
BUSINESS AGILITY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIFFUSION

IFIP – The International Federation for Information Processing

IFIP was founded in 1960 under the auspices of UNESCO, following the First World Computer Congress held in Paris the previous year. An umbrella organization for societies working in information processing, IFIP's aim is two-fold: to support information processing within its member countries and to encourage technology transfer to developing nations. As its mission statement clearly states,

IFIP's mission is to be the leading, truly international, apolitical organization which encourages and assists in the development, exploitation and application of information technology for the benefit of all people.

IFIP is a non-profitmaking organization, run almost solely by 2500 volunteers. It operates through a number of technical committees, which organize events and publications. IFIP's events range from an international congress to local seminars, but the most important are:

- The IFIP World Computer Congress, held every second year;
- Open conferences;
- Working conferences.

The flagship event is the IFIP World Computer Congress, at which both invited and contributed papers are presented. Contributed papers are rigorously refereed and the rejection rate is high.

As with the Congress, participation in the open conferences is open to all and papers may be invited or submitted. Again, submitted papers are stringently refereed.

The working conferences are structured differently. They are usually run by a working group and attendance is small and by invitation only. Their purpose is to create an atmosphere conducive to innovation and development. Refereeing is less rigorous and papers are subjected to extensive group discussion.

Publications arising from IFIP events vary. The papers presented at the IFIP World Computer Congress and at open conferences are published as conference proceedings, while the results of the working conferences are often published as collections of selected and edited papers.

Any national society whose primary activity is in information may apply to become a full member of IFIP, although full membership is restricted to one society per country. Full members are entitled to vote at the annual General Assembly, National societies preferring a less committed involvement may apply for associate or corresponding membership. Associate members enjoy the same benefits as full members, but without voting rights. Corresponding members are not represented in IFIP bodies. Affiliated membership is open to non-national societies, and individual and honorary membership schemes are also offered.

BUSINESS AGILITY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIFFUSION

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Preface

This book developed as the collective product of the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) Working Group 8.6, a working group dedicated to the study of diffusion and adoption of information technology innovations. The book proceeds from the IFIP Working Conference on Business Agility and IT Diffusion held in Atlanta, Georgia, in May of 2005.

The conference employed a public call for papers and attracted a total of 42 submissions. These included 27 full research papers, and 15 other papers, case studies, practitioner experience reports, posters, and panels. The conference program committee refereed submissions in a double-blind review process. Selection of the papers for inclusion in this book (and appearance at the conference) was difficult, as the quality of these submissions led to an impressive number of positive reviews. Ultimately we selected 13 research papers, two case studies, and three experience reports, along with three panels. The papers submitted by the conference's three keynote speakers were editorially reviewed and also appear in this book.

Staging a conference and producing a book is never possible without the commitment and hard work of many individuals and organizations. We want to thank IFIP and the sponsors for promoting the conference and providing support and funding for its implementation. The sponsors are IFIP, Georgia State University, Robinson College of Business, Gartner, Microsoft, and Intel. Also the conference has been supported by the Computer Information Systems Department and Center for Process Innovation at Georgia State University.

The Program Committee has been active in shaping and promoting the conference and they have played a key role as reviewers and selectors of the contributions to the conference and this book. The Program Committee members are

- Ivan Aaen, Aalborg University, Denmark
- Pekka Abrahamsson, Technical Research Centre of Finland
- Ritu Agarwal, University of Maryland, U.S.A.
- Carole Brooke, University of Lincoln, UK
- Deborah Bunker, University of New South Wales, Australia
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- Eleanor Wynn, Intel Corporation IT, U.S.A.
- Robert Zmud, University of Oklahoma, U.S.A.

The Organizing Committee has been responsible for the implementation of the program and for setting up an environment during the conference that facilitates interaction and future collaboration amongst the participants. The Organizing Committee members are

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| • Richard Baskerville | • Mark Lewis |
| • Lars Mathiassen | • Nannette Napier |
| • Jan Pries-Heje | • Alina Dulipovici |
| • Carol Patterson | • JJ Po-An Hsieh |

Finally, we want to thank the publisher, Springer, and in particular Janice DeGross without whose professional guidance, manuscript management, and copyediting, it would not have been possible to produce the book.

With a committed network of collaborators that at all times have demonstrated agile academic and practical capabilities it has been a pleasure to participate in designing and organizing the “Business Agility and IT Difusion”-2005 event.

Atlanta and Copenhagen
February 2005

Richard Baskerville
Lars Mathiassen
Jan Pries-Heje