
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Maged Ali is a Lecturer of Business and IT at Business School, Brunel University (UK). He has achieved a multi-disciplinary research background in information systems, cross-cultural studies and business management. He has been a Visiting Lecturer at several universities in UK and abroad. He is a Business Consultant for several companies in UK and abroad. He is in a member of editorial committee of several journals, as well as co-and-mini-track chair to international conferences. He has edited special issue journals, and publishes his scholarly work in well established journals and conferences.

Habin Lee is a Lecturer in Brunel Business School and has research interests in knowledge management and mobile computing. He has published over 50 articles on international journal, conference proceedings and book chapters including *Management Science*, *IEEE Pervasive Computing*, *IEEE Tr. on Mobile Computing, Information Sciences*, *Computers in Human Behaviour* and so on.

It gives us great pleasure to welcome you to this issue of the *International Journal of Value Chain Management*. This issue is dedicated to the publication of selected papers researching cultural and socio-technical aspects of ICT domain from the *European Mediterranean Conference on Information Systems* (<http://www.emcis.org>, 2008). In this issue, there is an eclectic presentation of research covering topical issues associated with information systems (IS).

This issue starts off with Ward and Sipior paper as they argue that jurisdiction is the authority of a court to resolve a specific legal action. In resolving legal actions related to e-commerce which crosses borders, there currently is no statutory solution to determine jurisdiction. The answer to the question, where in the world is internet jurisdiction, is currently determined case by case through court action. This paper addresses the concerns about internet jurisdiction risk from a US perspective. The questions of legal internet jurisdiction are then discussed by examining the legal theories for jurisdiction. The standards within the USA, as well as those applied in international disputes, are discussed and exemplified with legal cases. Based upon our analysis of the applicable legal theories and cases, we recommend approaches for e-businesses to address internet jurisdiction risk. We conclude that there is a need to develop a globally agreed upon standard.

Then, Basahel and Irani have highlighted the importance of integration of IS/IT strategy with other business units' strategies. They claim that the layer of integration through business strategies requires an explanation of interrelationships so that business objectives appropriate to the available resources and market conditions can be established. This study is a comprehensive examination of the relationship between IS and operational strategy at airlines organisation. Operation is considered one of the core activities at this organisation. In their study, the researchers employ a qualitative method, presenting the literature on IS integration and utilising a case study approach to understand the how and why of using IS at this organisation. In their study, they have discussed the existing frameworks, both theoretical and practical, for IS strategic integration. The results show that there are strong relationships but as a traditional kind of back office support of IS for operational strategy within this case study.

Mohamed and Guah then, have highlighted the importance of IS expenditure for gaining competitive advantage in the service sector and for effective delivery of services. They argue that, many formal processes for IS budgeting and evaluation do not take into consideration the vast amount spent on indirect human costs of IS implementation. The paper reviews existing work on the evaluation of IT investments and identifies a major problem in IS evaluation to be the identification of indirect human costs. The authors build on the theory of indirect human costs drivers by proposing key performance indicators that facilitate transparency and better management of these costs. They describe the context and propose a framework, using three cases from the service sector, namely health, financial and retail industries, where expenditures on IS have significantly increased in the past decade.

Hanafizadeh et al. then, have discussed e-business development and the influence on core competence of emerging global economy. They argue that, it is essential that all nations continue to nurture e-business development. However, successful implementation of e-business requires operational policies and plans that fit in with countries' internal circumstances. Their study is the first attempt to make recommendations that enhance e-business deployment in Iran. In this paper, studying 19 countries and four regions, 339 recommendations for e-business development are extracted. Then, using content analysis, 32 recommendations are selected and categorised into four groups of 'e-infrastructure,' 'human resource', 'security' and 'policies and plans'. They claim that countries selected for extracting their recommendations are those whose circumstances in terms of cultural, social and economic conditions and information and communication technology (ICT) development resemble Iran's. Therefore, they recommend that these recommendations seem to be able to be exploited by developing countries, in particular, by Middle East countries. Finally, they have conducted a survey to gather the recommendations that are compatible with Iran's internal circumstances and then categories it according to the level of priority been judged by experts in the area.

