

MIS 800: Final Project Fall 2016 –

The purpose of this assignment is to provide students an opportunity to gain up-to-date understanding of important emerging developments in IT. Our emphasis is on practice, i.e., getting to know the “real world” realities.

A number of exciting new (or relatively new) developments are gaining acceptance in the world of IS/IT practice. For the purpose of this assignment, we will divide these developments into three types:

Type I

These developments are centered around or originated from new software or hardware technologies. As more and more organizations implemented the technology, a set of management practice and methods evolved. Examples include Customer relationship management (CRM), Enterprise resource planning (ERP), Data warehousing (DW), and Data mining (DM), E-Learning and Online Education, Cloud Computing, Big Data

Data Analytics Technology

Type II

These developments were originated in the form of concepts and methods, but certainly have been facilitated by software technologies. Examples include Knowledge management (KM), Business intelligence (BI), the Balanced scorecard (BSC) methodology for performance evaluation, Computer and Information Systems Security, Data Analytics

Type III

Similar to Type II, these developments were also originated as concepts and methods. However, unlike Type II, these are more or less “pure” methods that are quite independent from technologies. Examples include Enterprise architecture, Service Oriented Architecture (SOA), Software as a Service (SAAS) and Agile development methods- SCRUM, etc.

Depending on the "Type" you choose, the assignment differs somewhat. Note: due to the variety of developments, the format indicated below may not fit all different situations. Use your judgment and creativity while following the general guidelines.

On December 9, 2016 submit these:

- 1) The paper as "specified" below in Pdf. Upload the paper as well as power point in CANVAS. (No binder, no fancy cover, please! The paper is to be printed double spaced, one-inch margin on all sides, 12-point font, and about 15 to 20 pages.
- 2) A copy of the PowerPoint file.

Motivate yourself for this assignment this way – I am an "expert" in Information Systems and Information Technology. Do I really know enough about these important new developments? After completing this assignment:

1. You should have more confidence in answering this question.
2. At the very least have gained more "practice" side information on various Information Technology
3. Be better armed with first hand practical knowledge which enables you to take a better IT decision if and when you are in that position

~~The best part is that we can learn from each other. Make copies of your presentation and distribute it to your colleagues in the class. We will have short presentations (15-20 minutes). Order of presentations will be announced later.~~

Type I: Report Outline

Section 1: Introduction

- Definitive description of the technology.
- Brief history: when and how it all started. The first vendor, etc. (e.g., precursor to CRM in sales force automation)
- Functionalities of the technology (what does it actually accomplish). If necessary, identify classes of functionalities and several levels of sophistication. You may need to come up with a short list (most vendors offers) and a long list (some vendors offer).

ERP has been around for quite some time, but the "next generation of ERP" seems to be coming (see the article by Brown and Vessey in a recent issue of MISQ Executive).

Section 2: Current and future industry trends

- Top vendors (3 to 5). If possible, prepare a table with vendors as rows and functionalities as columns. Fill in the cells with Y/N marks or more detailed marks (e.g., excellent, good, average, and inferior).
- Market segments: are there different segments for small, medium, and large business clients (with different features and emphases)?
- Trends: existing features being modified or new features being added? Integration with other technologies? Consolidation in the industry?
- Current stage of diffusion according to Nolan's 4-stage model (take your best estimate).

Section 3: Business and organizational significance

Possible impacts on business operational efficiency and strategic effectiveness. What about implications for organizational processes and structures? In addition to the within-firm impacts, any possible impact on the inter-firm relationships and industry structure?

Section 4: Case study

Illustrate some/ or all impacts and benefits discussed in Section 3 with a mini case study. See if you can find a "best practice" case. For this, I suggest that you use the college library resources in addition to the web/google. The business reference librarian at Salem State College can be a good starting point. There are several business journals and as business majors you should be familiar how to do library searches.

Section 5: Implementation issues and strategies

In addition to the "run of the mill" considerations such as top management support/leadership and change management, emphasize practical issues that are specific to this technology. Are there "low road" implementation approaches leading to modest improvements vs. "high road" strategies promising more break-through performance gains? Any risks? Mini case study (best practice if possible) to illustrate implementation issues (optional, but would be desirable. Can be printed from the source and attached as an appendix).

Section 6: Research opportunities

- Identify up to 20 most important published books, academic or trade articles. Highlight the three most valuable references. Print out the sources and abstracts (straight from Salem State online library database such as Business Source Premier) in the appendix. Try to classify these papers into groups (this is in addition to references at the end of the paper).

Information and knowledge sources

- If the 3 most valuable references contain less than 35 pages, print them out as attachments and add it to your final report
- On top of the references list, also identify the 3 most valuable websites (e.g., billinmon.com, etc.). Provide a brief description (a few sentences) for each site.

PowerPoint presentation

Prepare a few slides for each section.