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Abstract	<p>The Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) is readily available for establishing the best practices, reengineering and improving the IT service support process. However, the ITIL framework only provides recommendations, and a company needs to explore a methodology for improving the IT service support process and adopting the best guidelines of ITIL framework. To this end, this chapter investigates upon how to apply the ITIL framework can be used for evaluating the current IT service support process and its reengineering. A set of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) were established which are monitored by a decision support system (DSS) for triggering on-going reengineering of IT service support process. A case study methodology is used for an effective reengineering of IT service support process. This chapter focuses on implementing the ITIL guidelines at an operational level, improving the service desk, incident management, problem management, change management, release management, and configuration. It also focuses on implementing the ITIL guidelines at a tactical level, improving the service level management, capacity management, IT service continuity management, service availability, and security management. The chapter describes a methodology and an experience in implementing process reengineering techniques following ITIL framework.</p>	
Keywords (separated by '-')	ITIL - KPI - IT service support processes - DSS - Reengineering	



Chapter 3

DSS Based IT Service Support Process Reengineering Using ITIL: A Case Study

Raul Valverde and Malleswara Tallal

AQ1

Abstract The Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) is readily available for establishing the best practices, reengineering and improving the IT service support process. However, the ITIL framework only provides recommendations, and a company needs to explore a methodology for improving the IT service support process and adopting the best guidelines of ITIL framework. To this end, this chapter investigates upon how to apply the ITIL framework can be used for evaluating the current IT service support process and its reengineering. A set of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) were established which are monitored by a decision support system (DSS) for triggering on-going reengineering of IT service support process. A case study methodology is used for an effective reengineering of IT service support process. This chapter focuses on implementing the ITIL guidelines at an operational level, improving the service desk, incident management, problem management, change management, release management, and configuration. It also focuses on implementing the ITIL guidelines at a tactical level, improving the service level management, capacity management, IT service continuity management, service availability, and security management. The chapter describes a methodology and an experience in implementing process reengineering techniques following ITIL framework.

Keywords ITIL · KPI · IT service support processes · DSS · Reengineering

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1 Introduction

The complexity of Information Technology (IT) applications makes it difficult to properly tune customer requirements and service provider capabilities. Customers often cannot express their real service requirements and do not know the corresponding performance needs. Likewise, service providers often do not know how to differentiate between IT services and how to attune them to a specific customer [1]. In order to address these problems, many organizations are adopting the Information Technology Infrastructure Library [2] as a framework to support their primary business processes. In the past, many IT organizations focused only on technical issues. Nowadays this has changed to a more service oriented way of thinking in order to provide a high quality service. IT became a part and participle of daily business activities in every organization.

The IT Infrastructure Library (ITIL) is not hardware or software, but it is a technique to manage the technology and communications in an optimal way. The ITIL is not a set of rules that must be followed, but a guideline to help organize and arrange the IT organization. The primary objective of the ITIL is to establish the best practices and improving the standard of IT service quality that customers should demand and providers should supply [2]. The ITIL can be used as a quality service guideline to help an organization to achieve the following objectives [2]:

- Better quality control,
- Increase service level,
- Cost reduction,
- Increase efficiency and effectiveness of information supply,
- Unambiguously describing the service in setting up Service Level Agreements (SLAs), and
- More control over business processes.

The ITIL plays an important role in helping a business organization to meet its objectives since it helps to manage the IT resources more efficiently. One should consider the environment (social, organizational, and physical), the processes and their interdependencies among different dimensions of an organization; e.g. clinical information system (CIS) and end-user of a bio-medical application, as depicted in Fig. 1 [3].

The ITIL framework for Service Delivery and Support can be accomplished in three levels: the strategic, tactical and operational level. The strategic level key performance areas aim at long term goals. The tactical and operational levels focus on medium and short terms respectively. Figure 2 presents the KPIs at a tactical and operational levels which are the main areas addressed in this research.

The basic premise of this work presented in this chapter is to investigate how to apply the ITIL framework for the reengineering the IT service support process. A set of key performance indicators (KPIs) for IT service support areas will provide a better means of monitoring need for reengineering. A decision support system (DSS) can gather data and derive the KPIs and monitor them in a timely

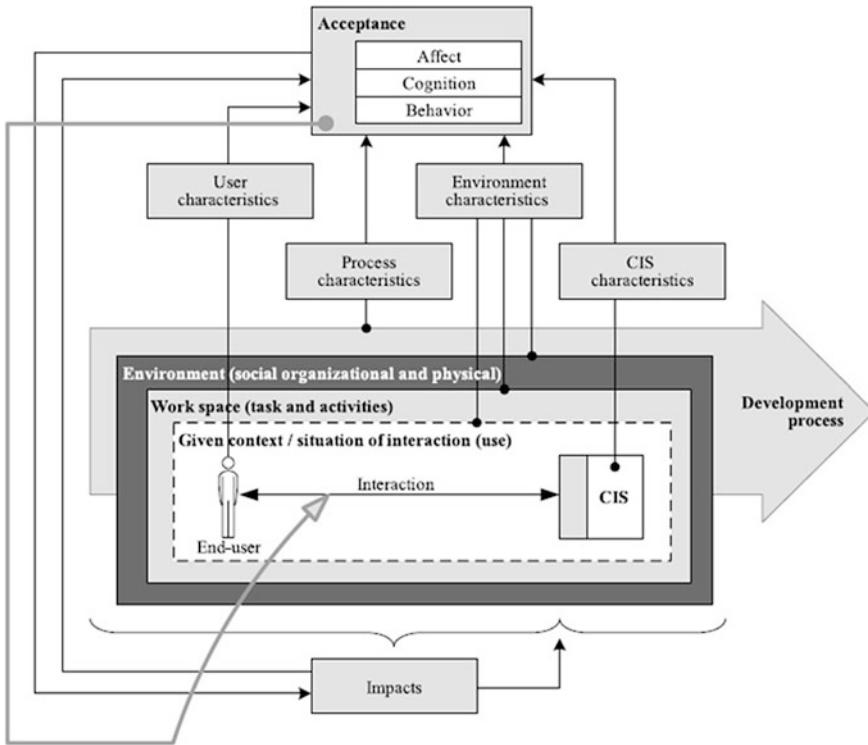


Fig. 1 The Information system interaction model (Source [3])

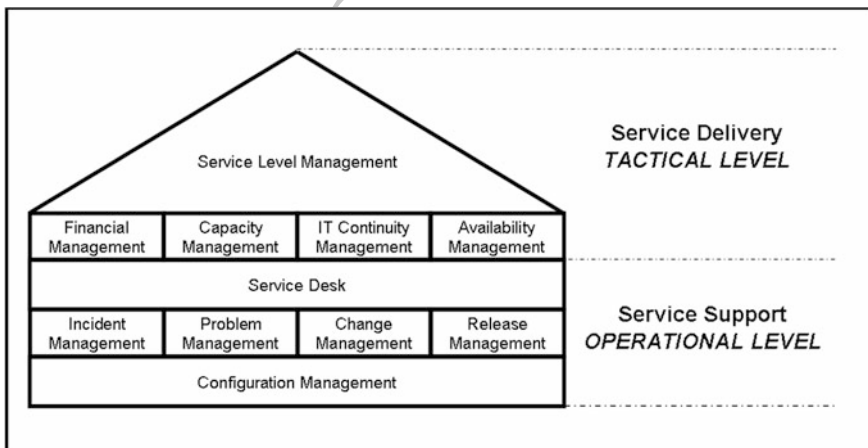


Fig. 2 ITIL core service management functions and processes (Source [29])

68 manner for triggering the need for reengineering. The chapter proposes an archi-
69 tecture for integrating a DSS into the corporate Intranet, which provides a pathway
70 for an on-going reengineering of IT service support process.

71 2 Research Method

72 A case study methodology is chosen to emphasize and explore factors, which may
73 lead to directions for the question [4]. This approach is commonly used as a
74 qualitative method for researching the information systems [5]. The research in [4]
75 suggested the following three reasons why the case study approach is suitable for
76 information systems:

- 77 • The researcher can study the information system in a natural setting,
- 78 • The researcher can answer “how” and “why” questions, and
- 79 • It is suitable for studies in which little formal research has been conducted
80 previously.

81 A case study based research is an exploratory research technique that investi-
82 gates a contemporary phenomenon within its real-life context [6]. Soy [7]
83 proposed a number of steps that can be used to successfully conduct the case study
84 research. These steps include the definition of the research objective, the selection
85 of the case study, the determination of the data gathering, and the case study
86 analysis techniques. Thereafter, the case study data can be collected and analyzed,
87 and the findings can be summarized in a report [7]. A repository of successful
88 resolutions to the past problems can serve as a tool for preventing or solving the
89 future problems, and each resolution can be visualized as a case while accom-
90 plishing an intelligent business process reengineering [8]. The business process
91 management systems (BPMS) can actually track an organization’s business
92 processes and trigger the need for improvements [9]. The IT tools provide a means
93 for an enterprise data extraction via process mining; where important events
94 logged can serve as pieces of information that could trigger process improvements
95 [10]. In nutshell, a business process performs a set of activities and the granularity
96 of improvements at activity level can accomplish a dynamic management of an
97 enterprise process performance (Tan 2008). A service model supports service
98 planning, provisioning, operation and service management at customer-provider-
99 interface [11]. The contemporary business process simulators can be used for
100 decision support systems as well [12]. Likewise, every piece of information is
101 useful for a successful reengineering of business processes.

