and a Graph Generator. HyperText Preprocessor (PHP5), JavaScript, Cascading Styles Sheets (CSS), MySQL, Apache, and other related tools and languages were used to developed eBSS with the hope that eBSS could truly provide a bigger market for second hand books selling.

## ABSTRAK

Kejayaan untuk menghasilkan satu sistem menjual buku-buku lama atau terpakai secara 'online' bergantung kepada kefahaman yang mendalam terhadap rekabentuk sistem, pembangunan sistem dan kajian terhadap perniagaan yang berasaskan 'e-commerce'. Electronic Book Selling System atau eBSS bertujuan untuk menyediakan satu medium untuk membolehkan pengguna menjual dan membeli buku-buku lama secara online. eBSS akan menyediakan satu pasaran baru yang akan beraoperasi 24 jam sehari. eBSS akan menonjolkan satu gaya baru untuk menjual buku-buku terpakai, menjimatkan kos dan tenaga, dan turut menyediakan pasaran yang lebih besar. Selain itu, cara perniagaan eBSS akan mewujudkan satu interaksi yang lebih efisien jika dibandingkan dengan metod tradisional. Antara fungsi utama sistem ini termasuklah Pendaftaran, Login, Jual Buku, Beli Buku, Rating System, Pencarian Maklumat, WebContentManagement, dan Graph Generator. Projek telah dibangunkan dengan menggunakan HyperText Preprocessor (PHP5), JavaScript, Cascading Styles Sheets (CSS), MySQL, Apache, dan perisian lain yang turut berkaitan dengan harapan eBSS dapat membuka pasaran baru bagi penjualan buku-buku terpakai.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

eBSS	Electronic Book Selling System
HTML	Hyper Text Markup Language
DBMS	Database Management System
IT	Internet Technology
UTeM	Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka
SQL	Structured Query Language
PC	Personal Computer
PHP5	Hypertext Preprocessor Version 5
PSM1	Projek Sarjana Muda Satu (Bachelor Project)
IIS	Microsoft Internet Information Services
SSL	Secure Sockets Layer

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project Background

Electronic Commerce is exactly analogous to a marketplace on the Internet. Electronic Commerce or e-commerce consists primarily of the distributing, buying, selling, marketing and servicing of products or services over electronic systems such as the Internet and other computer networks. The information technology industry might see it as an electronic business application aimed at commercial transactions; in this context, it can involve electronic funds transfer, supply chain management, e-marketing, online marketing, online transaction processing, Electronic Data Interchange (EDI), automated inventory management systems, and automated data collection systems [1].

Most business field today has shift focus towards e-commerce especially when e-commerce has proven again and again to be a fruitful business. Even book selling business has live up to the trend. Currently, there are a number of book selling websites such as Abebooks [2], MphOnline [3], and also Amazon [4]. However, online book stores today focuses more on new books rather than second hand books. The lack of a medium to sell second hand books online especially locally has led to the proposed project that is to develop a second hand book selling Web System.

Electronic Book Selling System or eBSS is believed to serve as a medium for both seller and buyer to either buy or sell books. This website can be used to commercialize second hand books.

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

There are a few weaknesses identified from the current book selling websites. Among the main problems identified are listed as below:

### **1.2.1 Lack of second hand bookselling websites**

Currently, websites that provides second hand book selling are not available widely in Malaysia. Even local online book stores such as MphOnline [3] does not sell second hand books. Though there are a few international websites that sells second hand books, however shipping services are not available for Malaysia.

### **1.2.2 Current websites only support purchasing scheme**

Most bookselling websites only support purchasing scheme. Third party sellers are not allowed to be involved in the market trade. For example, even MphOnline [3] and Popular [5] are proprietary websites. Due to being proprietary, second hand books are not supported.

### **1.2.3 Disadvantage of traditional methods**

Currently second hand book selling is still conducted traditionally in Malaysia where books are collected, separated and sold whereas the seller has to go all the way to a second hand book shop to sell the book. One of the more famous examples would be Payless [6]. Traditional method lacks a wider market for second hand book shops are not widely available. Besides, traditional method is time and effort consuming. Furthermore, it is less interactive.

### **1.3 Goal Statement And Objectives**

#### **1.3.1 Goal**

The goal of this study is to develop a second hand books selling website (eBSS) that will act as a book selling platform for both the seller and buyer to sell or buy second hand books via online.

#### **1.3.2 Objectives**

##### **1.3.2.1 Conducting Research On Existing Online Bookselling System**

In order to identify functionalities of the system, research on existing system is done. Websites with similar approach is being analyzed to get an overview on what enhancement will be needed in the proposed project. Through this, other major functions that can be integrated to the proposed website will be identified. Besides this, a research on several local second hand book stores will be conducted. Questionnaires are use as interactivity tools to understand the needs and expectations of both the seller and buyer towards the proposed website.

