Case Study I

To help monitor climate change and to improve the accuracy of weather forecasts in remote areas, the government of a country decides to deploy several hundred weather stations in remote areas. Weather stations are part of a larger system, which is a weather information system that collects data from weather stations and makes it available to other systems for processing. Each weather station includes a number of instruments that measure weather parameters such as the wind speed and direction, the ground and air temperatures, the barometric pressure, and the rainfall over a 24-hour period. Each of these instruments is controlled by a software system that takes parameter readings periodically and manages the data collected from the instruments. The weather station system operates by collecting weather observations at frequent intervals—for example, temperatures are measured every minute. However, because the bandwidth to the satellite is relatively narrow, the weather station carries out some local processing and aggregation of the data. It then transmits this aggregated data when requested by the data collection system. If, for whatever reason, it is impossible to make a connection, then the weather station maintains the data locally until communication can be resumed. Each weather station is battery-powered and must be entirely self-contained—there are no external power or network cables available. All communications are through a relatively slow-speed satellite link and the weather station must include some mechanism (solar or wind power) to charge its batteries. As they are deployed in wilderness areas, they are exposed to severe environmental conditions and may be damaged by animals. The station software is therefore not just concerned with data collection. It must also monitor the instruments, power, and communication hardware and report faults to the management system. The weather station can also receive commands from a remote controller.

Case II

This software system will be a Web Publishing System for a local editor of a regional historical society. This system will be designed to maximize the editor’s productivity by providing tools to assist in automating the article review and publishing process, which would otherwise have to be performed manually. By maximizing the editor’s work efficiency and production the system will meet the editor’s needs while remaining easy to understand and use.

More specifically, this system is designed to allow an editor to manage and communicate with a group of reviewers and authors to publish articles to a public website. The software will facilitate communication between authors, reviewers, and the editor via E-Mail. Preformatted reply forms are used in every stage of the articles’ progress through the system to provide a uniform review process; the location of these forms is configurable via the application’s maintenance options. The system also contains a relational database containing a list of Authors, Reviewers, and Articles.

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