

1.0 Executive Summary

Nowadays, Enterprise resource planning (ERP) have become vital strategic tools in today's competitive business environment. During the last decade, ERP systems have received a significant amount of attention from researchers and practitioners from a variety of functional disciplines.

Today, ERP is seen as an integrated computer system that powers the business processes of any business, not just manufacturing, via embedded best practices and a unified database. Thus, Enterprise resource planning (ERP) system solutions are currently in high demand by both manufacturing and service organizations because they provide a tightly integrated solution to an organization's information system needs.

In this paper, a comprehensive review concerning ERP software is presented. It attempts to identify the main benefits of ERP systems, the drawbacks, and its architecture.

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2.0 Acknowledgments

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5.0 ERP Architecture

ERP system architecture is organized in layers or tiers to manage system complexity in order to provide scalability and flexibility.

5.1 Layered Architecture

Traditional ERP architecture generally has three layers usually referred to as a “3-tier architecture.” with each responsible for a particular system function. The 3-tier architecture concept is not new, as it was used on mainframes and has now been brought to the general PC platform.

The 3-tier architecture is composed of three layers (Figure 4):

(1) Presentation Layer (End-User Interface—GUI)

- It is considered the top layer, in which the user interacts with a system. Screen layout, navigation, language integration and other user-based elements are controlled in this layer.

(2) Business Logic Layer (Business logic of functional modules)

- It is the driver of the entire system. This layer handles the requests and commands that have been sent from the presentation layer. It then takes those requests and runs business logic against them to provide answers to the presentation and data management layers.

(3) Data Management Layer (Data Management)

- This layer stores and retrieves all of the information within a database or file system.

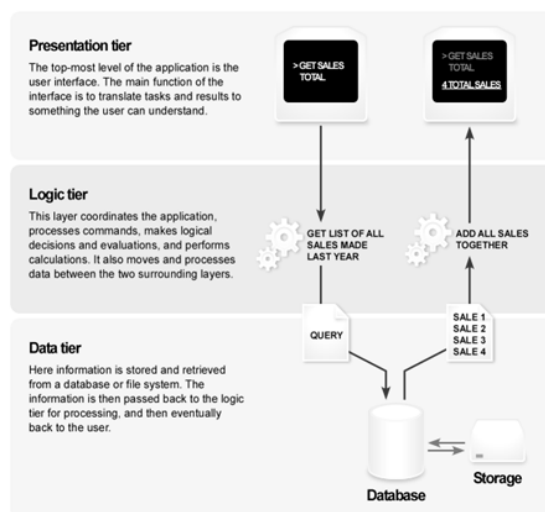


Figure 4