

7. RECOMMENDATION

Figure 7-1 shows the weighted architecture evaluation scores for the four candidate architectures.

Criteria	CP/CD	DP/CD	DP/RDP	DP/RDC
Cost	0.03	0.08	0.02	0.02
Implementability	0.08	0.04	0.04	0.04
Flexibility	0.01	0.02	0.04	0.04
Manageability	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
Usability	0.02	0.02	0.09	0.06
Security	0.01	0.05	0.05	0.05
Total	0.21	0.26	0.28	0.25

Figure 7-1. Weighted Architecture Evaluation Scores

The candidate architecture with the highest total score, and therefore the architecture recommended for Project EASI/ED, is distributed processing/replicated data for publication. The scores across all four candidate architectures were quite close, and this should not come as a surprise since all architectures have some inherent strengths and weaknesses. The choice of the preferred architecture in any particular business situation is heavily influenced by the unique drivers and constraints of that situation.

The distributed processing/replicated data for publication architecture is the preferred architecture for Project EASI/ED for a number of reasons. It has stronger flexibility characteristics than the centralized architectures, including the capability to be highly scalable, and to accommodate products from multiple vendors using industry-wide standards. It also has strong security features, with robust application and network security through multi-level security solutions and Internet firewalls. The use of dedicated data warehousing hardware and software allows the distributed processing/replicated data for publication architecture to satisfy the Project EASI/ED requirements for sophisticated decision support functionality. The distributed processing/replicated data for publication architecture gives users improved access to data, but does not require the same level of complicated data synchronization functionality that the distributed processing/replication for consolidation architecture has to provide. While all the candidate architectures described in Section 5 could provide services to meet the Project EASI/ED requirements, the distributed processing/replicated data for publication architecture has the mixture of capabilities that best provide a basis for fulfilling the Project EASI/ED vision.