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Active tag

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Advanced planning and scheduling (APS)

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Aggregation

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Automatic identification system (AIS)

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Available-to-promise (ATP)

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Batch processing

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Big data

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Business process management (BPM)

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Techniques that deal with the analysis and planning of logistics and manufacturing during short, intermediate, and long-term time periods. Describes any computer program that uses advanced mathematical algorithms or logic to perform optimization or simulation on finite capacity scheduling, sourcing, capital planning, resource planning, forecasting, demand management, and others. These techniques simultaneously consider a range of constraints and business rules to provide real-time planning and scheduling, decision support, available-to-promise, and capable-to-promise capabilities.

A radio frequency identification tag that broadcasts information and contains its own power source. See: radio frequency identification (RFID).

A system that can use various means, including bar code scanning and radio frequencies, to sense and load data in a computer.

The concept that pooling random variables reduces the relative variance of the resulting aggregated variable. For example, the relative variance in sales of all models of automobiles sold by a firm is less than that for a single model.

1) A manufacturing technique in which parts are accumulated and processed together in a lot. 2) A computer technique in which transactions are accumulated and processed together or in a lot. Syn.: batch production.

1) In operations, the uncommitted portion of a company's inventory and planned production maintained in the master schedule to support customer-order promising. [This] quantity is the uncommitted inventory balance in the first period and is normally calculated for each period in which an MPS receipt is scheduled. In the first period, [this] includes on-hand inventory less customer orders that are due and overdue. Three methods of calculation are used: discrete [...], cumulative [...] with look-ahead, and cumulative [...] without look-ahead. (2) In logistics, the quantity of a finished good that is or will be available to commit to a customer order based on the customer's required ship date. To accommodate deliveries on future dates, [this] is usually time-phased to include anticipated purchases or production receipts. See: discrete available-to-promise, cumulative available-to-promise.

A business discipline or function that uses business practices, techniques, and methods to create and improve business processes. BPM is a holistic approach to the use of appropriate process-related business disciplines to gain business performance improvements across the enterprise or supply chain. It promotes business effectiveness and efficiency while striving for innovation, flexibility, and integration with technology. Most process improvement disciplines or activities can be considered as BPM.

Collecting, storing, and processing massive amounts of data for the purpose of converting it into useful information.

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Business-to-business e-commerce (B2B)

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Business-to-consumer e-sales (B2C)

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Capable-to-promise (CTP)

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Cloud computing

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Collaborative planning, forecasting, and  
replenishment (CPFR)

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Consignment

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Content management applications

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Continuous replenishment

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Business being conducted between businesses and final consumers, largely over the internet. It includes traditional brick and mortar businesses that also offer products online and businesses that trade exclusively on the internet.

Business conducted over the internet between businesses. The implication is that this connectivity will cause businesses to transform themselves via supply chain management to become virtual organizations—reducing costs, improving quality, reducing delivery lead time, and improving due-date performance.

An emerging way of computing in which data is stored in massive data centers that can be accessed from any computer connected to the internet.

The process of committing orders against available capacity as well as inventory. This process may involve multiple manufacturing or distribution sites. Used to determine when a new or unscheduled customer order can be delivered. Employs a finite-scheduling model of the manufacturing system to determine when an item can be delivered. Includes any constraints that might restrict the production, such as availability of resources, lead times for raw materials or purchased parts, and requirements for lower-level components or subassemblies. The resulting delivery date takes into consideration production capacity, the current manufacturing environment, and future order commitments. The objective is to reduce the time spent by production planners in expediting orders and adjusting plans because of inaccurate delivery-date promises.

1) A shipment that is handled by a common carrier. 2) The process of a supplier placing goods at a customer location without receiving payment until after the goods are used or sold. See: consigned stocks.

A collaboration process whereby supply chain trading partners can jointly plan key supply chain activities from production and delivery of raw materials to production and delivery of final products to end customers.

A process by which a supplier is notified daily of actual sales or warehouse shipments and commits to replenishing these sales (for example, by size or color) without stockouts and without receiving replenishment orders. The result is a lowering of associated costs and an improvement in inventory turnover. See: rapid replenishment, vendor-managed inventory.

Supports the evolutionary life cycle of digital-based information and makes information dynamically updatable online; includes the ability to publish content to a repository and support access to digital-based content.

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Data cleansing

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Data dictionary

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Data mining

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Data normalization

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Database management system (DBMS)

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Decision support system (DSS)

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E-business

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Electronic commerce (e-commerce)

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1) A catalog of requirements and specifications for an information system. 2) A file that stores facts about the files and databases for all systems that are currently being used or for the software involved.

Sifting through a database to find and fix mistakes such as misspelling, missing information, and false data.

A database maintenance term used in the context of relational databases, which helps to minimize the duplication of information or safeguard the database against certain types of logical or structural data anomalies. It is often used when merging data from one or more databases.

The process of studying data to search for previously unknown relationships. This knowledge is then applied to achieving specific business goals.

A computer system designed to assist managers in selecting and evaluating courses of action by providing a logical (usually quantitative) analysis of the relevant factors.

The software designed for organizing data and providing the mechanism for storing, maintaining, and retrieving that data on a physical medium (i.e., a database). [This] separates data from the application programs and people who use the data and permits many different views of the data.

The use of computer and telecommunication technologies to conduct business via electronic transfer of data and documents.

Abbreviation for electronic business. Refers to conducting business processes on an electronic network, typically the internet. See: e-commerce.

