

Automatic Price Comparing System for Online Hotel Reservations

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Abstract

In this fast moving world, time is valuable factor in each activity. Local/ foreign tourists and travelers are spending more time to search hotels to stay. Online reservation systems are providing the facility to find hotels via Internet all around the world. Even though, all users do not get full satisfaction using available online reservation systems. Because the room availability and room rates are having possibility for variation between the hotels as well as between the reservation system and the hotels' own reservation web sites. It seems causes of third party's additional charge or the databases are not in up to date. On other hand hotel owners are having headache of giving privileges to third party reservation system to access their database for advertise and make booking. As solution for these problems, this study is carried out with the main objective to develop a prototypical system which has the capability of comparing room rates of different hotel reservation web sites without direct access of their database. It achieves the objective by fetching information about the availability and room rates directly from their own websites of included hotels on real-time according to users' requirement. By using PHP, especially cURL library, the collected users' requirements send to each included hotels' reservation sites, and it fetches relevant data to analyze. Finally it shows the results on a single window with the options like order by, sort and limit to organize and compare by users with their preferences. At the same time this system gives the solution for hotel owners to keep their databases securely without providing privileges to third party reservation systems. This is web based online system developed in waterfall approach using PHP, JSON, CSS and some other web development tools. In conclusion, according to the users' requirement gathered using web form, the system retrieves required information from included hotels' reservation sites which are available to access all over the world and gives comparable result with link on single view. It does not access or interact with any databases directly.

Key words: Database, Online Reservation System, Privileges, Waterfall Approach, PHP-cURL, JSON, CSS

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