Week 1: Chapter 1, 2 Exercises

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Ch. 1 #20) Major shortcomings of many data management systems include redundancy, lack of data control, poor interface, delays, lack of reality and lack of data integration. The most significant in my experience has been lack of data control. As information has been generated over the years users begin storing it in various places and in various file structures. As time goes on a couple of things can happen: 1) the storage locations are never cleaned out and become cluttered and disorganized to the point where future practitioners are no longer able to decipher it; or 2) the data is stored at locations that are not readily available and eventually get lost meaning the data is lost forever. This leads to rework and loss of time and money. This is significant because with more efficient data systems in place and an emphasis on data control from the top level of an organization these issues could be solved.

Ch. 2 #12) Information satisficing is when managers make decisions without the time nor resources to get all the information typically needed to make the proper choice. This means managers are forced to take the first satisfactory answer and make a decision based on that.

Ch. 2 #14) Common information delivery systems are e-mail, instant messaging, face-to-face conversations, online group meetings, in-person group meetings, phone calls, web servers, written reports and presentations, among others.

Ch. 2 #24) Organizational memory is like a data warehouse because as new data gets processed it must be stored in certain areas within the warehouse to save it for future use. As this new data gets processed the old data may be pushed to the back of the warehouse and forgotten. In an organization knowledge must be stored somewhere within this warehouse in an organized way so that future practitioners have access to this knowledge and data. To make good use of the data warehouse requires data control and a good database management system. The old data must be integrated with the new and filed in a similar structure to keep a well-organized warehouse. Organizational metamemory should be codified or somehow documented for future use and stored within this warehouse.