ENHANCING BLOOD ORDERING MANAGEMENT OF MALAYSIAN NATIONAL BLOOD CENTRE

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ENHANCING BLOOD ORDERING MANAGEMENT OF MALAYSIAN NATIONAL BLOOD CENTRE

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ABSTRACT

As the responsible blood centre of central Malaysia, Pusat Darah Negara (PDN) manages over a thousand requests from both private and government hospitals daily. Every blood request is regarded as urgent and thus, processed immediately. However due to the irregular and unpredictable status of blood stock, combined with limited shelf life of the blood products, some requests were unfulfilled. Currently, all blood requesting operations in Malaysia are managed using manual physical form and unfulfilled requests are informed by telephone and email. But, because of the high load of requests, PDN response might be delayed, therefore risking the life of patients on the receiving end. In this project, an online web-based blood requesting system in an open sourced client-server Drupal 7 Content Management System environment with features such as requesting, replying and monitoring functions is proposed for development. Studies have shown that E-health systems can be benefiting to the healthcare sector. Therefore, an electronic requesting system is hypothesized able to efficiently mediate the communication between blood centre and hospital, provide automated data reporting capability to its users, and ultimately provide a competent blood inventory management system. At the end of the System Development Life Cycle, PDN unanimously agree that the system met their requirements and completion of the project is finalized by the signing of the User Acceptance Test document. Accordingly, on the 23rd November 2016, the online web-based Malaysia's Blood Ordering System (MyBOS) officially replaced the paper-based blood ordering form to mediate blood requesting operations for central Malaysia. In a survey distributed to 27 participating hospitals, all 38 respondents agreed that the system is a definite improvement over the paper-based system and over 76.31% of the users agrees that the system's added functionality improves the overall blood management operation.

ABSTRAK

Sebagai pusat darah bertanggungjawab di pusat Malaysia, Pusat Darah Negara (PDN) menguruskan lebih seribu permintaan daripada hospital swasta dan kerajaan setiap hari. Setiap permintaan darah dianggap sebagai kecemasan dan dengan itu, diproses dengan serta-merta. Bagaimanapun, disebabkan status stok darah yang tidak dapat diramalkan, digabungkan dengan sahlaku terhad produk darah, sesetengah permintaan tidak dipenuhi. Pada masa ini, semua permintaan darah di Malaysia diuruskan menggunakan borang fizikal secara manual dan permintaan yang tidak dipenuhi dimaklumkan melalui telefon dan e-mel. Bagaimanapun, disebabkan oleh permintaan yang tinggi, respon PDN mungkin akan tertangguh dan membahayakan nyawa pesakit. Dalam projek ini, sistem permintaan darah atas talian berasaskan web menggunakan pelayan pelanggan dalam persekitaran sumber terbuka sistem pengurusan Drupal 7, dengan ciri-ciri seperti permintaan, membalas dan pemantauan fungsi dicadangkan untuk pembangunan. Kajian telah menunjukkan bahawa sistem Ekesihatan dapat memberi manfaat kepada sektor penjagaan kesihatan. Oleh itu, sistem permintaan elektronik dijangka dapat mengantara komunikasi antara pusat darah dan hospital, menyediakan keupayaan laporan data secara automatik kepada penggunanya, dan pada akhirnya memberikan sistem pengurusan inventori darah yang kompeten. Pada penghujung Kitaran Hayat Pembangunan Sistem, PDN sebulat suara bersetuju bahawa sistem yang dibina memenuhi keperluan mereka. Sehubungan itu pada 23 November 2016, Sistem Pesanan Darah Malaysia (MyBOS) berasaskan web secara rasminya telah menggantikan borang pesanan darah berasaskan kertas untuk mengantara operasi permintaan darah di pusat Malaysia. Dalam kaji selidik yang diagihkan kepada 27 hospital yang mengambil bahagian, kesemua 38 responden bersetuju bahawa sistem tersebut adalah penambahbaikan yang ketara terhadap sistem berasaskan kertas dan lebih daripada 76.31% pengguna bersetuju bahawa fungsi tambahan sistem tersebut meningkatkan operasi pengurusan darah secara keseluruhan.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE

Ι	DECLARATION			
Ι	DEDICATION			
A	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT			
A	ABSTRACT			
A	ABST	RAK	vi	
]	FABL	E OF CONTENTS	vii	
I	LIST (OF TABLES	xi	
Ι	LIST	OF FIGURES	xii	
Ι	LIST	OF ABBREVIATIONS	xiv	
Ι	LIST (OF APPENDICES	XV	
CHAPTER	1	INTRODUCTION	1	
1	1.1	Background	1	
1	1.2	Aim	2	
1	1.3	Problem Statement	3	
1	1.4	Research Goal	4	
		1.4.1 Research Objectives	4	
1	1.5	Research Scope	4	
1	.6	Research Significance	5	
1	1.7	Thesis Structure and Organization	5	
1	1.8	Thesis Structure and Organization	5	
CHAPTER	2	LITERATURE REVIEW	6	
2	2.1	The Public and Private Blood Centres	6	
		2.1.1 Current Blood Inventory Status in Blood Banks	7	
			7	
	2.2	Blood Products	8	
2	2.3	Application of E-health	10	

