

Database System

Discussion Board 3

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After reading through the scenario outlined for discussion board 3, these are the problems I discovered in the text:

1. Not enough data is stored OR database architecture isn't built to support the correct data.
2. Original developers of the database system did not document anything.
3. Joe's system cannot generate the reports he needs because of lack of valuable data.
4. Joe does not understand what data and capabilities his system does possess.
5. Joe does not know what he needs from the system.

Discuss the specific problems that the story has demonstrated and your recommendations how the problems can be resolved based on your personal experience and research.

Unfortunately, I think a lot of businesses end up in this situation. They hire a consulting company to work on their system, or build them a new system, and didn't vet the consultants well enough. As a result, they end up with a system that may "work" but isn't well documented or in the worst case it's buggy and poorly built.

The first step in understanding what a client wants is to *talk to the client*. Start with discussing the domain. In this case, discussions about daily, nightly, weekly, monthly, and yearly routines that occur in the sporting goods industry. Take careful notes, and then discuss what features would be needed to best fulfil those processes with the customer. It is so important to develop an understanding of the customer's domain, wants, and needs before developing code and data structures. To me it doesn't seem like the previous consultants did enough talking with stakeholders before working on this project. Having these conversations with Joe and the other stakeholders will not only ensure that the system you're building for them will suit their needs, but also bring awareness to Joe of what he needs the system to do from the perspective of other stakeholders.

Discuss why the database technology can be used to facilitate problem-solving in this case with specific examples.

The biggest issue you would face in working with this system is the lack of documentation. There are a few things you can do to help understand how the system works if it isn't easily discernable by the table structure and fields.

1. Use SQL Profiler to run traces. You can run a trace on databases, tables, columns, stored procedures, etc. to get visibility into what conditions are needed for the system to write to the database structure in question. This is an incredibly valuable tool.
2. Logging. Getting access to the logs written for database transactions can be crucial for the same reasons as the SQL Profiler.
- 3.

How can you apply the lessons that you learned from the story to your own retail store problem?