ONLINE ACCOUNTING VALIDATION FILE

CS 595 - GRADUATE PROJECT

HENRY P. ROBINSON, JR.

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SUMMER SESSION I - 1984
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PROJECT SUMMARY

The idea for a file to be used to edit accounting information such as account numbers and locations was discussed for a number of years and it was agreed by all parties concerned that there was no need to implement an Accounting Validation system because the majority of our Financial systems were batch. The account number and location validity checks were hard-coded into the programs.

With the advent of Financial systems in an online environment, a need arose to have a file of current real-time validation information.

Initially, the Accounting Validation system was created to satisfy the needs of the Accounts Payable Section of the Accounting Department. The Accounting Validation system was put into production in January of 1984.

One of the greatest benefits of the Accounting Validation system has been the transfer of control of the data entry responsibility from the Data Entry Section of the Information Services Department to the Accounts Payable Section of the Accounting Department. This has substantially decreased the amount of time necessary to close the monthly books since a step in the processing cycle of the Accounts Payable function has been eliminated.

As of April, 1984, the Property Section of the Accounting Department began to use the Accounting Validation system to edit and validate information in the Continuing Property Register, also called "The Books".
As new Financial systems are added or when old systems are modified, the Accounting Validation system, created for the Accounts Payable Section, will be used to reduce clerical effort and the amount of time spent on the End-of-Month closing.
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I. ABSTRACT

The intent of the project is to create and provide an update mechanism for a file which contains information necessary to validate transactions which are input to the General Ledger System. This file will eliminate the need for having the validation information hard-coded into programs in the form of tables.

Currently, anytime the acceptable values for the tables change, the programs which contain the tables must be changed, compiled, and put into the production library. This process can be very time consuming especially at the end of the month when the Accounting Department is closing the books.

Even more critical, due to the corporate impact of CICS, those programs which use CICS can only be copied into the production library once a week.

The accounting validation file will be maintained on-line in a real time mode providing immediate access by the programs which require the data.

II. BACKGROUND

The technique for having accounting validation information in a file rather than hard-coded tables is not new. Many software packages on the market today incorporate this ability into the design of the product.

Some of the uses in the market today include income tax tables for payroll systems and tables of valid account numbers in a general ledger system.

III. RATIONALE

Even though the concept is not new, the practical application of this concept is not currently being utilized by the company for which I work. In addition to being new, the vehicle for implementing the system will require the writing of programs in CICS, which I have never done.

For me, the primary focus of the project is the writing of the CICS programs which will update, display, and browse through the file.
IV. ENVIRONMENT

A. Equipment -

AMDAHL V8
IBM 4331
IBM 3350
IBM 3278 Mod 2

Host Processor
Local Processor
Secondary Storage
Terminal (CRT)

B. Programming Languages -

ANS COBOL
CICS
JCL
VSAM

Host Language
Data Management Language
Job Control
Access Method

C. Interfaces with other systems -

1. General Ledger
2. Voucher Distribution
3. Auto Distribution
4. Store Distribution
5. Labor Distribution
6. Investment Work Orders
7. Shop Orders
8. Job Orders
9. Service Material
10. Customer Accounting

Valid account numbers
Valid expense account numbers
Valid auto numbers
Valid expense account numbers
Valid store room locations
Valid labor account #
Valid WO #
Valid shop order numbers
Valid job order numbers
Valid service material location
Valid revenue and account towns

D. Organization to be affected -

Central Power & Light Company
Corpus Christi, Texas
V. SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

The scope of the project is to create an accounting validation file, provide an update mechanism by means of three CICS programs and create the batch job streams required to reorganize the file and print the file.

VI. END RESULTS INTENDED

The end result of the project is the successful creation and implementation of a system which will aid in the accuracy and validity of transactions used as input to the General Ledger System.

VII. REFERENCES

None