102
103 The contemporary research focused on exploiting the ITIL framework for
104 improving the IT services that eventually improve the business processes in any
105 organization. The IT Service Support companies are focusing on ensuring that their
106 customers have appropriate services to support for business functions [13]. The ITIL
107 guidelines are widely used for improving IT service support processes [14]. Jantti
108 [15] presents how the ITIL framework was used for improving the incident

109 management processes in two companies. Just like all other business processes,
110 implementing ITIL processes efficiently depends on building or procuring IT tools
111 that can support them. The basic issue of supporting ITIL with process-oriented tools
112 such as workflow management systems is presented in [16]. Implementing ITIL can
113 be cumbersome and time consuming if one doesn't follow a roadmap for improve-
114 ment based on priorities, dependencies, and guidelines [17]. The experience of IT
115 staff and the amount of time devoted for understanding IT needs, and creating an
116 appropriate service management office (SMO) could help improve the success rate of
117 IT services [18]. A case study of managing IT services in finance industry by
118 implementing suggestions that arise from ITIL methodology is presented in [19].

AQ3

119 The objective of this research chapter is to investigate upon how to apply the
120 ITIL framework for the reengineering of IT processes in an organization. The case
121 study selected is of an IT services company located in Liverpool, UK. The selected
122 company is currently providing several types of support services to many orga-
123 nizations in the UK. This research will concentrate in one of their customers, a
124 company that is specializing in dental care. The material provided in this chapter
125 with respect to the case study has the consent of the involved parties.

126 The research will start with a description of the case study, its organizational
127 structure, main business services and client base. The data gathering is an
128 important part in the case study research. In this regard, [20] and [6] identified
129 seven sources of empirical evidence in case studies, as follows:

- 130 • Documents: Written material sources that include published and unpublished
131 documents, company reports, memos, letters, agendas, administrative docu-
132 ments, departmental info, reports, e-mail messages, newspaper articles, or any
133 document that presents some evidence of some information,
- 134 • Archival records: Archival documents can be service records, organizational
135 records, and lists of names, survey data, and other such records,
- 136 • Interviews: An interview can be used for three purposes: as an exploratory
137 device to help identify variables and relations; as the main instrument of the
138 research; and as a supplement to other methods (Kerlinger 86). Interviews were
139 conducted for the present study for the first and third purposes. As a method it is
140 one of the most important sources of information for a case study: open-ended,
141 focussed, and structured or survey. In this study various forms were combined
142 for collecting the data.
- 143 • Questionnaires: These are structured questions written and supplied to a large
144 number of respondents, commonly spread over a large geographical area for
145 consideration in advance. Respondents fill in the blank spaces and return the
146 questionnaires to the researcher either by post or in person. Sometimes
147 inducements, such as a small gift, are used to encourage recipients to complete
148 the questionnaires.
- 149 • Direct observation: This occurs when a field visit is conducted during the case
150 study. This technique is useful for providing additional information about a
151 topic being studied. Reliability is enhanced when more than one observer is
152 involved in the task.

- 153 • Participant-observation: Participant-observation turns the researcher into an
- 154 active participant in the events being studied.
- 155 • Physical artefacts: Physical artefacts can be tools, instruments, or some other
- 156 physical evidence that may be collected during the study as part of the field visit.
- 157 Use of a number of these instruments to obtain data from the same source
- 158 provides for triangulation as defined in [21].

159

160 In this chapter, the case study uses the questionnaire, review of documents,
161 archival records and observation techniques for collecting the data. The use of
162 observation as a method of data collection is presented in [4, 20, 22] and it works
163 well in a case research [6]. In this study, the researcher visited the site of information
164 system to observe its functionality, collected several documents that identify the
165 business processes and describe their current operations. This will help the
166 researcher to learn about the details of the information systems included in the study.

167 Archival records are an integral part of the data that needs to be collected. The
168 main records that will be used are the problems logs that are kept for future
169 enhancements by the case study. These records will help the researcher to identify
170 the areas of the IT services that will require modification for quality improvement.
171 Based on the data collected, the researcher will perform a full analysis and bench-
172 mark the ITIL framework into the IT services operations. Further, a study on the
173 effectiveness of ITIL framework will be conducted during the study case, in order to
174 measure the improvement on the IT services after the ITIL framework implementa-
175 tion. To do this, a small portion of the ITIL framework will be implemented and
176 one group pretest-posttest experiment will be conducted as suggested by [23].

177 The one group pretest-posttest experiment is a quasi-experiment in which the
178 subjects in the experimental group are measured before and after the experiment is
179 administered [23]. The participants of the experiment will be selected via conven-
180 ience sampling. This sampling technique refers to obtaining sample units or
181 people who are available [23]. This method is justified since the participation in the
182 study will be voluntary and it is difficult to anticipate the number of participants in
183 the sample. The key participants of the case study will be mailed an invitation letter.

184 Further on, a questionnaire will be used as a data-gathering device administered
185 before and after the implementation of the ITIL framework in the case study. The
186 questionnaire will be concise and effective in addressing the requirements of data,
187 while considering the time and monetary constraints. As a result, the question-
188 naire is defined as “a pre-formulated written set of questions to which respondents
189 record their answers, usually within rather closely defined alternatives” [24].
190 Questionnaires have a number of inherent advantages in regard to conducting
191 research. The most of significant of these are that they can be sent to a sample
192 population that is dispersed over a wide geographical and they can be answered by
193 respondents at their own convenience [25]. Furthermore, as the participants are
194 assured complete anonymity, self-administered questionnaires overcome the
195 problems of interviewer bias while reducing the respondent’s likely reluctance to
196 convey an incorrect or controversial information. Reliability is another advantage

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197 since the questionnaires are easily repeated [26]. That is, as respondents simply
198 nominate a particular box to answer questions, no value judgments are required.

199 A simple-dichotomy IT services evaluation questionnaire will be developed
200 and administered to the participants: the pre-ITIL test (pretest) and post-ITIL test
201 (posttest). A simple-dichotomy question requires the respondent to choose two
202 alternatives (Yes and No) [23]. Both tests will contain the same questions related
203 to the IT services that need to be evaluated.

204 In order to analyze the data from the questions, and ascertain the general trends,
205 descriptive statistics methods are used. The hypothesis that the ITIL framework helps
206 to improve processes of the IT services is tested by using the *t* Test for comparing the
207 mean values of the pre-ITIL test and post ITIL test [23] to find the evidence of a
208 possible effect of the ITIL framework in improving the quality of services.

209 3 Process Analysis

210 The case study has ten dental clinics in different locations of Liverpool. All these
211 clinics are connected via a high-speed Wide Area Network (WAN). The data is
212 centralized into the IBM RS 6000 server located in the main dental center.
213 Workstations are located in the user office and they are connected through the
214 same network as well (Table 1).

215 After analyzing the documents that describe the current operation of IT service
216 for the case study and the problem logs reported by the users, the researcher was
217 able to model the current mode of operation and recommend changes to them
218 based on the ITIL guidelines.

219 3.1 Service Desk

220 3.1.1 Current Practice

221 A support hotline was established that uses a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for
222 all incidents, as follows:

223 3.1.2 Problems

224

- 225 • In Fig. 3, the general users follow the reporting path whereas the senior users
226 by-pass it. The incident will not be logged and the communication among the
227 supporting team members may also break down.
- 228 • The general users are not well aware of the scope of hotline support. Often,
229 some out-of-scope incidents are not served by the support hotline, and some
230 incidents are not requested that need of customers are not delivered to the

Table 1 Scopes of the IT services provided to the case study

Services	Description
Application support	Provision of application support services on all matters related to the application systems, e.g. answering phone, fax, e-mail, written request and so on.
System maintenance	Bug fixing Minor system modification and minor data conversion Problem diagnosis Documentation update
System monitoring and optimization	Periodic system performance monitoring and tuning on the application system
Production support and ad-hoc processing requests	Liaise with relevant parties to collect and analyze user requirements Perform data extraction Answer the enquiries on the system data
Environment and operation support	Perform backup and recovery if needed Assist system software upgrade and patches
Procurement support	Provide support and advice For capacity planning On potential technology substitution and cost estimations On hardware/software installation and relocation
Planning, drill test and support for disaster recovery and business resumption	Conduct annual disaster recovery and business resumption drill Assist in resumption of business and application in case of disaster
Project management and reports	Prepare relevant papers and minutes to management for advice, approval and endorsement Prepare periodic progress reports for system performance and achievement Coordinate and attend project related meetings Prepare agenda, minute and other related document

231 support team. IT infrastructure and scope of services should enable its users to
 232 customize their expectations. Any suggestions for enhancement should be
 233 encouraged for improving and maintaining a right balance among people,
 234 processes and technology.
 235

236 3.1.3 Recommendations to Benchmark the Case Study

237 Practice with ITIL

238 Based on the ITIL framework, recommendations to the existing system following
 239 guidelines of ITIL framework have been provided. Guidelines (GL) of ITIL
 240 framework for service desk are provided in Fig. 4.

