
Strategic Planning and Follow-up System

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INTRODUCTION

Information technology influenced management practices deeply in the past, current time, and as in the future where every single managerial practice expected to be IT-based. One of the major aspects of IT- managerial development is clearly exhibited in planning through the concept of 'planning support systems'.

Planning support systems form a framework in which three sets of ideas and functions are combined. Clearly the tasks which comprise the planning process are part of the structure to be supported by various models or conceptions of the system of interest and the problems which planning aims to resolve. This process generates its own information about the problem and the way it is likely to be alleviated, solved, or resolved. A second variety of information is associated with the system models which are employed to inform the planning process through analysis, prediction, and prescription. Such models are informative insofar as they are able to capture the essential workings of the system in question. A third basis involves systems which are used to transform basic data into information which in turn provides the driving force for modeling and design. Information which is produced during the planning process alters the very process itself and thus must be communicated back to the data systems and models responsible for its generation in the first place. In this sense, information is continually created, destroyed, and transformed as the process proceeds and as the planner cycles purposively and intelligently through its various stages, generating the knowledge necessary for informative planning (Batty 1990).

Information systems, however, generally contain data which pertains to the present. Such data defines the instant in time at which the problem is conceptualized and planning begins, and in this sense is what Harris (1991) has called the knife edge between that past and the events still to come. Moreover, appropriate information systems for planning are by no means exclusively spatial in focus. The data required in planning is always a mix of the spatial, a spatial, and non-spatial, a blend of the qualitative and the quantitative, covering a wide range of physical, social, and economic attributes, many of which are not comparable with one another. Moreover, as we have implied, the planning process generates its own data and information about the future which is as significant as data pertaining to the past and the present.

The multifarious functions of a planning support system, therefore, define the data which is required, and the ways these functions are used determine the channels through which this data is transformed into information. We can interpret information as forming the glue which binds the individual stages of the planning process together. This process can thus be considered to be based upon flows of information which define the purpose of the planning task, and the plan can be seen as the ultimate form of information in its transition from data concerning the problem to that concerning the solution (Clercq 1990). Data and system models, as well as procedures which enable the design of solutions to planning problems through plans, thus establish the need for information systems which deal not simply with past and present data but with data which emerges from the planning process itself; this data may be transformations of the original data, collections and organizations of new data whose demand is a result of the process, data which pertains to the future

of the systems of interest through prediction and prescription, as well as data which is generated by learning about the problem and by adapting the process to the problem in hand. **Strategic Planning and Follow-up System** (SPFS) expected to meet the challenges posed by such diverse requirements, although they still remain a critical part of the planning process and the development of system models which are based on their data.

OTHER SOFTWARE

After a review for previous literature, many other types of software were developed to serve managerial practices. The Chicago Area Transportation CATS had a well-developed measure of system performance: the sum of user costs and public costs, which was to be minimized. This made it possible to define improvements-reducing the size of underused facilities or closing them, and increasing the size of congested facilities or creating parallel capacity. Land-use planning has no definition of system planned performance, and thus has no clear indication of how to manage improvements in plans, or when to stop the process. Of course there are more exigent stopping rules than the performance of the planning process-such as reaching the end of budgeted funds, or running into a report deadline; but it would still be useful to know what we are doing, and not always to be governed by these indicators of incomplete success on land uses. Land-use planning would not neglect the impact of transportation plans, but since the two activities are not on speaking terms, it is impossible to close the loop at this time. CATS and other metropolitan transport studies extensively surveyed the needs and behaviors of the users of the transport system; land-use planners basically lack the information needed to study the present and future behavior of home buyers, renters, and developers-as well as of industry and services. On the basis of these studies, CATS devised methods for estimating user demands for transport services quite accurately, using a combination of statistical analysis, discrete choice models, and optimal decisions for trip making, choice of mode of travel, choice of destination, and choice of routes of travel. Based on this demand, CATS optimized the distribution of congestion in the transport system. Land-use planning has no such large-scale behavioral interpretation of land development.

Microsoft Project 2002 comes with a rich collection of new features especially designed to enhance your ability to schedule, collaborate with resources, track progress, and communicate status on your projects. There are two editions of Microsoft Project 2002: Microsoft Project Standard, which supports project management with online team collaboration, and Microsoft Project Professional, supporting project management at the enterprise level.

