Systems Design

Objectives

- Describe the design phase in terms of your information building blocks.
- Identify and differentiate between several systems design strategies.
- Describe the design phase tasks in terms of a computer-based solution for an in-house development project.
- Describe the design phase in terms of a computer-based solution involving procurement of a commercial systems software solution.

System Design

Systems design (Physical design) is the specification of a detailed computer-based solution.

- ◦ systems analysis emphasizes the business problem
- ◦ systems design emphasizes the technical or implementation concerns of the system.

System Design Approaches

- Model-Driven
  - Modern structured design
  - Information engineering
  - Prototyping
  - Object-oriented
- RAD
- JAD

Model-Driven Approaches

Model-driven strategy is a system design approach that emphasizes drawing system models to document technical and implementation aspects of a system.

Model-Driven Approaches – Modern Structured Design

Modern structured design is a system design technique that decomposes the system's processes into manageable components.

- Synonyms (although technically inaccurate) are top-down program design and structured programming.
- Design in a top-down hierarchy of modules
- Easier to implement and maintain (change).
- Modules should be highly cohesive
  - Accomplish one function only
- Modules should be loosely coupled
  - Minimally dependent on one another
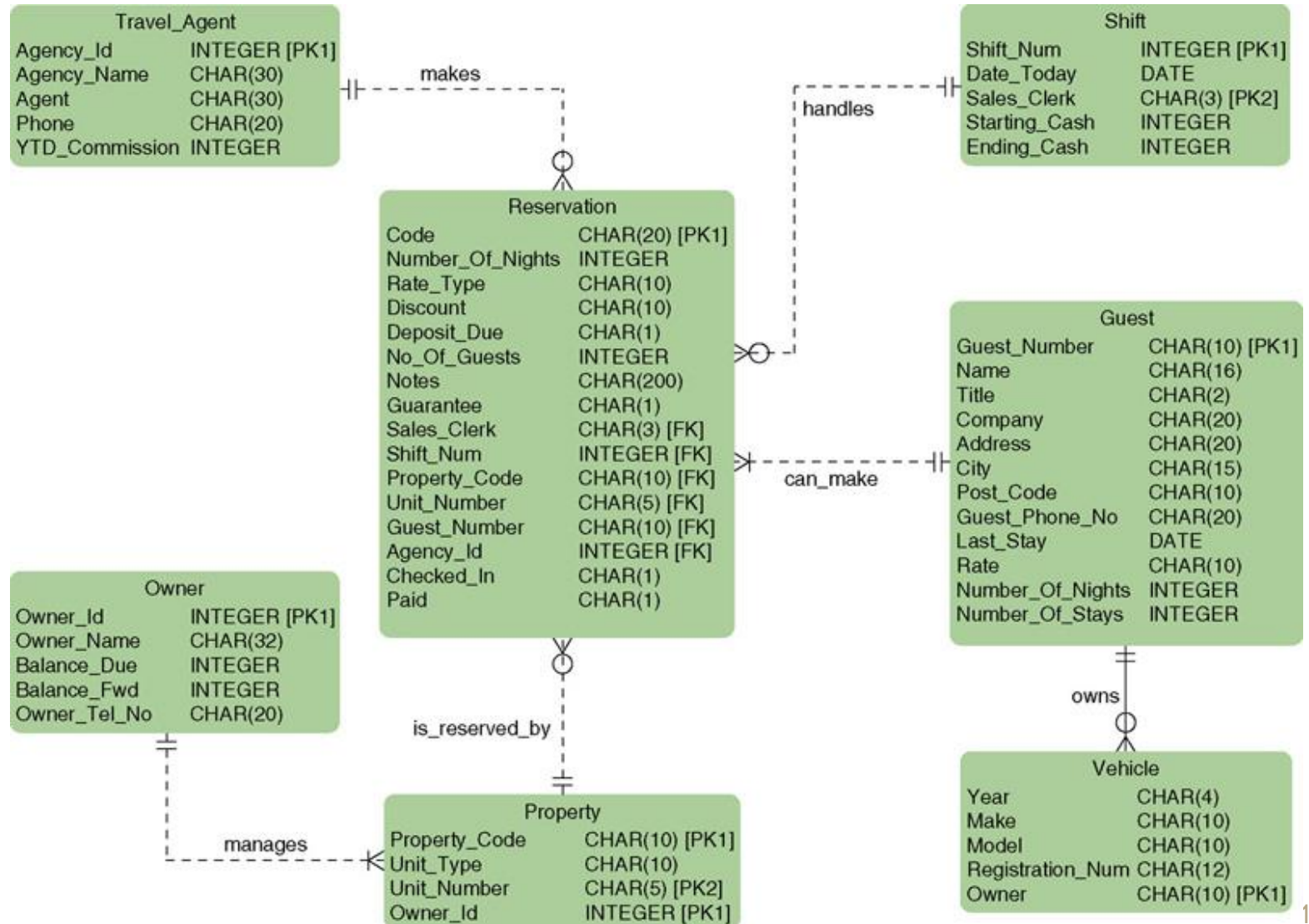
Structure Chart
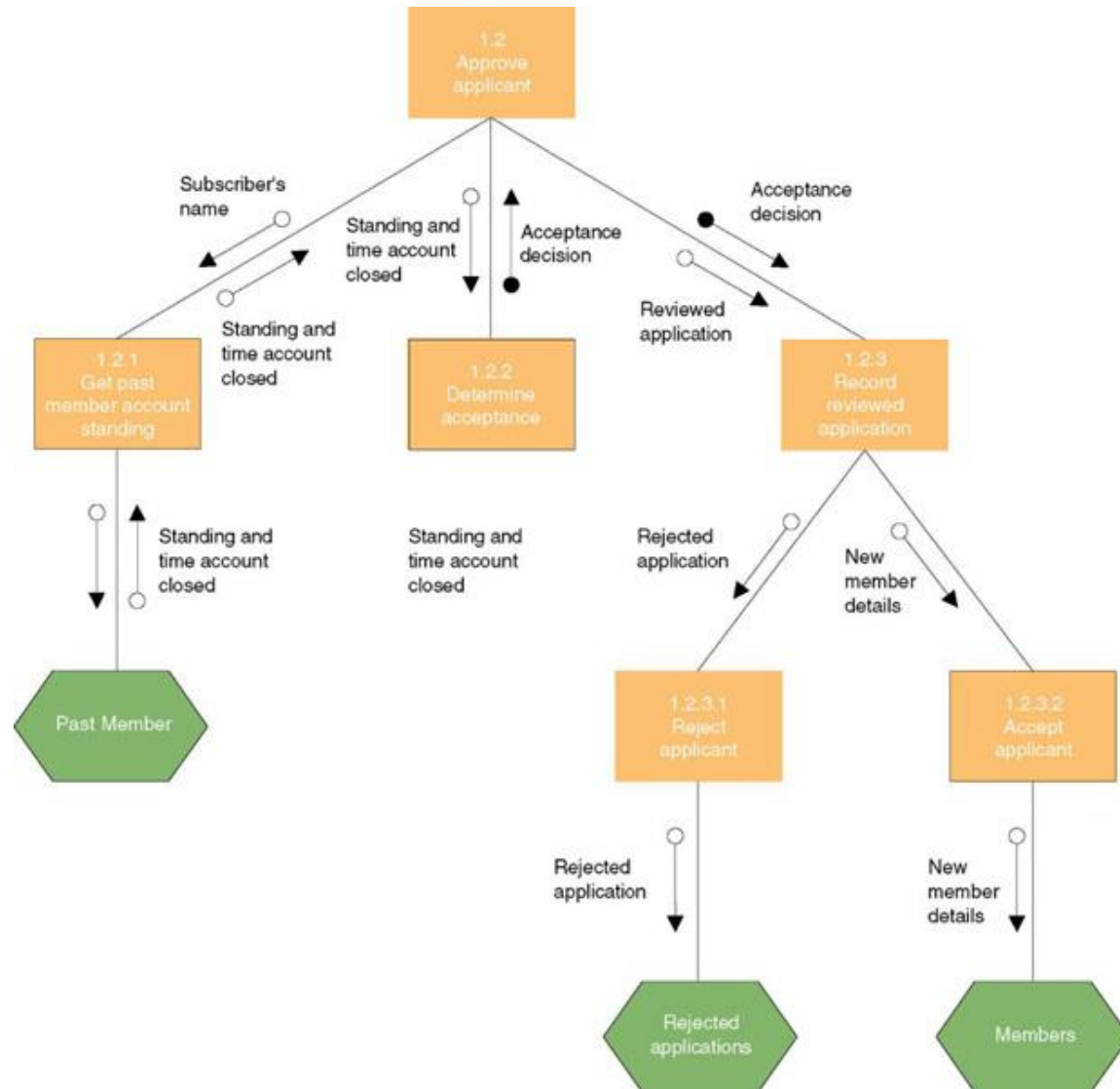
Model-Driven Approaches – Information Engineering

