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 Minitrack “IT Governance and its Mechanisms” within the “Organizational Systems and Technology” Track is introduced at the HICSS conference in 2002. The goal of this 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 IT 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 are know to have an interest in this subject. This year 22 submissions were received of which 12 were accepted.

1. “Attempting to define IT governance: wisdom or folly” by Phyl Webb, Carol Pollard and Gail Ridley of the University of Tasmania (Australia). This paper conceptually explores existing IT governance literature and reveals diverse definitions of IT governance.

2. “An integrated framework for IT governance and the development and validation of an assessment instrument” by Tomi Dahlberg and Hannu Kivijärvi of the Helsinki School of Economics (Finland). This paper presents a new IT governance framework and introduces an assessment tool designed to measure its effectiveness.

3. “A governance model for managing outsourcing partnerships” by Heiko Gewald and Kay Helbig respectively of Goethe University and IBM (Germany). This work describes the governance model as deployed by one of the largest outsourcing service providers in the world.

4. “An empirical study on business/ICT alignment in European organisations” by Bjorn Cumps, Stijn Viaene, Guido Dedene and Jacques Vandebulcke of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium). Based on a survey, this study analyses context dependency of business/ICT alignment and deduces some practical guidelines.

5. “Information Technology governance best practices in Belgian organizations” by Steven De Haes and Wim Van Grembergen of the University of Antwerp and the University of Antwerp Management School (Belgium). This paper interprets some important existing theories, models and practices in the IT governance domain and derives research propositions from it.

6. "IT governance: reviewing 17 IT governance tools and analyzing the case of Novozymes A/S" by Michael Larsen, Mogens Pedersen and Kim Andersen of the Copenhagen Business School (Denmark). Based on a review of IT governance tools, the paper analyses the challenges of adopted IT governance arrangements and mechanisms.

7. “Enhancing the prognostic power of IT balanced scorecards with Bayesian Belief Networks” by Stefan Blumenberg and Daniel Hinz of the Goethe University (Germany). This work shows how causal modeling employing Bayesian Belief Networks can be used to improve the Balanced Scorecard methodology.

8. “Process governance and optimization of IT reliant business processes” by Tim Weitzel of the Goethe University (Germany). In this paper it is shown that a proper process orientation, documentation and analysis is a necessary and often neglected prerequisite for efficiency improvements.

9. "Reengineering IT internal controls: applying capability maturity models to the evaluation of IT controls”, by Roger Deblency of the University of Hawaii at Manoa (US). This research is an explanatory attempt to determine the capability maturity of organizations.

10. “On how the feasibility study is influenced by an ICT project’s main trigger” by Koen Milis, Stijn Viaene and Piet Ribbers respectively of the University of Tilburg and the Catholic University of Leuven. In this paper a first attempt is made at examining the role of an ICT’s project’s main trigger on the nature of the feasibility study.

11. “IT projects: conflict: governance and systems thinking”, by David Johnstone, Sid Huff and Beverley Hope of the Victoria University of Wellington (New Zealand). In this work the basic concepts of systems thinking are applied to deliver a holistic research framework for IT projects focusing on the resolution process.

12. “Managing the impact of IT on firm success: the link between the resource-based view and ITIL” by Heinz-Theo Wagner of the Goethe University (Germany). In this contribution two distinct approaches to addressing the question what is the impact on firm success are incorporated.