

# Centralized Allotment Process for the Professional Course Admissions—CAPNIC\*

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## ABSTRACT

CAPNIC is a project for Commissioner of Entrance Examination (CEE) to conduct the counseling for the allotment of seats for the Professional Courses in Kerala. The web based software developed using the Open Source, aimed at, conducting Counseling from multiple locations. The application is having the features like Online Option Receiving, Trial Allotment, Trial Result publishing, Allotment Processing, Result Publishing, Fee payment at Bank, Joining at college, Online Option Rearrangement, Re-allotment, etc.

## 1. Introduction

### *Project conceptualization*

NIC, Kerala State unit has developed the software, CAPNIC (Centralized Allotment Process) for conducting online counseling for the allotment of seats for the professional courses in Kerala. The software is developed by taking care of all the existing rules of Communal reservations and Special Reservations. Floating seat concept is also implemented in the system. This G2C, G2G solution is implemented in the year 2005 and 2006.

The system is for conducting the counseling for Medical, Engineering, B.Pharm and Architecture courses and allotment of seats. Under the Medical Stream there are 11 courses and in engineering stream there are about 23 branches. The counseling is conducted for about 19,000 seats in medical/engineering/B.Pharm. stream.

This web-enabled solution used the LAMP model. The application is hosted in the Government Data Centre with data replication mechanism. The candidates access their data by using the Roll number, application number, key number and password. Options of the candidates get updated in the data base which is used for the Allotment/re-allotment process. The allotment/re-allotment list is published and the colleges were provided the list of allotted candidates. List of eligible candidates to be admitted were

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\* CSI Nihilent e-Governance Awards 2006–07, G2C (Urban and Rural)– Joint Winner.

available only after paying the prescribed fees. Fee collection is taken care by the fee collection module. After each allotment candidate were provided with the cancellation/re-ordering of the options. Non-joining details were entered by the college authorities. Based on the non-joining and the non-payment of fee the re-allotment list was published. Unlike the previous years, the system is having the advantage that the candidate can give their options from anywhere. Colleges and courses can be added ever after the counseling started. The candidate can change or re-arrange the options at any point of time. Lot of money and time is saved by adopting the new system.

## 2. Project Vision and Objectives

- A student should have freedom to give his/her options freely, without any pressure.
- A student should have freedom to change his/her options any number of times with in the given time frame.
- The system should be transparent.
- Ensuring Right to Information to all the stakeholders.
- Payment of fees and refund (due to movement from self financing college to Govt. College on re-allotment).

## 3. Stakeholders

- CEE
- Higher Education Department
- Students/Parents
- Bank
- Colleges
- Internet Cafe

## 4. Services

- Online options registration
- Trial allotments and trial allotment result publication
- Re-arranging of options
- Actual allotment and result publication
- Online re-allotment process
- Payment and refund mechanisms were automated and integrated to the system, which eliminated manual compilation and reconciliation. System handled the transactions worth more than Rs. 35 crores.
- Re-allotment process made easy

## 5. Public Private Partnership (PPP)

CAPNIC is fully owned by Government of Kerala.

### *Necessity/Needs*

- A student along with his/her parents/guardian was forced to travel to the counseling center and stay there for the days.
- A student was forced to select a course/college combination across the counseling counter. No proper time available for consultation/decision making.
- The counseling process was taking more than a month to complete a single counseling.
- Policy changes were happening frequently
- Requirement for a transparent system

## 6. Project Plan

Requirements of re-engineering process

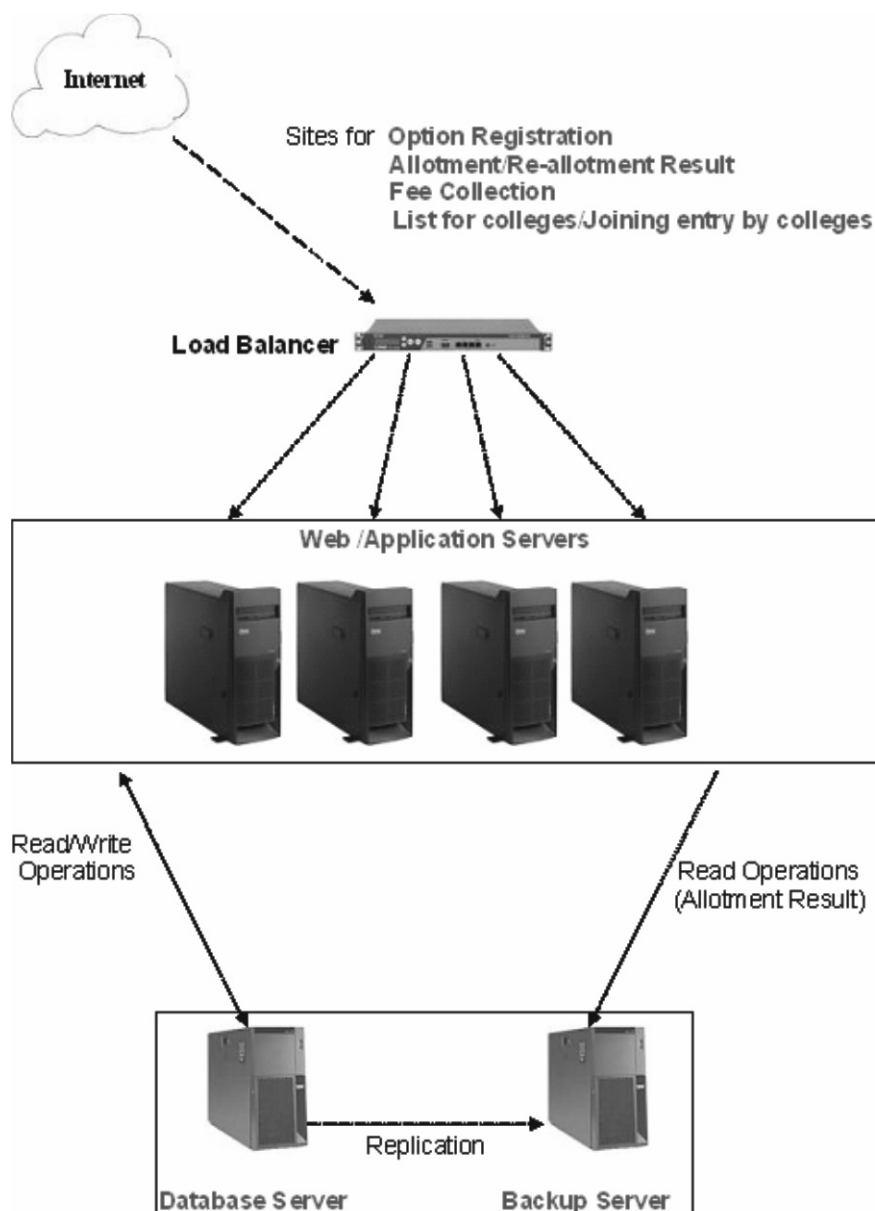
- To introduce a transparent system
- Avoid travel by parents and students to the counseling centre
- To reduce the allotment time schedule

