

Editors' Comments

From the Editor-in-Chief:

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the September issue of *MIS Quarterly Executive*. In this issue, we are pleased to publish the final article from the Sharing Economy special issue of December 2017. The December 2017 issue contained 4 articles on the sharing economy, followed by one in March 2018 and one in June 2018. Collectively, the 7 articles on the Sharing Economy provide a wide variety of perspectives and examples of this “new” economy. The sharing economy article in this issue features an analysis of failures among sharing economy startups. In their article titled “Reasons for Failures of Sharing Economy Businesses”, Chasin, von Hoffen, Hoffmeister, and Becker interviewed managers from 17 sharing economy businesses—all of whom had either been forced to relaunch, were close to failure, or had ceased to operate—to understand the struggles they faced. The authors also followed the performance of 521 sharing platforms for nearly 3 years. Of the 521, over 20% failed. Their results are a telling reminder that in spite of the widespread success stories of several key sharing economy players, entering the sharing economy space is beset with financial, technological, emotional (trust), legal, and marketing challenges. The authors provide important insights for entrepreneurs as well as established firms hoping to enter the sharing economy space.

The second article in this issue is a prelude to the December 2019 special issue on Blockchain. This article—“Growing Business Interest in Blockchain Technology” by Mary Lacity—tells the story of three companies pursuing blockchain solutions and the challenges they faced in the areas of standards, regulations, shared governance, and critical mass. The first case describes a blockchain-based platform to enable neighbors to buy and sell their locally produced energy. The second case describes a blockchain-based service to verify that instructions for the 3D printing of aircraft parts are authentic. The third case describes a blockchain-based solution to meet the new legal requirements for pharmaceutical tracking throughout the entire

supply chain. Through the case studies, Lacity offers key questions to for managers considering a blockchain application. The article also provides excellent reading for anyone thinking of submitting to the special issue on “Delivering Business Value through Enterprise Blockchain Applications”. The deadline for submissions to the special issue is February 18, 2019. The call for articles can be found on the *MISQE* website (www.misqe.org).

The third article in this issue challenges the overwhelmingly positive outlook on digital initiatives. By and large, digital transformation, digitalization, and digital strategy have been presented as value-adding undertakings by organizations. However, Grover, Kohli, and Ramanlal, in “Being Mindful in Digital Initiatives”, remind us that it is important to reflect critically on the value proposition afforded by digital initiatives before investing significant sums into digital investments that have the risk of neither creating nor appropriating economic value. Following an analysis of the creation of economic value from digital investments, the authors identify situations when digitization may not be good business.

The fourth article in this issue sets forth to package the tremendous amount of academic literature on IS security into a descriptive review for practitioners. The article—“Challenges and Best Practices in Information Security Management” by Mark-David McLaughlin and Janis Gogan—organizes the findings from the IS security literature into five interrelated tasks—organizational preparation for information security incidents, organizational prevention of information security incidents, organizational detection of information security events, organizational response to information security events, and organizational learning from information security events. McLaughlin and Gogan’s article was initially presented at HICSS 2017 as part of the practice-based IS minitrack. The authors took extensive feedback from the conference and from several rounds of review to prepare the article for *MISQE*.

There’s still time to submit your abstract for the *MISQE* academic workshops at ICIS 2018 and HICSS 2019 on the topic of delivering

business value through enterprise blockchain applications. The workshop organizers and special issue editors are Mary Lacity, Rajiv Sabherwal, and Carsten Sørensen. The deadline for the submission of abstracts for the workshops is September 10. Please visit the *MISQE* website for the call for abstracts and a description of the workshops and the subsequent special issue.

I would also like to welcome several new senior editors to *MISQE*: SK Sia, Martin Mocker, Kristine Dery, and Yolande Chan have all recently begun terms as senior editors. *MISQE* is very excited to bring their experience and passion for practice-based IS research to the senior editorial board.

Happy Reading!

Dorothy Leidner
Editor-in-Chief