Information engineering (IE) is a model-driven and data-centered, but process-sensitive technique for planning, analyzing, and designing information systems. IE models are pictures that illustrate and synchronize the system's data and processes.

◦ The primary tool of IE is a data model diagram.

Physical Entity Relationship Diagram

Travel_Agent

Agency_Id	INTEGER [PK1]
Agency_Name	CHAR(30)
Agent	CHAR(30)
Phone	CHAR(20)
YTD_Commission	INTEGER

Shift

Shift_Num	INTEGER [PK1]
Date_Today	DATE
Sales_Clerk	CHAR(3) [PK2]
Starting_Cash	INTEGER
Ending_Cash	INTEGER

makes

handles

Reservation

Code	CHAR(20) [PK1]
Number_Of_Nights	INTEGER
Rate_Type	CHAR(10)
Discount	CHAR(10)
Deposit_Due	CHAR(1)
No_Of_Guests	INTEGER
Notes	CHAR(200)
Guarantee	CHAR(1)
Sales_Clerk	CHAR(3) [FK]
Shift_Num	INTEGER [FK]
Property_Code	CHAR(10) [FK]
Unit_Number	CHAR(5) [FK]
Guest_Number	CHAR(10) [FK]
Agency_Id	INTEGER [FK]
Checked_In	CHAR(1)
Paid	CHAR(1)

Guest

Guest_Number	CHAR(10) [PK1]
Name	CHAR(16)
Title	CHAR(2)
Company	CHAR(20)
Address	CHAR(20)
City	CHAR(15)
Post_Code	CHAR(10)
Guest_Phone_No	CHAR(20)
Last_Stay	DATE
Rate	CHAR(10)
Number_Of_Nights	INTEGER
Number_Of_Stays	INTEGER

can_make

Owner

Owner_Id	INTEGER [PK1]
Owner_Name	CHAR(32)
Balance_Due	INTEGER
Balance_Fwd	INTEGER
Owner_Tel_No	CHAR(20)

is_reserved_by

owns

Vehicle

Year	CHAR(4)
Make	CHAR(10)
Model	CHAR(10)
Registration_Num	CHAR(12)
Owner	CHAR(10) [PK1]

manages

Property

Property_Code	CHAR(10) [PK1]
Unit_Type	CHAR(10)
Unit_Number	CHAR(5) [PK2]
Owner_Id	INTEGER [PK1]

Model-Driven Approaches – Prototyping

Prototype is a small-scale, incomplete, but working sample of a desired system

Iterative process involving a close working relationship between the designer and the users.