Microsoft Project Standard includes the essential features to support project management at the workgroup level: task scheduling, resource management, tracking, reporting, team collaboration, customization, and flexibility. With this substantial set of features, user can start planning, managing, and reporting your project information immediately upon installation.

Microsoft Project 2002 characterized with many useful managerial features, it allow to view project information such as: Network Figure view Group tasks and display graphical indicators; Usage views Group assignments, roll up grouped time phased information in usage views, and include totals when printing usage views; and Timescales Display three timescales in the Gantt chart and other graph and usage views. Also, it allow to integrate with other products such as import and export with Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Outlook by easily imports a task list from Microsoft Outlook into Microsoft Project, Manage a collaborative project by Simplified Timesheet standardize the format of the new, streamlined timesheet in Microsoft Project Web Access to choose the way you prefer time to be reported and to simplify reporting for team members, and many other functions.

Too many software's were developed such as Vision quest, Team focus, SAMM, Group systems, OPTRANS, BANKER expert system, and SAFIR to enhance managerial work in many fields. The current project is different ideas which can facilitate a major function for effective managers which did not presented in a comprehensive manner as what researchers will bring to live.

SPFS BUSINESS PROCESS

SPFS is a management solution. It exploits the latest practices to provide a solution to follow up the strategic planning implementation in any organization. The system lets you translate the mission and vision of your organization into objectives distributed on the organization units, and follows the achievement of these objectives. The system also enables you to manage the deployment of the activities that belong for each objective as unit-based activity.

Figure 1 Print screen showing basic functions of SPFS



The logic of the system shown in System Function hierarchy in figure (2), different working levels and functions included in SPFS figure

The SPFS includes a special DSS (Decision Support System) provide you timed and statistical reports and inquires from different point of view and different statistical direction, in addition to many other functions. SPF provides powerful planning and scheduling functionality to serve the differing needs of business, project, and resource managers.

Planners and project managers need to be able to turn around information as quickly as possible. SPF facilitates fast and realistic planning through rapid data entry and analysis, and powerful reporting on project status and progress.

The following are the categories that get benefits from the system:

Business managers

- Centralize all project and resource data from across the enterprise
- Easily analyze performance across a program of projects
- Define project priorities
- View progress reports

