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Editors' Comments

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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

From the Editor-in-Chief:

Dear Readers,

While many parts of the world still struggle with the pandemic, in other areas we are seeing a return to (some) normalcy, and I hear about conferences being held again in presence. As scholars who focus on the role of digital technology in human and organizational phenomena, the role that information technology played during the crisis once again proved the relevance of our professions, we do research that matters… but I am ready to stop having workshops and meetings via Zoom!

Speaking of research that matters, as you know, the main charge of the *MIS Quarterly Executive* is to provide contributions that offer timely, actionable and clear recommendations to current, and future IS leaders. Many practiced and new authors have been answering the call and submitting to the journal. For this reason, we have expanded the list of Senior Editors with the addition of Roman Beck (IT University of Copenhagen), Erran Carmel (Kogod School of Business, American University) and Rick Watson (University of Georgia). Senior Editors are the true unsung heroes of the journal, it is their tireless efforts that develop submitted papers into valuable contributions and perspective authors into strong practice-oriented research contributors. With the addition of Rick Watson, we signal the journal's commitment to publishing high-impact contributions on environmental sustainability. Rick's effort are devoted to increasing the number and quality of submissions that help shape how current and future IS leaders contribute solutions to the climate crisis. Please, read the guest editorial he penned with Johann Kranz (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München). It clearly articulates the importance of the effort and provides clear directions on how to craft quality contributions.

I am also announcing a small, but important, change to the submission process. This change is based on the Editorial Board's consensus that great practice-oriented research manuscripts: a) Ask questions that matter to readers, b) leverage first-hand in-depth understanding of a problem, c) provide novel, timely, actionable, and clear recommendations focused on specific technology or practices. Thus, along with the paper, perspective authors will now be asked to provide a short document addressing the following three questions: a) What are the central questions of your submission and why do they matter to current and future IS leaders? b) Explain why your recommendations will be compelling for current and future IS leaders. What will IS leaders do differently after reading your recommendations? c) How does the data you collected support your insight and your recommendations? This will not be a burdensome change, after all, as a contributor to the *MIS Quarterly Executive* you have most likely thought through these questions already.

In this Issue

The current issue has four contributions. The first article, "Applying the Lessons from the Equifax Cybersecurity Incident to Build a Better Defense," by Ilya Kabanov and Stuart Madnick provides an in-depth analysis of the 2017 Equifax data breach. Based on the analysis the authors craft a set of recommendations for building defenses into systems, a set of recommendations for embedding cybersecurity practices in the organization and a final set of recommendations for ensuring that the board prioritizes cybersecurity.

The second article, "How Fujitsu and Four Fortune 500 Companies Managed Time Complexities Using Organizational Agility," is authored by Daniel Gerster, Christian Dremel, Kieran Conboy, Robert Mayer, and Jan vom Brocke. It focuses on agile practices in large organizations with a specific focus on managing time complexities in digital transformation. The work describes two evolutionary paths for managing time complexities and offers a set of specific recommendations for IS leaders.

The third article, "Models for API Value Generation," was contributed by Nigel P. Melville and Rajiv Kohli. It tackles the important issue of strategic use of Application Programming

Interfaces (API) for non-technology firms, and it contributes three models to think about value creation with APIs. Based on the analysis of three case exemplars the paper offers both strategic and tactical recommendations that are specific to API strategy implementation.

The fourth article, titled "Becoming Strategic with Intelligent Automation," is by Mary Lacity and Leslie Willcocks. It represents the latest installment in our *MISQE Research Insights for IT Leaders* section lead by Senior Editor Mary Lacity. In its usual interview format, lead this time by me, the article offers a deep dive into robotic process automation (RPA) and cognitive automation (CA) from the perspective of IS leaders. The article should serve as both a benchmark of what we know and a call to action for the many open questions of managerial interest in the area. My hope is to publish more of these type of contributions in areas where substantial knowledge has been acquired, but future exciting research directions remain.

Read on!

Gabriele Piccoli
Editor-in-Chief