

Editorial Preview

This issue, the last one in Volume 4, initiates a series to be published in the *MIS Quarterly* on Decision Support Systems (DSS). Ralph Sprague, who has been involved in DSS activities for a number of years, is serving as the coordinator of the series. The first article in the series, written by Sprague, is definitional in its nature. This invited paper will set the tone for future DSS papers which will deal with the organizational, group, and individual aspects of DSS. For the record, it should be noted that previous DSS articles have appeared in the *MIS Quarterly* written by Ginzberg (Volume 2, Number 1); Alter (Volume 2, Number 3); Sprague and Olson (Volume 3, Number 3); Davis (Volume 3, Number 4); and Barbosa and Hirko (Volume 4, Number 1).

The Application Section features three articles. The first, by Munro and Wheeler, describes the application of the Critical Success Factor approach to the determination of management information needs. There is a school of thought which argues that information requirements determination is the key to successful information systems building and is, furthermore, the area in which we have the least skill and understanding. This article is useful and is an excellent example of the Critical Success Factor approach.

The second application article, by Weiss, describes a survey of techniques and their costs for auditing software. This article ought to be of interest to the EDP auditor as well as the MIS manager. Since many of our readers are MIS managers, they may wish to pass a copy of this article along to an appropriate EDP auditor.

The third application article is by Gremillion. This article deals with the management system utilized to implement an information system in the U.S. Forest Service. The article is important in the area of systems implementation because it is one of the few that studies, in a systematic way, implementation in specific case situations. Most implementation articles tend to be prescriptive in nature whereas Gremillion describes two implementation approaches and gives us an evaluation.

The Theory and Research Section contains an article on assessing the value of an information system by Ahituv. This is a very important topic and one that is very much on the minds of senior management. Ahituv takes a multiattribute utility approach to the solution of the problem. After developing a solution approach, this article provides an example of its use by way of a minicomputer selection decision.

As this is the last issue of Volume 4, I would like to thank our editorial staff, our reviewers, and our proofreaders, who are listed at the end of the issue. I especially appreciate the Associate Editors who provide an invaluable service in the publication of the *MIS Quarterly*. They receive reviewer comments, write recommendations for authors' revisions, and then work with the authors to see that revisions are adequately made. We also want to take this opportunity to thank you, our readers, for your interest, your comments, and your continuing support that makes this publication possible.

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