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UTC Reading

Assignment 2

Unit 3

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# P4 – Features and functions of information systems

In this section I will be explaining the current features and functions of the company.

## Features

I will now explain the current features of the company.

I will be referring to ‘MIS’ a lot. MIS stands for management information systems. An MIS is a system that a lot of companies have in place to manage data as well as suggest trends/patterns in the data.

### Hardware

In a smaller company, the MIS would probably run on an employee’s computer. On a larger one this would probably run on a server of some kind due to the fact that the MIS would be larger and therefore more resource hungry. In the new system I would definitely suggest that it is run on a server. This is because it will need to be moved onto one in the future and so it won’t harm anything. If it is left on a computer then it will mean that the transfer to a server will be rushed and therefore may damage it. If the MIS is damaged then it may lead to the loss of data, possibly breaking data protection laws.

### Data

Data is the single input of an MIS. The way that the MIS deals with it, depends on how it is configured by the system administrators. The main way that the MIS’s deal with information is by storing them in the most logical way. Due to this, data inputted needs to be as accurate as possible (often limited by cost and timescale). Once the data is stored it needs to be summarised. This will again be set by the business needs. The way that the business summarises will probably not be very efficient or cheap but it will be very helpful to the company.

### Software

Very basic MIS’s need very basic software to run on, more advanced ones need more advanced software. This more advanced software can range from better user interface to high speed access to relational databases. The price of the software can range widely. It is common for a lower priced software will limit the performance of the MIS. The more expensive software can support much greater speeds and a much higher user limit.

### People

People are the inputters and out putters of the MIS. People will be needed to capture and record data that can then be inputted into the MIS. People will also need to exploit the information found by the MIS. Data capturers

## Functions - IOPS Chart

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Input** | **Output** |
|  |  |
| **Processing** | **Storage** |
|  |  |

# P5 – Information systems used in a specified organisation

# P6 – Information to support a business decision-making process

# D2 – Justification for above

# P7 – Use IT tools to produce management information

# M3 – Generate valid, accurate and useful information