

Exercise: Discussion

Consider the following situation:

You are hired by a 10 year old company with 5 employees. The company develops software for customers.

Information about customers, offers, contracts, project planning and controlling, bills, support contracts, purchases of hardware and software, employee salaries and contracts are partly stored on paper only, partly in Excel or Word files.

All employees have read and write access to this data, with the exception of the employee contracts and salaries which are stored in a binder at the secretary's office and locked away in a filing cabinet.

The company has and uses no DBMS (not even Access).

You start a discussion about whether a DBMS should be acquired and the data migrated into a database.

Your task:

Split up in two large groups.

Choose a moderator for each group.

One group will collect and discuss reasons in favour of the database solution.

The other group will collect and discuss reasons against the database solution.

After some time, we will have a discussion in the plenum where the two groups explain their reasons to each other.