Evaluate a Model Process

3-2 Assignment

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CS255 System Analysis and Design

Describe Hamp Crafts’ current purchase and supply process by responding to the following prompts:

* Interpret the provided data flow diagram. What does it show? What does the current purchase and supply process entail?

The data flow diagram or DFD provided illustrates the current purchasing and supply process at Hamp Crafts brick-and-mortar storefront. The current process starts with the Customer. Once the customer has placed an order that order is received by the Receive Customer Order process. From this process, the order moves to the Check Out process. The Check Out process then performs two actions or data flows. One action sends the information to the Fulfill Order process, while the other is to send the shipping plan to the Carrier. The Carrier provides Carrier Planning to the Shipper. The Fulfill Order process then sends the Delivery Plan to the Choose Supplier process, from here the Contract Negotiations are sent to the Supplier. The Supplier and Fulfill Order process share the Shipment Schedule. Finally, The Fulfill Order process and the Supplier sends their information and supplies ordered to the Shipper.

* What are the data sources involved in the current process?

The data sources involved in the current process for the Hamp Crafts DFD are the Customer, Carrier, Supplier, and Shipper. These data sources are where the process’s information is sent and received.

* What additional processes are necessary to integrate an online storefront?

Additional processes necessary to integrate an online storefront include a Browse Catalog process so the customers can see the inventory available which would connect to an Inventory data source. Another process to add is a Selection process, which would allow customers to add items they have selected into a virtual shopping cart. The virtual shopping cart will be a data source that customers have access to through the Display Shopping Cart process. The Display Shopping Cart process will allow Hamp Crafts’ customers to view what they have selected and be given the ability to remove items if so desired. Customer Account is another process that will need to be added to store the customers’ information. It will include current order status, past purchases, mailing address, name, and payment information. This process can be accessed through the Modify Account and Order Status processes. Inventory Used and Inventory Added processes will also need to be added to keep proper inventory on hand. Generate Payment process will take payments from the customer, send a payment and order confirmation to the customer, and send the payments to Hamp Crafts business account once processed. An Administrative Backend process will also need to be added, allowing customer support, updating customer information, and maintaining the website.

* What additional data sources would the system need to access the products and inventory?

Some additional data sources the system needs for the online storefront for Hamp Crafts are Inventory On Hand data source that would provide the number of products available. The virtual shopping cart is another data source that stores what the customer wishes to order from the company. Another data source to add is the Business Account data source which is where the money from the customer’s order will be sent.

* What additional databases, if any, are needed to support the online storefront?

An additional database for the Hamp Crafts online storefront would be the Inventory database which would get the information from the Inventory Used and Inventory Added processes and update the database as needed.

* Would you recommend creating a separate new system for the online storefront or incorporating elements of the online storefront into the current process model? Explain your reasoning.

I would recommend incorporating elements of the online storefront into the current process model because the elements of the online storefront would incorporate quite nicely into the current process model by using most of the current processes and data sources. This would create a larger system overall, but the flow of information would be more streamlined than having separate systems for the same store. The customer’s information would only need to be stored in one database as well as the inventory available to the customers at any given time.