
Editorial

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The notion of social network and the methods of Social Network Analysis (SNA) have attracted considerable attention of academic researchers and industry practitioners due to the ability to investigate social structures and relationships made of individuals or organisations. Although SNA has found applications in a wide spectrum of problem domains, including psychology, sociology, politics, and public policy, its applications in IT have been sparse. This special issues calls for research that either extends SNA theories into the IT domain or utilises SNA tools and methods to study various IT issues such as knowledge management, business process management, human resource management, outsourcing management, business intelligence, project management and virtual teams, and social network sites.

This special issue is open to a wide range of content areas that lend themselves to the analysis of network relationships in the IT domain. We welcome researchers and practitioners from interdisciplinary fields to explore various aspects of social networks analysis and its implication for the advancement of IT research. We are looking for papers that address IT related SNA from a variety of perspectives and from different methodological and theoretical backgrounds.

In this special issue, the guest editors are glad to present two innovative and interesting works. The first paper, 'The effect of virtuality on individual network centrality and performance in on-going, distributed teams', considers a multi-dimensional view of individual virtuality and its relationship with centrality in the team's face-to-face network and ICT network. The authors apply social network theory and hierarchical analysis in this study. They find that members with higher dispersion are less central in the face-to-face network while those with higher ICT use are more central in the ICT network. The results offer insights for academics and practitioners on how to improve individual performance in distributed teams.

The second paper, 'Perks, political networks and institutional environment', investigates the impacts of the executives' political networks on business operations. The authors collect the data from the listed companies in China from 2005–2007, and find that the political networks in the state-owned companies brought a larger scale of on-the-job expenditure comparing to the private companies. They also find that promoting the market reform and accelerating the institutional environment construction could inhibit the demand of political networks.

In conclusion, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the authors who have contributed to this special issue. We would also like to acknowledge the help provided by the reviewers. Finally, we want to express our greatest gratitude to Professor Wayne Huang, Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Internet and Enterprise Management* for his endless support for making this special issue a reality.