3 DSS Based IT Service Support Process Reengineering

Author Proof

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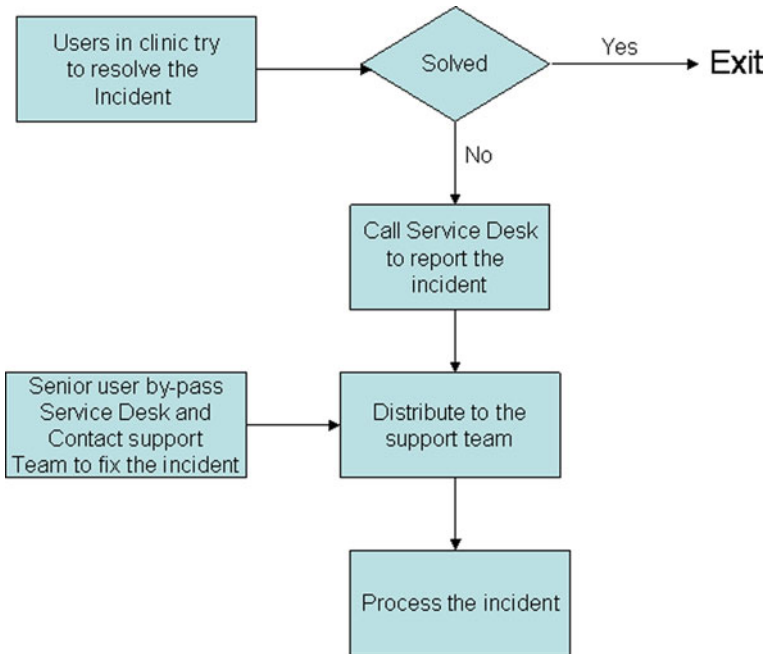


Fig. 3 Current practice of service desk

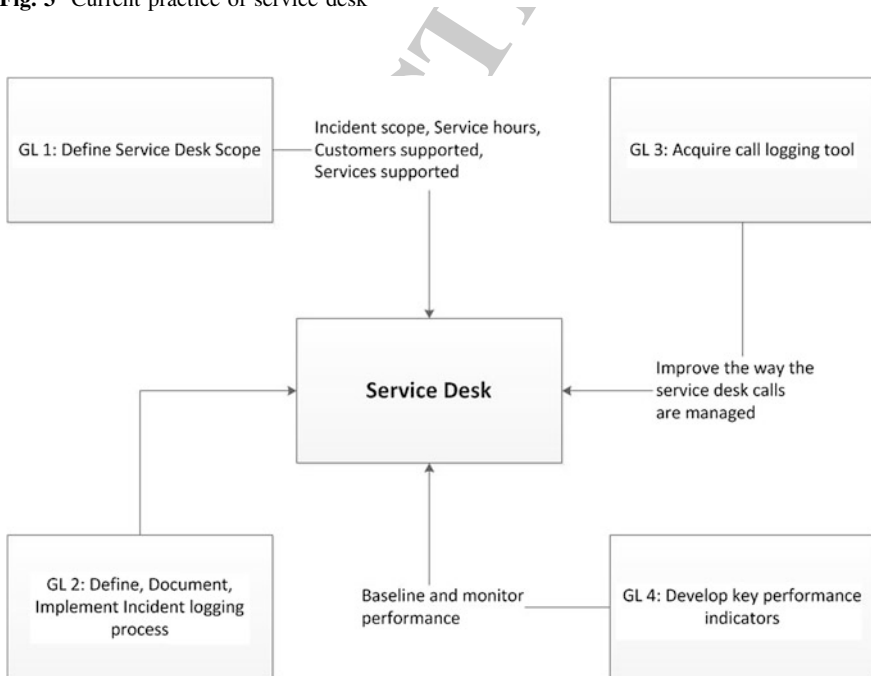


Fig. 4 Service desk guidelines

241 According to GL 1 in Fig. 4, SMISS system should define:

- 242 • Service hours
- 243 • Contact point after service hours including mobile phone, email and paper
- 244 • Scope of services
- 245 • Problem incidents including hardware, software, application and office
- 246 automation,
- 247 • Change request,
- 248 • Ad-hoc query, and
- 249 • Coordinate with the supplier (of h/w and s/w) for procurement and maintenance
- 250 issues
- 251 • Nature of incidents
- 252 • Application Help Desk—dedicated support staff in normal office hour with
- 253 mobile phone support after office hour.
- 254 • “Fire” Fighting—solve emergency problem.
- 255 • Problem management—solves any application problem and coordinates with
- 256 other suppliers to solve any product problem that affects SMISS operation.
- 257 • System Administration—provide server, LAN and database administration.
- 258 • Ad-hoc processing request—Data Analysis and Extraction.
- 259 • Minor enhancement—impact analysis and implementation of enhancement with
- 260 effort not more than 10 man days.
- 261 • Management Activities—proved change, capacity, availability and service
- 262 continuity management.
- 263

264 According to GL 2 in Fig. 4, the recommendations to the call logging procedure
265 are:

- 266 • Contact points of business user, IT representative, clinic contact, hardware and
- 267 software supplier and network provider are maintained in the list of contacts for
- 268 Service Desk. For strategic and direction issue, the members in the maintenance
- 269 board are the key users. There is already a need to improve the message system
- 270 in the application for broadcasting and point-to-point communication. For
- 271 support service, it can be helpful for announcing of event and activity that can
- 272 improve the call efficiency.
- 273 • Incident reported through any channel should be logged by the service desk to
- 274 enforce the “single point of contact”. The dissemination of the incident is
- 275 performed by the service desk accordingly.
- 276 • For incidents classified medium and severe, the service desk supervisor should
- 277 call the users to check the satisfaction of the solution.
- 278

279 According to GL 3 in Fig. 4, Microsoft Excel is used to keep the call logs.
280 Excel macro can be used to facilitate the log entry and to generate the statistics.

281 According to GL 4 in Fig. 4, the key performance indicators (KPI) to measure
282 Service Desk are:

- 283 • Time to log the incident to the incident log database for calls via email, phone,
284 or voice mail,
285 • Time to acknowledge the user,
286 • Time to categorize and prioritize the incident,
287 • Time to start the resolving action,
288 • Time to complete the action, and
289 • Percentage of number of satisfaction over the number of medium and high
290 priority incidents.
291

292 **3.2 Incident Management**

293 **3.2.1 Current Practice**

294 Incident handling procedure was established to handle incidents. (Refer to Fig. 5)

295 **3.2.2 Problems**

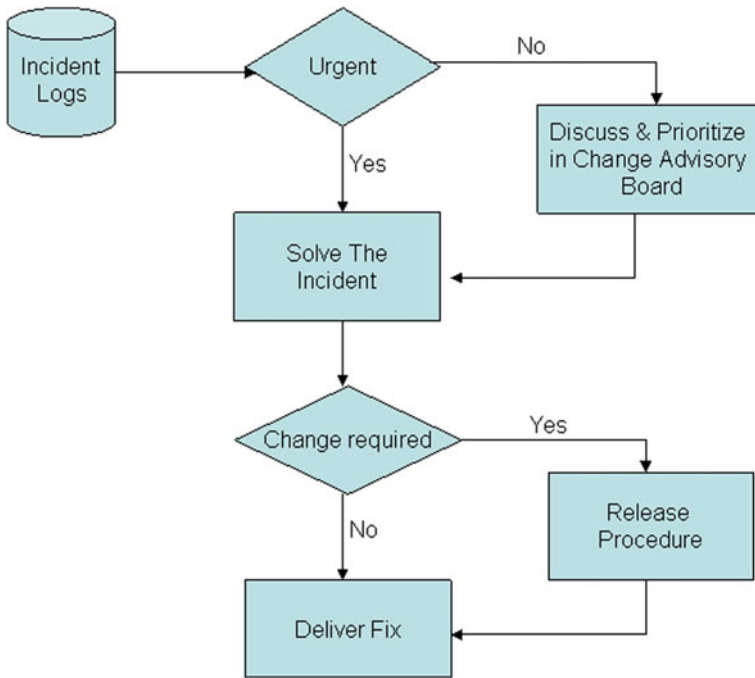
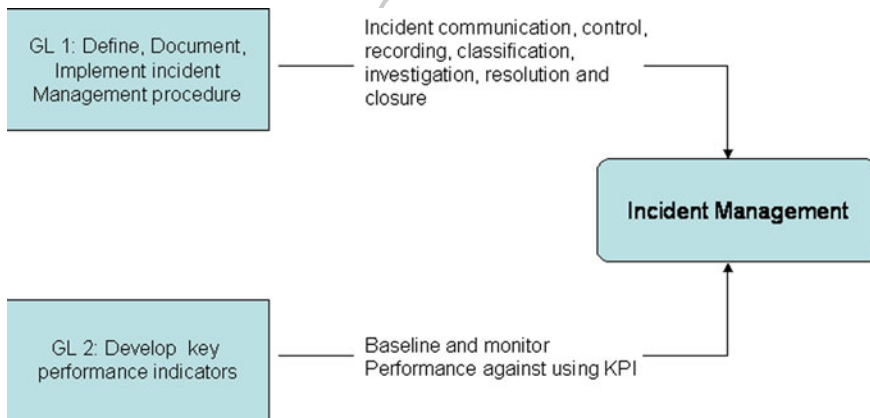
- 296
297 • The logging information was not enough to measure the performance against the
298 server level requirement. There was no escalation procedure defined and support
299 team performance was not measured by any key performance indicator.
300 • Each service desk staff actually maintained a separate log. The incidents were
301 discussed and prioritized by the Change Advisory Board, but other users were
302 not able to learn the status of the incident being reported.
303

304 **3.2.3 Recommendations to Benchmark Case Study Practice with ITIL**

305 Based on the ITIL framework, recommendations to the existing system following
306 guidelines of ITIL framework have been provided.

