BA 306 — Spring, 2004
Final Exam

Answer the questions as instructed below. Answer clearly and neatly in typewritten (word processed) form. If I cannot read your answer or understand your grammar, or if you provide multiple answers, the answer will be wrong. Question 1 should be provided as a website (provide only the appropriate urls).

You may have notes, books or other reference materials that you desire. However, you must do the exam alone. If you do work together on the exam, or if you copy the answer from someone or if you discuss possible answers, this will result in a grade of zero (0) for all parties involved. Be specific and direct in your answer. If you have questions about the intent, meaning or purpose of the question -- ASK. Turn in the complete exam in order, stapled in the upper left corner. These are due to me by Wednesday, May 12 at 2:30 pm. I will be available, especially by email, for questions.

Part A: Complete the following question (40 points)

1. Create a table in Oracle that includes a student's name, id number, major, current gpa, number of hours completed and number of "honor points" earned. (Note "honor points" refers to the sum of points associated with the grades in classes completed; each class for which someone gets an A gets 4 points, etc.)

Create a web-based system (using javascript and html) that will:
   a. Allow a student to enter his or her data into the table
   b. Compute the average GPA for students in his or her major
   c. Display the average GPA for students in his or her major both with and without the new data considered

Remember, I will evaluate your answer: (a) to determine if you know how to use JavaScript and (b) to determine what you have learned about decision support systems.

Part B: Complete two of the questions below (30 points each)

2. Discuss the benefits of windowing as a component of the presentation language of DSS. That is, discuss why windowing is good and what value it has to decreasing the knowledge base requirements for a DSS.

3. In our definitions, we identified one of the primary things that differentiates a DSS from an MIS is that a DSS facilitates analysis of the data, whereas the MIS facilitates reporting of the data. Discuss the difference between these two. Evaluate the DSS your group discussed in light of that definition (that is, is it more like a DSS or MIS).

4. Why is having a data warehouse critical to the success of decision support systems? Explain all the impacts.