	2.3.1	Electroni	c Blood Transfusion	11
2.4	Drupal	7 Conten	t Management System	16
	2.4.1	Contribu	ted Module vs Custom Module	20
2.5	System	n Develop	ment Model	21
2.6	Summ	ary		22
CHAPTER 3	RESE	ARCH M	IETHODOLOGY	23
3.1	Introdu	uction		23
3.2	Pre-ini	tial Phase		26
	3.2.1	Organiza	tional Chart Review	26
	3.2.2	Blood Or	dering Form Review	28
	3.2.3	Organiza	tion Workflow	29
3.3	Rapid	Application	on Development	31
	3.3.1	Data Col	lection	32
		3.3.1.1	Interview	32
		3.3.1.2	Questionnaire	33
	3.3.2	Planning	Phase	33
		3.3.2.1	Project Charter	34
		3.3.2.2	Requirement Gathering	35
		3.3.2.3	Development Hardware and Software Requirement	37
		3.3.2.4	Feasibility Study and Risk Management	38
		3.3.2.5	Work Breakdown Structure (WBS)	39
		3.3.2.6	Gantt Chart	40
		3.3.2.7	User Requirement Analysis (URA)	41
	3.3.3	Analysis	and Design Phase	42
	3.3.4	Impleme	ntation Phase	43
	3.3.5	Maintena	ance Phase	44
3.4	Chapte	er Summa	ry	44

CHAPTER 4	RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS Overview			45
4.1				45
4.2	Initial	Phase Ou	45	
4.3	Prototyping Model			47
	4.3.1	Data Co	llection	48
	4.3.2	Planning	g Phase	52
	4.3.3	Analysis	Analysis and Design Phase	
		4.3.3.1	Unified Modelling Language (UML)	53
		4.3.3.2	Use Case Diagram	53
		4.3.3.3	Activity Diagram	60
		4.3.3.4	Sequence Diagram	65
		4.3.3.5	Class Diagram	66
		4.3.3.6	Storyboard	68
	4.3.4	Impleme	entation Phase	72
		4.3.4.1	Pseudocode	72
		4.3.4.2	Blood Request Module	72
		4.3.4.3	Blood Reply Module	73
		4.3.4.4	Blood List Module	73
		4.3.4.5	Blood Report Module	73
		4.3.4.6	System Testing	74
	4.3.5	Mainten	ance Phase	78
		4.3.5.1	User Acceptance Test (UAT)	78
		4.3.5.2	System Installation	78
		4.3.5.3	Deployment	79
		4.3.5.4	Training	79
		4.3.5.5	User Post-Deployment Survey	80
4.4	Chapt	er Summa	ary	80

CHAPTER 5	CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK	81
5.1	Research Outcome	81
5.2	MyBOS System Overview	81
5.3	Findings	90
5.4	Final Remark	96
5.5	Future Works	97
REFERENCES		98
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS		

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE NO.	TITLE	PAGE	
Table 2.1	Summary of NHS OBOS, BloodNet and IBTS OBOS	15	
Table 2.2	Comparison between Drupal, Wordpress and Joomla		
Table 3.1	Activity performed with stakeholders throughout the development	24	
Table 3.2	Functional user requirements	35	
Table 3.3	Non-functional user requirements	36	
Table 3.4	Software and hardware development requirement	37	
Table 4.1	Questionnaire summary	49	
Table 4.2	Questionnaire feedback by question	51	
Table 4.3	Use Case description of prototype 1	55	
Table 4.4	Use Case description of prototype 2	57	
Table 4.5	Use Case description of prototype 3	59	
Table 4.6	Unit testing of the blood request module	75	
Table 4.7	Unit testing of the blood reply module	76	
Table 4.8	Unit testing of the blood list module	77	