307 According to GL 1 in Fig. 6, SMISS system should define:

- 308 • Maintain centralized database for incident log using the Excel
309 • Content of the incident log should include
310 • Unique identity number
311 • Report date and time
312 • Log date and time
313 • Type of call (written, phone, voice message or verbal)
314 • Nature of incident (enhancement, ad-hoc request, hardware, software, network,
315 application)
316 • Acknowledgement date and time
317 • Priority
318 • Time to return to office in case of non office hour


Fig. 5 Current practice of incident management

Fig. 6 Incident management guidelines

- 319 • Date and time to determine priority of the incident
- 320 • Date and time of written reply
- 321 • Date and time of analysis result completed
- 322 • Date and time of resolution

- 323 • Resolution
- 324 • Date and time of third party complete the case (resolution is calling the third
- 325 party)
- 326 • Down time and number of workstations affected
- 327 • Staff codes perform the receiving, logging, acknowledgement and resolving the
- 328 incident
- 329 • Unique identity number of the configuration item
- 330 • Effort estimation
- 331 • Effort spent
- 332 • Type of the incident
- 333 • Application (custom developed programs)
- 334 • Hardware
- 335 • Software (for example, operating system or system software)
- 336 • Network
- 337 • Ad-hoc query
- 338 • Enhancement
- 339 • Query about office automation tool
- 340 • Query about application usage
- 341 • Other
- 342 • Priority of the incident
- 343 • Urgent (complete as soon as possible)
- 344 • High (complete in 3 days)
- 345 • Medium (complete in 2 weeks)
- 346 • Low (complete in 2 months)
- 347 • Escalation procedure by reporting to support team manager if the incident
- 348 cannot be solved within the period defined.
- 349 • Incidents log is posted to the Intranet site so that users are able to inquire the
- 350 status of the incident in the log.
- 351

352 According to GL 2 in Fig. 6, the followings are the KPIs for Incident
353 Management:

- 354 • number of incidents in open state,
- 355 • number of incidents reported within the month,
- 356 • number of incidents solved within the month, and
- 357 • number of incidents in closing state.
- 358

359 **3.3 Change Management**

360 **3.3.1 Current Practice**

361 The change management procedure which was established, addresses any change
362 requests required as a result of incident logs, as follows. (Refer to Fig. 7)

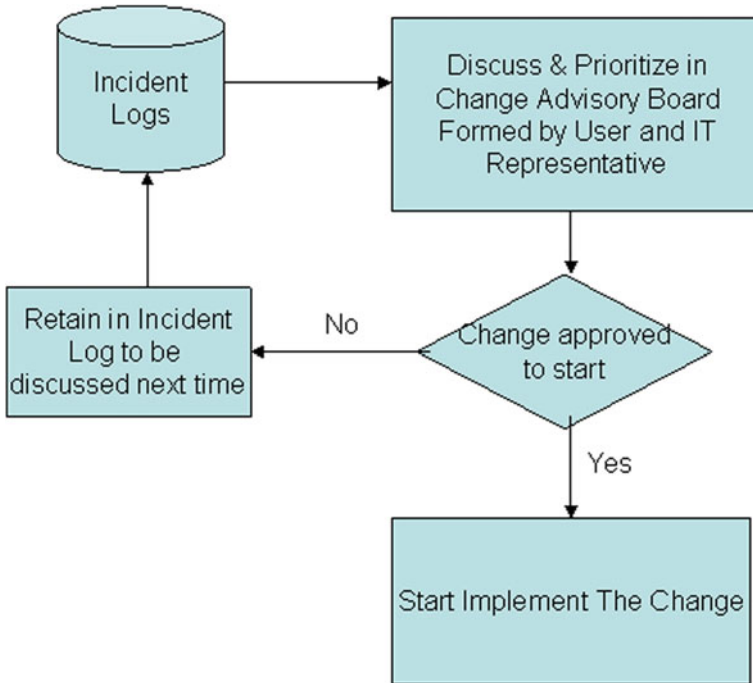


Fig. 7 Current practice of change management

3.3.2 Problems

- The maintenance board doesn't have representative from all functional groups which means, some decisions cannot be made effectively and efficiently.
- The procedure for issuing Request For Change (RFC) is specified; however the duplicated and unpractical requests were not filtered before passing to the Change Advisory Board (CAB). The impact analysis could estimate the effort and the scheduled delay for implementation; however such impact analysis was not conducted.
- There were no key performance indicators for measuring the changes in the system performance.

3.3.3 Recommendations to Benchmark Case Study Practice with ITIL

Based on the ITIL framework, recommendations to the existing system, following the guidelines of ITIL framework have been provided.

According to GL1 in Fig. 8, SMISS system should define scope of CAB:

- CAB should be composed of representative from IT department and staff from each clinic. The agenda and incidents to be discussed will be distributed before

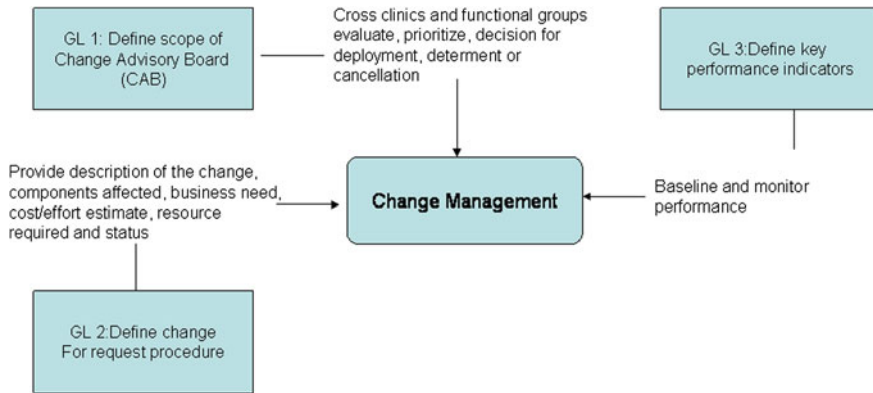


Fig. 8 Change management guidelines

381 CAB meeting and each functional group should arrange a representative to
 382 attend the meeting. The CAB will make decisions for deployment, further
 383 analysis, approval or cancellation of changes.
 384

385 According to GL2 in Fig. 6, the procedure of Request for Change (RFC) should
 386 be:

- 387 • Incidents that need change should be reviewed before the CAB meeting. Any
 388 duplication and unnecessary incidents should be filtered. The status of the filtered
 389 incidents will be distributed to the CAB members and the requestor.
- 390 • The board should analyze the technical and business impact of the request. The
 391 analysis result should be assessed by the CAB.
- 392 • If the man-days required exceed the scheduled limit (5 man-days) for the service
 393 that will affect the normal support service, then the CAB should determine
 394 whether to acquire extra budget for the request or to do it with support team
 395 resource but it has lower priority than the service request.
- 396 • Change for request should be issued after CAB approves the request. The pri-
 397 ority of change request should be high, medium or low. The rollout schedule
 398 should also be determined by the CAB. The rollout schedule should be docu-
 399 mented and distributed.
 400

401 According to GL3 in Fig. 6, the followings are the KPIs for Change
 402 Management:

- 403 • number of failed changes implemented,
- 404 • number of emergency changes implemented,
- 405 • number of occurrences of the process being circumvented,
- 406 • percentages of these numbers, and
- 407 • critical level of percentage to be defined and it should be escalated once the
 408 level is reached (Fig. 9).

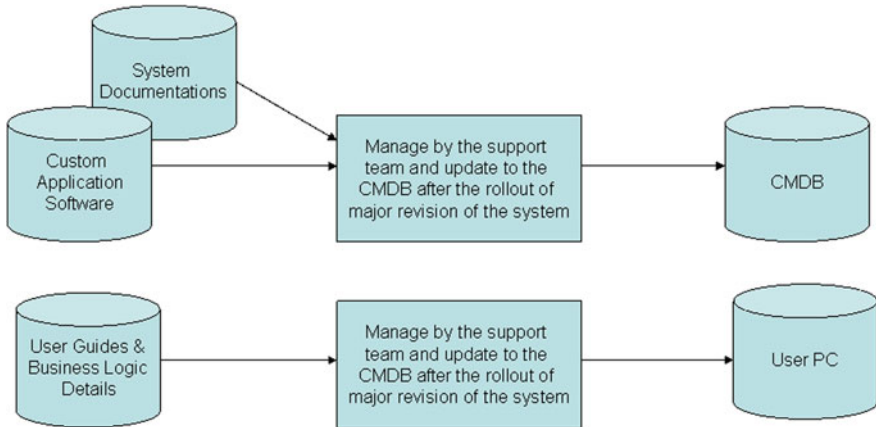


Fig. 9 Current practice of configuration management

409

3.4 Configuration Management

3.4.1 Current Practice

Problems

- 413 • Hardware item was not included in the database since the configuration information of hardware was not available.
- 414
- 415 • Change Management Database (CMDB) and user prepared materials were not stored centrally and not shared by related parties, and the materials prepared
- 416 between the parties were not related.
- 417
- 418 • There were no change records to the configuration items (CIs). The accuracy of
- 419 the CMDB was not ensured.
- 420

3.4.2 Recommendations to Benchmark Case Study Practice with ITIL

422 Based on the ITIL framework, recommendations to the existing system, following
 423 guidelines of ITIL framework have been provided.

424 According to GL 1 in Fig. 10, SMISS system should prepare configuration
 425 management planning:

- 426 • Identify the configuration items
- 427 – Hardware—workstation, monitor, printers, external disk, tape, uninterrupted
- 428 power supply, server, printer, bar code scanner, Chinese input device and rack.

