School of Computing Science and Engineering

Course Code: CSAI4072 Course Name: Knowledge Based Decision support System

DSS Development Platforms

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DSS Development Platforms

- General-purpose programming language
- Fourth-generation language (4GL)
- OLAP with a data warehouse or large database
- DSS integrated development tool (generator, engine)
- Domain-specific DSS generator
- Use the CASE methodology
- Integrate several of the above

Hardware Selection

- PCs
- Unix workstations
- Network of Unix workstations
- Web servers
- Mainframes

• Typically use existing hardware

Software Selection

Complex because

- At start, information requirements, etc. are unknown
- Hundreds of packages
- Software updated rapidly
- Price changes
- Many people involved in decision
- Language capability problems

(More)

- Different tools might be needed
- Many criteria
- Technical, functional, end-user, and managerial issues
- Inaccurate published software reviews
- Might prefer a single vendor
- Maybe use the AHP!!! (analytic Hierarchy Process)

Team-Developed DSS

- Substantial effort
- Extensive planning and organization
- Some generic activities
- Group of people to build and to manage it Size depends on
 - Effort
 - Tools

Team-Developed Versus User-Developed DSS

• DSS 1970s and early 1980s

- Large-scale, complex systems
- Primarily provided organizational support
- Team efforts

End-User-Developed Systems

- Personal computers
- Computer communication networks
- PC-mainframe communication
- Friendly development software
- Reduced cost of software and hardware
- Increased capabilities of personal computers
- Enterprise-wide computing
- Easy accessibility to data and models
- Client/server architecture
- Now OLAP

Balance

Organizational Placement of the DSS Development Group

- 1. Information services (IS) department
- 2. Highly placed executive staff group
- 3. Finance or other functional area
- 4. Industrial engineering department
- 5. Management science group
- 6. Information center group

End-user Computing and User-Developed DSS

- End-user Computing (end-user development): development and use of computer-based information systems by people outside the formal information systems areas
- End-users
 - At any level of the organization
 - In any functional area
 - Levels of computer skill vary
 - Growing

User-Developed DSS Advantages

- 1. Short delivery time
- 2. Eliminate extensive and formal user requirements specifications
- 3. Reduce some DSS implementation problems
- 4. Low cost



User-Developed DSS Risks

- 1. Poor Quality
- 2. Quality Risks
 - Substandard or inappropriate tools and facilities
 - Development process risks
 - Data management risks
- 3. Increased Security Risks
- 4. Problems from Lack of Documentation and Maintenance Procedures

Issues in Reducing End-User Computing Risks

- Error detection
- Use of auditing techniques
- Determine the proper amount of controls
- Investigate the reasons for the errors
- Solutions
- Spreadsheet errors
 - · Should use same controls as normal IS

Developing DSS: Putting the System Together

- Development tools and generators
- Use of highly automated tools
- Use of prefabricated pieces
- Both increase the developer's productivity

DSS Development System Includes

- Request (query) handler
- System analysis and design facility
- Dialog management system
- Report generator
- Graphics generator
- Source code manager

(more)

- Model base management system
- Knowledge-base (management) system
- Object-oriented tools
- Standard statistical and management science tools
- Special modeling tools
- Programming languages
- Document imaging tools

DSS Development System Components

- Some may be integrated into a DSS generator
- Others may be added as needed
- Components used to build a new DSS
- Core of system includes development language or DSS generator
- Construction by combining programming modules
- Windows environment handles the interface

References

• Decision Support Systems and Intelligent Systems"-Efraim Turban, Jay Aronson E., Ting-Peng Liang, 7th Edition, Pearson Education.

• "Decision Support Systems in the 21st century"-George M. Marakas, 2nd Edition, PHI.

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