Centralised Allotment Process (CAPNIC)

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ABSTRACT

The NIC state centre has developed a software application named *CAPNIC* to allot seats for the professional courses in Kerala. It is an open-source solution based on Linux, Apache, MySQL and PHP (LAMP).

The candidates' choice of the colleges and courses are received online. The same options are used for the allotment/re-allotment of seats. About 28 lakh options are received from 55,000 candidates. The system handled transactions for an amount of more than 60 crores of rupees.

Introduction/Background

The Kerala state unit of the National Informatics Centre has developed the software *CAPNIC* (Centralised Allotment Process) for conducting online counselling for the allotment of seats for the professional courses in Kerala. The software was developed after taking care of all the existing rules of communal and special reservations. The floating seat concept is also implemented in the system. This government-to-citizen (G2C) and government-to-government (G2G) solution was implemented in the year 2006.

Objective

The system is used for conducting the counselling of students for medical, engineering, pharmacology and architecture courses and allotment of seats. Under the medical stream, there are 11 courses, and under the engineering stream, there are about 23 branches. Counselling was conducted for about 19,000 seats in the medical/engineering/ pharmacology streams and 6000 seats in B.Ed. courses

Overall Description

This web-enabled solution used the LAMP model. The application is hosted in the government data centre with data replication mechanism. Candidates access their data by using their roll number, application number, key number and password. The choices of the candidates are updated in the database that is used for the allotment/re-allotment process. The allotment/re-allotment list is published, and the colleges are provided with the list of allotted candidates. The list of eligible candidates to be admitted is available only after payment of the prescribed fees. Fee collection is taken care of by the fee collection module. After each allotment, candidates are provided with the option of cancellation/reordering. Non-joining details are entered by the college authorities. Based on the non-joining and the non-payment of fees, the re-allotment list is published.

Future Plans

In the year 2005, NIC Kerala developed a software for conducting counselling from multiple locations. Counselling was conducted at Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam and Kozhikkode. In the year 2006, the next version of CAPNIC was developed for the online entry of options. Currently, there is a proposal to design a system for the online submission of application forms.

Conclusion

Unlike previous years, the current system has the advantage that the candidates can send in their options from anywhere. Colleges and courses can be added even after counselling is started. A candidate can change or re-arrange the options at any point of time. The government, colleges and citizens save a lot of money and time by adopting the new system.