December 2002

SPREADSHEET-BASED DSS CURRICULUM ISSUES

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Recommended Citation

Bergey, Paul; Leigh, William; and Power, Daniel, "SPREADSHEET-BASED DSS CURRICULUM ISSUES" (2002). *AMCIS 2002 Proceedings*. 336.
http://aisel.aisnet.org/amcis2002/336

Spreadsheet-Based DSS Curriculum Issues

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Spreadsheets have become one of the most popular and ubiquitous software packages on the planet. Although the basic spreadsheet interface has not changed much over the past ten years, the power and functionality underlying its simple row and column paradigm has grown enormously -- resulting in a sophisticated modeling and programming environment that IS educators could only dream about a decade ago. Traditionally, one of the greatest challenges to teaching DSS has been a lack of readily-available, integrated DSS creation tools -- making it difficult to move from theoretical and conceptual discussions about what a DSS should do into the more practical "how to" aspects of building a DSS. With the introduction of Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) as the macro language for all Microsoft Office products, Excel now supports virtually all GUI, database, modeling, artificial intelligence, data analysis, and programming tools required for creating extremely powerful and useful DSS. This panel will discuss the participants' experiences with designing and teaching spreadsheet-based DSS curriculum at the undergraduate and MBA levels.