



ABSTRACT

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Abstract

This study was conducted as a case study in a middle-size industrial organisation in Finland during the year 2003. The study is a descriptive case study, which compares the case with research results written on the subject. The research material included interviews and internal documentation in the case organisation.

This study answers two main research questions: (1) which benefits can be attained through a reasonable management of product structure information? and (2) how should an IS restructuring investment be prepared and justified in an industrial organisation?

Product structure is one of the most important topics in information management in any industrial organisation. Product structure is created, maintained and used in several applications. Product structure management is rather a question of information infrastructure in the organisation and decisions made on product structure management have a strategic character. Advantages of investments into product structure management can be named: improved competitiveness as seen by the customer and more efficient use of resources in the organisation. Investments into information infrastructure are long-term commitments and need to be justified as such, rather by linking the needs into business objectives and competitiveness of the company. Especially, in an industrial organisation, the four basic capabilities of productivity, flexibility, quality and time should be used in justifying any IT investment.

The case organisation was interested on whether or not to invest in restructuring product structure management and how should investment be prepared. In addition to answering the research questions, proposals are given for the case organisation, based on the literature discussed in this report.

The results of this study can be held valid in manufacturing industrial organisations of adequate size in order to have typical industrial needs for information systems management.

Key words	Product structure management, IS investment preparation
Further information	