THE SPAZA TUCK-SHOP

A Level Computing Project

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THE SPAZA

DESCRIPTION OF THE BUSINESS

The Spaza is a small tuck-shop located by the intersection of Kaye Eddie Drive and Msasa Drive Roads in Msasa Park, Harare, Zimbabwe. This tuck-shop is one of a few in the area.

These tuck shops serve the purpose of providing the people who live in Msasa Park with simple groceries and necessities like: Cereal, Baked Beans, and Soft Drinks, from daily necessities like bread and tea to products like soft drinks and sugar which might be required or used once or twice a month.

Mr. Jonathan Mafukidze is the owner and of the tuck-shop, he claims that all of the accounting and stock control is not computerized and recording of daily transactions is done using a book system further explained in analysis.

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

Nature of the problems data sources and current methods used by the business

ACCOUNTING

Throughout a business day Mr. Jonathan Mafukidze has to record all the transactions of the day by hand as they happen. When a customer comes to purchase a product he has to remember to list down all the transactions that occur in a short time period after the exchange has been done. After a day's work he reviews these transactions and carries out his own accounting every single day.

He then uses the main transaction book as a data source to update the "T accounts" of each and every product sold that day.

STOCK CHECKING

Mr. Jonathan Mafukidze every morning has to do a brief inventory check to see if there are shortages of products and also to see if the accounting done the previous night might have had an error. This can be very energy and time consuming and may become harder to do if he decides to broaden the list of products that he sells. This method is very prone to errors especially on a stressed day. This then requires him to check the product account books (origin) of each product which he includes in his stock check to see if their quantity values are correct.

THEFT

Over the years there have been some gaps in the accounting. There will be Money missing even when stock checking and other expenses have been accounted for. The only explanation is theft, either of the money or products themselves.

There are other problems that might be discovered after data collection and analysis.

Checking OUT

When there are a lot of customers it may become a problem to list down all the transactions one by one as they occur because this might be time consuming so Mr. Mafukidze relies on his memory and waits until a few or all transactions are completed then he records everything. This evidently leads to a few errors in accounting and recording, reason being he might either omit a transaction or even list a transaction that never happened at all but this is what needs to be done as business can be lost to other tuck shops nearby as it won't take much time to find another free tuck shop for time is of the essence when it comes to the customers point of view.

During a usual transaction data for recording has different sources/origins which are going to be further explained after investigation.

It seems as if the communication of price enquiry and request is done by word of mouth meaning that the user's basic origin for the transaction books is by physical communication. Whereas when updating the books of each product after a day of work is being done, the Main transaction book becomes a source of information on what to update in the individual product account "pages".