Editorial Preface

As a growing number of academic leaders and researchers uncover the value of incorporating real-life scenarios into their curriculum, the usefulness of detailed accounts of information technologies within organizations is discovered. Through the integration of teaching cases, students and all participants are made aware of the latest examples of successful utilization of IT and its aspects, in turn providing a realistic understanding of the actual use of theoretical principles.

In this issue of JCIT, a collection of international researchers, professionals and experts provide tangible inferences of their experiences within the organizations of today. Through these probes into the real-life functions of IT, problems, solutions and better methods of adaptation are determined by way of case studies. These cases cover a range of issues within the realm of organized IT, including such areas as the travel industry, media publishing, virtual learning in universities, student administration systems, tourism, and secure authentication mechanisms. By having access to real-life accounts of the execution of information technologies, professors and students are able to undergo a more enhanced examination of productive means and methodologies, and are therefore increasingly apt to critically synthesize the instruments posed by each case and within the discipline at large. IT managers and researchers will also have the opportunity to recognize effective and useful examples of both problematic and successful implementation of information technology tools, so that they too are exposed to the missteps and accomplishments of their counterparts.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE
Transaction Processing An Industry Performance Analyser for Tourism (IPAT): Introducing an Information System into a Diverse Industry in Australia’s Capital Territory
By Dean Carson and Fiona Richards, Charles Darwin University (Australia)

An analysis of the Industry Performance Analyzer for Tourism (IPAT), a system used to manage and compare performance data within Australia’s tourism industry is provided in this case. Through this examination, solutions for better project management, system design, and information applications are discovered, and a greater sense of future implications for such systems is achieved. By delving into IPAT, whose purpose is to enrich the tourism industry within Australia’s Capital Territory, several methods and principals of IT adaptation come into focus as indicators of effective IT project development.

Secure Authentication Process for High Sensitive Data E-Services: A Roadmap
By Claudio Agosto Ardagna, Ernesto Da-
miani, and Fulvio Frati, University of Milan, (Italy); and Salvatore Reale, Siemens Mobile Communications S.p.A (Italy)

An exploration of the need for secure methods of user authentication for online resources by cross-analyzing existing and emerging security mechanisms throughout the various levels of software operating systems is depicted in this case. Through the comparison of authentication solutions, such as the Single Sign-On approach and CAS++, effective components of harnessing information security to all levels of IT applications are identified. This case will prove to be useful in determining successful methods for applying secure applications to protect highly sensitive data throughout e-services.

Designing for Service-Oriented Computing
By Bill Vassiliadis, Hellenic Open University (Greece)

This case describes major management and technology issues which arise when designing advanced Service-Oriented architectures in distributed networked environments used for e-learning. The diversity of the specific organizational setting, the innovation of the technology and context of the project poses many challenges including new methodologies for documenting development plans, feasibility studies, risk and human resource management policies.

Facing the Challenges of Multi-Channel Publishing in a Newspaper Company
By Airi Salminen, University of Jyvaskyla (Finland) & Kirsi Hakaniemi, Newspaper Keskisuomalainen (Finland)

The transition from paper-based to multi-channel publishing and the coordinating repercussions, reactions, and benefits are covered in this case, which analyzes the Finish newspaper publisher, Keskisuomalainen. By employing IT applications for the purpose of digital convergence, the newspaper publisher provides content on levels previously left unexplored, and by doing so, reaches greater efficiency and aperture. The case allows for a real-life example of adopting information technology for the next stage of modern development in the digital age.

Electronic Commerce Travel: A Case Study in Information Technology Use, Market Flexibility, Adaptability, and Diversification
By Eric Pedersen, Dixie State College (USA) and David Paper, Utah State University (USA)

This case discusses a small-scale Internet travel provider and its business functions through its productivity, e-commerce technologies, corporate strategies, online marketing, cost control techniques, and technical development within a focused niche market, which includes concentrated travel to Mexico and the Caribbean. The case dissects the company’s competition against the monopolies of the Internet travel industry through its specialized services, growth, and ingenuity. Through the portrayal of this Web-presence, strategic methods for positioning Web-based companies are revealed.

Promoting the Use of ICT for Education in a Traditional University: The Case of the Virtual Learning Center of the University of Granada
By Oscar Cordon, Karina Anaya, Arturo Gonzalez, and Susana Pinzon, University of Granada (Spain)

The creation of the Virtual Learning Center of the University of Granada in Spain is examined in its promotion of the use of ICT and e-learning capabilities via virtual courses and information technology training. The case provides a discussion on the transition of a traditional five-century-old school into a strategic digital learning community. A report of the ICT implementation and new system application is supplied, involving exhibitions of successful promotion and adaptation of e-learning methodologies.

In any circumstance where information technology is at the forefront of discussion, endless valuable solutions are divulged for the adoption of IT managers, instructors, researchers
and students alike. By examining both achievements and pitfalls in the domain of information technology, the Journal of Cases on Information Technology provides a learning medium where all IT participants can benefit from the experiences of others. We hope that by supplying these cases, solutions can be discovered and obstacles avoided. Your feedback and comments, as always, will be greatly appreciated.

Mehdi Khosrow-Pour, D.B.A.
Editor-in-Chief
Journal of Cases on Information Technology

Mehdi Khosrow-Pour, DBA, is currently the executive director of the Information Resources Management Association (IRMA), USA, and senior academic editor for Idea Group Reference. Previously, he served on the faculty of The Pennsylvania State University as an associate professor of information systems for 20 years. He has written or edited over 30 books in information technology management, and he is also the editor of the Information Resources Management Journal, Journal of Electronic Commerce in Organizations, Journal of Cases on Information Technology, and International Journal of Cases on Electronic Commerce.