

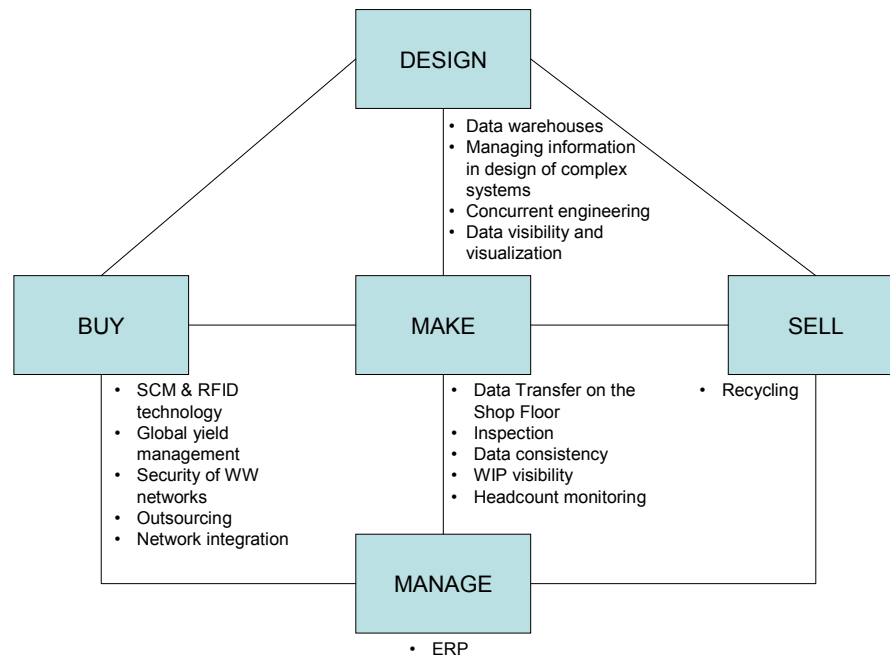
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Sloan School of Management

15.566 Information Technology as an Integrating Force in Manufacturing

Term Assignment

You may work on this assignment either individually, or in groups of up to 3 people. The topic of your paper is relatively flexible, but based upon the survey earlier this year, we have identified the following areas of interest:



We are asking students (or teams) to submit a short (no longer than one paragraph) description of their project topic by **lecture no. 9**. When coming up with a topic, please bear in mind that the scope should be consistent with the page requirement of 2 pages / person. Therefore, if you are working alone, your paper should be approximately 2 pages long (and groups of 3 would be 6 pages, etc.). We have created a forum within the server to assist people in forming project teams or collaborating on a project with a student with similar interests. In either case, the ultimate deliverable for your project is to create a web site, summarizing your findings. Send the URL of your web site **on the day of lecture no. 19**.

Your paper should cover at least (but not be strictly limited to) the following areas:

- Description of the Manufacturing Business Issue
- Description of the technology
- What should managers know about this technology
- Process based view of the issues involved (such as "before" and "after IT" processes)
- Data based view of the issues involved (such as the standards that are required)
- Internet links

Grading will be based on the depth of your analysis, the quality of your supporting data, and the web-based presentation of your analysis, argument, and recommendations. The distribution of the grade will be based on 25% for the presentation quality of the web site, and 75% on its content. Effective projects will demonstrate knowledge of both the underlying technology being applied and its business implications. You can do the webpage in any program you want such as word or frontpage.

For those students taking the 9-unit version of this course, we expect that the scope of the report will be significantly longer and more in-depth. Students taking the 9-unit version of this course should do their webpages using frontpage. There will be a recitation on frontpage.