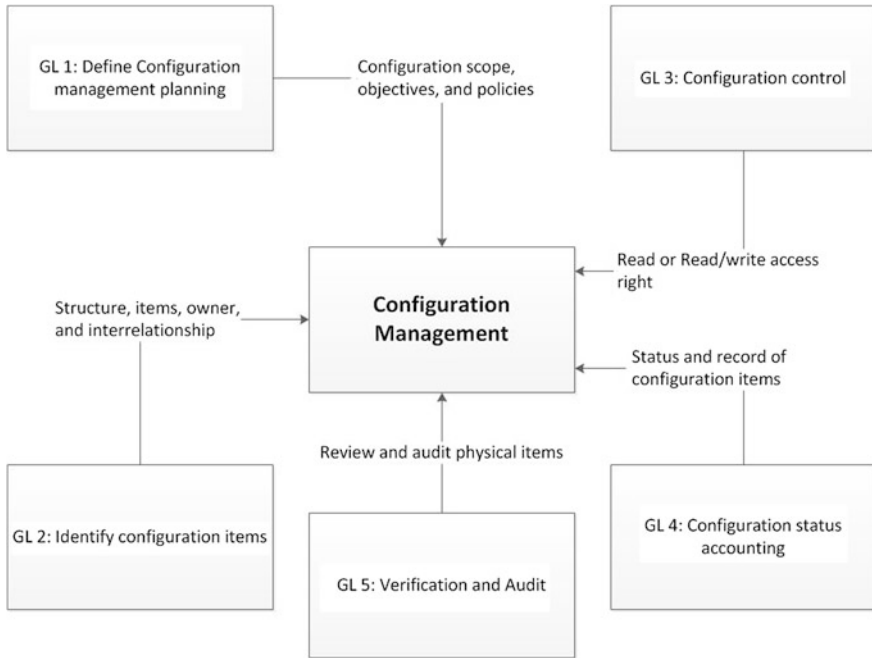


Fig. 10 Configuration management guidelines

- 429 – Software—operating system, database server, development tool, version control
- 430 – control software. These are the software developed by other vendors for general use.
- 431 – Program source—all UNIX and Windows programs custom developed for the
- 432 – customer that the support service is being provided.
- 433 – Job script—job scripts to apply change to the production environment.
- 434 – System documentation—meeting minute and agenda, incident log, feasibility
- 435 – study, proposal, project plan, analysis & design, system specification, pro-
- 436 – gram specification, operation manual, test plan and result, acceptance,
- 437 – approval forms of change implementation, and impact analysis.

- 438 • Deployed version control tool to manage the softcopy configuration items. The
- 439 – Software, Program Source, Job Script and System Documentations are stored
- 440 – and protected in a Definitive Software Library (DSL). Standardized configura-
- 441 – tions of Hardware are stored in the Definitive Hardware Store (DHS).
- 442 • CMDB is made ready in the Intranet site to enable user inquiry.
- 443

444 According to GL 2 in Fig. 10, SMISS system should establish the followings
 445 configuration structure:

- 446 • Identity the owner of the CIs.
- 447 • Grant different access right to Read or Read/Write of the CIs.
- 448 • Group the materials according to the item types defined; they are Hardware,
- 449 – Software, Program Source, Job Script and System Documentation. For example,

450 the user guide and business logic description prepared by user should be
451 grouped under system documentation.

453 According to GL 3 in Fig. 10, the following controls should be applied:

- 454 • A unique identity code is assigned to each CI.
- 455 • The identity code is kept in the incident, problem logs and release document as
456 records to the change of the CIs

457 According to GL 4 in Fig. 10, status accounting should be performed:

- 459 • A quarterly configuration status accounting will be performed to report the status
460 of the CIs. The report should include the version number, check in/check out
461 officer, check in date, check out date, baseline date and version for all the CIs.

462 According to GL 5 in Fig. 10, verification and audit should be performed:

- 464 • A yearly configuration audit will be performed for proper execution of the
465 configuration management. The physical CIs will be verified with the CMDB to
466 check if it matches with the change request and rollout log, and whether the
467 items in the version are all included. Then the configuration activities will be
468 verified to see if all planned activities are conducted accordingly.
- 469 • For hardware and software, a yearly audit will be performed to check the
470 labeling and the information regarding the inventory is correct and matches with
471 the information in the CMDB (Fig. 11).

473 **3.5 Release Management**

474 **3.5.1 Current Practice**

475 **Problems**

- 476 • There was no release policy; and the support team performed as many changes
477 as possible for each release. Usually the low priority RFCs were left
478 outstanding.
- 479 • There was no policy for Hardware and System software upgrades.
- 480 • There was no communication to the users about the changes in each release.
- 481 • There was no fallback plan in case of unsuccessful releases. There was no plan
482 to merge the emergency fixes and into normal releases.
- 483 • Distribution and installation of new releases were error prone since every
484 workstation has to be installed separately.

485

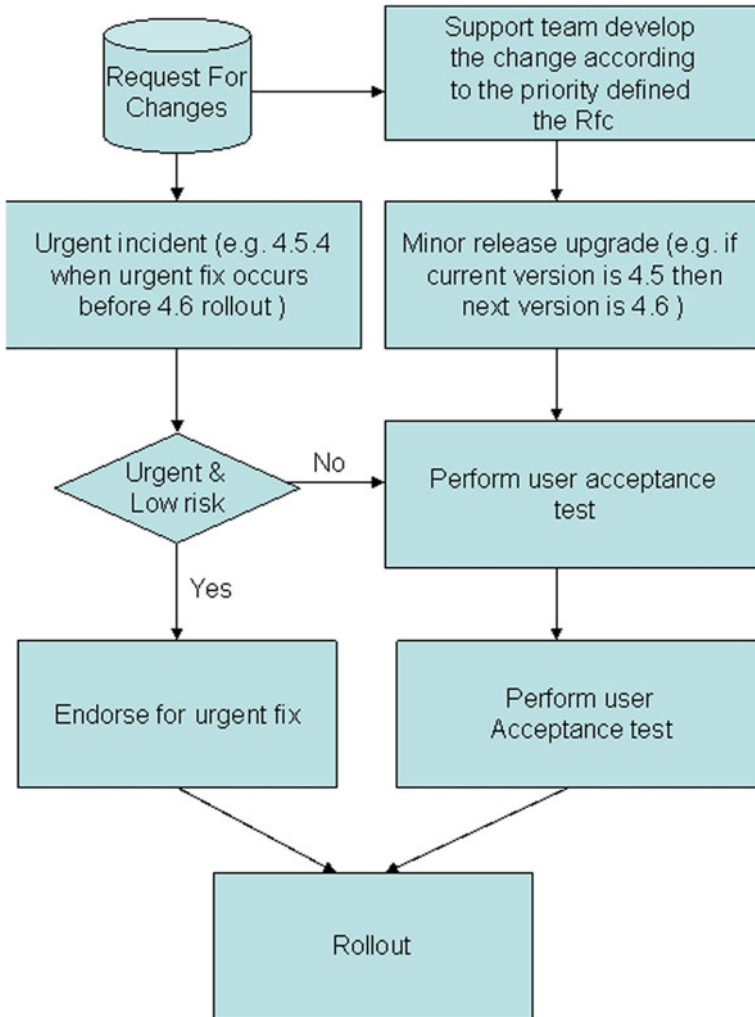


Fig. 11 Current Practice of Release Management

486
487

3.5.2 Recommendations to Benchmark the Case Study Practice with ITIL

488 Based on the ITIL framework, recommendations to the existing system following
489 guidelines of ITIL framework have been provided.

490 According to GL 1 in Fig. 12, SMISS system should have the following release
491 policy:

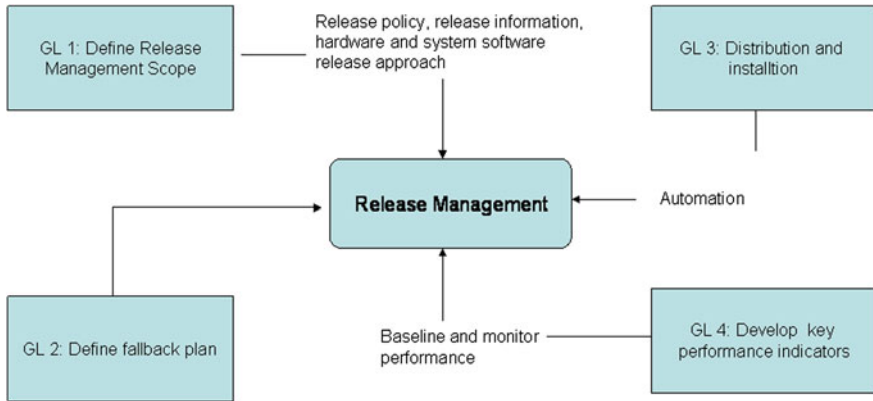


Fig. 12 Release management guidelines

- 492 • Adopt Package Releases, each consisting a series of changes of high and low
 493 priority requests. The high priority requests should be completed before any of
 494 low priority requests.
 495 • Prepare rollout schedule and put it in the Intranet and make available to all
 496 users.
 497 • Hardware and system software upgrades (e.g. a Windows patch) must be tested
 498 on pilot workstation before a full rollout. The pilot test should be conducted on a
 499 frequently used workstation for a period of at least 2 weeks to prove that the
 500 upgrade is working and stable.
 501

502 According to GL 2 in Fig. 12, a fallback plan should be established:

- 503 • Use version control tool to keep the previous release for fallback use.
 504 • Compare the urgent fix version with the next release; apply the delta to the next
 505 release.
 506 • Retrieve correct previous release in case of fallback.
 507

508 According to GL 3 in Fig. 12, distribution and installation should be enhanced:

- 509 • Inform user of the release and the content in 2 days in advance.
 510 • Automate the distribution and installation by developing an auto-installation
 511 module to the system. The module upgrades the workstation module once a new
 512 version is found.
 513

514 According to GL 4 in Fig. 12, the followings are the KPIs for Incident
 515 Management:

- 516 • number of problem incidents caused, and
 517 • number of occurrences of the process being circumvented.
 518

519 **3.6 Problem Management**520 **3.6.1 Current Practice**

521 The current practice of Service Management Information Support System (SMISS)
522 was mainly reactive, i.e. the support team solved the reported incidents. There was
523 no procedure defined for proactive problem management (PM).

