Why Not SISP Too?

CASE tools are slowly working their way into many organizations. Primarily they are finding usage in database and applications analysis, design, development and maintenance. Typically overlooked is their potential contribution to strategic information systems planning (SISP).

SISP is the process of identifying a set of databases, applications, and hardware that will meet the long-range business goals of the organizations. To do so, planners typically produce an enterprise model describing the organization’s environment, an enterprise information architecture describing a proposed information technology environment, and a strategic IS plan of prioritized database and application development. CASE tools have become available to support it and are being adopted. However, this is happening even more slowly than CASE tools for analysis, design, development, and maintenance are coming into use.

With one particular CASE tool and one particular predefined SISP methodology in mind,1 we describe how a CASE tool can facilitate SISP. We do so by depicting a typical set of tasks that an organization would carry out in order to develop its strategic information systems plan of databases, applications and hardware as well as the priorities with which they would be implemented. We do so in the hopes of educating more database experts about such CASE tools in order to inspire further usage or study of the tools.

The SISP exercise would typically require eight steps.

1 Sterling Software’s KEY: Plan and Ernst & Young’s Navigator are the CASE tool and SISP methodology models for this report.
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