

restaurant limit bookings for people only wanting to have one course at a peak time of say 7:30pm which may mean that the restaurant cannot use the table before that time and after that time when the preference should be to only offer a three course menu for bookings to be accepted at 7:30pm?

2. Secondly, yield management is essentially the application of a defined algorithm or mathematical formula to the control of inventory. As such, a yield management module in the context of a software solution must be able to specifically control and release inventory. Bossert fails to provide a yield management solution that is capable of controlling the release of inventory, as the disclosure, at Figure 3 describes a process where a capacity calculation module ("60") firstly determines capacity (using constraint programming and its inherent limitations) and only then does the proposed yield management calculation module ("70") accept or reject a reservation request. By taking this approach, Bossert is essentially "putting the cart before the horse".

[00128] The yield management disclosure of Bossert has no practical utility, nor is it an enabling disclosure, as it does not adhere to yield management principles, it does not properly apply yield management principles and it does not describe a workable solution. It is, at best, a mere "paper anticipation" for a set of ideas, not a workable embodiment that utilises yield management terminology.

Summary

[00128a] There is provided a computing system for optimising and allocating bookings within a venue having one or more spaces, comprising: an optimisation module in communication with a processor and arranged to receive at least one request for allocation of a booking to one or more spaces in the venue and communicate with a database to determine whether other requests for allocation to one or more spaces have been made by other requestors, and to retrieve information regarding the other requests for allocated bookings to the one or more spaces and combine the at least one request with the other requests to form a pool of requests, retrieve constraint information regarding the venue including information regarding the dimensions of one or more of the spaces in the venue, dimensions of one or more available furniture items that may be allocated to the one or more spaces in the venue, and information regarding one or more constraints regarding the ability to place the one or more furniture items at a location within the one or more of the spaces and/or the relationship between the one or more furniture items wherein the allocation module determines an optimised location for the one or more furniture items within the one or more spaces to determine an optimised allocation and allocates the each request to the optimised allocation to produce an optimised allocation instruction set representative of the optimised layout of the allocated one or more furniture items in the space and the optimised allocation of bookings to

each of the allocated one or more furniture items, wherein the optimised allocation instruction set is saved in the database and provided via a space allocation user interface to provide a two dimensional image of the layout of the one or more furniture items in the one or more spaces for use by one or more users associated with the venue.

[00128b] There is also provided a computer-enabled method for optimising and allocating bookings within a venue having one or more spaces, comprising an optimisation module arranged to operate on a processor and arranged to receive at least one request for allocation of a booking to one or more spaces in the venue and communicate with a database to determine whether other requests for allocation to one or more spaces have been made by other requestors, and to retrieve information regarding the other requests for allocated bookings to the one or more spaces and combine the at least one request with the other requests to form a pool of requests, retrieve constraint information regarding the venue including information regarding the dimensions of one or more of the spaces in the venue, dimensions of one or more available furniture items that may be allocated to the one or more spaces in the venue, and information regarding one or more constraints regarding the ability to place the one or more furniture items at a location within the one or more of the spaces and/or the relationship between the different items that are within the venue and the one or more furniture items, wherein the optimisation module, for each request, determines an optimised location for the one or more furniture items within the one or more spaces to determine an optimised allocation and allocates the each request to the optimised allocation to produce an optimised allocation instruction set representative of the optimised layout of the allocated one or more furniture items in the space and the optimised allocation of bookings to each of the allocated one or more furniture items, whereby the optimised allocation instruction set is saved in the database and provided via a space allocation user interface to provide a two dimensional image of the layout of the one or more furniture items in the one or more spaces for use by one or more users associated with the venue.

[00129] In a first aspect, the present disclosure provides a computing system for optimising and allocating bookings within a space for a defined period of time in a venue, comprising an optimisation and allocation module in communication with a processor and arranged to receive the at least one request and communicate with a database to determine whether other requests for spaces have been made by other users, and if so, utilise the processor to retrieve information regarding the other requests for spaces and combine the at least one request with other requests to form a pool of requests, retrieve constraint information regarding the venue including information regarding the size of the venue and the size and quantity of available furniture that may be allocated to the space in the venue, and in a structured way iteratively allocate all requests from the pool of requests utilising the restraint information to produce an optimised and/or prioritised allocation instruction set,

wherein the optimised and/or prioritised allocation instruction set saved in the database and provided by a space allocation user interface to one or more users associated with the venue.

[00130] In one embodiment, to provide a computing system and a user interface to at least one remote user to input the restaurant's floor plans to scale to be stored in the data base.

[00131] In one embodiment, to provide a computing system and a user interface to at least one remote user to input and divide the restaurant's scaled plans into