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**ERP IS DEAD (OR IS IT?) LONG LIVE E-BUSINESS!:AN EXPLORATION  
OF THE FUTURE OF ERP AND IT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH E-BUSINESS<sup>1</sup>  
(Panel)**

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<sup>1</sup> Much reliance has been placed on ideas and statements made in (PricewaterhouseCoopers, *E-Business and ERP: Transforming the Enterprise*, Wiley, 2000). Thanks to Norman Scott of PwC for the book.

Internet companies despite the megahype to the contrary, must still establish and execute efficient business processes to make and move product, market and sell, manage finances and employees, and grapple with regulatory bodies. On the other hand, traditional companies will have to respond to the strategic opportunities arising from the internet and e-technology or face extinction.

ERP has for some time been the primary enterprise application and the architectural framework into which most other applications plug. This role is being challenged. Some argue that in their rush to become an e-business most companies, because of the compatibility issues involved in making 3rd party e-business applications work fluidly with any of the current ERP, will decide against implementing an ERP system, stop a current ERP development in its tracks, or even backtrack away from ERP as the technology of transaction processing. Some advocates of E-business claim that: web-based technology can effectively supplant internal information systems, and that transaction processing inside the enterprise can be carried out via the software of these front-end communication systems and passed from one to the next.

This panel seeks to explore the present and future relationship of ERP and E-business software and their respective futures. Discussion will commence around the statement ... *E-business simply does not work without clean internal processes and data ... Web-based technology puts life and breath into ERP technology, that is large, technologically cumbersome, and does not easily reveal its value ... ERP will integrate and evolve with a host of other technologies that cumulatively support the E-business model.* (PWC, 2000).

At the conclusion to the panel discussion, the members will all be asked to give their response to the question: Which future scenario is more likely and why? (a) Successful front-end E-business software vendor builds a viable transaction engine component. (b) Custom, in-house transaction engine that processes transactions between E-business front-ends. (d) Increased ERP product compatibility with 3rd party front-ends. (e) More flexible, more easily implemented ERP with e-business functionality. (f) Application Service Provision.

Guy Gable will chair the panel, which includes two teams of two panelists each in addition to the chair. Two pairs of panelists will assume two main perspectives. Vessey and Lee will take a pro-ERP stance and Markus and Shanks a pro-E-business stance. Further, a member of each team will focus on either behavioral or technological issues impacting the joint-futures of ERP and E-business software. Thus, we have the following four perspectives represented on the panel.

|                |                      | <b>ERP</b>  | <b>E-Business</b> |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| <b>Issues:</b> | <b>Stand:</b>        |             |                   |
|                | <b>Behavioral</b>    | Vessey (IU) | Markus (CUHK)     |
|                | <b>Technological</b> | Lee (NTU)   | Shanks (UM)       |