Key Benefits:

◦ Encourages and requires active end-user participation.

◦ Iteration accommodates end-users who tend to change their minds.

◦ Endorses philosophy that end-users won't know what they want until they see it.

◦ Active model that end-users can interact with.

◦ Errors can be detected earlier.

◦ Can increase creativity as it allows for quicker user feedback.

◦ Accelerates several phases of the life cycle.

Model-Driven Approaches – Prototyping

Disadvantages and Pitfalls:

◦ Encourages "code, implement, and repair" life cycle that cause maintenance nightmares.

◦ Still need systems analysis phases, but so easy to skip.

◦ Cannot completely substitute a prototype for a paper specification (like architect without a blueprint).

◦ Numerous design issues are not addressed by prototyping.

◦ Often leads to premature commitment to a design.

◦ Scope and complexity of the system can expand out of control.

◦ Can reduce creativity in designs .

◦ Often suffer from slower performance because of language considerations (rapidly becoming a non-issue).

Prototype screen

Model-Driven Approaches – Object-Oriented Design

Object-oriented design (OOD) techniques are used to refine the object requirements definitions identified earlier during analysis, and to define design specific objects.

- Extension of object-oriented analysis
- Attempt to eliminate the separation of concerns about data and process.

Object-Oriented Design Model

User selects "new member order" option
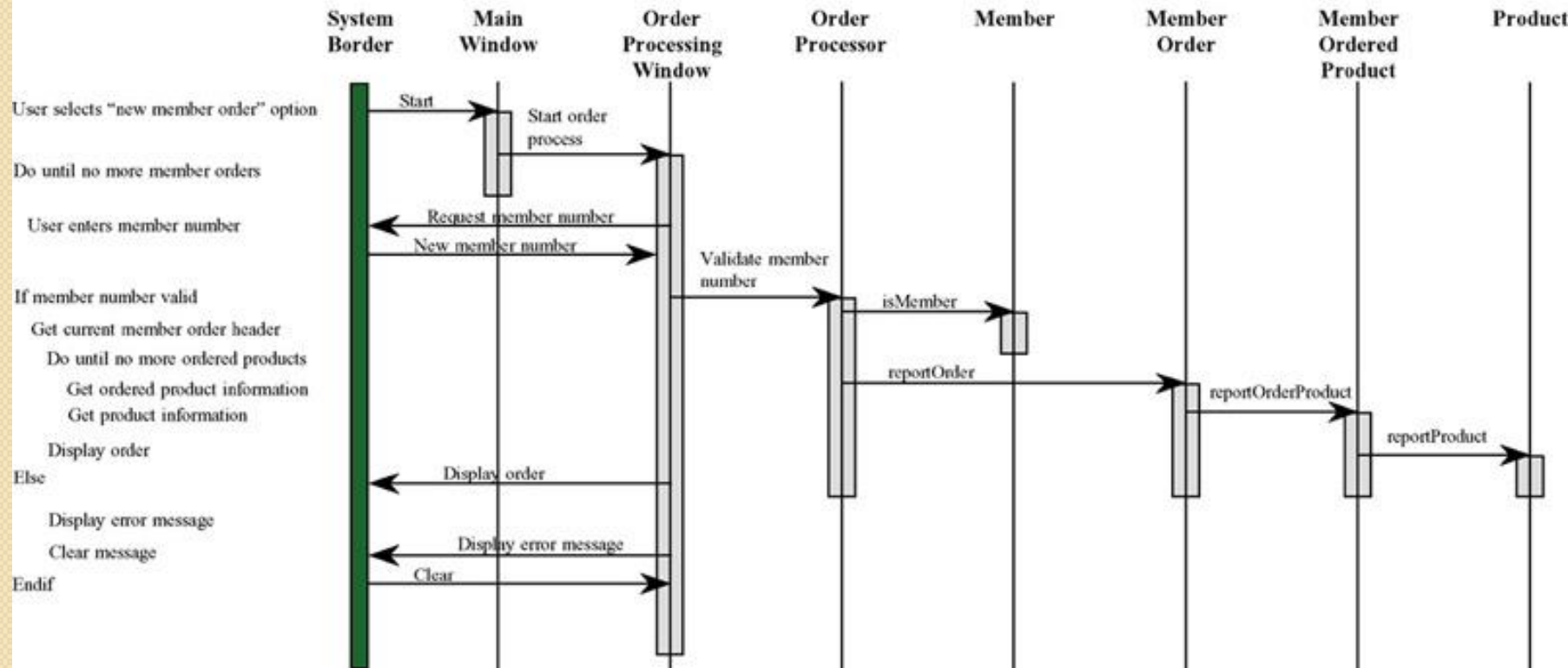
Rapid Application Development (RAD)

Rapid application development (RAD) – a systems design approach that utilizes structured, prototyping, and JAD techniques to quickly develop systems.

