

Re: (not entirely...) OT: OPINION... chicken entrails, runic stones, and crystal balls... WAS CoBOL moved to OO

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Cobol/comp.lang.cobol/2004-01/0154.html>

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Pierra <pierra@sprynet.com> wrote

> *Again, balancing was/is critical. Balancing is*
> *kind of hard to do in an interactive environment.*

Time based balancing, such as is found in most accounting systems, has many problems in interactive and/or real time environments.

One major issue is that transactions update master records and a balance is required to a specific date and time but may need adjustments to be entered.

This can be handled by complex systems procedures that keeps separate figures for balance date and ongoing transactions. These usually require batch processes to set and clear these.

Often, however, they lead to duplication of data by users taking samples into a spreadsheet or PC database and manipulating as they require. Their 'adjustments' may have to be replicated back into the system and this can lead to errors or omissions, and of course these may be completely invisible to the IT dept.