Foreword

It took more than 60 years until 75 percent of households in the USA adopted a new communication technology called the “telephone.” The adoption rates have been accelerated for later technologies. For example, it took only about 25 years for “personal computers” to reach three quarters of U.S. households and about 20 years for “cell phones.” The “Internet” did not need even 15 years to achieve the landmark. While these statistics were based on a limited population, that is, the consumer market in the U.S., such trends are universal throughout the world, as well as in corporations.

Modern society cannot function any longer without the infrastructure initiated and maintained by the computing and the Internet technologies. As people use more and depend more on these technologies than ever, they start operating with the assumption (at least not conscientiously) that these infrastructures are available all the time like air or water. While everyone may acknowledge that this assumption is not true, in practice, it is not easy to make users constantly guard against any disastrous disruptions. Ironically, this difficulty is worsening as the computing and the Internet technologies are advancing, and more people are embracing these technologies.

Thus, the notion of “always-on” information systems became so critical for today’s corporations, as well as the society in general. Despite its importance, the research efforts have been scattered and carried out by a limited number of forward-looking researchers. I am very excited that this new book is finally coming out by collecting many important research findings on “always-on” enterprise information systems for business continuance. I have no doubt that the book will be not only an invaluable contribution to the field, but also an important source of information to educate others on this important subject.

I would like to thank all of the authors of the chapters in the book for their pioneering research works and willingness to share with others. Particularly, I applaud Professor Bajgoric’s vision on this topic, insight to select appropriate topics, and efforts to bring together the leading researchers.

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