Class Announcements

- Business Paper Proposal Due Tuesday!
- Tuesday presentations:
  - Elise Narte (Alibris Case)
  - Rahmi Alemmedine (news)

Class Announcements

- Project proposals due in 5 days!!
  - 1-2 pages
  - Give a plan what you will do
  - Cite some references, and show that you have started your research!
  - See website for more details.

Student Talks

- Christopher Lee (news)

So what exactly is ERP??

The precursor to ERP, MRP

- MRP (Material or Manufacturing Resource Planning)
  - Take:
    - Product Demand forecasts
    - Inventory Balances
    - Replenishment Lead Times
  - Develop a Production schedule for a single plant
  - At this Point, it is a planning tool
Later on More capabilities added

- Order Processing
- Product Costing

The planning tool begins to take more and more of an active roll in the business processes.

A desire to Link Across Functional Departments of firm

- Each functional department had its own legacy application
  - Programmed in different languages
  - Different Data formats

- Often some data was shared between departments by duplicating it.

MRP evolves into ERP

- A common software architecture with modules to support different business functions.
  - Accounting, finance, sales, HRM, material management, etc...

- Key features:
  - Multi-functional
  - Integrated
  - Modular

ERP

- How would you design an ERP?
- Design a user interface for each module
  - Ask user to fill in certain "fields" at particular times.
  - Set up a sequence of events
    - When the sales department enters an order, that event triggers an event at the manufacturing department.
- But by doing this, aren’t we presuming a particular business process?

Fundamental options

- Customize the application to existing organization?
- Mold organization to off-the-shelf application?
  - Is software a good way to propagate best practices?