

Project Brief



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STARS Student Tracking and Reporting System: Transforming an Excel VBA application into a web-based application

The purpose of this project is to transform an Excel VBA application into a web-based application that retains the same functionality, similar levels of usability and a user-friendly interface.

The application in question is live and being used in a further education College in the East Midlands. It allows users (college teaching staff) to monitor student performance by generating potential grades, logging observations and producing student reports. VBA code is used to achieve the required functionality. The application was built by Tiger Solutions Ltd, a management consultancy run by Chris Mortimer, Associate Fellow in the Operational Research and Management Science (ORMS) group at Warwick Business School.

The application is known as STARS (Student Tracking and Reporting System) and currently sits on a shared drive at the College where it is accessed by around 15 teaching staff on a daily or weekly basis. Although the College is generally satisfied with the application, the current arrangement has proved problematical to some extent. The main problem concerns accessibility: staff are situated on different sites that are geographically dispersed and, at present, only one member of staff can use the application at any one time. This is naturally frustrating for users who cannot access the application.

It is thought that one way to alleviate this issue would be to move the application to a web-based platform. Were the project successful, it would create a situation in which multiple members of staff would be able to use the application simultaneously with no significant compromise on existing functionality.

Tiger Solutions is looking for a student to respond to the above brief and create a web-based application that will form the topic of the student's summer project. The main benefit for the company is a web-based application that caters more effectively for client needs. For the student, the project represents an opportunity to hone web-application design skills on a live project and gain experience with a consulting company.

It is understood that all outputs from the project will become the intellectual and commercial property of the company and the student will be required to sign an agreement to this effect, in addition to conventional confidentiality and non-disclosure agreements. A modest payment may be paid for the work.

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