

**6th Middle East Information Management Conference
Kuwait, February 2006**

We attended the [6th Middle East Information Management Forum](#), co-sponsored by [Schlumberger Information Solutions](#) and [Kuwait Oil Co.](#), fearing it would be just ‘yet another’ data conference. Fortunately, this was not the case. Data management and information management (DM/IM) in the Middle East countries is different. First because it has much more of a production focus than in Europe or the USA. But more interestingly, because of the size and resources of the companies involved, DM/IM in the GCC¹ has been taken more seriously than in the west. The GCC National Oil Companies have taken the long term view to DM/IM. Building a corporate data store for fields with hundreds of wells and decades of production history is no small undertaking. If this means that it takes a five year plan, with allocation of people, training and finance, then that is what happens – a contrast with the West’s predilection for cost cutting, and its focus on the IT side of the equation. Host KOC’s DM/IM is a good example of such large scale deployments. KOC has over 1,000 users of its Finder database in production operations, gas operations, field development, drilling, planning, corrosion, well surveillance and reservoir management. Ongoing KOC data projects include data validation and quality, SCADA integration, data mining and decision support systems, automation of data capture and migration of forms-based front ends to the web. Schlumberger’s Finder database seems to have cornered the data store market for GCC NOCs. This is both a great achievement and a potential embarrassment for Schlumberger which is in the process of trying to wean its clients off Finder and onto Seabed. An animated debate at the close of the conference showed that this will not be easy.

Highlights

[Petroleum Engineering with Oracle \(Saudi Aramco\)](#)

[From Excel to Avocet \(Chevron\)](#)

[Data mining for reservoir management \(Informateks\)](#)

[Case history – Minagish field management \(KOC\)](#)

[Decide! data hub \(Saudi Aramco\)](#)

[Migrating data forms to the web \(KOC\)](#)

[Forum closing debate](#)

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¹ [Gulf Cooperation Council](#).