○ The merger of various structured techniques to accelerate systems development

- Data-driven information engineering
- Prototyping
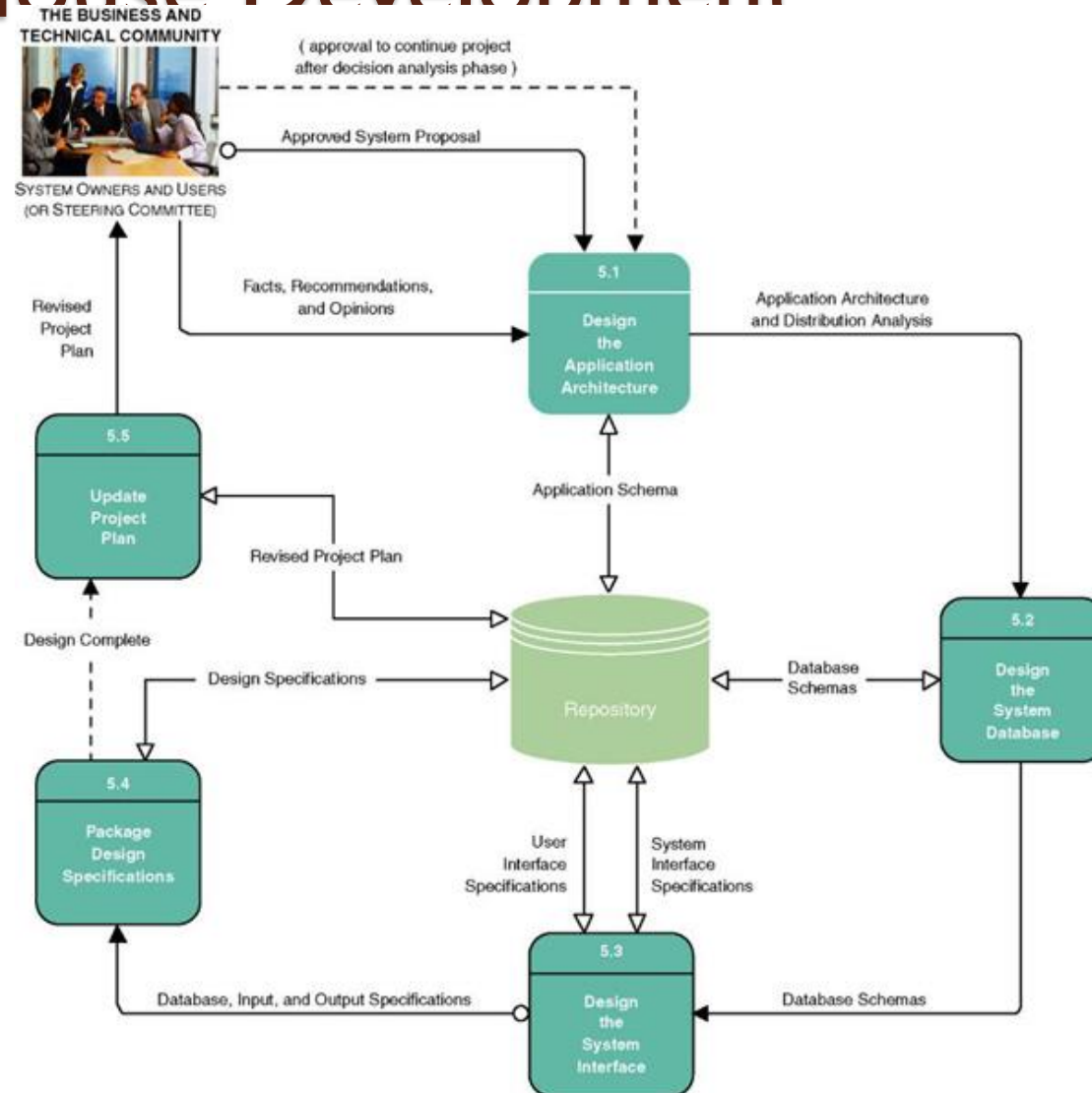- Joint application development

Joint Application Development (JAD)

Joint Application Development (JAD) is a technique that complements other systems analysis and design techniques by emphasizing *participative development* among system owners, users, designers, and builders.

During the JAD sessions for systems design, the systems designer will take on the role of facilitator for possibly several full-day workshops intended to address different design issues and deliverables.

