

Web-based practice enterprise bank – case story

Turku University of Applied Sciences is leading the project "From SEM to SME". IT Mill was contacted when a modern web-based practice enterprise bank was needed within the project. The practice bank is now in use both in Finland as well as at Tallinn Technical University in a pilot practice enterprise project.

The students have their own practice companies and therefore they need a practice bank system as well. The delivered system works like real web-based bank system. Some examples of its features:

- The students sign in with their own user names and passwords. It is possible to have several accounts for different purposes.
- The teachers work as bank managers and they can create new user names and accounts for the students.
- Payments from one account to another are made using account numbers. It is possible to set the payments to happen daily, weekly or monthly.
- The transactions are saved in the system and the users can browse their own accounts. The teachers are able to follow what happens in the accounts and interfere if need be.
- It is possible for the students to list and print reports for desired time periods. They can seek and list transactions in the accounts for example on the basis of account numbers for incoming or outgoing payments.
- The lists can be saved in CSV in the user's computer. It is then easy to use them in a spreadsheet program.
- It is possible for a student to acquire a loan. The teachers can set an interest rate and a payback schedule for the whole group. The system then automatically debits the students' accounts weekly or monthly.
- The system can be used in Finnish, English as well as in Estonian.

It was of course necessary to take into account the educational aspects when the system was created and therefore it is not quite as complex as real ones. As to the loans, the time perspectives are shorter than in the real world.

The latest technology was used for the practice bank. "We used as many open source tools as possible in the Java-environment as well as a Jboss application server" describes Sami Ekblad, IT Mill's project manager who is in charge of the system. "It is otherwise a quite typical midsized system" he continues. In the requirements specifications it was mentioned that the system should support more than 50 users at the same time as well as one million separate transactions. "However, the system's limits are much higher".

The system is based on IT Mill's Millstone™-product which was used for the user interface. "Our goal was to create an authentic graphical look which can be updated easily with no need for other modifications." The clear architecture simplifies later support and makes it easier to add new features.

Both teachers and students are satisfied with the new practice bank system at Turku University of Applied Sciences. "There are always some bugs in complex modern systems. They are found when the customer tests the system but we always fix them due to the guarantee we grant to all the systems we deliver" Sami Ekblad promises. "The guarantee is an important part of the IT Mill way of doing things."