

Identify

Background Detail and Identifying the User

- ‘The mix n match dating agency’ has been running for twenty years now. Mike Kinley started it back in 1982 with an aim to bring people together. The agency has been passed down in the family, and now with manager, Peter Kinley is one of the biggest dating agencies in London. The main focus of the company is confidentiality and their people matching skills.

Statement of the Problem

- The current problem is the office is not very big, and it is in a total mess, papers and files lying around everywhere, when people want to look up on their members the information is very hard to obtain. Their Manager, Peter Kinley is finding very difficult to organise the dates for his customers because all the information of the customers are held in a few filing cabinets which are not organised and there is no way of finding the different members other than looking through every single file. There have been a few problems, where their members have been matched up with the same sex due to names like ‘Jamie’, which could be both male and female. The problem has arisen, because they do not have a suitable data system, everyone has their own way of doing things and their company is at state.

Quantitative Objectives

- The object and the user requirement for this project is they need to create:
 - 1) One system where information can be stored and everyone in the office can access.
 - 2) The system has to be linked, so that everyone has the same information.
 - 3) The database must have a simple menu of options to choose from.
 - 4) Customer’s names must be listed in alphabetical order.
 - 5) The system must be able to produce printouts of the individual customers.
 - 6) The data is up to date and accurate.
 - 7) Has to be fairly straight forward as they don’t have time to learn how to use a whole new system.
 - 8) The system must be secure so access is only by the staff working for the company.

Proposed Solution and Alternative Software

- There a few different possibilities in which the problem could be solved, the company could organise their filing cabinets so that all male customers have blue

cards and all female customers have red cards, this is easy and straight forward. Another option is entering data into a spreadsheet to log all the customers' names and their dates they are set. This solution would not increase the amount of time already spent keeping the company organised but it would not be easy to produce reports on the individual customer. A third option is to use a database; this could perform the entire organisation the company needs and display reports on the individual customer. As the main priority of the company is organising records of the members and their dates, starting a database is the best choice.

Time

- It will probably take a little while to complete the database, as we need to send out forms asking the members of their details and their previous dates with us but first we need their address's from the filing cabinet, just so the database is update and accurate. This should take a couple of weeks, but if people are delayed with sending back the forms it could take up to a couple of months. Designing the database, implementing, testing and checking that the staffs are happy with the result should take around about three weeks.

Analyse

Appropriate Software Identified

- There are two different database software packages that are available: Microsoft Access and Microsoft Works database. They are both very similar versions, but Microsoft Works is just very simple. As some of the requirements of the company are not possible to implement of Works I will use Access. . A simple flat- file database would be suitable to store the members. A relational database with three linked tables for male members, female members and their dates would make it really easy to find suitable couples and to organise their dates. Hopefully this should avoid the problems they have been having. The plan is to design, a user-friendly opening screen with buttons linking the different areas of the database.

Appropriate Software Identified

- Hardware requirements are a personal computer, mouse and keyboard. All the data will be inputted manually using a keyboard and mouse. A printer will also be needed to print out individual reports on the customers.

Data Collection

- The information I need to obtain and where to get it from:
 - 1) Female members – forms sent out and data inputted using a keyboard. (Address's from the filing cabinet)
 - 2) Male members – forms sent out and data inputted using a keyboard. (Address's from the filing cabinet)
 - 3) Details of previous dates – from the filing cabinet, data inputted using a keyboard.
 - 4) Details of dates to come – from the filing cabinet, data inputted using a keyboard.
 - 5) Must also check for any other useful data in the filing cabinet, data inputted using a keyboard.

There will be some processes carried out on the data, validation and verification checks on the field design, and on the queries in the database.

Flow Diagram's

- A flow diagram and data flow are attached showing the process of making the database and the flow of data through the database.

Data Manipulation

- The tables required in the system will be Men, Women and Dates. The individual fields in each table will be as follows:

Men (Surname, FirstName, DOB, Age, Address, Interests, Hates, PerfectMate)

Women (Surname, FirstName, DOB, Age, Address, Interests, Hates, PerfectMate)

Dates (Woman, Man, When, Where, Successful)

- The computer makes queries about the similar interests, similar address's, similar ages, similar hates and matching perfect mates, this way the date should be a success. Three reports need to be produced. To produce the report for the woman, a query will be run to combine data from the three tables. The user will be able to specify the woman's name and the query will calculate the man's name and the couples date. The query will be a source of the individual customer. Another report will be for the man and the third one for the company, as a record of their customers dates.
- The three reports should be viewable on-screen with an option to print them. Reports such about the date needs to be sent off to the customers as a record. At other times, information may be needed of past dates with the customers, and the company can view this on-screen. The reports will group and sort some of the information to make it easier to understand.

Output

- The reports and queries should be viewable on screen with an option to print them, as a hard copy will need to be sent to the appropriate customers of the dating agency. At other times, checking whether a certain customer has been on a date with someone already can be viewed on screen. The reports will group and sort some of the information making it easier to understand and quicker to work with.

Backup/Security Strategy

- The database will be stored on the computers hard drive. The manager will do a daily backup on a zip drive or CD-ROM. An additional weekly backup of the whole hard drive to a tape streamer will also be used and it is recommended that the storage is away from the office, just in case of a fire, theft or flood. The system will be set up, with user ids and passwords, as the company is strictly confidential of their members. The database could even have another password to open it; just so all the data is even more secure.

Test Plan

Test	Purpose of Test	Test Data	Expected Result
1	Test the women's form button on the menu.	Click the women's form button on the menu.	The women's form button opens at the first record.
2	Test the men's form button on the menu.	Click the men's form button on the menu.	The men's form button opens at the first record.
3	Test that name field can handle long names.	Go to a new record enter 'Sally-Anne Sarah Matthews' in the women's form.	Name accepted.
4	Test validation on phone number field.	Enter '019288021809166321' and press enter.	The number will not be accepted.
5	Test the close 'women's form' button.	Click the close button on the 'women's form.'	The form should close.
6	Print individual member reports.	Click the print button and close the report.	Report prints and report screen closes.
7	Test to view 'Age Matches' report.	Click 'Age Matches' Report button.	Report displays on the screen.
8	Test the hyperlink on the email address's work	Click on the blue hyperlink of any member	It should connect to the internet and produce an email with the email address of the member chosen.
9	Test validation on age field.	Type in 'James' in the age field.	The computer should not accept it.
10	Exit database.	Click the Exit button on the main menu.	Database closes.

User Feedback of Initial Designs

After designing the initial designs for the database, there has been feedback from the users such as:

- 1) I can see from the field's design that there is no id number but in the other designs of the forms there are, but I think that an id number is defiantly needed to tell apart people with the same surnames and first names.
- 2) The field for address should be changed into a few different fields instead of just one field, such as Address 1 (and maybe 2), town, and postcode. This will make it easier for the staff and customers to fill in forms, tables and search the database.
- 3) There should be more than one phone number in the table, as the customers may be out and need to get hold of them so a mobile umber field should be used.
- 4) There should not be a perfect mate field in the women/men's table, as most of our customers don't know that is why they have joined a dating agency.
- 5) There should not be a successful box on the date's table, as the reports are printed off for the customers so there is no need for it on the screen.
- 6) The DOB of the customers is not needed, an age field is enough on the tables, and we are trying to have as little fields as possible you see, so it doesn't take up memory space.
- 7) The menu, report and form designs are all very good, straight forward and correct, so they do not need to be changed,
- 8) Maybe a bit of colour on the paper when you design the forms that are sent out to the customers for them to fill in their details.