**INVENTORY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

**The Developer:**

**CARL JUSTINE B. OLAVARIO**

**Introduction**

In today’s fast-paced business world, efficient management of inventory is critical to the success of any business. Whether it is a retail store, warehouse, or manufacturing facility, businesses need to track their stock levels, manage orders, and handle supplier information efficiently to meet customer demand and minimize costs. The **Inventory Management System (IMS)** aims to provide a solution for businesses to track inventory in real-time, manage stock levels, keep records of products, process orders, and manage suppliers in an efficient and automated manner.

The **Inventory Management System** we have developed is implemented using two popular programming languages: **C++** and **VB.NET**. This system utilizes fundamental concepts of **Data Structures** and **Algorithms** to manage and manipulate data efficiently. Through the use of advanced programming techniques, this system ensures accurate stock tracking, ease of data retrieval, and enhanced user experience.

**Purpose and Objectives**

The primary purpose of this system is to facilitate the management of inventory by providing features such as:

1. **Stock Management**: Track and update stock levels in real-time.
2. **Order Management**: Record and process customer orders efficiently.
3. **Supplier Management**: Store and manage supplier information to ensure smooth procurement.
4. **Reporting**: Generate reports to analyze stock levels, sales, and orders.

In developing this system, I focus on implementing **at least three (3) data structures** and **two (2) sorting algorithms**, ensuring that the system is optimized for performance, usability, and reliability.

**Key Features:**

* **Track Stock Levels**: Manage current stock for each item.
* **Orders**: Create and track orders placed by customers.
* **Suppliers**: Keep records of suppliers for each item.

**Data Structures Used**

1. **Arrays**: Arrays are used to store a fixed set of product information, including product ID, name, price, and stock level.
2. **Linked Lists**: Linked lists are used for dynamically handling inventory data, as they allow the insertion and deletion of items without reallocation or reorganization of the entire structure.
3. **Hash Tables**: Hash tables are used for fast lookups and storage of supplier information, ensuring that each supplier's data is accessed efficiently.

**Sorting Algorithms Implemented**

1. **Bubble Sort**: This algorithm is used for sorting smaller datasets, such as sorting products by name or price.
2. **Merge Sort**: Merge sort is used for larger datasets, offering faster sorting of product lists based on stock levels or other relevant attributes.

**Technologies Used**

* **C++**: The C++ implementation focuses on performance and resource management. It utilizes object-oriented programming principles to model the inventory system's various components like products, orders, and suppliers.
* **VB.NET**: The VB.NET implementation provides a user-friendly interface and supports easy interaction through GUI-based elements like forms and buttons. The integration of VB.NET with databases enables seamless data manipulation and retrieval.

**System Workflow**

1. **Inventory Update**: Products can be added, updated, or deleted from the inventory.
2. **Order Processing**: The system allows the creation and tracking of customer orders, providing real-time updates on order status, and adjusting stock levels accordingly.

**Conclusion**

This **Inventory Management System** provides businesses with an effective tool to handle inventory and supplier management. By leveraging fundamental concepts of **Data Structures** (such as arrays, linked lists, and hash tables) and implementing efficient **sorting algorithms** (Bubble Sort and Merge Sort), the system optimizes data handling, ensuring fast and accurate processing. Through its implementation in both **C++** and **VB.NET**, the system ensures both high performance and a user-friendly interface, making it adaptable to a variety of business needs.

In summary, this system not only streamlines inventory management but also introduces essential programming concepts, showcasing the real-world applications of **Data Structures** and **Algorithms** in building scalable and efficient solutions.