

Re: Is there a word for this

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/VB/microsoft.public.vb.general.discussion/2007-12/msg00867.html>

- *From:* "BeastFish" <no@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 12 Dec 2007 01:07:37 -0500
-

"Michael C" <mike@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:e8odGTFPIHA.5140@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

I have posted this on news.securecomp.org also, but am interested in

people

here's opinions.

Just say a company needs to write a program to keep track of calls to customers. They get someone to write them an app and call it "Call Log

App".

Then someone wants to keep track of staff holidays so someone writes them

a

different app called "Staff Holiday App". Then someone wants to keep track of which staff made the calls to the customer so they do some hack to

either

duplicate staff in both apps or link them up. Then someone wants to automatically send email to the staff/customers but they don't store

emails

against the name. Because they want to do this in both apps they duplicate all the work but make it a little different in each. Over the years this continues to build into more and more of a mess.

The alternative would be to say right at the start that we need a company wide application to do stuff. This application will be called "Company X App". It will store all the basic data that relates to the company, eg staff, customers, products etc and standard information associated with them, eg phone numbers, emails, addresses. Even if this information is not currently used by the app it is a good place to store it.

Re: Is there a word for this

Anyway, my question is simply, is there a word for this style of thinking?

The aforementioned style of thinking? Asinine. Short-sighted. <g>

Of course we can't foresee what will be needed in the future... that crystal ball has yet to be invented. But it's generally wise to keep in mind that there may be future "modulimizations" (just invented that word), and thus try to engineer things in such a way that allows future implementations. In the above example, it seems to have started as a little thing (Call Log) that over time snowballed (Mega-Nightmare App). It seems that between "Call Log" and "Staff Holiday" is when someone should have said "Whoa, perhaps we need to re-engineer some aspects. Not necessarily a mega app, but a system of apps that can integrate and thus grow as needed... perhaps using some sort of masterfile architecture. And we better document the heck out of this!"

.