Strategic Positioning of ISM*RIS/3

The integrated package **ISM*RIS/3 Relational Information System** (called **RIS/3** from now on) has been designed with the following objectives:

- Create a **24 – 7 application** for the core functions of accounting: available 24 hours 7 days a week for financial accounting, cost accounting and fixed assets, etc.
- Target towards **large customers**
- Create a data model which is **transparent** to the end user and administrator
- Offer an environment which as a whole offers the **lowest Cost of Ownership**
- Take care of **language support**
- **Open interfaces** to other (primarily Oracle) applications
- Implement a State-of-the-Art **Browser front-end technology**

1 Create a 24 – 7 Application: available 24 hours 7 days a week

At all installations of our major customers the database normally never has to be stopped to perform any maintenance task for **RIS/3**. Online Backup is used by the customer to perform the backup tasks.

As soon as a set of documents has been entered completely without errors the accountant transfers it to a background process (the pipe) which performs additional checks and marks it as “booked”. In the same transaction not only the current balance is updated but also the balances of all future “accounting years”. Also, to “virtual accounts” are updated (i.e. the “Balance Account” and the “Profit and Loss Account”) in order to show the company status.

The reporting of balance sheets additionally allows the consolidation of client companies to groups or holdings.

2 Target Towards Large Customers

Every database access has been analysed and tuned to provide optimal response times, even with large data volumes. In the set-up phase, one or more “Substitute Clients” are defined who own the different basic data for the actual client companies.

3 Create a Transparent Data Model for End Users and Administrators

We have put special emphasis on the naming convention of tables and table columns. Upon introducing new objects we carefully decide for the name of these items. The users may use the standard SQL-language of **Oracle**® or a graphic tool for accessing the data base and the whole data model may be accessed by the "qualified user" in read-only mode.

4 Lowest Cost of Ownership

This target has been the main reason why client-server mode has not been chosen for **RIS/3** and we immediately switched to the **Java Client Front-end Technology**. Linux or Unix is the preferred Operating System for the server(s).

5 Language Support

From the very beginning, we have provided the possibility of supporting any language that is

- Supported by the **Oracle**® RDBMS, and
- Supported on the PC.

6 Open Interfaces to other Applications

We have designed a special set of interfaces to import and export data to other applications inside or outside the customer's business world. In the typical real-world customer situation, about 90 to 95 % of the accounting transactions are performed in the background as batch processes. Our largest customer is the largest food retailer in Austria who owns almost exactly one hundred companies and the various companies run several thousand retail stores in Austria and Eastern Europe.

7 State-of-the-Art Java Client Front-End Technology

The major difference between **RIS/2** and **RIS/3** is the front-end. Whereas **RIS/2** has a character-based front-end and only needs a terminal or PC with terminal emulation, **RIS/3** uses an Java Client as the display tool on a PC running under Windows or Linux normally.