MANAGING EXCHANGE RATE RISK case study solution



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Short Description MANAGING EXCHANGE RATE RISK case study solution

Description

MANAGING EXCHANGE RATE RISK

The Bronson Insurance Group was originally founded in 1900 in Auxvasse, Missouri, by James Bronson.

The Bronson Group owns a variety of companies that underwrite personal and commercial insurance

policies. Annual sales of the Bronson Group are \$100 million. In recent years, the company has suffered

operating losses. In 1990, the company was heavily invested in computer hardware and software. One of

the problems the Bronson Group faced (as well as many insurance companies) was a conflict between

established manual procedures and the relatively recent (within the past 20 years) introduction of

computer equipment. This conflict was illustrated by the fact that much information was captured on

computer but paper files were still kept for practical and legal reasons.

FILE CLERKS

The file department employed 20 file clerks who pulled files from stacks, refilled

used files, and delivered

files to various departments including commercial lines, personal lines, and claims. Once a file clerk

received the file. Clerks delivered files to underwriters on an hourly basis throughout the day. The

average file clerk was paid \$8,300 per year. One special file clerk was used full time to search for

requested files that another file clerk had not been able to find in the expected place. It was estimated that

40 percent of the requested files were these "no hit" files requiring a search. Often these "no hit" files

were eventually found stacked in the requester's office. The primary "customers" of the file clerks were

underwriters and claims attorneys.

UNDERWRITING

Company management and operations analysts were consistently told that the greatest problem in the

company was the inability of file clerks to supply files in a speedy fashion. The entire company from top

to bottom viewed the productivity and effectiveness of the department as unacceptable. An underwriter

used 20-50 files per day. Because of their distrust of the files department, underwriters tended to hoard

often used files. A count by operations analysts found that each underwriter kept from 100-200 files in his

or her office at any one time. An underwriter would request a file by computer and work on other

business until the file was received. Benson employed 25 underwriters.

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

Upper management was deeply concerned about this problem. The MIS department had suggested using

video disks as a possible solution. A video disk system was found that would be sufficient for the

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companies needs at a cost of about \$12 million. It was estimated that the system would take two years to

install and make compatible with existing information systems. Another, less attractive was using

microfilm. A microfilm system would require underwriters to go to a single keyboard to request paper

copies of files. The cost of a microfilm system was \$5 million.

1. What do you recommend? Should the company implement one of the new technologies? Why or why not?

2. An operations analyst suggested that company employees shared a "dump on the clerks" mentality. Explain.

Details

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