

EMS

Event Management Systems

NICK B. NICHOLAS
nick@mbsnet.com

When it comes to software, some solutions that churches need are fairly unique to their setting. One of those is for scheduling rooms and resources. Our firm (MBS, Inc.) has been telling its clients for some time that no one does resource scheduling better than Dean Evans & Associates' Event Management Systems, or EMS.

What's So Unique About Church Scheduling?

The church scheduling environment is one of the most challenging there is. We schedule classrooms and A/V equipment, buses and vans, the chapel and other rooms needed for a wedding, and more. Adding events to a calendar in detail needs to be easy, and the calendar needs to be conveniently available to team members in an easy-to-read format. Some scheduled events need to be shared among staff only, and some with the public on our websites.

All of this sophistication needs to be automated so that those who may not be highly computer-skilled can submit scheduling requests, look up schedules and availabilities, and maintain the calendars. EMS does all of this well.

EMS comes in three levels to meet church needs while keeping cost to a minimum: EMS Lite (single user, also available in a networkable version), EMS Pro, and EMS Enterprise. While some large campuses may

need Enterprise, most can get by with Lite. The main differences between Lite/Multi-User and Professional are that Professional includes the ability to invoice, track accounts receivable, and manage equipment inventories like projectors.

Is It Worth It?

In my research for this article I interviewed churches who use EMS and asked them, among other things, to rate it's value. On a scale of 1-5, 5 being an essential high value, none rated it less than 4.5.

Scheduling

Scheduling events is easy. There are two methods available, *Quick Setup* and a wizard. Both even facilitate events that need multiple rooms and equipment and stretch across recurring dates. The system can even search for available resources to meet specific needs— even recommending different resources when there aren't any that are available for *every* recurring date! The software is smart.

Gail King, Calendar Coordinator for Community Church of Joy (Glendale, AZ), said that one of her favorite aspects of EMS is that it keeps her team from accidentally double-booking rooms and resources. The savings in time and embarrassment can be huge!

Access to Data

When I asked Bob Johnson, Calvary Church of Santa Ana's (Santa Ana, CA) Executive Pastor, what he liked best about EMS, he quickly said he liked how easy to read and use the reports are.

Reports. EMS Lite comes with 35 reports already built into it including daily/weekly/monthly activities, setup worksheets, and more. Professional comes with 100 reports, and Enterprise comes with 150. In addition, you can pull the data through any report writer into any unique format your team may prefer. Gail King said their setup worksheets and reports are terrific!

The data isn't wide open to anyone, though. EMS has user security profiles that can be used to say that someone has read-only or update rights, and can even restrict access to only certain types of scheduled events. These can also be approached with a template strategy to simplify the setup process.

On-Screen Lookups. Looking up scheduled events, availabilities, and setups is simple when just viewing on-screen too. The database is fast, and laid out cleanly to make it as easy on your team as possible.

Via the Internet. Today we want to make many of our events available to our congregation and community via the Internet. EMS, if configured with their optional web interface module, *Virtual EMS*, can feed data to your website automatically. You can schedule it to update your website as often as you want, and only those events that are deemed by you as public in nature will move up to your website. These are even searchable!

Why Not Just Run It From the Internet?

There are a number of solutions you can subscribe to that run only over the Internet. Our firm cautions

those considering putting mission-critical data into a database that is only available via the Internet. It seems obvious with denial-of-service (DOS) attacks and other occasional catastrophic events that the Internet is not yet as stable as we'd like.

There are times when we may be in an Internet blackout, or the location where our data is stored may be in an Internet blackout, or when we may not be able to get to our data over the Internet for other reasons.

Access to our church calendars is critical to our day-to-day opera-

tions. EMS, although it can feed our websites, actually runs on our internal systems. That means that it's data will be available to your team when you need it, regardless of what's happening in cyberspace.

EMS offers both on-site and online help with setup and training, and has a national user group that meets annually. Our clients tell us that they are a good company to work with, and that they feel well supported. A free trial download is available at www.dea.com.

"Managing a church calendar is like managing a community."

Use EMS to manage:
the church calendar
community programs
weddings
classes
A/V equipment
food service
vehicles
personnel
and more

You can't do that with a pencil and paper."

It's time to take a closer look at EMS.

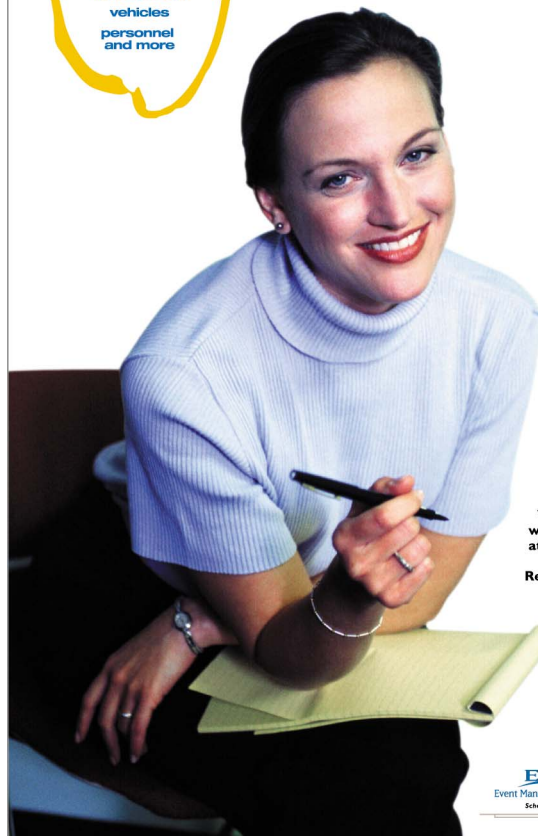
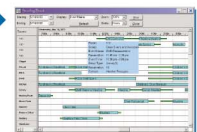
It has all the tools you need to schedule and manage events at your church. Since EMS integrates with Microsoft Office, email and the Internet, you'll enjoy easier communication.

Call today for your FREE EMS Evaluation Kit with absolutely no obligation to buy. Use it for up to two months to manage your calendar, book events, track resources and more. If EMS hasn't proven its worth to you in that time, just stop using it. You won't even need to take the trouble to send it back.

But if you agree that EMS is the best church event management and scheduling software on the market, it will soon become an indispensable part of your daily routine, saving you time and money. Maybe that's why thousands of people at churches across America use EMS!

Call us for your FREE two month evaluation at 1-800-440-3994.

View daily and weekly schedules at a glance in the EMS Lite Reservation Book.



EMS[®]
Event Management Systems
Schedule clarity.



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