

E-PORTAL'S IN OUR IVORY-TOWERS

Parent2Child MAXIM™

Campus Portal Solution



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Revision History

Date

20/08/2010

Remarks

Updated and Issued

Author

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The Tale of Nigerian University Portals

January 22, 2010 — faizbash

In 2005 I bought my ICT scratch card. I was supposed to use the card to activate my account on our university portal. With my account I should be able to do my semester registration online, register for my courses and view my results online. These should be the least I should be able to do for me to find the portal useful or any other student. For the lecturers I believe they should be able to have access to their courses, view the registered students and input students' scores. These are the basic things the application should be able to do for it to be rated as providing a solution. We do not have to go far on the several reports it should be able to generate including Senate Format Report, Graduating List, Pass/Repeat List and Transcript. For it to be even more valuable, the University Senate should be able to approve/reject results online. Administration like accommodation allocation, lecture venues, time tabling, etc should also be available.

With these things in place then there is a valuable service and solution to problems. This is the main goal of ICT – to simplify processes, improve efficiency and accuracy, and reduce cost.

But I started realizing the opposite of it since the first step of using the portal. For the activation we needed to go and submit our registration numbers somewhere and then patiently wait for a number of days before we get going. Unfortunately for me (and many others) we had to wait for the whole session for our accounts to be activated. And since I was in my final year I was not going to be among those that would make use of the portal; let's not talk about the money I paid for the ICT. Anyway since it was the first time it would be very kind if we give it a time grace to go through testing and quality assurance phases. At least we contributed our own quota as a case study for testing the application.

One (1) year after I left school I thought everything should be fine now, I inquired from friends and was shocked to learn that it was a total failure and our manual method was preferred, so they had to go back to it.

This tale is not just in Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi (ATBU), the university I graduated from. Two (2) years before ATBU started the project, I recall University of Maiduguri (UNIMAID) to have been one of the pioneers to implement it. I was amazed to learn about that and was hopeful that our universities would soon be going into IT solutions and move to another level in process improvements. Unfortunately almost all the solutions in many universities and high institutions have failed.

I finally understood that there is a unique problem that contributes to these failed systems: the main objective is not to solve problems but rather to use ICT buzz-words in order to extract funds.

For further information and reaction kindly visit the blog link below:

<http://faizbash.wordpress.com/2010/01/22/the-tale-of-nigerian-university-portals/>

Responses from Nigerians

Suleiman Mohammed

This is a clear indication of the educational degradation in Nigeria. With a clear minded people like you, given a chance to generate ideas of how to tackle the General Nigerian IT problems; ranging from Educational: Universities, Polytechnics, Monotechnics, Colleges of Education and most of all Secondary schools. Implementing such system in secondary school will allow the young minds understand how the system is working through teaching them and citing example of the IT they are using. Thus, making it even inevitable to be implemented in higher institutions in the country. In the UK Semester results for Undergraduates or Postgraduates are never pasted on the walls or notice boards; and it allows secrecy of personality. You will graduate with out knowing your other colleagues result; and it prevent harassment both in the system and at post graduate level. Nigerian scenario believe that pasting it on the wall will allow the weak student to wake up from his slumber. Unfortunately that has causes more problem by creating an avenue for harassment even up to political level. You will meet your colleague after 30 years of graduation remember what class of degree he had. Fai'z Bashir has clearly pointed out a lot of issues associated with the proper implementation of the process of which I also believe if properly managed, along side making the Universities website more attractive, can make the Nigerian University one of the best in the world; even without the best facilities.

Aloy Chife, Ph.D

A friend of mine forwarded your article to me, ostensibly because my firm had pioneered the portal/scratch card model for higher institutions. All the points you made about the deployment of software in our university system is true. What ails the system? If Nigeria has moral hazard problems, our universities represent its worst possible expression!

The reason the systems to which you refer have not been allowed to evolve lies squarely in the uncertainty and instability that is the business environment obtainable in the university system. The universities are not committed to developing an integrated system that combines SIS, LMS, Academic Systems, etc. Their focus is often short term, depending on which bank has what financial package on offer, or which new VC feels he has not been "cut" in on the deal and decides to bring in one fly-by-night company or another. The incentives are simply not there for the private enterprise. And the higher institutions are not in any position to develop and maintain a bespoke solution – unless of course there is a foreign grant and the effort peters out once the grant is gone. Don't blame the higher institutions though. They are simply a microcosm of a failing state. How do we resolve this contradiction? There is an initiative that will soon be launched. Stay tuned.

