

Abstract

Observed Information System issues of a Data Warehouse - a Caribbean experience
- towards an active data warehouse.

This project improves the decision support ability and utility of an existing data warehouse (DW) at a Caribbean retail chain of stores. Some of the issues associated with the organization in supporting decisions, utilizing the information contained in the existing data warehouse are documented with suggestions and actual solutions. Improvements to the new data warehousing system's design at the retail chain of stores are made. The improvements made add to the business, pro-activity and to the continued success of this retail group of stores. Observations of the existing data warehouse along with the implementation of design prototypes in the new DW guide the project. The organization is in need of real-time on-line information and so it bypasses the existing DW on many occasions because of this. There is a subsequent blurring of the functionality of the existing DW and transaction databases because of the need for current information and the fact that they lie in the same database instance. This project addresses the timeliness of the information in the new data warehouse by the use of a layered approach that blends the best of the transaction and DW databases. There are issues with ease of use, understandability, and accessibility with the existing DW. Business rules are constantly updated in the existing DW. These issues are addressed by the new project DW design. Improved communication bandwidth and redundancy in the point of sale system deal with some of the outstanding issues associated with the transaction database that feed the new DW. Most of the issues found affecting the existing DW here are as a result of the feeding transaction database information issues and deliverables. What has been found is that the theoretical and practical DW need to be combined for this project to fit the organization in order to meet with the requirements of the stakeholders.