# In-House Development Projects (Build)
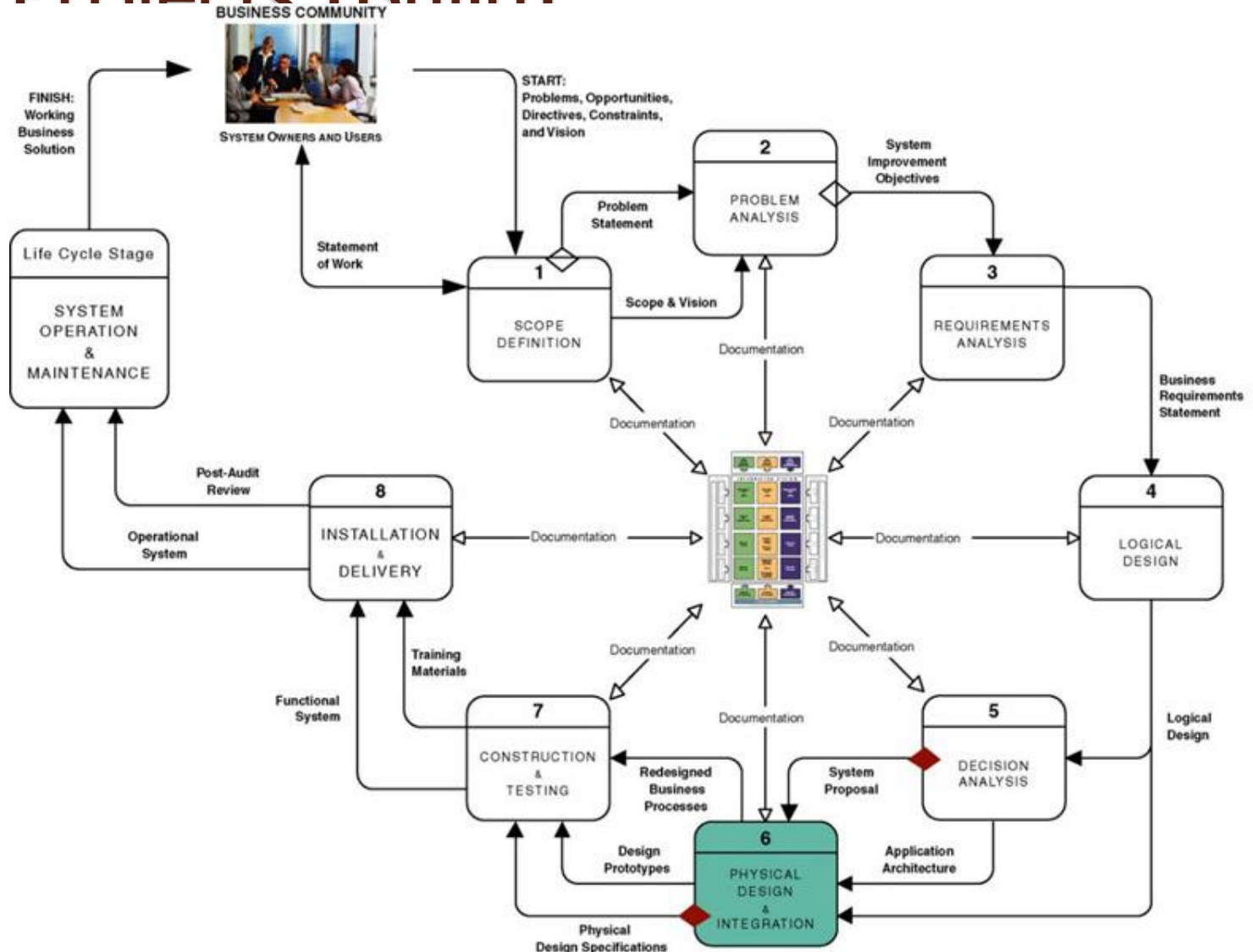
System Design Tasks For In-House Development

System Design Tasks For In-House Development (Build)

- Design the Application Architecture
  - Define technologies to be used by (and used to build) one, more, or all information systems.
  - Revise models as physical models
- Design the System Databases
  - Database schema
  - Optimized for implementation DBMS
- Design the System Interface
  - Input, output, and dialogue specifications
  - Prototypes
- Package Design Specifications
  - Specifications to guide programmers
- Update Project Plan

