The Future

• The Archetypical Planner
  – trend toward the employment of engineers as planners

• Integration of Customer Service into Planning –
  – finite capacity planning systems must have models that allow planners to quickly simulate costs based on different levels of service

• Emphasis on Methodology in Practice
  – Improved methodologies and education will increase the chances of successful finite capacity planning in practice.
• Testing of Models
  – There exists no specific information on how various commercial finite capacity planning packages perform under different conditions

• Static Versus Dynamic Models
  – Though static planning systems have contributed a great deal toward the optimization of the supply chain, there exists greater potential for dynamic models applied across entire supply chains to reduce the costs of day to day operations.
• **Visualization**  
  – Improved techniques of visualization offer great prospects for increased understanding of complex systems

• **Combining Models**  
  – The process of combining models is more art than science  
  – The combination of models in practice is a rich area for future applied research

• **Auxiliary Models**  
  – ERP systems are so complex that there often exists the need to run smaller models with data from the ERP system to solve problems quickly
• **Capacitated Materials Requirements Planning**
  – Virtually every MRP system installed assumes infinite capacity
  – New research has demonstrated that it is possible to achieve capacitated MRP

• **User-Centric Computing**
  – Trend toward user designed computer systems