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE NO). TITLE	PAGE
Figure 2.1	Primary blood product of the whole blood	9
Figure 2.2	Online Blood Ordering System of Great Britain	12
Figure 2.3	BloodNet of Australia	13
Figure 2.4	IBTS Online Blood Ordering of Ireland	14
Figure 3.1	Process flow of the Prototyping development model	25
Figure 3.2	Organization chart of Pusat Darah Negara	27
Figure 3.4	Process flow of Blood Donation Process in PDN	30
Figure 3.5	Work breakdown of the tasks involved in the development	39
Figure 3.6	Gantt chart for the development life cycle	40
Figure 4.1	Score percentages by section	50
Figure 4.2	Use Case diagram of the first prototype	54
Figure 4.3	Use Case diagram of the second prototype	56
Figure 4.4	Use Case diagram of the third prototype	58
Figure 4.5	Activity diagram of the first prototype	60
Figure 4.6	Activity diagram of the second prototype	62
Figure 4.7	Activity diagram of the third prototype	63
Figure 4.8	Activity diagram of requesting and replying form	64
Figure 4.9	Sequence diagram of MyBOS	65
Figure 4.10	Class diagram of MyBOS	67
Figure 4.11	Create new request process trigger	69
Figure 4.12	Reply to requests process trigger	70
Figure 4.13	Generate report process trigger	71
Figure 5.1	Homepage of MyBOS	82
Figure 5.2	Blood request page of MyBOS	83
Figure 5.3	Add more product function of the blood request page	84

Figure 5.4	Case by case function of the blood request page	85
Figure 5.5	Confirmation page function of the blood request page	85
Figure 5.6	Search function of the blood reply form	86
Figure 5.7	Edit request function of the blood reply form	87
Figure 5.8	Validate replies function of the blood reply form	88
Figure 5.9	Check status function of the browse request page	89
Figure 5.10	Daily report function of the reports page	89
Figure 5.11	Blood requests data generated from the reports page	91
Figure 5.12	Bar chart of blood requests data generated	92
Figure 5.13	Request distribution plotted against blood request data	93
Figure 5.14	Login frequency of users captured from database	95

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CMS	-	Content Management System
CSS	-	Cascading Style Sheet
FTP	-	File Transfer Protocol
GPL	-	General Public License
HTML	-	Hypertext Markup Language
ICT	-	Information and Communication Technology
ISO	-	International Organization for Standardization
IT	-	Information Technology
MLT	-	Medical Laboratory Technologist
MyBOS	-	Malaysia's Blood Ordering System
NBA	-	National Blood Authority
OBOS	-	Online Blood Ordering System
OMG	-	Object Management Group
PDN	-	Pusat Darah Negara
PHP	-	Hypertext Preprocessor
RAD	-	Rapid Application Development
RBC	-	Red Blood Cell
SDLC	-	System Development Life Cycle
SOP	-	Standard Operating Procedure
SUS	-	System Usability Scale
SQL	-	Structured Query Language
UAT	-	User Acceptance Test
UML	-	Unified Modeling Language
URL	-	Uniform Resource Locator
USA	-	United States of America
WBC	-	White Blood Cell
WBS	-	Work Breakdown Structure

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX	TITLE	PAGE
Appendix A	Blood Ordering Form	105
Appendix B	Project Charter	106
Appendix C	User Requirement Analysis	107
Appendix D	User Acceptance Test	112
Appendix E	User Manual	117
Appendix F	User Post-Deployment Survey	126
Appendix G	Pseudocode	132

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Blood is a precious but perishable resource of the healthcare service line which is used in blood transfusions that are performed to treat blood loss or to supply blood components that are absent in the recipient's body. Blood components differ in their shelf life, for example red blood cells may live up to 42 days outside of the human body, but in contrast platelets will expire after 5 days of collection. Considering these limitations, proper management of donated blood is vital to the healthcare community, primarily to minimize blood wastage. In 2007, Pusat Darah Negara (PDN) collected a total of 171,169 blood units, but 8986 of these are discarded. The wastage of 2.6% of the total blood unit received could come up to RM269,580 of loss. In order to reduce these wastages, the blood centre, then had to identify their causes and act accordingly through either improving donor selection, training and evaluation of the staff, in addition to implementation of automation (Morish et al., 2012).

Blood centres such as the national blood centre of Malaysia, PDN facilitate blood donations campaigns, collects, process and disseminate donor's blood and components for the use of hospitals in central region of the country. Aside from that, they also accept interns and perform training for government personals to improve the overall blood donation services in Malaysia (PDN, 2017). A blood centre operational workflow starts with the registration of donors until the dissemination of blood to hospital and patients. In the dissemination process, the donor's blood and components are diffused to the respective hospitals for their patients use. Current method of disseminating donor's blood and components in Malaysia are initiated by a physical ordering form which are filled and sent in on site or by fax. Then, the products are collected at the centre. While the paper ordering form is sufficient in managing the hospital requests and responses, it is limited to that particular process. Advancement in the analytical approaches has proven to be able to utilize statistical data to predict demand trends, monitor stocks and decrease wastage (Osorio et al., 2015). Besides that, the digitization of the ordering form is a step forward towards complete healthcare information system software integration. Furthermore, at present a blood centre such as PDN processes over a thousand requests from more than 20 hospitals every day. An online system could very likely result in an increase in the efficiency of the total operation (Blaya et al., 2010). Online blood ordering system (OBOS) would assist both the blood centre officers and hospital representatives in requesting and approving the blood orders. OBOS emergency blood order or special blood components order is an asset to the blood service (Thomas et al., 2016).

