

“No, Drew, YOU don’t know anything about report writing.”

“Or, make a partial shipment of what we do have, but even that’s got problems. You know, if you buy a kayak and a paddle from us, and we only send you the paddle . . . well, you get the picture.”

“And no matter what,” continues Drew, “even if the cancellation is clean, we have extra costs as well as lost customer goodwill.”

“So where do I come in?” asks Lucas.

“We need data. We know that General causes us problems, but we don’t know how much. So we want a report of all the cancellations caused by General’s short shipments.” Addison is pleased to finally get to the point.

“Actually, it’s not just General. We know other vendors ship shortages that cause cancellations as well. But we really don’t know which ones and how much,” Drew adds.

“So,” Lucas pauses while he ponders his response, “you want a report of all the cancelled orders?”

“No, not all the cancelled orders, just all those that were cancelled because we didn’t get the inventory from the supplier.”

“Hmmm. We’ll have to combine data from our customer order and shipping system with data from accounts payable. It can be done. How soon do you need it?”

“Today.” Addison’s in a hurry.

“No way. I can’t do that. How about I give you a data extract and you create the report. I could do that by Monday.”

“We don’t know anything about . . .” Drew starts to object when Addison jumps in.

“Can you put the data into Access?”

“Sure.”

“Alright. We’ll take you up on that. What time Monday?”

“Noon?”

“OK.”

After the meeting, Addison and Drew are talking quietly on their way back to Drew’s cubicle.

“Addison, what are you doing? We don’t know anything about creating reports . . .,” Drew whispers.

“No, Drew, YOU don’t know anything about report writing. This isn’t hard. If he gives me the data, I can munge around in Access to make the report. It’s just for us; we’re not gonna post it on the Web site.”

“Seems hard to me, but I’ll go along. I hope that’s not a mistake.”

“It won’t be. Just watch.” ■

Study Questions

- Q1 What is the purpose of a database?
- Q2 What is a database?
- Q3 What are the components of a database application system?
- Q4 How do database applications make databases more useful?
- Q5 How are data models used for database development?
- Q6 How is a data model transformed into a database design?
- Q7 What is the users’ role in the development of databases?
- Q8 2022?