



Call for Papers

MIS Quarterly Executive

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Digital Business Transformation
and the Changing Role of the IT Function

Special Issue Editors

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Motivation

Digital business transformation has a dramatic impact on the corporate world. Technological trends such as big data, the internet of things, mobile computing and cloud computing significantly influence processes, products, services and business models. The potential benefits resulting from this digitization trend are enormous. At the same time, these disruptive technologies and business models are forcing companies to rethink their strategies and capabilities – and to do so quickly. Well-established companies, in particular, face pressure from start-ups with their extraordinary potential for rapid innovation and high level of implementation competence.

Due to its inherent technology focus, the digitization trend has increased the importance of information technology and heightened demands on companies' IT functions. Accordingly, besides ensuring the regular IT operations, IT functions are increasingly requested to proactively identify technological innovations and to rapidly transfer them into marketable solutions – and with that to directly contribute to the company's overall success. Many IT functions do not have the necessary structures, processes and abilities to systematically develop business innovations. Additionally, they are often perceived as being too bureaucratic, hardly flexible and not on a par with the business departments. Hence, the IT function is undergoing a change that comprises new modes of internal organization as well as new forms of collaboration and alignment with other business departments. Furthermore, many IT units are taking on responsibility for providing digital services directly to the enterprise's customers and consumers.

Given the importance of these changes to IT practice, MISQE is seeking papers for a special issue that will explore how IT functions can cope with the changes brought on by the digital economy, and how IT functions can enable, support or even drive the digital business transformation. With this special issue, we hope to contribute to discussions about the implications of digitization on the IT function, its structures, processes and people, as well as about the adjustments that are necessary to address the new challenges.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to

- Organizational change, governance and business/IT relationship
 - New organizational designs
 - Bi/multimodal / two-speed / multi-speed IT organization
 - New collaboration and alignment models between (digital) business and IT
 - Demand management for developing digital services
 - Changing IT governance structures and budgeting processes
 - Role of the CIO / CDO
- New IT capabilities
 - Digital strategy development
 - IT innovation management approaches
 - Technology scouting
 - Managing risks of digitization
- Changes in the IT value chain / sourcing
 - Changing integration of external partners
 - New sourcing models and partners
 - Integration of external innovation capacities
- Changing development practices
 - User-centered software development practices
 - Agile project management
 - Intermingling of software development and IT operations (DevOps)
- Changes in IT infrastructure provisioning
 - The future of cloud computing, cloud markets
 - Standardization and adaptability of IT architectures
 - Data center management
- Changes in workforce
 - Skill development for the digital age
 - Developing the workplace of the future

Important Dates and Review Process

In the tradition of the *MISQ Executive*, the path to publication is fast-paced with rapid review turnaround. We encourage interested authors to contact the editors before submitting in order to receive early guidance and reduce review time.

Special Issue full paper submission deadline: **October 17, 2016**

First editorial review sent to authors: **November 28, 2016**

Paper resubmission based on editor feedback deadline: **January 9, 2017**

Second editorial review, decision and suggestions to authors: **February 20, 2017**

Final submission of accepted papers deadline: **April 3, 2017**

MISQE publication: **June 2017**

Manuscripts should be submitted electronically via e-mail to the special issue editors. For the format of the papers, please follow the regular submission guidelines on the MISQE website. The size of the manuscript should be between 7,000 and 9,000 words.