

MESSAGE FROM SIM

IT-enabled innovation creates promising opportunities, but it can result in unfulfilled promises when undertaken by zealots without a realistic and retrospective view.

The article from the National University of Singapore examines the promises of e-procurement and provides ways to overcome barriers to success. It provides an excellent global perspective on the potential and pitfalls of e-procurement.

Organizations have been promised great returns from implementing standard ERP packages, only to find out too late that they need significant modification to function in their business environment. The article from Nanyang Technological University provides pragmatic ways for early detection and resolution of these issues.

The article on open source software gives us a heads-up with a compelling case for using Professional Open Software (POS) as an alternative to paying significant licensing fees. It then goes on to explain there is no such thing as free lunch, as the software does need to be supported, albeit at reduced total cost of ownership.

Ryan Nelson's enlightening article shows us that delivering projects to promised time, cost, and scope may still lead to outcome failure when organizations lose sight of achieving the intended business value.

All four articles in the September issue demonstrate the benefit from retrospective views, even when dealing with relatively new innovations. MISQE fills this vital role by providing practitioners with timely, research-based analysis of early adopters. The lessons learned from MISQE publications are invaluable to the informed reader.

SIM has recognized the importance of the academic relationship since beginning its roots over 30 years ago. An area of great common interest and concern is that US colleges and universities are reporting 25-50% decreases in students studying IT (e.g., computer science, information systems).

The SIM leadership firmly believes that there will be a resurgence in the need for IT professionals at all lev-

els, despite the dot com bubble and the outsourcing phenomena. SIM is undertaking a research project with an international team of academic leaders to identify the skills that IT professionals need going forward. SIM will then develop a common voice to take stands on this very important topic. Lastly, SIM is looking to create more outreach programs with academic institutions to help students make informed decisions on their fields of study.

Please visit <http://www.SIMnet.org> to learn more about this important initiative and ways you can participate.



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