

## **MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

### **DATA WAREHOUSING**

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In the data warehousing class, we take a slightly different tack, and we start with dimensional modeling, which is actually the design of data cubes and the foundation for BI-like activities. And then we look at a series of cases, design cases and get real familiar with the design patterns that are in that area. Then we look at actually using those data warehouses through two main mechanisms-- analytic SQL-- and there's a set of extensions to SQL that lets you query data cubes in really nice ways-- and then online analytic processing, or OLAP tools, which are highly visual environments for slicing and dicing data and looking at data patterns as a human.

That same foundation would then provide machine learning algorithms, an opportunity to discover patterns without human involvement. Almost every large company has multiple data warehousing initiatives almost everywhere. And so the tool kits to do that work have really matured quickly. So what was something that was very difficult to do 10 years ago, even five years ago are actually much easier now.

So I think our program here is technical enough and hands-on enough that you get a lot of those skills to hit the ground running. I think you can't be a passive student anymore and just list the fact that you took classes in topics. You almost need a portfolio of work to convince someone that you're someone who can actually give true contributions to a team.