

TERM PAPER

DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

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DBMS Requirements for Geographic Information System (GIS)

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1 Abstract

In geographic information systems (GIS) large amounts of data are stored and must be made available to multiple users. Database management systems (DBMS) were designed to facilitate storage and retrieval of large data collections. They include facilities to protect and secure data, enforce consistency of the data stored, and make data available to multiple users at the same time. These services are necessary for GIS, and GIS should therefore be built using database management systems. However, geographic information systems demand high performance and pose some very special requirements for database management. DBMS designed for commercial usage are not well suited for GIS because they cannot accommodate spatial data and cope with retrieval of map graphics. An overview of the architecture of a DBMS especially suited for spatial data handling is presented.