For further information and reaction kindly visit the blog link below:

<http://faizbash.wordpress.com/2010/01/22/the-tale-of-nigerian-university-portals/>

The Mighty Banks

The bank is always chasing for money to beef up its deposit, and that is what it has been chasing in our universities. They promise the universities to assist them in implementing these unusable systems, making it seem to be at no cost whereas the victims (students) end up paying the price. Students are therefore forced to make payments in these banks.

Proposed Solution

It is very simple. Instead of emphasizing on the scratch card business model and extorting students, the first step is to have an objective of trying to solve at least the following problems:

- 1) A system that would simplify the registration process for students
- 2) Lecturers should be able to use the system and save students' scores
- 3) The system should be able to compute students' results based on the saved scores
- 4) Students should be able to view their records from the system and print their result slips
- 5) The system should be able to generate reports including end of semester results, graduation list, transcript, etc.

The system must be usable. Comprehensive user requirements must be specified before the system implementation. The system should also go through testing and quality assurance phases so that students cannot be able to register 100 units of courses when they are supposed to register a maximum of 23.

Change is inevitable

Indeed if the primary objective of the university management is to put in place a structure that not only connotes that they as learned fellow desire to reposition the educational sector in proper perspective beyond paper works, seminars and with little action then adopting a bespoke solution that addresses all the above and more is not only logical but imperative in other to improve the waning sector. As a product of the Nigerian university system I absolutely understand the consequences of these failed systems and can authoritatively tell you that our company has the solution to all the above problem .

Olaogbebikan Olumide, CEO
smoothcartoonsnigeria

Parent2Child MAXIM™

Reach for possibilities

Parent2Child is an online educational portal designed to automate a wide variety of administrative and academic related processes in higher educational institutions. Its intuitive user interface and robust features effectively help to facilitate the processing of numerous activities for various categories of users in a school. The portal is designed to provide a faster and more efficient way of performing everyday processes in higher institutions. Parent2Child support for educational systems incorporates features that aid the running of the academic processes in your institution

Parent2Child incorporates such features as: full student/course details, attendance system, weighted grades, grade calculator, discipline tracking, internal messaging system, PDF printable multiple custom report card options, custom searches, reports and statistics, user defined list creation, custom access levels and more.

Parent2Child, designed specifically by experienced educators, to meet the hands-on demands of real schools, has a proven track record, it is a web-based alternative to expensive proprietary systems, Parent2Child's has been upgraded again to deliver more user requested functionality while retaining its characteristic ease-of-use.

It is our goal to remain the most cost-effective, full-featured student management system available to schools anywhere. Many alternatives to Parent2Child claim to be web-based, but in reality, they are only web-enabled. What this means is that you still have to run "proprietary" software on certain computers and there are usually some important things that can't be done using a standard web-browser. Parent2Child is 100% web-based. Everything you need to do can be done via a standard web-browser such as Internet Explorer. It is that simple.

As a school, you have the ability to easily configure Parent2Child to fit within your guidelines and practices. For example, you can decide whether parents should be given online access to their son/daughter's information, and if so, exactly what information they should be allowed to view. Software should not dictate how you need to run your school, and that is why we have built Parent2Child to be as flexible as possible.

Since smoothcartoonsnigeria, the developers of Parent2Child, have written the entire code from the ground up, if there are additional features you wish to incorporate or custom changes you would like to have, we will do our best to accommodate. Parent2Child works as an "out-of-the-box" application, but we are more than happy to provide free quotations for any special requests you may have. We also offer a range of optional services to help you get up and running quickly.

Parent2Child provides simple access to all important school information, which allows you to make knowledge-driven decisions. We invite you to learn more about Parent2Child by exploring our brochure.

Parent2Child MAXIM™ IN DETAIL

Has it ever been more challenging for universities, colleges, and research institutions to succeed in their core missions? Reduced funding from traditional sources has trimmed revenues, and competition for private funding – including grants, endowments, and alumni donations – is growing. Burgeoning student populations are creating physical space and service challenges. Government regulations pressure institutions to operate with a high degree of transparency, which intensifies the need to report, document, and track financial, demographic, and educational information. Demographic and regulatory reporting requirements are prompting additional spending on human resources management systems. Demand for corporate outreach and continuing education programs is increasing. Competition has intensified for the best students, faculty, and academic and research professionals. To address these myriad challenges, higher education and research institutions need to leverage IT that aligns with business requirements and supports change. Organizations need to operate more efficiently and integrate processes, from business services to academic affairs and student care, while collaborating externally with government agencies, service providers, and other constituents. Yet many organizations still use fragmented, non-integrated business systems. Inefficient, outdated, and expensive to maintain, these systems foster decision making that is tactical and reactive at best. Parent2Child MAXIM for Higher Education & Research is a portfolio of highly scalable solutions.