Physical Data Flow Diagram

This diagram is intentionally incomplete and oversimplified
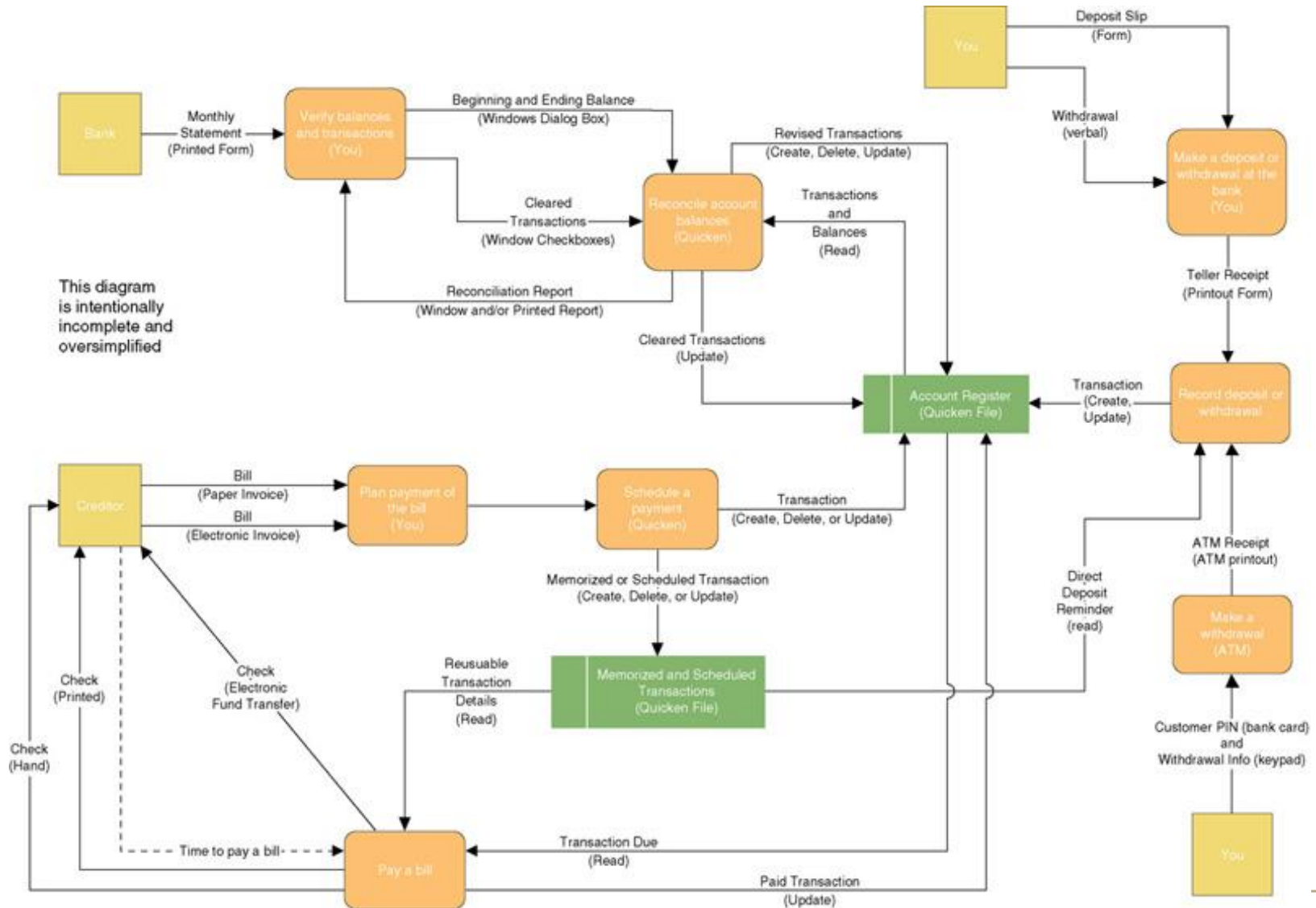
Output Prototype Screen

QuickReport version 1.0

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## Member Response to Video Title Selection of the Month

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Category	Potential Orders	Selection of the Month	Alternate Selection	Selection of Month + Alternatives	Number of Orders
Action Adventure	6342	2410	824	241	2867
Animated	3577	1538	644	154	1241
Comedy	954	181	38	18	716
Documentary	1486	877	45	88	477
Drama	540	389	54	39	58
Western	104	9	54	1	40
Horror	920	99	23	409	2501
Musical	209	40	78	289	103
Science Fiction	4590	2011	899	2200	5329
Sports	288	288	277	121	387

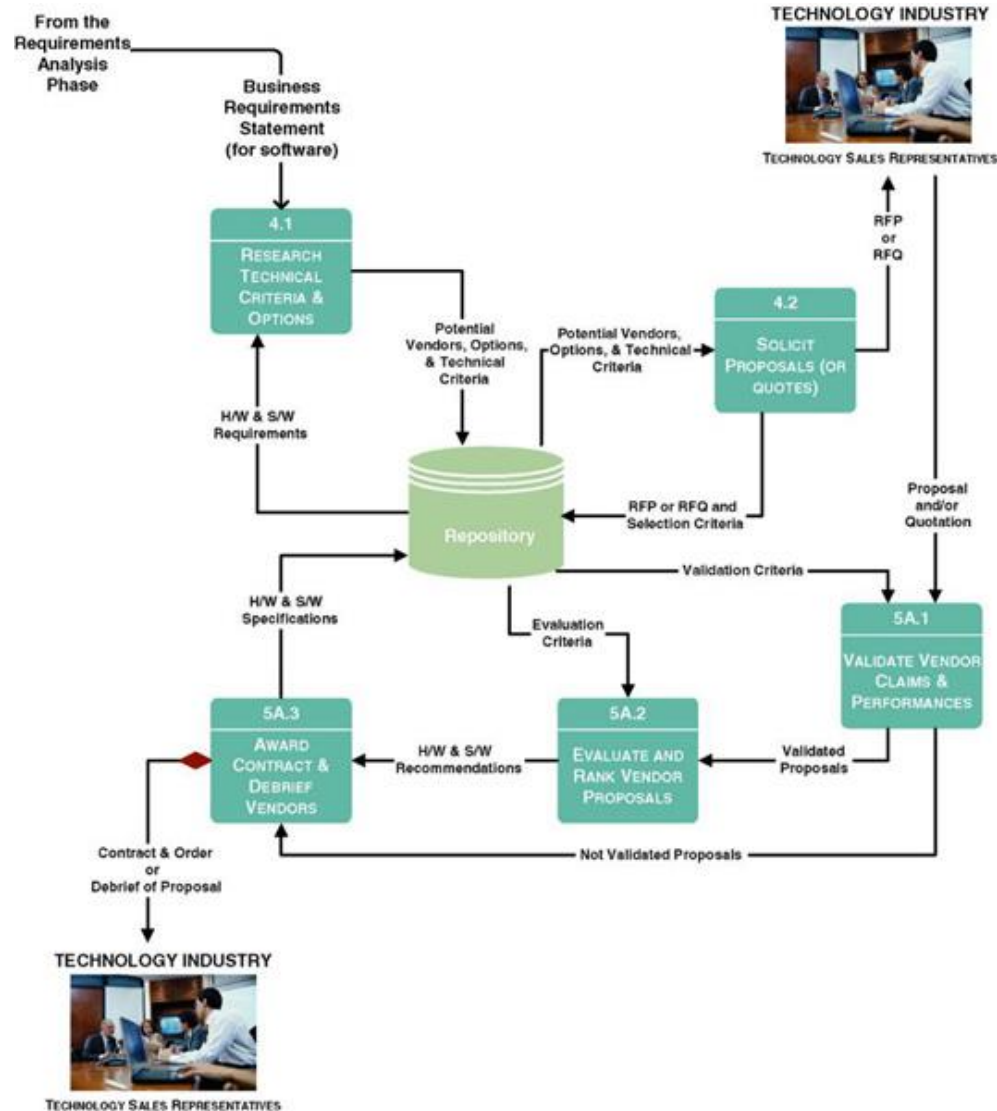|	
Sum of Potential Orders	19010
Sum of Selection of the Month	7842
Sum of Alternate Selections	2936
Sum of Selection of the Month + Alternatives	3560
Total Number of Orders	13719