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Electronic data interchange (EDI)

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Electronic product codes (EPCs)

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Enterprise resource planning (ERP)

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Extranet

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Information system architecture

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Intranet

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Legacy systems

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Local area network (LAN)

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Codes that are used with RFID tags to carry information on the product that will support warranty programs.

The paperless (electronic) exchange of trading documents, such as purchase orders, shipment authorizations, advanced shipment notices, and invoices, using standardized document formats.

A network connection to a partner's network using secure information processing and internet protocols to do business.

Framework for organizing, defining, and standardizing the business processes necessary to effectively plan and control an organization so the organization can use its internal knowledge to seek external advantages. An ERP system provides extensive databanks of information including master file records, repositories of cost and sales, financial details, analysis of product and customer hierarchies, and historic and current transactional data.

A privately owned network that makes use of internet technology and applications to meet the needs of an enterprise. It resides entirely within a department or company and provides communication and access to information, similar to the internet, for internal use only.

A model of how the organization operates regarding information. The model considers four factors: (1) organizational functions; (2) communication of coordination requirements; (3) data modeling needs; and (4) management and control structures. [This] should be aligned with and match the architecture of the organization.

A high-speed data communication system for linking computer terminals, programs, storage, and graphic devices at multiple workstations distributed over a relatively small geographic area such as a building or campus.

A computer application program that is old and interfaces poorly with other applications but is too expensive to replace. It often runs on antiquated hardware.



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Middleware

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Modular system

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Network

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Operating system

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Passive tag

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Personally identifiable information (PII)

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Point-of-sale (POS)

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Point-of-sale information

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A system architecture design in which related tasks are grouped in self-contained packages. Each package, or module, of tasks performs all of the tasks related to a specific function. Advances in functions can be implemented without affecting other packages or modules because of the loose coupling with other modules. One example is a multitiered architecture in which application business rules are separated from the data management rules. Another example is a client-server architecture in which user interface tasks are separated from the application software. See: open system architecture.

Software that interconnects incompatible applications software and databases from various trading partners into decision-support tools such as ERP.

A set of software programs that controls the execution of the hardware and application programs. The operating system manages the computer and network resources through storage management, disk input/output, communications linkages, program scheduling, and monitoring system usage for performance and cost allocations.

1) The interconnection of computers, terminals, and communications channels to facilitate file and peripheral device sharing as well as effective data communication. 2) A graph consisting of nodes connected by arcs.

Any representation of information that permits the identity of an individual to whom the information applies to be reasonably inferred by either direct or indirect means. Further, PII is defined as information: (i) that directly identifies an individual (e.g., name, address, social security number or other identifying number or code, telephone number, email address, etc.) or (ii) by which an agency intends to identify specific individuals in conjunction with other data elements, i.e., indirect identification. (These data elements may include a combination of gender, race, birth date, geographic indicator, and other descriptors). Additionally, information permitting the physical or online contacting of a specific individual is the same as personally identifiable information. This information can be maintained in either paper, electronic or other media.

A RFID tag that does not send out data and is not self-powered. See: radio frequency identification (RFID) tag.

Information about customers collected at the time of sale.

Abbreviation for point of sale.

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Quick-response program (QRP)

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Radio frequency identification (RFID)

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Semipassive tag

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Server

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Software-as-a-service (SaaS)

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Supply chain event management (SCEM)

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Supply chain visibility

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Transportation management system (TMS)

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A system using electronic tags to store data about items. Accessing or retrieving this data is accomplished through a specific radio frequency and does not require close proximity or line-of-sight access. See: active tag, passive tag, semi-passive tag.

A system of linking final retail sales with production and shipping schedules back through the chain of supply; employs point-of-sale scanning and electronic data interchange, and may use direct shipment from a factory to a retailer.

A computer or software package that provides a specific kind of service to client software running on other computers. The term can refer to a particular piece of software; for example, a web server or the machine on which the software is running. A single server machine could have several different server software packages running on it, thus providing many different servers to clients on the network.

An RFID tag that sends out data, is self-powered, and widens its range by harnessing power from the reader. See: radio frequency identification (RFID).

A term associated with supply chain management software applications, in which users have the ability to flag the occurrence of certain supply chain events to trigger some form of alert or action within another supply chain application. SCEM can be deployed to monitor supply chain business processes such as planning, transportation, logistics, or procurement. It can also be applied to supply chain business intelligence applications to alert users to any unplanned or unexpected events.

A software licensing and distribution model that provides access to applications via the internet on a subscription basis. A service provider hosts the application at its data center and customers access it through a web browser. Often referred to as "on-demand" software and used by companies to avoid purchasing, implementing and maintenance costs.

A computer application system designed to manage transportation operations. This type of application typically includes modules focused on specific functions, such as intermodal transportation, import and export management, fleet service management, and load planning and optimization.

Sharing information throughout the supply chain to create transparency among supply chain partners; for example, the ability of supply chain partners to access demand and production information from trading partners.

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Value-added network (VAN)

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Warehouse management system (WMS)

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Web directory

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Web services

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Wide area network (WAN)

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A computer application system designed to manage and optimize workflows and the storage of goods within a warehouse. It often interfaces with automated data capture and enterprise resource planning systems.

A network, often supporting EDI, providing services additional to those provided by common carriers.

A common internet or intranet framework that enables the movement of data from one supply chain application to another, without the requirement for a direct connection between the two applications and without regard to the underlying operating system for those applications.

A list of web pages that is structured hierarchically.

A public or private data communication system for linking computers distributed over a large geographic area.