

Editorial Preview

With this issue the **Management Information Systems Quarterly** begins its third year. From humble and shakey beginnings in terms of material, staff, and circulation we have moved to a position of fragile strength. We now receive approximately seventy-five manuscripts per year, have a full time staff of one person, and mail 1468 copies of each issue to SMIS members and our direct subscribers. The fame of the **MIS Quarterly** has spread to the extent that we are referenced in the *Harvard Business Review* and leading MIS texts. Projecting our rapid recognition and growth over another two year period, one can foresee vast press runs of lengths in excess of an hour and a staff overflowing a two desk office.

Seriously, it is gratifying to have completed two years of operation and to have received a fair amount of recognition especially for the quality of our efforts. When Volume 2, Number 4 was late we received many inquiries from readers. Unanimously readers who contacted us agreed that it was preferable to be late, rather than sacrifice our level of quality. Thank you for your acceptance and encouragement. We again want to acknowledge the efforts of our editorial staff and our reviewers. Maintenance of quality falls largely on those groups.

The first issue of Volume 3 continues the previous practice of an interview with senior executives concerning their information needs. The Dana Corporation is the site of this issue's interview. The first article in the Application Section by Berrisford and Wetherbe addresses the subject of "breadboarding" in system design. Emphasis is upon letting users interact with system prototypes during the design stage. Hopefully our DBMS interface languages will evolve to further support this kind of activity.

From the external interaction with the system by users, the second article examines the internal representation of system file data. In particular, protection through encryption is the subject of this article by Murray. This should provide a good reference source for practitioners on the subject of encryption.

This article by Moore on software development projects is of personal interest because its conclusions support some work in which I have been involved. The notion is that we may be applying inappropriate practices and procedures from elsewhere to MIS software development projects. Thus, Moore advises that as we move to MIS software development, new and modified procedures may be required.

The Theory and Research section of this issue contains two articles. The first, by Maish, projects the results of a survey conducted in Federal agencies to determine user behavior toward MIS systems. Those readers interested in the systems building process as an exercise in the introduction of organizational change should find this article of interest.

The article by Locander, Napier, and Scamell suggests a different approach to managing the development process, in this case, for a decision support system. This article should be compared with that of Berrisford and his colleague Wetherbe because we have two approaches suggested which address a similar problem.

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