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Special Issue on

Governing IT in inter-organizational relationships

Business firms and other organizations in the public and private sectors increasingly operate as part of highly distributed and loosely coupled ecosystems. These network arrangements are precipitated by pressures to globalize markets for and sources of products and services in a bid to lower costs and increase profitability or program outcomes. The capacity to operate within this global network of relationships is facilitated by the extraordinary technological and process innovations made possible by the application of advanced information and communication technologies (ICTs). These technologies are fueling the unprecedented growth in inter-organizational relationships and the complex inter-linkages that result. Enterprises in both the private and public sectors are connecting to each other through complex enterprise systems that underpin their value chains. At the same time many organizations are attempting to move away from owning ICT systems and infrastructure that support their business model to sourcing these systems and services in non-traditional market or network arrangements. For example, firms are increasingly adopting “cloud-based” and “open source” platform-as-a-service (PaaS) models for provisioning ICT systems and infrastructure. Other organizations are joining forces to create ICT service delivery networks usually manifested as IT shared services. These complex network arrangements pose a number of IT governance challenges. These challenges revolve around the allocation of accountability, responsibility, and decision rights in network arrangements where there is distributed ownership of the ICT resources, systems, and processes. They also relate to the challenge of safeguarding and enhancing the quality and value of IT services delivered through these new IT service provisioning ecosystems.

The issues described above should raise some important questions for both researchers and practitioners. We solicit papers for this special issues covering, but not limited, to the following topics:

- Frameworks and theories for understanding inter-organizational IT governance relationships.
- Emerging issues in governing IT in loosely-coupled, global business ecosystems.
- Multi-jurisdictional governance of IT in government and other public sector organizations.
- Governing IT in cloud computing and other platform-as-a-service arrangements.
- Shared IT service governance.
- Governance of common IT infrastructure.
- Research approaches to studying inter-organizational IT governance.
- IT governance in traditional outsourcing and market arrangements.
- Implications for IT governance in open source relationships.
- Processes and mechanisms for governing inter-organizational IT arrangements.
- Participants’ roles and relationships with new forms of IT provisioning
- Governing employee owned and selected IT in organizational settings
- Cross-cultural issues in inter-organizational IT governance relationships

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**Submission Guidelines and Important Dates**
- Papers may be submitted to the special issue any time before **October 30, 2010**
- Submit using the EJIS online paper submission system at [http://ejis.msubmit.net/cgibin/main.plex](http://ejis.msubmit.net/cgibin/main.plex)
- (Select the Special Issue during submission)
- Follow the EJIS formatting guidelines at [http://ejis.msubmit.net/cgibin/main.plex?form_type=display_auth_instructions](http://ejis.msubmit.net/cgibin/main.plex?form_type=display_auth_instructions)  (Note that papers should be no longer than 8000 words)