
EQUIPMENT ROOM
DATABASE & WEB-BASED
INVENTORY
MANAGEMENT

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WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

In recent years, the Bradley University Electrical Engineering program has used a primitive method of checking out lab equipment and components. The student's name is written on a sheet of paper with the names of the equipment and components they have checked out. It is time to upgrade to a more reliable procedure. The purpose of this project is to create a database of parts and develop a web based interface for inventory management and checkout procedures.

WHEN WILL THIS BE IMPLEMENTED?

The project is intended to be finished by the end of the spring semester, 2003. At that time, not all of the equipment and components in the ECE equipment room will be inventoried and entered in to the system, but the checkout procedure and database will be ready for action. During the summer of 2004, someone will enter all of the equipment in to the database so it will be 100% ready for the start of the fall semester, 2003.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST BRADLEY?

This project was also meant to be cheap. The database will implemented in MySQL,

a free software download. The language used to maintain the database will be PHP, also free. The only cost will be for the barcode scanner and magnetic stripe reader used by the door warden to check out parts.

WHAT CAN I DO AS A STUDENT?

Ever start designing your circuit the night before a lab day and wonder if the lab has the part you designed with? With this new system, you will be able to log on to the web server and search for the part. This can save countless hours of precious lab time.

WHAT CAN I DO AS A FACULTY MEMBER

As a faculty member, you too will be able to browse the database of parts at any time during the day. This will enable you to ensure you will have enough parts available for an upcoming lab. If there are enough parts available, if you wish you may reserve enough parts for the class.

HOW IS IT GOING TO WORK?

The door warden will be responsible for checking in and out parts. To check out parts, a student will hand the door warden his/her ID, and the door warden will swipe it in the magnetic stripe reader. The students ID is encoded on the stripe. For security purposes, a plan is being developed for faculty members because their IDs contain their Social Security number. After swiping the ID, the door warden will scan the equipment and parts requested for checkout. A similar procedure will check the parts back in.

WHY IS THIS BENEFICIAL TO THE DEPARTMENT?

This will eliminate many problems seen by the department in the equipment check out procedure. First, the problem of parts not being turned back in will be eliminated. Faculty members can look up to see who has what checked out. It will also monitor if certain parts are low in quantity. This will allow someone to know immediately that parts need to be ordered.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail either Sean (seandc@compu-type.net) or Ryan (oichoich@hotmail.com)