524 **3.6.2 Problems**

525

- 526 • The number of incidents was not reduced and the system could not be stabilized.
- 527 • Users stopped reporting the repeated incidents and restarted the system to solve
528 the incidents. User satisfaction dropped and blamed the system informally.
- 529 • Support team prepared the data extraction manually for each clinic and repeated
530 periodically. User data services effort was not reduced.

531

532 **3.6.3 Recommendations to Benchmark Case Study Practice with ITIL**

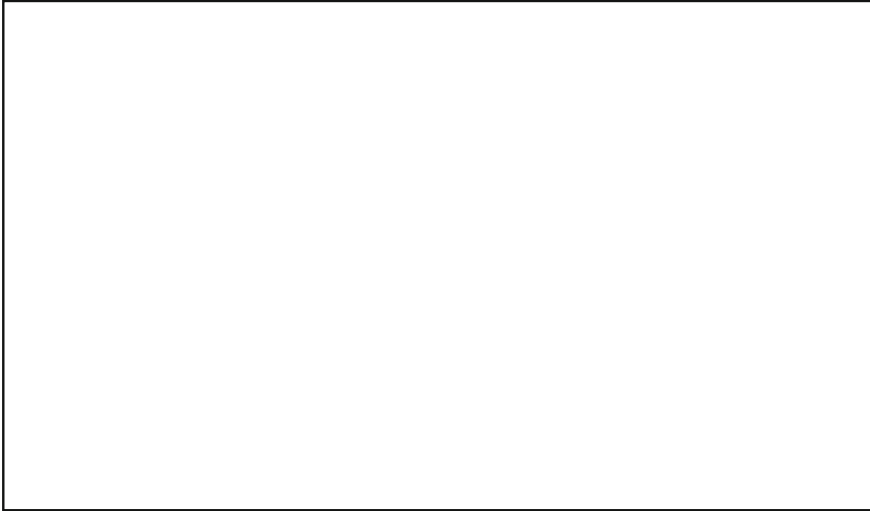
533 Based on the ITIL framework, recommendations to the existing system following
534 guidelines of ITIL framework have been provided.

535 According to GL 1 in Fig. 13, SMISS system should define a reactive problem
536 management, as follows:

- 537 • Conduct monthly review incidents should identify chronic problems by veri-
538 fying the number of occurrences of the same or similar incidents.
- 539 • Build a problem log database using a unique reference number for each prob-
540 lem. This number is updated to the incidents log and incident number should be
541 updated to the problem log for cross reference. It is possible to have multiple
542 incidents pointing to the same problem. The problem log should have the fol-
543 lowing attributes:

- 544 – Problem reference number
- 545 – Date and time of creation
- 546 – Date and time of solution
- 547 – Created by
- 548 – Solved by
- 549 – Major type (hardware, software or network)
- 550 – Minor type (for example servers, workstation, MS word or router)
- 551 – Supplier (for example, Microsoft or CISCO)
- 552 – Description of problem
- 553 – Incident numbers

554

**Fig. 13**

555 According to GL 2 in Fig. 13, SMISS system should define a proactive problem
556 management. In general, the problems that are related to the network and CPU,
557 could gradually downgrade the system performance. Users report incidents related
558 to system performance when it becomes unacceptable. The resource utilization
559 trend should be monitored to determine if the system (network or CPU) perfor-
560 mance has fallen below an acceptable threshold.

- 561 • Build in-house technical focus groups. A focus group for SMISS could monitor:
- 562 – Windows,
 - 563 – Unix,
 - 564 – Web,
 - 565 – Development tool, or a
 - 566 – Database.
- 567 • A focus group will be able to solve any technical incidents more efficiently in a
568 proactive manner. The focus group should keep the support team informed of
569 any possible problems that could occur in a timely manner.
- 570

571 According to GL 3 in Fig. 13, the KPIs are:

- 572 • Number of incidents,
 - 573 • Average number of incidents related to a problem, and
 - 574 • Number of problems.
- 575

576

4 ITIL Framework Implementation, Testing and Results

577 SMISS is a nursing information system developed with the Microsoft Visual
 578 Studio development tools. It runs under the Windows operating system; and the
 579 workstations are distributed in a local area network. In July 2010, a group of
 580 SMISS users and IT representatives were invited to discuss the implementation of
 581 ITIL practice as a case study for improving the service. At least one user from each
 582 clinic was invited to participate in this discussion (Fig. 14).

583 Microsoft provides package guidance called Microsoft Operation Framework
 584 (MOF) that enables organizations to achieve mission-critical system reliability,
 585 availability, supportability, and manageability of IT solutions that are built with
 586 Microsoft technologies. To achieve the operations excellence, Microsoft combines
 587 the ITIL best practices into MOF, and extends MOF to follow the ITIL code of
 588 practice. The MOF provides assessment templates with a set of questions with yes/
 589 no answers. Operation guidelines are provided to help users to answer these
 590 questions. The questionnaire concerning various performance criteria was pre-
 591 pared using the MOF assessment template. Because the questionnaire has been
 592 used before as a successful tool to measure the level of effectiveness of the IT
 593 services in an organization according to the MOF guidelines, the answers that were
 594 collected from the selected group of users can represent as an important test tool
 595 for the system.

596 All ITIL functions and processes are tested in this chapter except the Financial
 597 Management because the simplified data communication and Sharing (SDCS)
 598 adopts the financial processes according to the Government practice. At the same
 599 period of this research, there was a security audit process conducted by a third
 600 party vendor, as well. Most of the users in the test group were also participated in
 601 the security audit process to measure the level of effectiveness of Security
 602 Management.

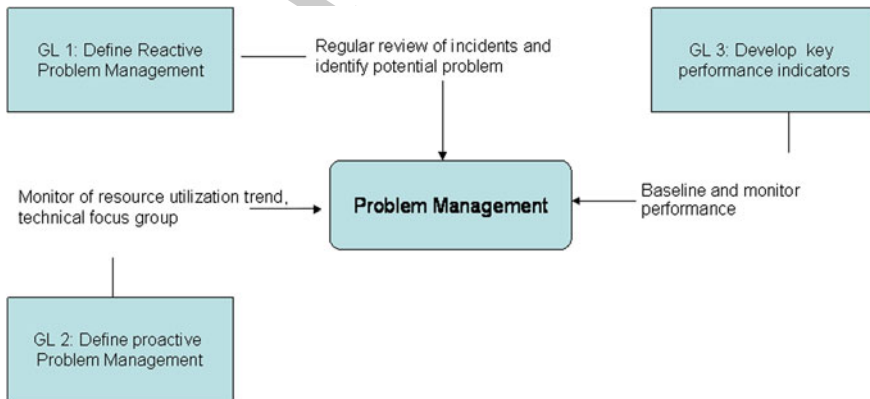
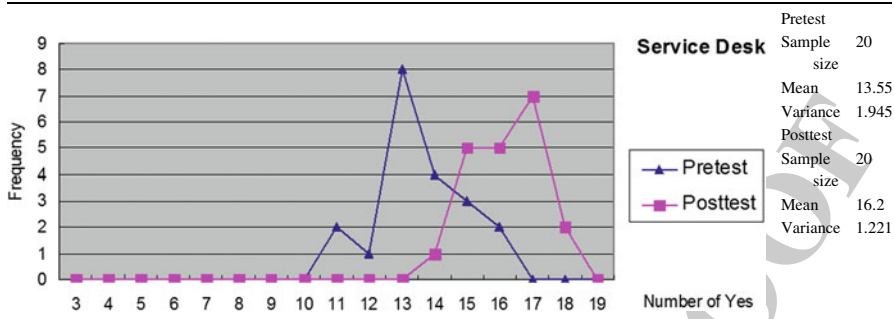
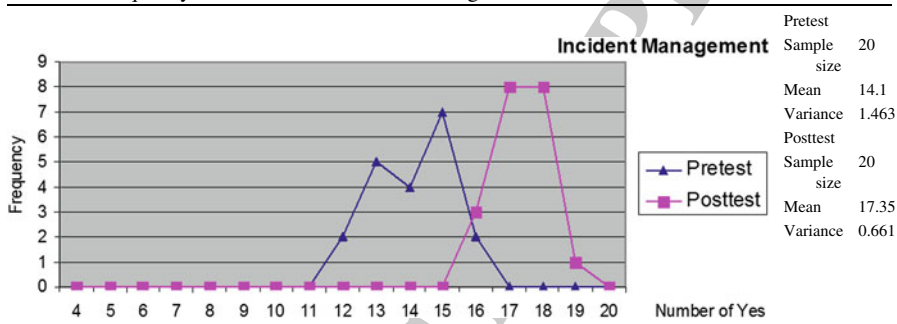


Fig. 14 Problem management guidelines

Table 2 Frequency distribution of service desk result

Table 3 Frequency distribution of incident management


603 In November 2010, the same group of SMISS users and IT representatives were
 604 invited to participate in the research to collect the posttest data. The answers to pretest
 605 and posttest data using the same questionnaire are presented in Tables 2 and 3,
 606 respectively. The questionnaire was formatted in such a way that the ITIL functions
 607 and processes. The count of positive feedback is presented in the following frequency
 608 distribution table, with statistics such as mean and variance.

609 The mean values of pretest and posttest results are compared to check if there is
 610 an improvement in the positive feedback to the concerned support service. The
 611 mean values were tested using the *t*-Student test, and the *t*-values were calculated
 612 by using the formula below [23]
 613

$$t - \text{value} = \frac{(\text{Mean of posttest} - \text{Mean of pretest}) / \sqrt{(\text{Variance of posttest} / \text{Sample size of posttest} + \text{Variance of pretest} / \text{Sample size of pretest})}}$$

615 Alpha level = 0.05 of one tail test

617 Degree of freedom = sample size of pretest + sample size of posttest—2 = 38

618 According *t*-distribution significance table, the critical value is 1.684 for one
 619 tail test.

620 Null Hypothesis—there is no difference between the pretest and posttest sample
 621 means for each of ITIL function and processes.