Parent2child MAXIM solution for higher institutions — makes it easier for you and your staff to overcome your daily challenges so your institution stands apart from the rest. There are many benefits of Parent2child MAXIM Student Information System using flexible configurations for school wide settings:

- Admissions processing and management
- Student Registration and Information Management
- Online Payment mechanism
- Course Registration and Management
- Transcript and Result Processing Capabilities
- Virtual Learning System
- E-library Resources
- Research Upload and Lookup
- E-Notification System
- Report Generation

Functional Modules

Admission Module

Is used for configuring and managing admission related activities like managing new and old students' admission records, admission sets creation.

Course Management Module

Is used to setup courses' details and associate them with their corresponding programs for a given session. Allows Departments to configure maximum and minimum course units to be registered in a semester/session. This module is also used to assign Lecturers to Courses they are to handle and view results associated within or outside the department.

Payment Module

Allows administrators to configure payment templates by adding, editing or deleting payment items. Once these templates have been defined, they can be applied to specific students or set of students based on the course of study/departments/programs offered. The module allows for flexible reconfiguration of payment templates per session. It can be used to track payments and history of such payments made. Institutions also have the ability to activate settings which can be used to enforce policies that require payments to be made before courses can be registered or results viewed.

Grading System Management Module

This module is used to configure grading systems e.g. marks grade and grade class that are used to compute student grade class and marks.

Student Information Module

This module gives students access to view vital academic information such as lecture schedules, virtual learning and course marks distribution. They can also check for important event dates on the school calendar like semester/session period, registration period etc. Students can view their profiles and edit information

Course Registration Module

Gives student access to select or deselect course options which they want to register or deregister for the semester/session. With an integrated help feature, users can easily get real-time assistance thereby enhancing the usability

Result Processing Module

Allows marks to be recorded while the system automatically applies the corresponding marks grade and grade class based on the grading system configuration. Results are finally confirmed and approved so that it could be published for students to see.

Parent2Child MAXIM™

Welcome to Parent2Child MAXIM™

Parent2Child MAXIM™

General Information >

- O-Level Clearance
- Registration Procedure
- Admission List
- Degree Programme Offered
- Post-UME Procedures
- Pre-degree Programme
- VC's Message
- Prospective Students
- [Contact Information](#)

Parent2Child User Login >

User Name

Password

Profile Student ▼

- Administrator -
- Faculty
- Department
- Lecturer
- Student
- Post UME
- Parent

[Reset my password](#)



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User Interface Fig Parent2Child MAXIM product has a platform that brings all the stakeholders together enabling knowledge sharing and information management..

Parent2Child MAXIM™

Signed in as: Dr Akinwande Julius : Mechanical Engineering [MEC] | [LogOut](#)
 Thursday August 19, 2010



Home User Account Courses Programmes Admissions Students Message Centre Lecturers Reports Settings Help



You are here > Home > Admissions > Accept Post UME & Direct Entry Candidates List

Search Criteria: Search

Sno	Programme	Student Name	Score	Remark	Accept Freshers
1	Bsc Mechanical Engineering	Adelaja Quadri [303425]	209	Rejected	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Bsc Mechanical Engineering	Aderibigbe Jonathan Yinka [4567]	250	Admitted	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Manage Admissions
- Post UME & Direct Entry
- Reject Post UME & D.E
- Masters Programme

Microsoft Internet Explorer [X]

? Accept the selected fresh intakes to Mechanical Engineering department?

First | Next | Previous | Last Total records [2] Search Criteria:

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Post UME/Direct Entry Applications Fig This module allows the departmental administrator to accept or reject candidates that do not meet the departments requirements on minimum score expected for entry into such departments.

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Signed in as, Aderibigbe Jonathan Yinka : 4567 | [Logout](#)
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Bsc Mechanical Engineering 5 Years.

250



Post UME

Generate Application No

Congratulations on your Success! Generate your application no which you will use henceforth on the student portal to complete your clearance, payments, registration etc during your entire stay on campus.

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Post UME/Direct Entry Fig This module allows the post UME/Direct entry candidates that have successfully done the exams check the status of their admissions at there own convenience from anywhere in the world.

