Electronic Government should counter, either in an active or in a passive manner, the profound, economic, social, or cultural changes that are taking place. It goes without saying that any change initiative becomes a major challenge especially if the stakes and the costs, either on monetary or political terms, are set too high. In an almost deterministic fashion, there is no choice; the way governments work, the way they offer services, and how they are monitored and controlled must be revisited and - in many cases - designed from scratch.

The Editors of this book hold posts in both academia and industry and exhibit significant experience and profound sensitivity to the practical issues involved in such initiatives, something that is clearly reflected in the structure and content of this book. Strategy and planning, implementation, and the required infrastructures are three of the main, if not the only, pillars of successful electronic government. The book chapters provide the analysis that an informed reader would require, in a manner that theoretical and practical issues are bridged in a seamless way. It should be stressed that the success of electronic government will be judged by the citizens through the implemented electronic services. Furthermore, the multinational character of the book is highlighted. Public transformation is not required only in certain parts of the world, something clearly indicated by the book.

Public Sector Reform Using Information Technologies: Transforming Policy into Practice offers informative and sometimes provocative insights on thinking about, designing, and implementing electronic government. This triggers really useful discussions on a variety of topics making clear that public sector transformation is necessary and important but at the same time really challenging to achieve.

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