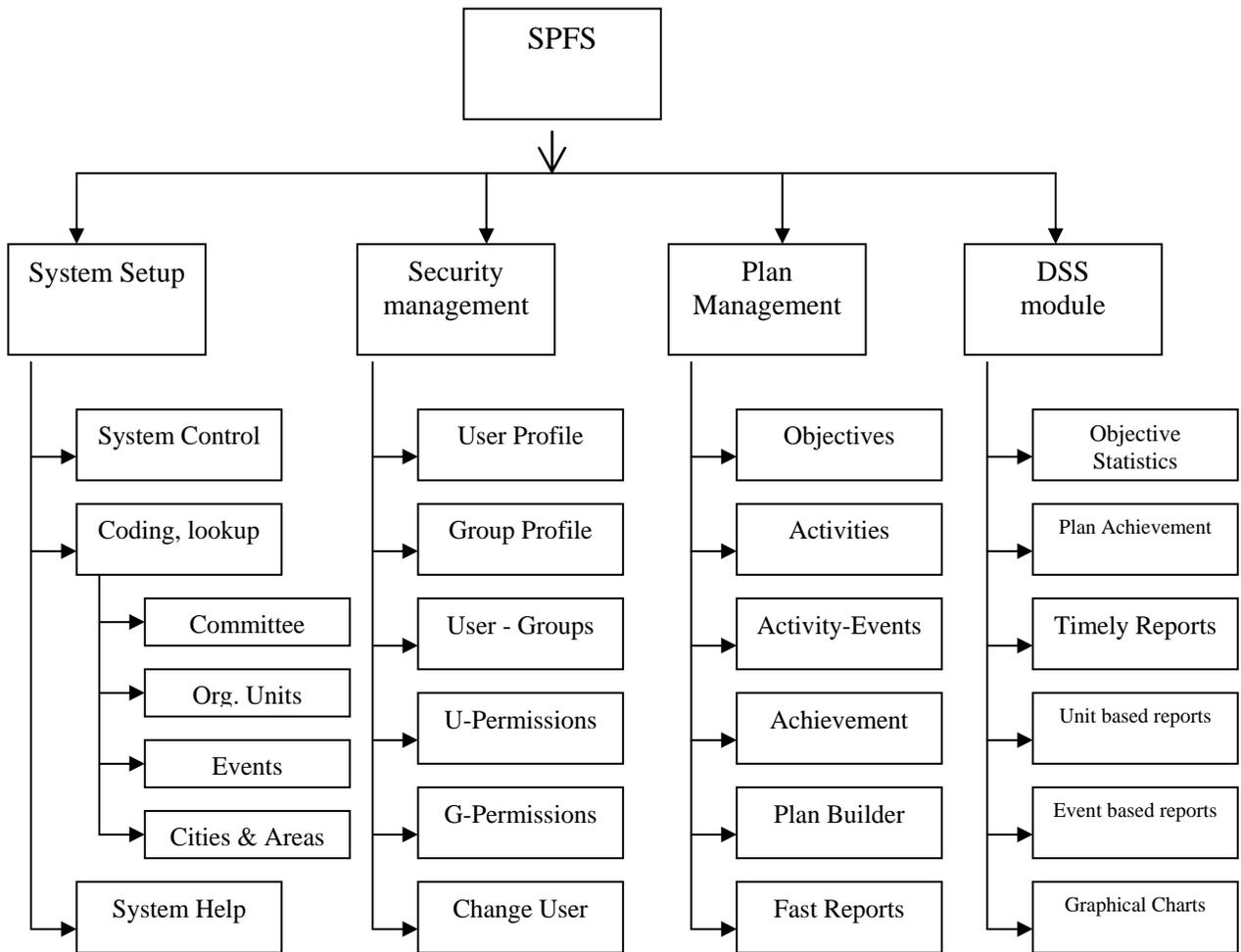
Project managers

- Plan projects quickly and realistically
- Closely monitor and control projects from initiation to completion
- Minimize risk

- Rapidly analyze project status
- Efficiently allocate resources across the organization

The system adopts a tree concept for plan definition and it could be printed by tree shape or left pad architecture. Figure 3 showing plan definition chart

Figure 2 System Function hierarchy



WHAT IS SO SPECIAL ABOUT SPFS?

The new system provides a lot of new facilities in planning and controlling such as:

Open System: SPFS is a true open system being able to run on different platforms ranging from PCs to mainframes. Change the hardware but retain your investment in the software.

Automated Design & Development: the system had been developed using the ORACLE Designer & Developer.

Integrated System: The system modules are integrated, and can be integrated with financial systems.

Input data checking: The system checks for input data and determines errors before committing the data.

More than (40) Statistical Reports and Graphic Chart: the DSS module will format the data into as easy and readable way.

Globalization: the system can be customized to be implemented in different organizations with no modification in its internal structure.

GENERAL FEATURES

Multi-User

Any number of users is allowed to access the system provided that it is of high security system and Firm Security is available up to any operation and functions level.

It could be over the internet as web application interface, so there will be no limit on the number of users.

Easy to use

Intuitive and simple user interface; Modular Design, all modules are fully integrated and provide a wide selection of specialized industries. Figure (4) showing the system friendly interface.

Figure 4 The system friendly interface.



Other Important Features

On-line help, Powerful on-line data editing and validation according to internal check controls, availability of exporting data to ASCII file, on-line browse on all input fields, and ready reports and customizable reports with extensive selection criteria.

The expected software can be applied in all types of organizations (private and public), and the first targeted organization is UAEU, then we can distribute it for other organizations in UAE (private organizations, ministries, schools, etc). The expected software will help managers in all levels to set their yearly or strategic plans according to their level. Additionally, it will help them to

control the plan implementation on daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly base. The software will provide reports with expected performance as well as performed performance. Figure (5) presenting print screen showing the availability of using the system in all types of organizations even so the committees and work teams.

Figure 5 Print screen showing the availability of using SPFS in all organizational levels



System functions

Setup and coding module

The system is using a dynamic coding function to define the lookup data such as cities, committees, organization units, goals ...etc and these defined data used in all others parts of the system, figure (6) presenting print screen that explaining a process in setting the main and sub plans.