Al-Shafi and Weerakkody then, provide a research paper on the Qatari Government launch of free wireless internet parks (iPark) concept with a view of providing free internet access for all citizens while enjoying the outdoors. By offering free wireless internet access, the Qatari Government encourages its citizen's to actively participate in the global information society with a view of bridging the digital divide. The adoption and diffusion of iPark services will depend on user acceptance and availability of wireless technology. This research presents the results of a survey undertaken in three public parks in Doha, the capital of Qatar to examine citizens' acceptance of the iPark initiative. The results of the survey showed that there is a positive level of relation

between the independent variables, usefulness, ease of use, internet safety and internet speed/response time and one dependent variable, intention to use the iPark in Qatar. The authors provide a discussion on the key findings, research implications, limitations and future directions for the iPark initiative in Qatar.

Sahraoui et al. then, highlighted that continuous auditing requires that information systems are developed not only to fulfill business requirements but also to continuously monitor transactions and fulfill compliance and pervasive control requirements. They argue that, the integration of enterprise systems and their controls within a process-centric logic necessitates a likewise integration of their development processes. Subsequently, existing tools and techniques for requirements analysis need to be recast within a hybrid and integrated approach dubbed requirement analysis for process-centric continuous monitoring or RA-PCCM, which consists of the concurrent analysis of operational systems, IS, the control system and the management system. RA-PCCM offers a working model for the concurrent development of enterprise systems and their internal controls, hence, ensuring the continuous monitoring of transaction processing and compliance with pervasive controls. Consequently, they conclude that auditing assumes the role of control monitoring assurance rather than the substantive testing of enterprise system process and output.

Lee et al. then, in their paper have proposed an agent-based system for knowledge management in a mobile work environment. The system is developed based on a real case of telecommunications service provision and maintenance. In the system, cooperating multi-agents play a central role by integrating heterogeneous systems to collect and provide related knowledge for effective execution of mobile tasks and problem solving. The proposed system is expected to increase both the performance of the mobile workforce and customer satisfaction by facilitating creation and sharing of knowledge.

Hameed et al. then, have analysed the current data continuity (information assurance) mechanisms employed by the target group of businesses and to identify any inadequacies in such mechanisms as a whole. The questionnaire responses indicate that 47% of respondents do perceive backup methodologies as important, with a total of 70% of respondents having some backup methodology already in place. The business respondents perceived the loss of data to have a significant effect upon the ability of their business to function. Only 14% of respondents indicated that loss of data on computer systems would not affect their business at all, with 54% of respondents indicating that there would be either a 'major effect' (or greater) on their ability to operate. Respondents who had experienced data loss were more likely to have backup methodologies in place (53%) than respondents that had not experienced data loss (18%). Although the number of respondents clearly affected the quality and conclusiveness of the results returned, there is a significant level of empirical data from this research to suggest a strong association between the existence of backup methodologies and company size. Further investigation is recommended into the subject in order to validate the information gleaned from the small number of respondents.

Last but not least, Mohammad et al. have argued that, amid the tangible transformations within the knowledge era, seismic changes in the business model have taken place. These changes have led to the emergence of what's so called 'knowledge business model (KBM)'. Utilisation of a new business model includes unique challenges and opportunities. Knowledge assets and information technology are embodied as the driving forces beyond application of KBM. On the other hand, the emergence of a new

business models has raised serious questions about the validity of logical components of conventional accounting model (CAM). This study seeks to explore the validity of the CAM as result for adopting KBM. Analysing huge body of accounting literature, knowledge management and innovation has shown milestones of what can be called KAM. Statistical analysis of practitioners and professionals responses has shown a satisfactory rate of validity of CAM with the emphasis on adaptation of logical components of it to cope with knowledge necessities.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as we enjoyed assembling it for you, and look forward to receiving your valuable contributions for the coming issue.