### *Platform/Technology used in the project*

CAPNIC is developed in Linux-Apache-MySQL-PHP (LAMP).

## 7. Architecture

Fig. 1



## 8. Milestones

### *Achieved milestones*

- Approximately 1.5 lakh students and their anxious parents/ relatives benefited from the system
- Maximum number of seats were filled due to unrestricted number of options receiving from the candidates
- Minimum number of vacant seats
- Transparent allotment system implemented
- Trial allotments enabled the students to fine tune their option priority
- Centralized web-based application and the participation across the continents.
- 24 × 7 Service through the Web.

## 9. Project Management Structure

CAPNIC is a joint venture of CEE (Commissioner for Entrance Examinations), Higher Education Department and National Informatics Centre. Ownership is entrusted jointly with IT and Revenue Departments. CEE is the implementing agency. A Core Committee is formed for guiding, reviewing and assisting the project implementation.

## 10. Implementation

### *Strategy for pilot to roll out*

The acceptance of the system by the public was tested in the pilot implementation in 2005 and 2006 and currently it is being implemented for the admissions in 2007.

Capacity building: Governance structure, Project management teams, Exit management team, Change management and training

- Awareness about the usage of the system to the public was provided through
- Print Media
- Visual Media
- Internet
- News Channel
- EDUSAT telecast to Higher Secondary Schools
- Help desks were made available in all the districts in selected colleges and CEE

## 11. Evaluation and Measurement

- Regular meetings conducted by Addl. Chief Secretary & Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department, Govt. of Kerala
- To improve the Server response, better infrastructure is in plan.
- Bandwidth of the internet connection is increased during the peak period.
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- Bandwidth of the internet connection is increased during the peak period.

### *Measurement*

- News paper column reports, news paper editorials, visual media reports etc regarding the advantages of CAP
- Every student is giving his/her options from their house/Internet cafe.
- No more travels for the student/parents and no need of staying near to the counseling center.

## 12. Issues and their Solutions

### *Success factors*

#### CEE

- The allotment and re-allotment could be completed in time.
- Easy settlement of the accounts with colleges and students

#### *Government*

- Policy changes could be incorporated easily.
- New colleges and courses could be included even after the allotment process started.
- Cost effective solution for the allotment process.
- Managing a counseling centre for 30+ days in the state capital
- Hiring big hall (to accommodate 500 candidates and their parents)
- Set up infrastructure like computers, projectors and deploying staff for the counseling

#### *Students/Parents*

- Save lot of time and cost in travel and stay.
- Quick information.
- Easy payments and refunds.
- Any number of options.
- Approximately Rs. 30 crores. (i.e. Average Rs 3,000/- for stay, Rs.3,000/- for traveling for student/parent of 50,000 students)

- Traveling to the counseling centre with their parents/guardian
- Staying for 2 days
- Difficulty to get accommodation in the city due to heavy demand for accommodation on these days
- 2–4 days to be reserved exclusively for the purpose

#### *Bank*

- Easy settlement of the accounts
- Banks get the benefits of transactions and easy payment of the fees and reunds

#### *College*

- Colleges get the online list of allotted candidates with photo
- Due to the transparency in the system the seats are easily filled
- Easy fees management at colleges

#### *Failure factors (Risk)*

- Convincing the users
- No proper infrastructure in plan at the time of implementation
- Frequently changing allotment rules
- Educating the students/parents for registering the options online

#### *Replication in other states*

The concept of CAPNIC has been taken up by many states. The CAPNIC application was demonstrated to the Higher Education Secretary, Director Technical Education and other team officials of Andhra Pradesh who visited Trivandrum for studying CAPNIC.

#### *Road ahead*

Based on the acceptance of the system by public, Government is decided to implementing the system for the admissions of

- Higher Secondary
- MCA
- LLB
- LLM
- B.Ed

## 13. Status and Results

### *Present status*

CAPNIC has been successfully implemented for admissions in the year 255 and 2006. Now the system is being used for the Engineering/Medical counseling for 2007.

## 14. Specific Achievements during the Year 2006–07

As per the policy decision taken by the Government, the CAPNIC system has been extended to Higher Secondary admission (hsCAP). The hsCAP system has been successfully implemented in Trivandrum district as pilot for the year 2007.

Future plans for readers seeking more information on project

- Can be contacted over e-mail
- Please visit the site <http://cee.kerala.nic.in>.