Security management module

This module used to manage the security of the system through several function such as:

- User profile function
- Group profile function
- User permission function
- Group permission function
- Permission history audit function
- Several reports

Plan management module

This module used to define and manage you the organization plan. It includes

- Committee definition function
- Objective definition function
- Activity definition function

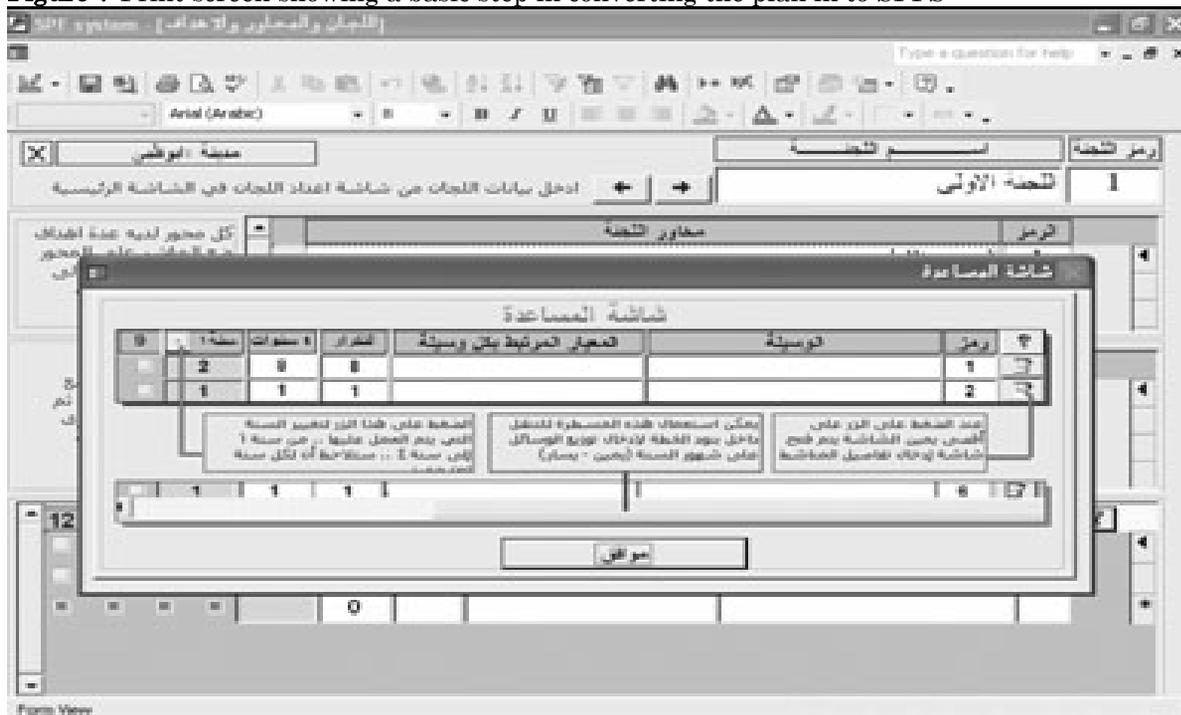
- Activity-event definition function
- Plan achievement follow up function
- Plan achievement reports
- Organization setup function

Figure 6 Print screen that explaining the process in setting the plan



Figure (7) presenting a print screen showing a basic steps in converting the plan in to SPFS.

Figure 7 Print screen showing a basic step in converting the plan in to SPFS



DSS module

This module used to define and manage the organization plan, it includes:

- Plan statistics reports, in figure (8) you can see an example to obtain necessary reports for a certain period of time.

Figure 8 Print screen showing a basic step in getting reports in SPFS



- Plan achievement reports
- Periodical achievement reports
- Graphical charts by year achievement
- Graphical charts by objective achievement
- Reporting tool for ad-hoc reports and statistics

CONCLUSION

The new system will help in developing managerial functions, and in specific strategic planning and strategic control. The first draft was implemented in some workshops using Arabic letters and work well. Many development on the system was done and still going. To get a high quality system that can be market internationally and with Multilanguage wise we need to perform more researches and implementation which will cost a lot.

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