Chapter 2

Global E-Business and Collaboration
Learning Objectives

2.1 What are business processes? How are they related to information systems?

2.2 How do systems serve the different management groups in a business, and how do systems that link the enterprise improve organizational performance?

2.3 Why are systems for collaboration and social business so important, and what technologies do they use?

2.4 What is the role of the information systems function in a business?

2.5 How will MIS help my career?
Video Cases

- Case 1: Walmart’s Retail Link Supply Chain
- Case 2: Cemex: Becoming a Social Business
- Instructional Video: US Foodservice Grows Market with Oracle CRM on Demand
Enterprise Social Networking Helps Sanofi Pasteur Innovate and Improve Quality (1 of 2)

• Problem
  – Hierarchical top-down processes
  – Large geographically dispersed workforce
  – Lack of collaboration and idea sharing

• Solutions
  – Develop knowledge sharing strategy and goals
  – Redesign knowledge and collaboration processes
  – Change organizational culture
  – Implement Microsoft Yammer collaboration software
Enterprise Social Networking Helps Sanofi Pasteur Innovate and Improve Quality (2 of 2)

- Use of new technology to engage employees and enabled knowledge gathering and sharing
- Demonstrates how outdated processes can affect knowledge sharing and innovation
- Illustrates why organizations rely on information systems to improve performance and remain competitive
Business Processes (1 of 2)

• Business processes
  – Flows of material, information, knowledge
  – Logically related set of tasks that define how specific business tasks are performed
  – May be tied to functional area or be cross-functional

• Businesses: Can be seen as collection of business processes

• Business processes may be assets or liabilities
Business Processes (2 of 2)

- Examples of functional business processes
  - Manufacturing and production
    - Assembling the product
  - Sales and marketing
    - Identifying customers
  - Finance and accounting
    - Creating financial statements
  - Human resources
    - Hiring employees
Figure 2.1 The Order Fulfillment Process

1. Sales
   - Generate order
   - Submit order

2. Accounting
   - Check credit
   - Approve credit
   - Generate invoice

3. Manufacturing and Production
   - Assemble product
   - Ship product
How Information Technology Improves Business Processes

• Increasing efficiency of existing processes
  – Automating steps that were manual

• Enabling entirely new processes
  – Changing flow of information
  – Replacing sequential steps with parallel steps
  – Eliminating delays in decision making
  – Supporting new business models
Systems for Different Management Groups (1 of 2)

- Transaction processing systems
  - Serve operational managers and staff
  - Perform and record daily routine transactions necessary to conduct business
    - Examples: sales order entry, payroll, shipping
  - Allow managers to monitor status of operations and relations with external environment
  - Serve predefined, structured goals and decision making
Figure 2.2 A Payroll TPS

Employee Data → Payroll System → To General Ledger

Employee/File Database

Payroll System

- Employee Number
- Name
- Address
- Pay rate
- Gross pay
- Federal tax
- FICA
- Medicare
- State tax
- Net pay
- Earnings (YTD)

Online queries

Management reports

To government agencies

Employee paychecks

Payroll data on master file
Systems for Different Management Groups (2 of 2)

• Systems for business intelligence
  – Data and software tools for organizing and analyzing data
  – Used to help managers and users make improved decisions

• Management information systems

• Decision support systems

• Executive support systems
Management Information Systems

• Serve middle management

• Provide reports on firm’s current performance, based on data from TPS

• Provide answers to routine questions with predefined procedure for answering them

• Typically have little analytic capability
Figure 2.3 How Management Information Systems Obtain Their Data from the Organization’s TPS
### Figure 2.4 Sample MIS Report

Consolidated Consumer Products Corporation Sales by Product and Sales Region: 2019

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<th>Product Code</th>
<th>Product Description</th>
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<th>Actual Sales</th>
<th>Planned</th>
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Decision Support Systems

• Serve middle management
• Support nonroutine decision making
  – Example: What is the impact on production schedule if December sales doubled?
• May use external information as well TPS / MIS data
• Model driven DSS
  – Voyage-estimating systems
• Data driven DSS
  – Intrawest’s marketing analysis systems
Figure 2.5 Voyage-Estimating Decision-Support System

A diagram showing a decision-support system with a PC, an online query interface, and an analytical models database connected to various files:

- Ship file (e.g., speed, capacity)
- Port distance restrictions file
- Fuel consumption cost file
- Ship charter hire history cost file
- Port expense file
Executive Support Systems

• Support senior management

• Address nonroutine decisions
  – Requiring judgment, evaluation, and insight

• Incorporate data about external events (e.g., new tax laws or competitors) as well as summarized information from internal MIS and DSS

• Example: Digital dashboard with real-time view of firm’s financial performance
Interactive Session: Management: Data Changes How NFL Teams Play the Game and How Fans See It

- Class discussion
  - What kinds of systems are illustrated in this case study? Where do they obtain their data? What do they do with the data? Describe some of the inputs and outputs of these systems.
  - What business functions do these systems support? Explain your answer.
  - How do the data about teams and players captured by the NFL help NFL football teams and the NFL itself make better decisions? Give examples of two decisions that were improved by the systems described in this case.
  - How did using data help the NFL and its teams improve the way they run their business?
Enterprise Applications

- Systems for linking the enterprise
- Span functional areas
- Execute business processes across the firm
- Include all levels of management
- Four major applications
  - Enterprise systems
  - Supply chain management systems
  - Customer relationship management systems
  - Knowledge management systems
Figure 2.6 Enterprise Application Architecture
Enterprise Systems

• Also called enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems
• Integrate data from key business processes into single system.
• Speed communication of information throughout firm.
• Enable greater flexibility in responding to customer requests, greater accuracy in order fulfillment.
• Enable managers to assemble overall view of operations.
Supply Chain Management (SCM) Systems

• Manage relationships with suppliers, purchasing firms, distributors, and logistics companies.

