

Case Study

- **Goals:**
 - Another perspective on information system design
 - A way to review for midterm

- **Next Steps:**
 - Guidelines for Good Answers
 - Group Work
 - Evaluate answers
 - Identify Questions
 - Class Discussion
 - “Instructors” Solutions
 - Discuss Questions

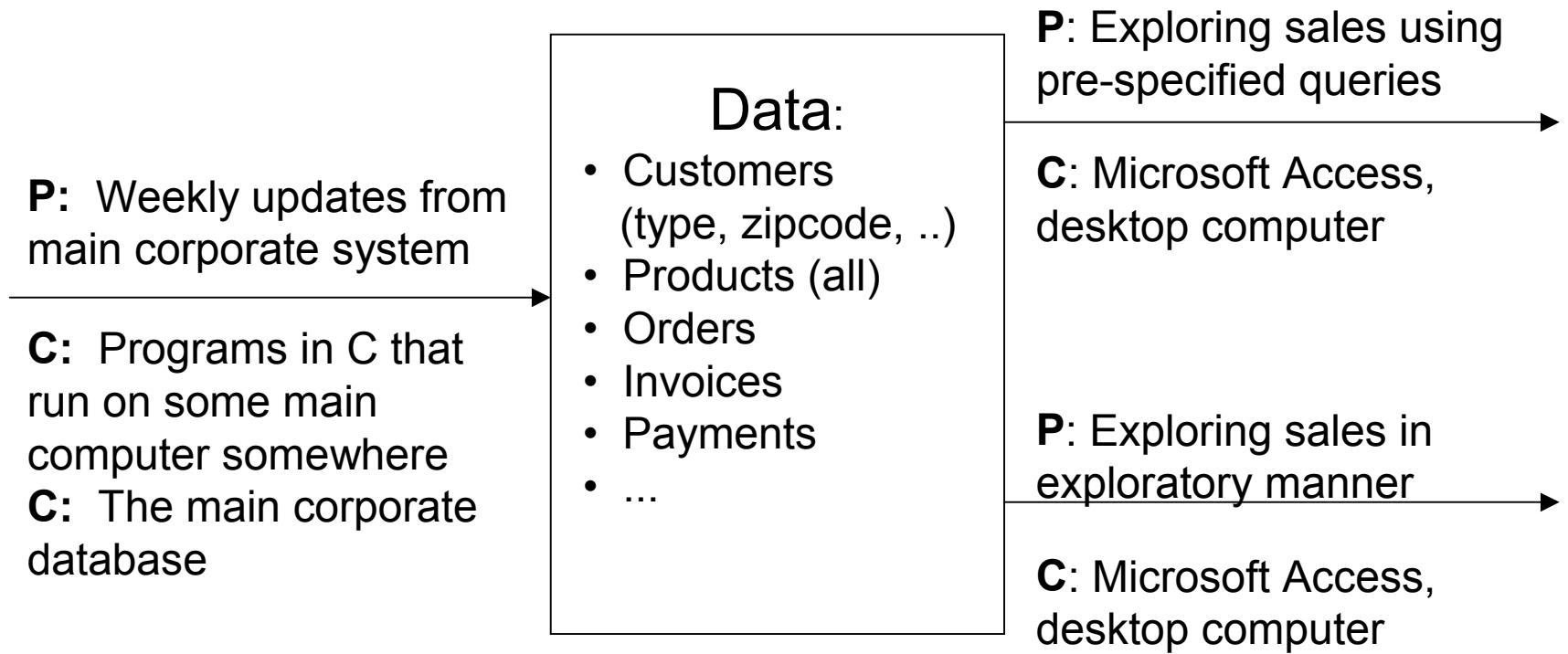
Guidelines for Good Answers

- Task 1: Description of Information System
 - Revisiting Definition: A set of components and processes for aggregating, managing and using data **to some end**.
 - Criteria:

- Task 2: Decisions, Life Cycle Activities, Issues
 - Criteria:

Case Study: Description of Information System

Purpose: To support Helen in analyzing sales of her products (home office furniture) so that she can make decisions (a “marketing support system”)



Case Study: Sample Decisions

Decisions	Development Activity
• Decision to work with Helen	• Project Selection
• Decision to bill Helen on a consulting time basis (rather than fixed cost)	• Planning
• Decision of what to put as the estimate length of time for each step in the plan given to Helen	• Planning
• Decision to follow prototype approach	• Planning
• Decision to use interviews to get initial information about functional specifications of system	• Planning/Analysis
• Decision to incorporate business and marketing terminology into questions during interview with Helen	• Analysis
• Decision to include “making comparisons” as a key function for the system to support	• Analysis
• Decision to not include several customer-related attributes in Helen’s data	• Design
• Decision to include customer type and zip code in Helen’s system	• Design
• Decision to create a graphical data model because valuable	• Design
• Decision that each of the attributes in Table 2-6 would be in final database.	• Design
• Decision of which tables to create in order to “house” all data	• Design
• Decision of how to define fields that are new for Helen’s data (e.g., Order_Number_of_shipments)	• Design
• Decision to create an index on the product attribute - Order_placement_date	• Design
• Decision to train Helen on Access so that she can write her own exploratory queries	• Design
• Decision to create a limited number of pre-existing queries to help Helen	• Design
• Decision to populate Helen’s system with weekly downloads	• Design
• Decision to accept the prototype as the real system (rather than develop a different “real system”)	• Implementation
• Decision to use C to write programs that populate Helen’s system.	• Implementation
---- • Decision to show Helen the graphical data model during the development	• --- • ??