Paper Reference(s)

6957/01

Edexcel GCE

Applied Information and Communication Technology

Unit 7: Using Database Software

May 2007

Scenario

Please open this material immediately. It should be distributed to candidates no sooner than three working weeks before the examination.

The description overleaf will be used as the scenario for the above specification, and will be reissued with the examination paper. This scenario should be used for the purposes of preparing candidates for the examination. This material must not be taken into the examination.

Further details are in the Instructions for the Conduct of Examinations, available from the Edexcel website for this qualification and subject.

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Scenario

Current system

Denim Daze is a successful chain of stores selling a wide range of denim clothing. The stores can only sell the Denim Daze range which includes jeans for both male and female, denim skirts, shirts, jackets, waistcoats, bags and hats. The range is aimed at young people between the ages of 14–29.

Supplies in the stores are currently maintained by a manual ordering system. The system is archaic and has caused a number of problems culminating in many stores running out of popular lines.

The products are stored and distributed to the stores from three warehouses which are based in Romford (southern region), Wolverhampton (central region) and Leeds (northern region). When the number in stock of a particular item falls below a certain level, an order is made directly to the manufacturer or supplier. It is the duty of the relevant Warehouse Manager to set this level and to recognise when stocks of a particular item are getting low. Most stores have limited storage space so they are unable to keep large quantities of stock and managers of the stores are expected to keep the value of their stock to a minimum. Orders are delivered from the warehouse weekly. It is important that the correct stock level of all goods is maintained in order to meet customer needs.

Maintaining stock in the stores

Currently orders come into the warehouse from the stores at any time during the working day by email. The email will contain the item ordered, the store which has made the order and the number of that particular item required. The email is printed off by an Admin Clerk who then places it at the bottom of a pile of similar orders in a tray labelled ‘Orders Pending’ in the warehouse.

A Warehouse Operator will pick the top order off the pile and try to fill the order. He or she will go to the relevant section of the warehouse. If there is enough of the item in the warehouse then the Warehouse Operator will take the items from the shelves and place them in a large metal container, known as a cage. Each cage is assigned to a particular store. The email printout is then placed in another tray labelled ‘Orders Processed’. These are collected by the Finance Department for accounting purposes.

If there is not enough of a particular item to fill the order the Warehouse Operator will complete a form called an ‘Out of Stock’ form detailing which part of the order has not been met. This form is then placed in a special compartment in the cage and the original email is placed in another tray labelled ‘Pending Delivery’. Each time a delivery of new stock is made to the warehouse the Admin Clerk will check the ‘Pending Delivery’ tray for items contained in the delivery. If orders for such items are found they are placed at the top of the ‘Orders Pending’ tray and processed as if they had just come in. Stock for the stores is collected in the cage to be despatched once a week. Every Friday the cages are loaded on to lorries and delivered to the stores. Periodically the Warehouse Manager checks the stock and the ‘Pending Delivery’ pile and makes the orders to the suppliers for replacement stock.

Proposed changes to system

The system is archaic and needs to be computerised. The warehouse staff feel that there is nothing fundamentally wrong with the way things are done. The management has decided to computerise the system and has bought the equipment. There will be a database system in each warehouse which will look after the stock ordering and distribution system. Each store will have a computer connected to the nearest warehouse and will be able to make order entries directly onto the database system. The date the order is made will be automatically stored. It is envisaged that the three states of an order (Order Pending, Order Processed and Pending Delivery) will remain. There will be a computer in the

warehouse which will display the next order in the ‘Order Pending’ state. If there is not enough stock in the warehouse this should be shown on the form to save the Warehouse Operator looking for stock that is not there. In this situation the Warehouse Operator will print off an ‘Out of Stock’ form to put in the cage. If stock is available the Warehouse Operator will process the order as normal. The Warehouse Operator will need to be able to tell the system that the order has been filled and the items are in the relevant cage. After each order has been processed the next in the list will be displayed. If there are no more orders the screen will remain blank until the next order comes in. This order will automatically be displayed.

You have been asked to produce a new system taking these changes into account. The first distribution centre which will use the system is Leeds and this will be piloted prior to the other distribution centres being added to the system.

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