**COMPANY PROJECTS**

To more fully utilize the theories examined in the course, you may be required to analyze the IT strategies of some company of your own choosing. The analysis is to center on the same format as a case write up, but in much more detail. I suggest that you use a company that you are very familiar with, such as one you have/are co-oping with, or one you wish to be employed by. Research where they are now, what their future direction is, and what they are doing with IT to move in that direction.

Contact someone within the company who can give you assistance with the data gathering portion of the project, then complete the analysis by drawing what you feel are appropriate conclusions. If confidentiality of the data gathered is a problem, state that the paper will be considered proprietary, and will be shredded after evaluation. All other papers will be considered as sources of data by the instructor.

You will need to make note of:

    Five Forces ICA; Organizational Structure

   Major information flows in the organization

Major projects being undertaken

    Level of user involvement

    Labor characteristics of the IT function

    Charging for the IT function

    Topology of the IT function

...among other things. I expect that you will interview the appropriate IT officials within the company. Try to limit your contact time with them as their time is very limited usually. Three or four visits to the site to interview managers should cover the data you will need. Go armed with questions and issues to facilitate the discussions. Try to work into the paper the literature you are given during class, text materials, etc. There should be some sort of bibliography at the end of the paper.

Twice during the term, I will ask for milestones concerning the project. These milestones will be ungraded, and used by me to judge your progress with the project. The first milestone is a one page summary which proposes what company you are doing and some general background. The second milestone is a 1½ to 2 page summary, showing the progress from milestone one.

At the conclusion of the term, each class member will present (15 minutes) the findings of the project to the class.