Preface

It was in March 2011 when Dr. Reema Khurana and myself in course of our discussions on different perspectives on the impact of technology in business processes over a period of time within a certain regulatory framework began to appreciate this niche area of emerging importance. This led to a further discourse on whether the business ideas, processes, and models should be left on their own or if there should be some limitations on their operations through a regulated environment. These discussions led to the publication of this book, *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Business Convergence Computing and Legality*.

The word technology is wide enough to mean anything from making, modification, usage, and knowledge of tools, machines, techniques, crafts, systems, and methods of organization. Technology is used either to solve a problem, bring on efficiency in pre-existing solution, pre-empt goals, handle an applied input/output relation, or perform a specific function. It may sometimes include a collection of such tools, including machinery, modifications, arrangements, and procedures. The term “technology” was used before 20th century and referred to description or study of the useful arts. It was in the Second Industrial Revolution that technology rose to distinction when an American social scientist, Thorstein Veblen, translated ideas from the German concept of Technik into “technology.” In German and other European languages, a distinction exists between Technik and Technologie that is absent in English, as both terms are usually translated as “technology.” However, the usage of this term has changed appreciably over the last 200 years. After the 1930s, “technology” referred to industrial arts. In 1937, the American sociologist Read Bain (1937) wrote that “technology includes all tools, machines, utensils, weapons, instruments, housing, clothing, communicating, and transporting devices and the skills by which we produce and use them.” It is technology that has enabled another world called the virtual or digital world or simply the world of computers.

Computing is any goal-oriented activity requiring or benefiting from or creating computers. This may include designing, building of hardware and software systems, processing, structuring, and managing various kinds of information; doing scientific research on and with computers; making computer systems behave intelligently; creating and using communications and entertainment media; etc. Subfields of computing include computer engineering, software engineering, computer science, information systems, and information technology. The computers led to creation of Internet – a massively networked context of present civilization. The regulatory environment consists of statutes, regulations, case laws, precedents, and territorial jurisdictional issues. These, on one hand, govern both the digital dissemination of digitalized information and software, and on the other hand, the IT law covers mainly the digital information, which includes information security and electronic commerce. Internet is further regulated by cyberlaw.
or Internet law. These encapsulate the legal issues related to use of the Internet and include topics like Internet access and usage, privacy, freedom of expression, and jurisdiction. Lastly, “Computer law” is a term that tends to relate to issues including both Internet law and the patent and copyright aspects of computer technology and software.

The objective of this book is to provide an understanding of some basic interdisciplinary perspectives of computing, business convergence, and aligned legal issues. The context of all chapters is towards latest development in these areas of information technology, data protection and e-commerce, IT disputes, knowledge management, outsourcing, privacy and data protection, emerging challenges and opportunities in varied business domains keeping pace with innovating practices, and limitations of regulatory environment. The learned contributors have endeavoured to deal with all the above-stated diverse issues and intricacies of business processes, computing, and regulatory environment.

The book attracted 112 research papers from India and abroad, out of which 70 papers were selected after a rigorous, double-blind review, and 20 total papers were finally accepted for publication. This has provided a forum for presentation of new research results and demonstration of new systems and techniques in the broad fields of computing, business applications of information technology and information management, and the legal frameworks therein. The book aims to bring topics of relevance for developers, users, academicians, and researchers in the fields of computing, information technology applications in business community, and legal issues to discuss emerging issues facing business organizations in the knowledge economy.

Some of the subjects covered are knowledge sharing centric business intelligence, analysis of facts for companies going through social media, emerging legal trends on hyperlinks and meta tags, compliances and regulatory standards for cloud computing, IT outsourcing, software outsourcing modes, aspects of client-vendor relationship and risks, investigation of security issues in secure multiparty computing protocol during privacy preservation, dispute settlement for cyber crimes in India, a comparative analysis of major issues in IPRs and completion policy, effects of phishing in e-commerce, protection of domain name, and data protection laws, to name a few.

We assure that a broad framework of perspectives on business convergence computing and legality has been churned out in this book. The book is concise and coherent, but may have a limitation of being more aligned towards the issues from the Indian sub-continent. We assure the readers that subsequent volumes of this title will bring in more international issues and focus on global orientation to the topic.

This would challenge us further to provide wider depth on these issues in our future editions.

We look forward to your suggestions and valuable feedback.

Editors

REFERENCES