• Manage shared information about orders, production, inventory levels, and so on.

• Goal is to move correct amount of product from source to point of consumption as quickly as possible and at lowest cost

• Type of interorganizational system: Automating flow of information across organizational boundaries
Customer Relationship Management (CRM) Systems

• Help manage relationship with customers.

• Coordinate business processes that deal with customers in sales, marketing, and customer service

• Goals:
  – Optimize revenue
  – Improve customer satisfaction
  – Increase customer retention
  – Identify and retain most profitable customers
  – Increase sales
Knowledge Management Systems (KMS)

• Manage processes for capturing and applying knowledge and expertise

• Collect relevant knowledge and make it available wherever needed in the enterprise to improve business processes and management decisions.

• Link firm to external sources of knowledge
Intranets and Extranets

• Technology platforms that increase integration and expedite the flow of information

• Intranets:
  – Internal networks based on Internet standards
  – Often are private access area in company’s Web site

• Extranets:
  – Company Web sites accessible only to authorized vendors and suppliers
  – Facilitate collaboration
E-Business, E-Commerce, and E-Government

• E-business
  – Use of digital technology and Internet to drive major business processes

• E-commerce
  – Subset of e-business
  – Buying and selling goods and services through Internet

• E-government
  – Using Internet technology to deliver information and services to citizens, employees, and businesses
What is Collaboration?

• Collaboration
  – Short lived or long term
  – Informal or formal (teams)

• Growing importance of collaboration
  – Changing nature of work
  – Growth of professional work—“interaction jobs”
  – Changing organization of the firm
  – Changing scope of the firm
  – Emphasis on innovation
  – Changing culture of work
What is Social Business?

• Social business
  – Use of social networking platforms (internal and external) to engage employees, customers, and suppliers

• Aims to deepen interactions and expedite information sharing

• “Conversations” to strengthen bonds with customers

• Requires information transparency

• Seen as way to drive operational efficiency, spur innovation, accelerate decision making
Business Benefits of Collaboration and Teamwork

• Investment in collaboration technology can return large rewards, especially in sales and marketing, research and development

• Productivity: Sharing knowledge and resolving problems

• Quality: Faster resolution of quality issues

• Innovation: More ideas for products and services

• Customer service: Complaints handled more rapidly

• Financial performance: Generated by improvements in factors above
Figure 2.7 Requirements for Collaboration

**Collaboration Capability**
- Open culture
- Decentralized structure
- Breadth of collaboration

**Collaboration Technology**
- Use of collaboration and social technology for implementation and operations
- Use of collaborative and social technology for strategic planning

**Collaboration Quality**

**Firm Performance**
Building a Collaborative Culture and Business Processes

• “Command and control” organizations
  – No value placed on teamwork or lower-level participation in decisions

• Collaborative business culture
  – Senior managers rely on teams of employees
  – Policies, products, designs, processes, and systems rely on teams
  – The managers purpose is to build teams
Tools and Technologies for Collaboration and Social Business

- E-mail and instant messaging (IM)
- Wikis
- Virtual worlds
- Collaboration and social business platforms
  - Virtual meeting systems (telepresence)
  - Cloud collaboration services (Google Drive, Google Docs, etc.)
  - Microsoft SharePoint and IBM Notes
  - Enterprise social networking tools
Interactive Session: Technology: Videoconferencing: Something for Everyone

• Class discussion
  – Compare the capabilities of Cisco’s IX5000 telepresence and the Logitech SmartDock systems. How do they promote collaboration and innovation?
  – Why would a company like Produban want to invest in a high-end telepresence system such as Cisco’s IX5000? How is videoconferencing technology and telepresence related to Produban’s business model and business strategy?
  – Why would King County, Washington want to implement the Logitech SmartDock system? What business benefits did it obtain from using this technology?
Checklist for Managers: Evaluating and Selecting Collaboration and Social Software Tools

- Time/space matrix

- Six steps in evaluating software tools
  - Identify your firm’s collaboration challenges
  - Identify what kinds of solutions are available
  - Analyze available products’ cost and benefits
  - Evaluate security risks
  - Consult users for implementation and training issues
  - Evaluate product vendors
Figure 2.8 The Time/Space Collaboration and Social Tool Matrix

- **Same time** (synchronous)
  - **Same place** (colocated): Face-to-face interactions, decision rooms, single display groupware, shared table, wall displays, roomware, etc.
  - **Different place** (remote): Remote interactions, video conferencing, instant messaging, charts/MUDs/virtual words, shared screens, multi-user editors, etc.

- **Different time** (asynchronous)
  - **Same place** (colocated): Continuous task, team rooms, large public display, shift work groupware, project management, etc.
  - **Different place** (remote): Communication + coordination, e-mail, bulletin boards, blogs, asynchronous conferencing, group calendars, workflow, version control, wikis, etc.
The Information Systems Department

• Often headed by chief information officer (CIO)
  – Other senior positions include chief security officer (CSO), chief knowledge officer (CKO), chief privacy officer (CPO), chief data officer (CDO)

• Programmers

• Systems analysts

• Information systems managers

• End users
Organizing the Information Systems Function

• IT governance
  – Strategies and policies for using IT in the organization
  – Decision rights
  – Accountability
  – Organization of information systems function
    ▪ Centralized, decentralized, and so on
How Will MIS Help My Career?

• The Company: Comprehensive Supplemental Insurance USA

• Position: Sales support specialist

• Job Requirements

• Interview Questions

• Author Tips
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