622 The table presented the percentage of Yes, before and after implementing ITIL
 623 framework which indicates the effect of ITIL and the improvement achieved. From
 624 the above table, the null hypothesis of no difference between pretest and posttest
 625 mean values for PM, SLM and SM are accepted, which implies that means there is
 626 no change in the positive feedback from the test group after the ITIL practices are
 627 implemented. The null hypothesis of the other ITIL processes is rejected since the
 628 mean values of posttest are larger than the mean values of pretest. It can be
 629 concluded that the test group shows more positive feedback after the ITIL practices
 630 are implemented (Tables 4–13).

631 The t -value analysis further concludes whether the improvement is significant
 632 or not. Then, the processes can be grouped as follows:

633 Significantly improved—D, IM, CnM, ChM, RM, CAP, AVM and Sec Not
 634 improved—PM, SLM and SM

635 The t -test demonstrates whether the effect of the implementation of the ITIL
 636 practice guidelines into the service process improved the satisfaction of the test
 637 group, or not. To determine which process has to be further improved, the per-
 638 centage of positive feedback is used. By setting targets of 80 %, the PM, SLM and

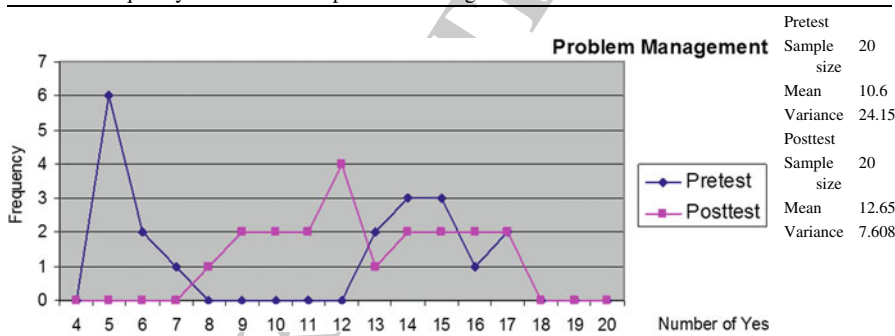
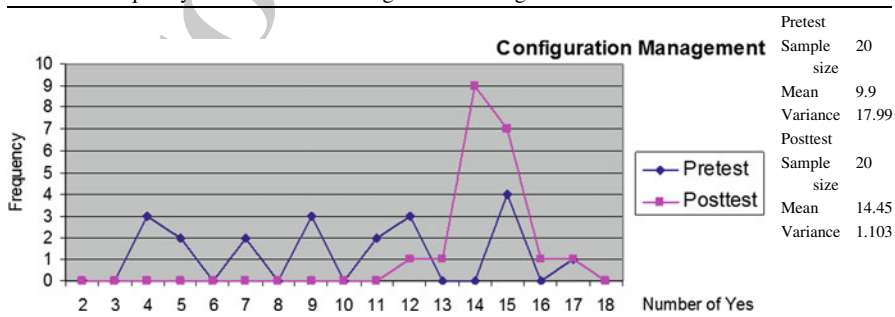
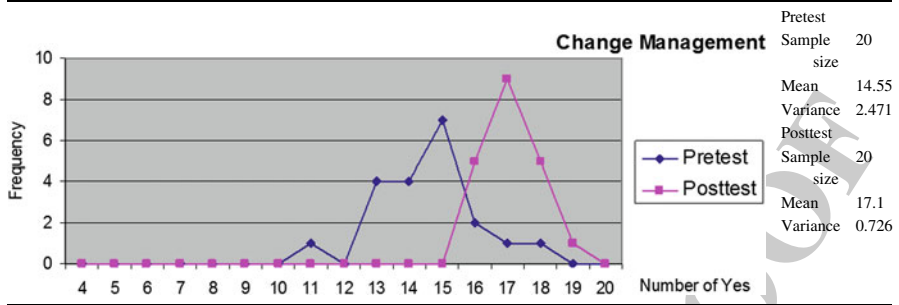
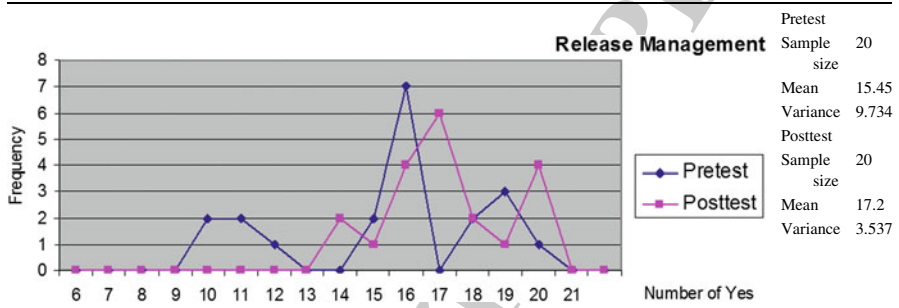
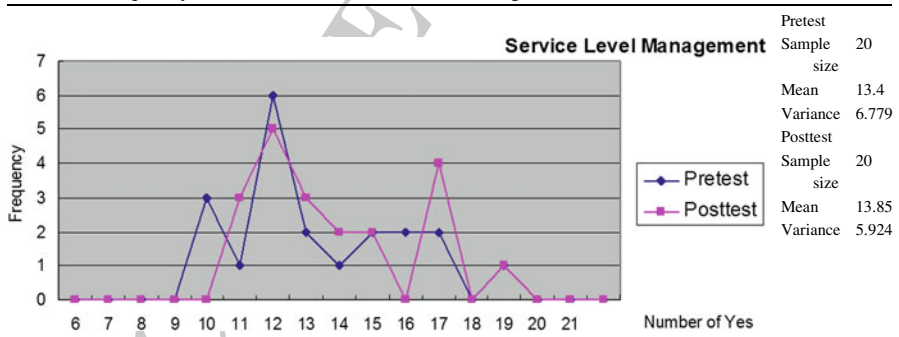
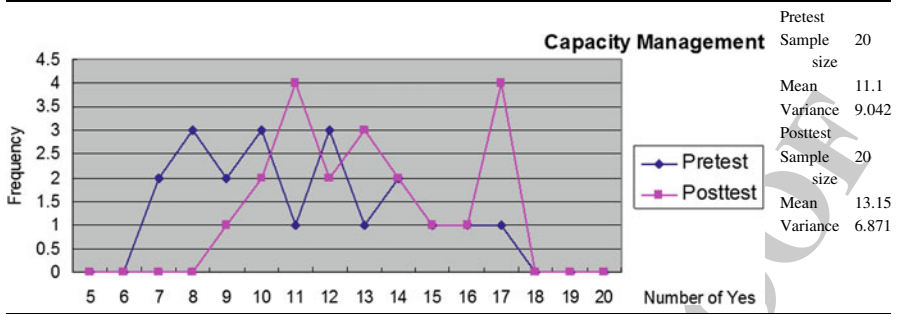
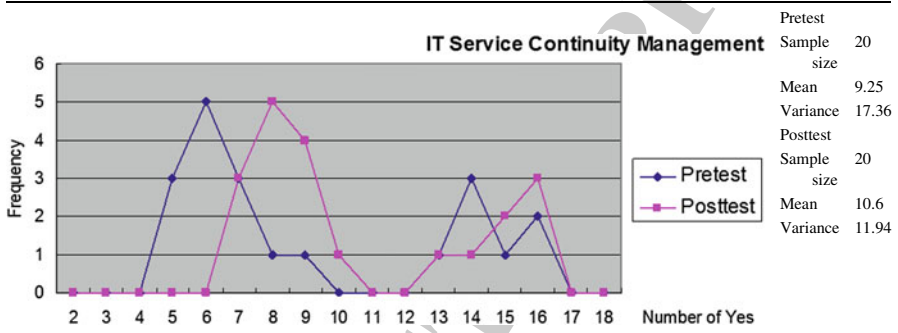
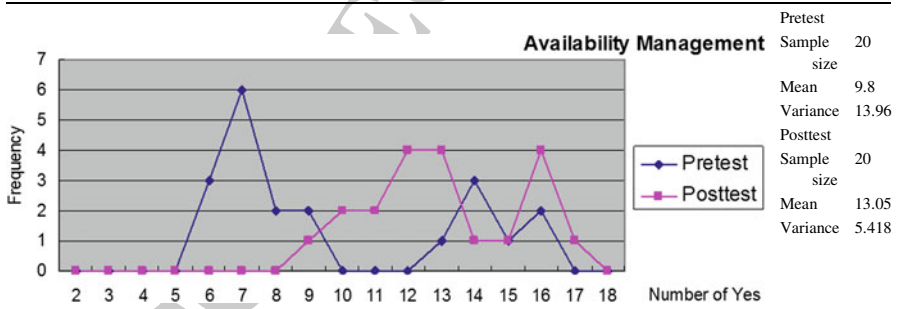
Table 4 frequency distribution of problem management

Table 5 Frequency distribution of configuration management


Table 6 Frequency distribution of change management

Table 7 Frequency distribution of release management

Table 8 Frequency distribution of service level management


639 SM have to be further improved. The SM is the only process that has a pretest
 640 percentage over 80 %; the third party security audit could be the reason for the
 641 scenario and the test of SM cannot be concluded.

