

March 3, 1992

MEMORANDUM

To: W. David Wimberly
From: Paul W. Bixby
Subject: Status Report

Business and Administrative Strategic Information System II

See BASIS Steering committee memo, dated 28 Feb 92. Attended a bunch of meetings, took bunches of notes, have a gazillion questions, zero conclusions and a migraine. This is your brain on BASIS.....any questions?

Big Picture is still small. I usually have a better idea about the basic data pieces, where they go and who controls them when they get there before attempting the basic *data flow* of the system. Every time I think about how something fits in the system or attend another meeting, my thoughts on some of the data structures and processes changes 180 degrees. We have an incredible quantity of information, but in reality, not enough to build a line connecting one end of the system to the other. *What's the exception and what's the rule?* I was a little ambitious when I thought we (or maybe I) knew enough to put it all together.

I'm now piecing together all of the summaries/notes/info I have together into a kind of super memo. This may not provide a *big picture* in the conventional sense, but it will provide a basis for that design step and more importantly an attempt in writing to begin a nucleus to build on. Either way it's doing me some good to try and put this stuff down in complete sentences.

The "picture" (let's leave out "big" for now) centers around my idea of a central point/file where the expenditures/orders are authorized (PO, signature sheet, etc) and branches out from there. It is currently changing at a rate of 90 degrees every hour. Right now, that's within the acceptable tolerances for stability.

Database is still a weakness for me. I'm not transitioned over to thinking ADABAS structures. The vendor file exercise was really helpful. Maybe we could pick another few files to build.

Miscellaneous

Still no network connection. I don't know if we've been forgotten or there is some reason for the delay. Either way, it might be worth enquiring about.