

Editors' Comments

Dear Readers,

In collaboration with SIM, *MISQE* holds an annual pre-ICIS workshop on a special theme. This year, we will be having both a pre-ICIS and a pre-HICSS workshop on the same theme. Potential presenters can choose to present at the conference of their preference. The special theme is The Sharing Economy. A special issue on The Shared Economy will be published in the December 2017 issue. The workshop chairs and special issue editors are Iris Junglas, Hope Koch, Arun Sundararajan, and Ping Wang. Those wishing to present at one of the workshops must submit an abstract of no more than 2 single-spaced pages by September 6. Papers for the special issue will be due on March 1, 2017. For more information, please see the call for submission on the *MISQE* website.

We have another exciting special issue in the making. Nils Urbach, Paul Drews, and Jeanne Ross are co-editors of a special issue on Digital Business Transformation and the Changing Role of the IT Function. Digital business transformation is having a major impact on corporations with such trends as big data, the internet of things, mobile IS, and cloud technology offering the potential for new business models. Paper submissions are due by October 17, 2016. The special issue will be published in June 2017. Please see the misqe.org website for the full call for papers.

This September issue features four case studies written by authors in 7 countries (Australia, China, Germany, New Zealand, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States). The cases themselves cover one company headquartered in Germany, one in China, and two in the United States.

The first case, "How adidas realized benefits from a contrary IT multisourcing strategy" examines adidas' use of a new type of multisourcing strategy wherein vendor overlaps are embraced in such a way as to remove the constraints associated with isolated vendors working on modular tasks. Authors Benoit Aubert, Martin Wiener, Carol Saunders, Reinhard Denk, and Tobias Wolfermann provide insights for companies wishing to leverage multisourcing to achieve business benefits.

The second case study, "How a latecomer company used IT to redeploy slack resources," broaches the under-studied theme of how to redeploy resources into productive use. As an economy slows, slack resources become common in organizations. Using IT to reassign these resources to productive uses can provide significant benefits to organizations. Based on the experiences of the largest construction machinery manufacturer in China, authors Wenyu Du, Jinsong Huang, and Shan Pan derive a four-phase process of IT-enabled slack redeployment and provide six recommendations for CIOs.

The third case, "How Buckman's value stream initiative revisioned IT for value," describes how Buckman used a micro-level, individual view of value as perceived by customers to discover the value being derived from IT activities and to make changes in IT service delivery, efficiency and effectiveness. Authors Brian Janz, Ernest Nichols, Tim Meek, and John Oglesby won the 2014 SIM Paper Competition for an earlier version of this paper.

The fourth case, "The role and value of a cloud service provider," provides the perspective of a cloud service provider as the company engaged in four different types of cloud service relationships with various customers. Authors Christopher Califf, Saonee Sarker, Suprateek Sarker, and Mark Skilton provide insights into the challenges facing cloud partners and their clients in choosing the role best suited for the business needs and preferences. They conclude with suggestions for CIOs on how to get the most out of the relationship with a cloud service partner.

The September issue closes with a SIM-APC report prepared by Heather Smith titled "Learning from Successful CIOs." This report is based on the wisdom learned from Heather's interviews of Tony Lombardi, Bob MacTaggart, Jonathan Palmer, Steve Pickett, Ed Trainor, and Mark Walther.

Happy Reading!

Dorothy E. Leidner
Editor-in-Chief (dorothy_leidner@baylor.edu)