Introduction to the Minitrack
“IT Governance and its Mechanisms”
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IT governance is the organizational capacity exercised by the Board, executive management and IT management to control the formulation and implementation of IT strategy and in this way ensuring the fusion of business and IT. The three crucial IT governance questions are concerned with effectiveness, efficiency and control of IT. The effectiveness question refers to the business/IT alignment processes.

The Minitrack “IT Governance and its Mechanisms” within the “Organizational Systems and Technology” Track was introduced last year in the HICSS conference. The goal of this new Minitrack is to enhance publications on the issue of IT governance and its mechanisms. It is expected to get submissions from academics and practitioners involved in research on IT governance, Business/IT alignment, IT Balanced Scorecard, COBIT implementations, ITIL implementations, applications of the Capability Maturity Model for IT processes, and typical IT governance mechanisms such as steering committees. Submissions on IT audit issues are also solicited. Manuscripts are solicited for this IT Governance Minitrack through the ISACA network, the HICSS website and e-mails to colleagues that I know have an interest in this subject. Five submissions were accepted:

1. “An empirical study on the impact of electronic business readiness on leadership capabilities in information technology governance” by Ryan Peterson and Alea Fairchild of the Tilburg University (The Netherlands).
   This paper describes an empirical study of leadership capabilities for governing IT in electronic business environments. The research examines the task, relationship, and change orientations of e-business leadership, based on empirical research on 30 successfully operating e-business sites, with hypotheses developed from situational leadership theory.

   This study took place in a large government agency and sheds some light on the interaction of IT policy, practice and success or in this case failure. The study employs both interpretivist and positivist oriented perspectives to develop a descriptive model that identifies significant factors influencing levels of policy compliance.

3. “Health informatics governance: researching deferred IS/IT mechanisms” by Nandish Patel of the Brunel University (UK). This research concerns how to make hospital information management in the British National Health Service adaptable to particular contexts and situations. It is investigated how to make commercial of-the-shelf systems adaptable to support administrative and clinical staff in their roles.

4. “Development of an instrument to evaluate the quality of delivered information systems” by Carla Wilkin and Tanya Castleman of the Deakin University (Australia).
   Delivered information systems are an integral part of many organizations’ information technology infrastructure. Given the size of investment in these systems, formulation of a multidimensional instrument of measuring the quality of delivered information systems or applications is invaluable for business. This paper reports on the development of one such instrument.

5. “Aligning strategies: organizational, project, individual” by Rick Hefner, TRW (US).
   This paper explores the requirements for aligning strategies across organizations, projects, and individuals, using a industry best-practices model as a reference. Key points are illustrated with industrial examples.