Dialogue Interface Prototype Screen
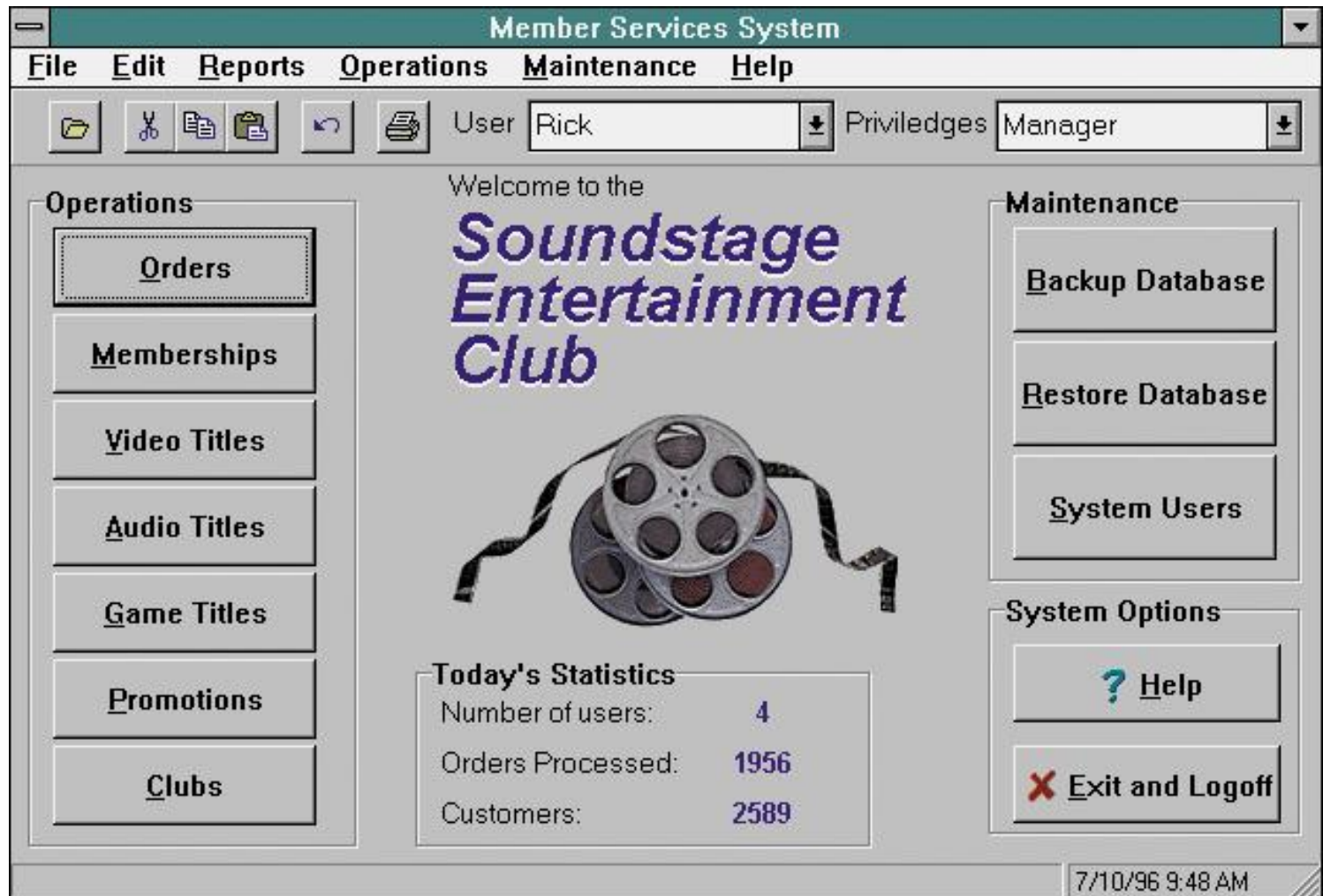
System Design For "Buy" Solutions
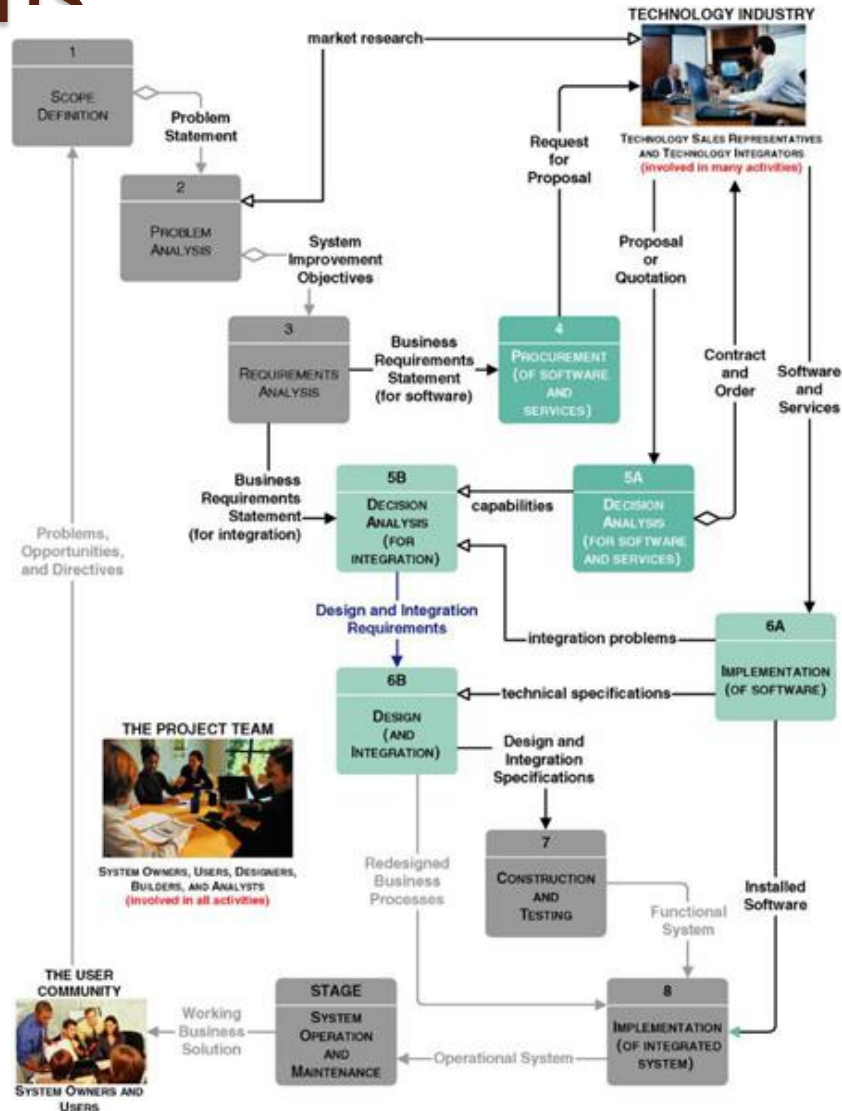
Tasks for Procurement Phase