##### **1.3.2.2 Design And Develop the Database that Can Support the Website Information**

The database base structure will be designed after analyzing all the information gained from the research of existing online bookselling system. The database structure is designed to manage information such as book information, subscription details, and also user details.

### **1.3.2.3 Develop the Modules that will Support the Buying and Selling Process**

Modules will be carefully design and developed to ensure that the modules can be integrated to support both the selling and buying process. Focus is put into developing the shopping cart, the selling procedures, and also the buying procedures.

### **1.3.2.4 Design The Web Flow And Interface**

The web user interfaces will be carefully design to ensure that the usability of the Web System is maintained. All features will be design in a manner where they are user-friendly and easy-to-use.

## **1.4 Scope**

The scope of this project has been narrowed down to three main scopes starting with data, user and functionality as listed below:

### **1.4.1 Data**

#### **1.4.1.1 Book Information**

Data will include information on books that a seller intends to sell. Book information such as ISBN, author name, title, key words and also publisher will give a brief overview to a potential buyer. Besides that, book information will be the core of the customized search tool.

### **1.4.1.2 Subscription Details**

Before being able to use this particular website, buyers/sellers have to register. User will need to fill in a form that would include basic information on users. Emails will be given priority for activation purpose.

## **1.4.2 User**

### **1.4.2.1 Administrator**

The administrator has the authority to customized book categories and control users. The administrator can delete, block or activate a user.

### **1.4.2.2 Seller**

The next user would be a seller. A seller could be a book dealer or just another common seller. A seller will have to fill a form which indicates information of the particular book the user is trying to sell. A seller can decide on the price of the book and shipping cost.

### **1.4.2.3 Buyer**

A buyer can actually browse the website and buy books. There is no limit for the number of books a buyer can buy. However, registration is not needed for browsing. It is only needed if a user intends to buy or sell a second hand book.

### **1.4.3 Functionalities**

#### **1.4.3.1 Book Information**

The first function is book information where books will be displayed according to category such as thriller, comedy and so on. Books information will also include author, publication date, synopsis, title, keywords and other related information.

#### **1.4.3.2 Customized Search Tool**

The next function would be the customized search tool. Users will be able to search for information by ISBN, keyword (title, author and so on), and even category. This will simplify the process of searching for a particular book by providing more searching options.

#### **1.4.3.3 Selling books**

Selling is yet another major function of this website for the website will act as a medium for users to sell their second hand books online. It will be compulsory for sellers to fill a form on the information of the particular book to publish the book selling Information on the web system.

#### **1.4.3.4 Buying books**

Buying is also another function of this website. Users will not only be given the authority to sell but also to buy books.

#### **1.4.3.5 Web Content Management**

The administrator has the authority to customized book categories and control users. The administrator can delete, block or activate a user.

#### **1.4.3.6 My Account**

User will be able to manage personal information and book information using an account. User will be able to edit personal details, book details, delete books, change password or also delete the user's account.

#### **1.4.3.7 Rating System**

User will be able to rate another user from a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 representing excellent and 1 as poor if and only if a transaction occurred between both the user. The transaction could be buying or selling a book.

#### **1.4.3.8 Sales Performances**

User will be rated in a 3D bar graph based on the sales performance. User will be able to view the performance of all the other users. The graph will consists of number of books sold, unsold, on sale, bought and ordered.

#### **1.4.3.9 Secure Sockets Layer (SSL)**

Secure Sockets Layer is also implemented to ensure privacy for client-server communication among seller and buyer. SSL will also be pivotal in providing the essential security for eBSS.

#### **1.4.3.10 Help tool as supporting feature**

The proposed website will also include other supporting features such as help tool. Help tool will provide users with help and FAQ.

### **1.5 Project Significance**

This website is strongly believed to bring a big significance to the second hand book selling business. The most important factor here is the willingness of user to venture into this business route. Among the significances provided by the proposed website are as follows:

#### **1.5.1 New way of selling second hand books**

eBSS will provide a new way of selling second hand books. Second hand books will be sold via online. E-commerce will truly prove to be a more efficient way of selling second hand books compared to traditional methods.

#### **1.5.2 Save cost and time**

eBSS also will prove to be cost and time effective. Compared to the past where people had to go to a shop to buy or sell their old books, users will be able to buy or sell at any place and any time. The cost involved in selling and buying second hand books can be reduced too.

#### **1.5.3 Wider market for second hand books**

With eBSS, the focus will be towards individual seller rather than book dealers. Hence, a wider market will be provided for second hand books.