Homework 2

Part 1

[Diagram showing processes and relationships between Stock Supplier, Purchased Information, Update Inventory, Stock On Hand, DS1 Inventory Database, and Generate Orders, with arrows indicating the flow of information and actions.]
Part 2
Memo

To: Future Boss
From: Thomas Uher
cc:
Date: 9/11/2016
Re: Open Source Platform Proposal

It is my recommendation the Department of Natural Resources for the State of Illinois adopt an Open Source Platform for its computing needs. Open source computing offers our department a variety of advantages including reduction in hardware costs due to the adaptability and popularity of open source software, an increase in efficiency due to the ability to utilize this software in a flexible number of ways that meet more of our needs without providing us with too many unnecessary options, and reliable support that we can utilize internally or externally, depending on our budget formation. Either way, the flexibility of open source means there are a number of vendors who can understand the programs and provide support, which in turn increases competition within the market, which devolves into improved support services.

Additionally, adopting a standard open source program will decrease the “time to market” for this software. The standards set across our entire department will allow for universal understanding of how to operate the system. While our department does not typically struggle with a high turnover rate, we are experiencing an aging workforce. Standardization will assist in the shortening the time it takes for new hires to become comfortable with the operating system.

An additional advantage of utilizing standardized open source software for our department is that we have many employees across the entire state who all contribute to an extensive amount of data materials including information on national parks (attendance, profits, etc.) and wildlife (vegetation mapping, wildlife populations, etc.). Open source databases will allow for an increase in the ability for all of our subsidiaries to collaborate and share the data and information they collect on the field, and have an increase in the ease of transferability of data from the field to the lab work being produced.
Open Source software technology is continuing to grow in complexity and improve in security, and because of the aforementioned benefits, I strongly recommend we adopt an open source computing system.