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Introducing Systems Analysis

Steve Skidmore

Second Edition

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Preface

This book is the first of two texts about the development of computer systems. It presents a series of models and skills that should help the definition and delivery of appropriate, effective, maintainable and flexible information systems.

This first book is primarily concerned with what is often termed physical and logical analysis.

The book is primarily aimed at

- Undergraduate and Higher National Diploma and Certificate students undertaking a module in Systems Analysis and Design.
- Students undertaking professional examinations.
- Trainee Analysts studying for Professional qualifications or following Professional Development schemes.
- Practising Systems Analysts.

The text concentrates upon the activities of Systems Analysis and Design and the skills and attitudes required to undertake them. It is not concerned with the organisation of the tasks. The terms analysis, design and development are used fairly interchangeably to describe the whole system activity. In fact the arbitrary distinction between analysis and design is probably counter-productive.

The term user is employed in the sense of embracing the clients, operators and victims of the computer system. The term is too standard for its replacement in a textbook.

When I first contributed to this book I was an academic lecturer. For the last five years I have returned to being a full-time practitioner. The upside of this is that the models, methods and ideas introduced in this book have been successfully used in practice. The downside is that the gestation period has been much longer, for which I must apologise to NCC-Blackwell. The academic exercises have now all been moved to Appendix A which is based around a practical case study. Suggested answers to the case study questions are available to bona-fide lecturers directly from The National Computing Centre.