Tasks for Procurement Phase

- Research Technical Criteria and Options
- Solicit Proposals or Quotes from Vendors
- Validate Vendor Claims and Performances
- Evaluate and Rank Vendor Proposals
- Award Contract and Debrief Vendors

Research Technical Criteria and Options

- Magazines and journals

- Internal standards may exist for hardware and software selection.

- Information services are primarily intended to constantly survey the marketplace for new products and advise prospective buyers on what specifications to consider.

- Trade newspapers and periodicals offer articles and experiences on various types of hardware and software that you may be considering.

Solicit Proposals (or Quotes) From Vendors

Request for Proposals (RFP) – used to communicate requirements and desired features to prospective vendors. Several different vendors and/or products are candidates. They will respond with a proposal.

Request for Quotations (RFQ) – used when you have already decided on a specific product that can be acquired from multiple sources. They respond with a price quotation.

Validate Vendor Claims and Performances

- Review vendor proposals and eliminate any that does not meet all mandatory requirements.

- Validate the vendor claims and promises against validation criteria.
    - User References
    - Technical Manuals
    - Demonstrations

Evaluate and Rank Vendor Proposals

- Feasibility assessment
- Scoring system
  - *Hard-dollar costs* – you will have to pay to the selected vendor.
  - *Soft-dollar costs* – additional costs you will incur if you select a particular vendor (to overcome a shortcoming, etc.)

Award Contract and Debrief Vendors

- Negotiate contract with selected vendor.
- Debrief vendors that submitted losing proposals.
    - Not to offer a second chance.
    - But to inform them of precise weaknesses in their proposals and/or products.

Impact of Buy Decision on Remaining Life-Cycle Phases

- Must integrate or interface the new system to other existing systems.
- Decision Analysis
  - Make revisions in models to reflect purchased solution.
  - Implement purchased solution.
  - Integration problems lead to revised business requirements statements.
- Design
  - Technical specification for a subset of programs to integrate purchased and built solutions.

Revision Questions

1. What is the essential difference between systems analysis and systems design?
2. What are some of the different model-driven methodologies?
3. What are some of the benefits of prototyping?
4. What are the five high-level tasks involved in conducting system design for a development project to be built in-house?
5. Why is it necessary to design the application architecture?
6. In designing the system database(s), what should designers always keep in mind?
7. What is a database schema?
8. What is the goal when designing the system interface?
9. What specific factors should system designers focus on when designing the system interface?
10. What is the phase needed in systems design if the software is being purchased instead of being developed in-house? What is the purpose of this additional phase?
11. What is a request for quotations (RFQ)?