
IN CLASS EXERCISE: INFORMATION FLOW

INTRODUCTION

Nathan A. of Luke Importing Company Incorporated has decided to expand his business and needs to staff and support a procurement system¹ to acquire the items sold at Luke Importing. You have been hired to create and implement a database application to support a procurement information system. Data in this procurement information system will include:

- The purchasing agents employed at Luke Importing,
- The receiving clerks employed at Luke Importing,
- The stores where the purchasing agents buy items,
- The items purchased at each store,
- The shippers used to ship the purchases to Luke Importing,
- The shipments made by the shippers, and
- The receipt of the shipments at Luke Importing by the receiving clerks.

Nathan A. often makes purchases while traveling to various countries (and, therefore, even though he is not a purchasing agent per se, he needs to be listed as a purchasing agent in the system when data is entered). Purchases may be made at the stores themselves, by Internet, or by phone. Sometimes several items are purchased from a store on a single visit; do not assume that all of the items are placed on the same shipment. It can be assumed that all purchased items are shipped to the same address (the home office of Luke Importing). Shipping must track each item in a shipment and assign a separate insurance value to each item. Receiving must track the arrival date and time of a shipment, who accepted receipt of the shipment on behalf of Luke Importing (which receiving clerk), and the condition of each item upon receipt.

Lab

1. Using this document as a guide develop an Information Flow Diagram (IFD) that documents how information will flow. Identify documents outside of the data system boundary that will consume and/or provide information (i.e., output reports, output screens, input screens, etc.) and tasks within the data system boundary that support those documents.
2. List any assumptions made. List anything that you believe should be checked with Nathan A. and/or his employees.

¹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Procurement>