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Topic (I): data warehousing and the development and use of statistical databases in a network environment

**Data collection and the development and use of statistical
databases in a network environment**

Supporting paper

SUMMARY

Document submitted by the main Computing Centre of the National
Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic *

1. The system administered by the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic operates on the basis of the State Statistics Act. The National Statistical Committee and its organs carry out statistical inquiries in accordance with the statistical work programme approved each year by the Government. This programme defines each area of statistical inquiry in terms of the kinds of activities to be performed at specific intervals, the particular form of presentation and research tools required, the frame of reference and the deadlines for submission of the results.

I. Data collection

2. Functions connected with accomplishing the task of collecting statistical data are shared between the National Statistical Committee's Main Computing Centre and 57 regional statistical bodies.

3. The Main Computing Centre meets the need to provide data at national level by performing a variety of activities which include:

- Collection of data;

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- Checking, entry and correction of the raw data;
- Verification of the completeness of coverage of economic entities;
- Processing of the data;
- Introduction of a unified State register of statistical units;
- Loading of vectors into the database;
- Publication of individual statistical data.

4. The main functions performed by the regional statistical bodies consist in preparing data and meeting local information requests:

- Data collection and completion of individual questionnaires;
- Checking and correction of the raw data in questionnaires;
- Processing of the data gathered and their transmission to the republican level;
- Introduction of a regional State register of statistical units;
- Storage of regional data;
- Dissemination of information and preparation and release of regional publications;
- Acquisition of data from the republican level.

5. The traditional method of gathering information by the system of obligatory full State statistical reporting which prevailed in the Kyrgyz Republic in the context of the planned economy was found to be inappropriate to the new conditions. The National Statistical Committee has therefore made it a priority objective to reform the system of statistical inquiries and the methods of calculation employed. In this connection, sampling techniques and other non-exhaustive methods of gathering statistical information are being developed and introduced.

II. Data processing

6. A process of technical re-equipment has been under way since 1994 in the system administered by the National Statistical Committee. The Committee's present information system is based on the use of Pentium, AT-486, 386 and 286 PCs. The computer facilities available to the National Statistical Committee comprise 407 units (255 of the Pentium type, including 5 servers).

7. Eight local computing networks operate within the National Statistical Committee's system (five at the Central Office and one in each of three regional statistical committees). The technical characteristics of the network servers do not meet present-day requirements. The work stations have computers with 386 processors and higher. Modern software systems such as Windows.xx are more demanding as regards the technical characteristics of computers.

8. **Data transmission** is by modem link, electronic mail and worldwide Internet access. Robotics and Haues and Zixel modems are used for this purpose. Information is currently exchanged by modem with four oblasts of the Republic. Electronic mail is used to communicate with one oblast. With two regions computer links are not maintained because of the proximity of their offices. Telix software is used for the modem links. A postal server based on the Lunix operating system is used for electronic mail and Internet access.

9. **Software resources:** system software products, applied programmes and project documentation produced in the Main Computing Centre of the National Statistical Committee. Since there are many high-quality software packages on the market and a choice among them needs to be based on a unified IT policy, the National Statistical Committee is pursuing such a policy for the selection and utilization of computers and system facilities. Accordingly, widespread use has been made of the operating system MS DOS 6.22, the network operating systems NetWare 4.1 manufactured by Novell, Windows 95, Windows 3.11, Windows NT, MS Office - WORD 6.0, Excel 5.0, Access 2.0, Powerpoint and SPSS, and the text editors Foton and Multi Edit.

10. Clipper 5.x and Foxbase software packages have been used to build electronic information processing units. Most of these facilities work with the Clipper programming language.

11. Data processing at the Main Computing Centre serves to compile a base of indicators and a base of tabulated material at monthly, quarterly and yearly intervals on various areas of statistics: industry, transport, material resources, finance, construction and investment, labour and employment, prices, entrepreneurship, the foreign sector, the social sector and agriculture. The sectoral database includes indicators from statistical reporting for two years - the current year and previous year - while data for earlier years are archived.

III. Use of statistical data

12. The new technical infrastructure established in 1998-1999 has made it possible to process data and compile databases from the results of the first national census of population of the Kyrgyz Republic, held in 1999, and the results of the household budget survey and the poverty monitoring project on the basis of a data dissemination standard employing a system of composite statistical indicators. A database for calculating the consumer prices index has been established, including information relating to the major enterprises producing industrial output and representative goods, and a database on prices for industrial exports and imports has likewise been set up.

13. In keeping with the objectives formulated in the State ad hoc programme of statistical reform in the Kyrgyz Republic over the period 1998-2000, the National Statistical Committee has decided to set up integrated databases containing data for the Republic and all statistical sectors. This will involve establishing a general information centre in the Main Computing Centre to process and store data from all oblasts and districts. For this purpose it will be necessary to introduce client/server technology into the existing technical infrastructure.

14. In June 1999 Bart & Associates - Bethesda, Maryland made recommendations to the National Statistical Committee for the improvement and expansion of information technology on the basis of modern international standards, including:

- Development of a unified IT policy for the National Statistical Committee;

- Improvement of planning and coordination of the development of IT software systems;
- Scrapping of obsolete hardware and software systems;
- Provision of training for all users and developers of the IT infrastructure;
- Definition of a methodology for the development life cycle;
- Standardization of software platforms for all levels.
