

DB architecture

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/SQL-Server/microsoft.public.sqlserver.server/2004-04/0554.html>

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Date: 04/05/04

Date: Mon, 05 Apr 2004 02:03:06 GMT

Hi there.

We are building a new mission critical application in our company, using SQL server 2000 as the RDBMS. The new database is replacing a legacy system that used to run in two platforms: the day to day operations (OLTP) was maintained in a small DB2 database running on a OS/2 PC (only 1 week of data) and the rest was moved periodically to an iseries IBM server (DB2). all the OLTP was done on the PC, and most of the reporting was done against the iseries DB2 database.

So far we only have one database to replace the two systems mentioned. We are planning to either separate the data and have the reporting done in another SQL server machine (with the same schema, and using log shipping) or create a set of tables that would pre-process the information and would be used by the reporting tools. When planning for these, we created a set of views that are being used by our current reports (this layering protects us if we need to change the underlying schema). The current DB is highly normalized and I don't think would operate well for OLAP. Is the log shipping approach recommended? Is there a better alternative? I wouldn't like to have to maintain two different schemas.

Thank you,

Pedro.