

# NBA 518 Spring 2004: Assignment 1

This assignment is due on Wednesday, February 11 in class.

This homework assignment has two questions. You can work in groups of two students for this assignment. You are welcome to discuss this assignment with students from other groups, but each group has to hand in its own assignment. The expected length of discussion for each question is two pages.

## **Question 1.**

Assume that you are currently the general manager of the “Aragon Division” of General Motors. This division is working on a new top-secret luxury car called *Aragon* that is only custom-built to order. The idea is that a customer goes to a dealer’s lot, test-drives a prototype of the Aragon, and then orders a customized version of the Aragon directly from the dealer’s office by specifying all options individually, including colors, extras, etc. GM promises to deliver the new custom-built within one week of the initial order. Currently, you need to interact with the IT division of GM by making a proposal how to integrate the requirements of the custom-ordering of the Aragon at the dealer’s office into the existing IT infrastructure.

What is the functionality of the system that connects the dealer’s office with the rest of GM’s IT infrastructure? Give examples of two transactions that such a system has to support. What could be the architecture of such a system, and will you make sure that it integrates well with the remainder of GM’s IT infrastructure?

## **Question 2.**

Exhausted from all the pressure at GM, you are looking for other opportunities, and so you are happy when you are approached by E-Trade ([www.etrade.com](http://www.etrade.com)) to take a position as general manager in their IT division. Thinking about this new opportunity, you are comparing the requirements of the E-Trade website with the system that you were designing for custom ordering of the Aragon. Give several examples that show similarities and differences between the two systems.