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Home
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About

- Staffs
- Transcripts
- Alumni Management
- Course Management
- Learning Resource

You are here » Home » Department » Departmental List

Sno	Departmental Name/Acronym	Digit-Short Code	Faculty Name
1.	Mechanical Engineering [MEC]	MEC	Faculty Of Engineering
2.	Industrial Design Arts [IDD]	IDD	Faculty Of Arts & Social Sciences

- Manage Department
- List Department
- Add Department
- Migrate Department
- Delete Department

First | Next | Previous | Last
Total records [2]
Search Criteria:
Export to Excel

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Department Setup Fig This module allows the system administrator to create and manage various departments while allocating them to corresponding faculties.

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Home User Account Faculty Department Admissions Billing Message Centre Grading Reports Settings About

Staffs Transcripts Alumni Management Course Management Learning Resource

You are here > Home > User Account > Departmental Lecturers > Account List

	Sno	Account/User Name/Acronym	Lecturer's Department	Activated	Del
Lecturer Accounts	1	akin	Mechanical Engineering	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
List Accounts	2	nike	Mechanical Engineering	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Add Accounts	3	mary	Industrial Design Arts	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>

First | Next | Previous | Last

Total records [3]

Search Criteria:

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User Accounts Setup Fig This module allows the system administrator to create and manage user accounts for lecturers, heads of departments, faculty officers etc to manage modules as related to their operations.

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Signed in as, Dr Akinwande Julius : Mechanical Engineering [MEC] | [LogOut](#)
Thursday August 19, 2010



Home User Account **Courses** Programmes Admissions Students Message Centre Lecturers Reports Settings Help

You are here > Home > Departmental Courses > Departmental Courses List

Search Criteria Search



- Manage Courses
- List Courses
- Add Courses

Sno	Course Code	Course Title/Label	Level	Unit [Weight]	Del
1	MEC183	Mechanics & Strength of Materials	100	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	MEC157	Mechanical Analysis Technics	100	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	MEC153	Mechanical Engineering Theorem I	100	2	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	MEC323	Mechanical & Computer Engineering	300	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	MEC429	Mechanical Statistics Analysis	400	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	MEC576	Mechanical Crafts Theorem	500	4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	MEC596	Mechanics & Sound Engineering	500	3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8	MEC		100	4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Microsoft Internet Explorer [X]

Are you sure you want to delete this courses from Mechanical Engineering [MEC]

OK Cancel

First | Next | Previous | Last Total records [8] Search Criteria:

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Departmental Courses Setup Fig This module allows a department administrator to create courses at all levels while also indicating unit weights for each of the courses.

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Home User Account **Courses** Programmes Admissions Students Message Centre Lecturers Reports Settings Help



You are here > Home > Department Semester Course List

- Manage Semester
- List Semester Units
- Add Semester Units
- Course Setup
- Course Setup List**

Search Criteria:

Sno	Course Code	Course Title/Label	Level	Course Type	Unit	Del
1	MEC429	Mechanical Statistics Analysis [5]	100	Elective	5	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	MEC323	Mechanical & Computer Engineering [3]	100	Elective	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	MEC153	Mechanical Engineering Theorem I [2]	100	Elective	2	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	MEC157	Mechanical Analysis Technics [3]	100	Elective	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	MEC183	Mechanics & Strength of Materials [3]	100	Elective	3	<input type="checkbox"/>

Total Unit 16

Sno	Course Code	Course Title/Label	Level	Course Type	Unit	Del
1	IDD187	Art	100	Core	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	IDD177	Mo	100	Core	2	<input type="checkbox"/>

Total Unit 5

Microsoft Internet Explorer

Are you sure you want to delete the courses from first semester?

First | Next | Previous | Last Total records [7] Search Criteria:

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Semester Courses Setup Fig This module allows a department administrator to create semester courses at all levels indicating Core and elective courses and general collection of all courses available for students to choose from for each semester's course registration.

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Smoothcartoonsnigeria Parent2Child MAXIM provides a lot of benefits to stakeholders in academic education institutions particularly to the students, lecturers and school administrators by making their work easier. With Parent2Child MAXIM , Institutions can efficiently track online fees paid, configure school wide settings, access and manage students information, process student admissions, rapidly process result and transcripts, generate reports etc. While for students, the Parent2Child MAXIM advantage offers convenient online fee payment, stress-free course registration, easy access to e-library and research materials, view results to track academic progress, fast access to relevant academic information like session/semester dates, lecture schedules, virtual learning etc.



For further enquiries and information

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