



Groupware Planning Support Tools. The SIMS Approach

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Abstract. Even today, many econometric and transport mathematical models are of the “desktop” type. Using such models in a corporate context generates the risk of presenting inconsistent results across various divisions of the company. Two typical causes of such inconsistencies are the use of different versions of the input datasets or different updates of the processing algorithms due to update deployment policies.

The remedy to these problems is the creation of “centralized” models that can be used via intranet/internet using information systems that guarantee the availability of a unique and easy to update database of input data, the consistency of the algorithms, the segregation of the outputs but also the possibility of sharing the same outputs with other analysts. For each analysis performed, the system will guarantee the relationship between input data, version of the algorithms and output also through metadata.

The Ferrovie dello Stato Italiane Group has created through FS Research Center of FS Holding two planning support models:

- an Economic Impact Assessment model based on a more comprehensive Input-Output approach [1]
- a multimodal model for the simulation of medium and long distance mobility [2].

“The Italian Ferrovie dello Stato Group has adopted and continues its roadmap for the implementation of a Strategic Information Monitoring System (SIMS) aimed at supporting the strategic decision-making processes of the Holding Company FSI and the other FS Group companies and at “the collection, storing and processing of official Group data according to the “Process of Supply and Management of Official Data of the FS Italiane Group” [3].

The Data Warehouse of SIMS and its application and presentation layers based on the Geo-Business Intelligence paradigm [4] guarantees the segregation of data and representations (WebGIS and Geo-BI apps) by profiling of users.

SIMS is, therefore, the perfect container for enterprise-level distribution of the two aforementioned models in a groupware and collaborative environment. This paper presents the first results of this implementation.