Chapter 2 Hands-on MIS Application Software Exercise Solution

This exercise requires some student knowledge of spreadsheet database functions. At a minimum, students should know how to sort the database by various criteria such as item description, item cost, vendor number, vendor, name, or A/P terms. Students may need to be told that A/P Terms is expressed as the number of days that the customer has to pay the vendor for a purchase. In other words, 30 designates net 30 days. The vendor that allows customers the longest amount of time to pay for an order would, of course, offer the most favorable payment terms.

Students will need to add additional columns for calculating the delivery time for each order. The delivery time can be calculated by subtracting the Order Date from the Arrival Date. Vendors with the shortest delivery times are obviously desirable.

These numbers are useful when trying to determine who is the vendor with the best on-time delivery track record. Students can use the DAVERAGE or the SUMIF and COUNTIF functions to determine the average delivery time for each vendor. Students can also use one of the database functions to determine the vendor with the best accounts payable terms. To determine the vendor with the lowest prices for the same item when it is supplied by multiple vendors, students can filter the database using the item description. This filtered list can then be sorted by item cost and vendor number.

Chapter 1 Hands-on MIS Application Software Exercise Solution

This exercise helps students understand how a raw file of sales transactions can be analyzed using database software to produce valuable information for managers. The solutions provided here were created using the query wizard and report wizard capabilities of Access. Students can of course create more sophisticated reports if they wish, but much valuable information can be obtained from simple query and reporting functions. The main challenge is to get students to ask the right questions about the information.