DEVELOPMENT OF A DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FOR A TYPICAL SHOE FACTORY

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Project Report
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1.1 Introduction

The aim of this project is to develop an integrated software system that will meet the needs of any enterprise operating as a shoe manufacturer.

Shoe manufacturer is dealing every day with a large number of raw materials and finished goods. Handling a stock that increases rapidly is very difficult and time consuming.

To produce a new computerized data base management system for a shoe factory is a must . This was necessary in order to control and make more efficient the way of controlling stock . The Investigation of the information system revealed a number of problems resulting from the existing manual procedures whereas a new computerized system showed that it could solve those problems and enhance the system in a high degree . Interviews , questionnaires and visits were used to get information from the manufacture . The intention was to find more details on the existing system , understand it better as to suggest alternatives ways to improve the current manual system .

1.2 Description of the existing Stock Control System

The procedures being used to manage the stock in the Shoe warehouse are very similar to any other that take place in other stock handling environments. The warehouse of Shoe manufacturer is huge because Shoes materials increase as the

fashion changes . Items used for shoes are placed on various shelf . Each shelf has a label as to help the storehouse keeper to keep track of them. The label contains the type of the item (leather , nylon e.t.c) , the color , a code number that is unique and in what shoes this item used.

The item used most is the leather and it needs watering in order to be in good condition , so the storehouse keeper or someone else must arrange this . Anything coming in or getting out from warehouse is the housekeeper responsibility. Information about the items are kept in big files that are indexed by the order number of items . Information about the color , type , cost , measure unit , supplier , code purchases days and other characteristics of the item needed are kept in those files . Each time something changes in warehouse , house-keeper updates the files. All these , are done manually and imagine the troubles that arises.

Every time a new Batch (an amount of shoes) must be made the manager asks the storehouse keeper if the items that Batch needs are all in the warehouse . The storekeeper checks if there aren't all the raw materials needed for making the Batch , by opening the files and start finding the items that must be order , as to provide all the raw materials needed in the Batch . These procedures is done by big Shoe manufacturers (Galides,Bata,Aphrothite) . Other manufactures do not even use files but measure the available quantity at the time the manager asks for the information.

The storekeeper makes a periodical checking of the items that exist in the store in order to check :

a)   If there are items that have already felt below the reorder level and should be reordered . Files in reality do not represent the real amount of items in the store because some part of the leather and other items might have been destroyed . Also items used for shoes are in rolls and is very difficult to estimate its quantity.

b)   To soak the leather as to not get destroyed if leather is left for long time without moisture loses its color and its softness and becomes difficult to use it . If items felt below the reorder level , order must be placed to suppliers . When the items arrive the storehouse keeper checks the list with the orders and updates the files . Store-keeper then finds the place where the item should be placed and arranges a new page to files with all information about the new item.

1.3 Existing I.S Problems

The present system works manually . Many problems occur . The stockhouse keeper of the existing Stock Control System faces problems when the following activities take place.

1. Preparing of orders.

2. Keeping information about suppliers.