Presently, online web-based blood ordering system has been utilized by most countries around the world including Thailand, Singapore, Australia, India, China, United States of America and United Kingdom. In the development process of a software system such as the OBOS, stakeholders' participation has been reported to have a vital role in the success of the project. Aside from development models, there are also several approaches in designing a web system such as OBOS which includes complete scripting using web or text editor or using a standalone desktop web compiler and online compiler, however open sourced Content Management System (CMS) concept is the best cost-effective approach because of its expendability and wide range of free libraries (Borisov et al., 2018). In brief, by utilizing CMS as the framework, a cost-effective web system such as OBOS can be developed to improve the blood stock management in blood centres.

1.2 Aim

The aim of this research project is to improve the overall method of blood ordering in blood centres using a cost-effective open sourced web-based blood ordering system by studying and understanding the functionality and user requirement of the system development. From the study of blood ordering operation requirements, a complete blueprint and an online web blood ordering system would be developed and recorded to satisfy the objective of enhancing the blood ordering management of PDN cost effectively.

1.3 Problem Statement

The existing process of requesting donor's blood from the National Blood Centre in central Malaysia is a 'paper and ink'-form based operation which is inefficient and insufficient in terms of productivity and function. Specifically, the manual process of blood request lacks the ability to respond to client and inefficient in terms of statistical data collection method. The inability to communicate wirelessly with hospitals causes problems such as delayed request replies, delayed product acquisition, time wastage and confusion related with the request modification. Currently, telephony communications are used to avoid these complications, however with the rapidly increasing requests every year, it is becoming increasingly difficult for the blood centre's officers to manage. Automated and digital technology could be used to manage the orders, but unfortunately, these methods involve large funds which are scarce in institutions that manages voluntary non-remunerated blood donor. Recent statistical data shows that there is a significant increase in the demand for IT in the market (Omelyanenko et al., 2018). The annual spending for IT globally increased from \$2.65 trillion in 2005 to \$3.83 trillion in 2013, in which \$922 billion going to IT services and some \$300 billion on corporate software (Babenko et al., 2019). Most importantly, unless these issues are circumvented they may even endanger the life of the receiving patient that requires the blood for transfusion. Apart from that, the use physical ordering form means that the collection of raw statistical data is performed manually by a direct form inspection which is both time consuming and susceptible to clerical errors. Additionally, the paper forms require large physical storage space considering the number of requests the blood centre receives on daily basis.

1.4 Research Goal

The goal of the research is to enhance the blood ordering management using a cost-effective online web-based framework system.

1.4.1 Research Objectives

The objectives of the research are:

- 1. To identify and understand functional and non-functional requirements
- 2. To analyse and design diagrams based on the identified system requirements
- To implement the designs and create an online web-based blood ordering system

1.5 Research Scope

The scope of the research can be classified into two different categories which is the complete System Development Life Cycle (SDLC) and the developed system. The SDLC will be based on Rapid Application Development Prototyping methodology which will be described in Chapter Three. In the technical architectural aspect, a comprehensive blood ordering system will be developed in a web clientserver architecture; a two-way communication between an end-user device with a database server. Functionally, the system's function is limited to the three user roles determined in the requirements based on the physical request form's normal procedures and within the limits of the available materials and software.

1.6 Research Significance

The proposed system will be useful for the improvement of the donor's blood ordering operation which would

- Increase the communication quality from blood centre to hospital and subsequently reduce the need to use telephony communication for requesting and replying purpose.
- 2. Hospitals can reduce the cost on transportation of the orders.
- 3. Eases the requirement of large space for the physical form storage.

1.7 Thesis Structure and Organization

The contents of the thesis are organized into five chapters that mainly consist of literature reviews related to the project and the processes executed throughout the development of the system. The five chapters mentioned are, the introduction, literature review, research methodology, results and discussion and lastly, conclusion and future work. Thesis is structured in a way, which first introduces the reader of the project outlines and followed by literature evidence to outline the purpose the research and provide evidence of its importance. Next, methodology chapter lists out and describes processes that were conducted to produce the data and the accepted system.

1.8 Thesis Structure and Organization

This chapter introduces the research collaborator and research background as well as the aim and purpose for an online blood ordering system. One main objective with three minor objectives were set to solve the problem statement of the study. The scope of the study is confounded to documenting the system development and final resulted system product. The next chapter will elaborate on findings in literature review conducted throughout the study.

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