Table 9 Frequency distribution of capacity management

Table 10 frequency distribution of IT service continuity management

Table 11 Frequency distribution of availability management


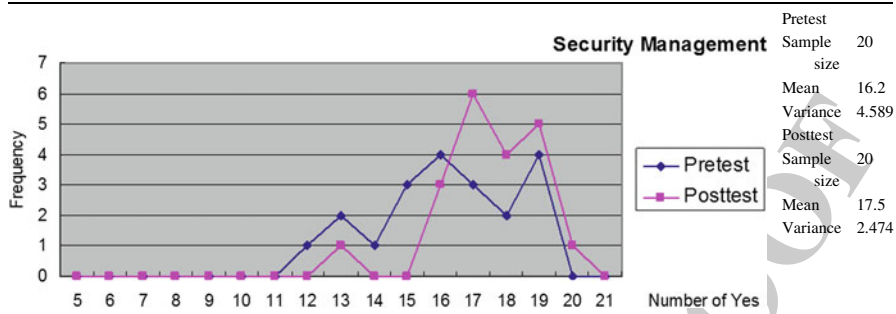
642

5 DSS Interface to IT Service Support

643

The ITIL provides a framework for operations and infrastructure while the CMMI (capability maturity model integration) provides a set of improvement goals and a point of reference for appraising current processes. Both CMMI and ITIL improve

644

Table 12 Frequency distribution of security management

Table 13 Null hypothesis of the services

	Pretest			Posttest			<i>t</i> -value	Null hypothesis
	% of Yes (%)	Mean	Variance	% of Yes (%)	Mean	Variance		
SD	75	13.55	1.9447	90	16.2	1.2211	6.661	Reject
IM	74	14.1	1.4632	91	17.35	0.6605	9.974	Reject
PM	56	10.6	24.147	67	12.65	7.6079	1.627	Accept
CnM	58	9.9	17.989	85	14.45	1.1026	4.657	Reject
ChM	77	14.55	2.4711	90	17.1	0.7263	6.378	Reject
RM	74	15.45	9.7342	82	17.2	3.5368	2.148	Reject
SLM	64	13.4	6.7789	66	13.85	5.9237	0.565	Accept
CAP	58	11.1	9.0421	69	13.15	6.8711	2.298	Reject
SM	54	9.25	17.355	62	10.6	11.937	1.116	Accept
AVM	58	9.8	13.958	77	13.05	5.4184	3.302	Reject
Sec	81	16.2	4.5895	88	17.5	2.4737	2.188	Reject

SD Service Desk, IM Incident Management, PM Problem Management, CnM Configuration Management, ChM Change Management, RM Release Management, SLM Service Level Management, CAP Capacity Management, SM IT Service Continuity Management, AVM Availability Management, Sec Security Management, % of Yes percentage of positive answer for the group

646 the IT service support process as they improve software quality and decrease the
 647 cost of quality software system. The decision making process requires both
 648 knowledge and information. The knowledge management process involves gather-
 649 ing, analyzing, storing, and sharing knowledge and information within the
 650 organization [27]. Information provides clues to resolve an uncertainty and complex-
 651 ity of an issue, while the knowledge helps in understanding the ambiguity
 652 around the issues. A decision support system aids in decision making under the
 653 conditions of uncertainty and complexity [28].

654 The IT support process reengineering is an ongoing process, which requires a
 655 continuous monitoring of the KPIs at an operational level and tactical level. The
 656 various targets such as green light, yellow light, and red light signals can be
 657 established for each KPI. Recent advancements in the telecommunications and

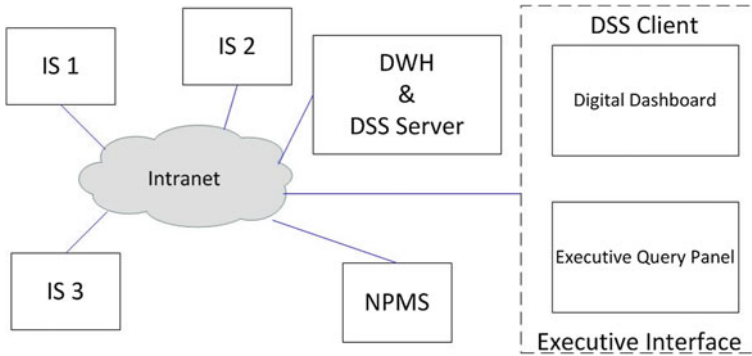


Fig. 15 Decision support system

658 computer networking technologies are able to connect any distant and disparate
 659 systems together, making it possible to control a remote system from anywhere,
 660 based on decisions made in effective management of IT service support process.
 661 A decision support system continuously monitors the KPIs and signals appropriate
 662 actions that can be performed on any remote system as depicted in Fig. 15.

663 The software components of Intranet and the information systems (IS) connected
 664 to it, are managed by the network performance management system (NPMS). A data
 665 warehouse (DWH) system is also connected to the network that extracts, transforms
 666 and loads (ETL) all needed data related to the KPIs of IT service support process.
 667 The Decision Support Server (DSS) again interfaces with the DWH builds the KPIs
 668 of IT service support process and displays them on a digital dashboard of an IT
 669 executive responsible for supporting all IT services. Both DWH and DSS server can
 670 be housed on the same hardware platform for simplicity or on different systems that
 671 are connected together. An IT executive who manages IT service support process
 672 runs a DSS client that provides a realtime digital dashboard with all KPIs and
 673 alarms suggesting IT service actions. Furthermore, the executive can also perform
 674 queries for additional information if needed. The proposed DSS application further
 675 improves the IT service support process and serves as tool for an effective on-going
 676 reengineering of IT service support process.
 677

678 6 Conclusions

679 Although the results of all KPIs examined in this case study have demonstrated
 680 some improvement, it did not fully meet our initial expectations, as some of the
 681 processes did not have significant improvement. There are two major possible
 682 explanations for this outcome pattern. Firstly, the duration of the test is not long
 683 enough for the test group to experience ample improvement. For example, there

684 were no major in SM upgrades performed during the test period. Secondly, some
685 of the intended process reengineering efforts couldn't be fully implemented during
686 the period of this case study, as it required more time, effort, and budget. For
687 example, the Problem Management required a focus group and a pool of technical
688 expertise that was not possible during the pilot project. However, a case study like
689 this one serves as a trigger for major reengineering of business processes. It could
690 motivate the senior management to allocate appropriate budget, and plan a gradual
691 implementation of process reengineering. The ITIL framework consists of a well
692 evaluated, explored and maintained set of guidelines. It certainly serves a tool for
693 exploring process reengineering and improvements while meeting the budget
694 constraints. The case study required a lot of coordination and consensus while
695 identifying process improvements, establishing a process reengineering method-
696 ology, and constructing questionnaires for process evaluation.

697 The experience gained in a case study like this one can alleviate the possibility
698 of expensive mistakes if a major process reengineering is initiated at once.
699 Actually, the customer company appreciated the efforts in this case study, well
700 received, and motivated for further reengineering of companywide processes. The
701 chapter also proposed a comprehensive DSS client/server system which further
702 improves the IT service support process in reading real time KPIs and IT service
703 actions. Further work to this research can focus on automatic implementation of IT
704 service support actions based on DSS signals.

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AQ6	The citation 'Tables 1 and 3-12' has been renumbered as 'Tables 1 and 4-13' to maintain the sequential order. Please check and confirm.	AQ7: This is correct
AQ7	Please check and confirm the inserted citation of Figs. 9, 11 and 14 are correct. If not, please suggest an alternate citation. Please note that figures should be cited in sequential order in the text.	AQ8: Figure 13 is now showing up for some reason, I am sending you this image in a word document.
AQ8	The citation of Fig. 13 is given but the artwork and captions are not provided. Please check and confirm.	AQ9: The full reference should be: Zack, Michael H. "The role of dss technology in knowledge management." In Proceedings of the IFIP TC8/WG8. 3 International Conference on Decision Support in an Uncertain and Complex World, pp. 861-871 2004.
AQ9	Please provide editor group for the Ref. [28].	

MARKED PROOF

Please correct and return this set

Please use the proof correction marks shown below for all alterations and corrections. If you wish to return your proof by fax you should ensure that all amendments are written clearly in dark ink and are made well within the page margins.

<i>Instruction to printer</i>	<i>Textual mark</i>	<i>Marginal mark</i>
Leave unchanged	... under matter to remain	Ⓟ
Insert in text the matter indicated in the margin	∧	New matter followed by ∧ or ∧ [Ⓢ]
Delete	/ through single character, rule or underline or ┌───┐ through all characters to be deleted	Ⓞ or Ⓞ [Ⓢ]
Substitute character or substitute part of one or more word(s)	/ through letter or ┌───┐ through characters	new character / or new characters /
Change to italics	— under matter to be changed	↵
Change to capitals	≡ under matter to be changed	≡
Change to small capitals	≡ under matter to be changed	≡
Change to bold type	~ under matter to be changed	~
Change to bold italic	≈ under matter to be changed	≈
Change to lower case	Encircle matter to be changed	≡
Change italic to upright type	(As above)	⊕
Change bold to non-bold type	(As above)	⊖
Insert 'superior' character	/ through character or ∧ where required	Υ or Υ under character e.g. Υ or Υ
Insert 'inferior' character	(As above)	∧ over character e.g. ∧
Insert full stop	(As above)	⊙
Insert comma	(As above)	,
Insert single quotation marks	(As above)	Ƴ or ƴ and/or ƶ or Ʒ
Insert double quotation marks	(As above)	ƶ or Ʒ and/or Ʒ or ƶ
Insert hyphen	(As above)	⊥
Start new paragraph	┌	┌
No new paragraph	┐	┐
Transpose	└┐	└┐
Close up	linking ○ characters	⌒
Insert or substitute space between characters or words	/ through character or ∧ where required	⌞
Reduce space between characters or words		⌞