

In the first paper for this issue of JRPIT, “Australian IPv6 Readiness: Results of a National Survey”, author Peter Dell “recommends that governments and regulatory bodies should consider regulatory or policy action to encourage the diffusion of IPv6” to mitigate “potential for considerable disadvantage for Australian organisations” due to the IPv4 address space having been almost entirely consumed by 2011. “IPv6 is the replacement for the Internet’s incumbent protocol, IPv4.” The study in this paper is the first “empirical assessment of end-user organisations’ readiness for IPv6, and reveals that organisations have not made significant preparations for its adoption in the future.”

Jose M. Alcaraz Calero, Jorge Bernal Bernabé, Juan M. Marín Pérez, Diego Sevilla Ruíz, Felix J. García Clemente and Gregorio Martínez Pérez discuss the “well-known trade off between imperative and declarative languages” in the second paper in this issue: “Towards an Architecture to Bind the Java and OWL Languages”. Although each of these language types have advantages, they also have disadvantages: “For example, graphical interfaces might be easily implemented using the Java language whereas the description of the state of a system might be easily described in the OWL language.” The authors describe a “binding process between Java and OWL to provide an architecture enabling the usage of both languages during software development and at run-time”. Their aim is to speed up the software development process and as a proof of concept, “the proposed architecture has been implemented as an open source framework, and some technical details of this implementation together with statistical results of performance and scalability are discussed in this paper”.

“Recently researchers have begun to suggest that the study of IT alignment in SMEs should be based on organizational processes rather than on strategy.” In the third paper in this issue, “Comparing Strategic IT Alignment versus Process IT Alignment in SMEs”, Alejandro Cataldo, Robert J. McQueen and Jens Hardings “investigated both approaches in a comparative exploratory study of 38 SMEs in Chile and Colombia. Regression was used to compare both types of alignment against IT success”. Their findings unexpectedly found that there was a correlation between both strategic IT alignment and process-level alignment. “Despite the exploratory nature of this study,” the authors believe that “the unexpected findings may encourage other researchers to validate and deepen the understanding of our conclusions.”

Paper number four investigates the “moderating effect of an individual’s personal innovativeness on the relationship within a core attitudinal model to Windows 7 and Office 2010”. Chun-Wang Tsou found that “currently, providers and marketers consider compatibility of a new system as being limited to meeting most users’ lifestyles, prior experience or current needs in the context of IS, rather than more closely being compatible with users’ personality traits, whose perceptions about a new system lead to a high willingness to try it out, especially when an emerging system is introduced into the market at the early stage”. In his paper, “Consumer Acceptance of Windows 7 and Office 2010 – The Moderating Effect of Personal Innovativeness”, he discusses the need to ensure that a user’s “positive or favourable attitudes toward a new system are already in place so that these behaviours will significantly cause them to use that innovative system instead of the status quo”.

The final paper of this issue is “Information Systems Outsourcing in Major Portuguese Companies – Contracting Services” by Maria Glória Fraga, João Varajão, Luís Amaral and José Bulas-Cruz. They note that “The recent worldwide economical and financial crisis requires companies to be more efficient and to resort to hiring services more frequently”, “in an environment where competition is aggressive, takes managers to seek solutions that will enable them ‘to do more

with less’.” Their study identified several strategies that CEOs follow when hiring outsourced services, “including the choice of the suppliers, preparation of contracts and resolution of any disputes that might exist”. The results of the study show that major companies rely on outsourcing for services such as application development and application maintenance, in most cases “opting for contracts of shorter duration and for well defined criteria on managing the process of contracting services”.

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