For Monday, 9 October 2000: Issues in Designing Information Systems

The overarching question for the day is this – what types of issues should be taken into account when designing an information system? The selected passages shed light on this issue.

Reading(s): Design Considerations
- Managing Data Security, Backing Up Databases, Controlling Concurrent Access, Managing Data Quality, *Textbook*, pages 492-514. These passages provide ideas about the types of issues involved in designing an information system.
- Table 7-2 – Advantages and Disadvantages of Data Partitioning. *Textbook*, p. 266. If you disregard the references to “partitioning,” the entries in this table name additional issues to be considered in designing an information system.

Classroom Preparation Activity:
- Consider the following scenario and questions: Imagine that in your senior design project at a small manufacturing company, you are asked to give some advice on the possible development of a web-based order management information system. Should they do it? What are the risks? Also, the company thinks that perhaps some of their employers could do the job with available technology, but is also considering hiring an information systems professional to do the job. Based on your reading concerning the types of issues in designing Information Systems, what are two issues would you raise?

This assignment is due by 8:00 AM on 10/9.

For Wednesday, 11 October 2000: Case Study of Information Systems Design

Reading(s): The Database Approach

Classroom Preparation Activity:
The case study describes the design and development of an information system. My goal is to analyze this case study using knowledge we have discussed thus far in the class. To this end, please complete the following: Due in class.
1. Describe the final information system using the information system model from Figure 1 of the syllabus (i.e., briefly describe the data, components & processes for getting data into the database, & components & processes for getting data out of the database).
2. Identify 2 decisions made by the designer. For each decision, state the activity of the information systems design process (Figure 2-4) that the decision is related to and what issues the designer likely considered (i.e., why he made the decision). For example, the decision to include the “Customer_Identifier” in the client’s database is part of the Logical Design Activity and relates to an issue of ensuring the customer can complete desired tasks.

For Friday, 13 October 2000: Midterm #1

The mid-term will cover the material from the first three weeks of class -- in particular, (1) definitions and examples of information systems, (2) job activities in which you (as an IE) would need information systems knowledge, (3) the meaning of the phrase “database approach,” (4) distinction between data and information, (5) process of designing information systems, and (6) issues to be considered when designing information systems.