

IT Governance - is it adequate in your organisation?

Many companies have significant dependence on IT. Failure to use it effectively can lead to business losses, reputational damage and a significantly weakened competitive position. As such, information technology (IT) is a critical corporate asset that requires effective governance.

IT governance is an integral part of corporate governance and operates through a framework of processes, standards and controls. It is about who is entitled to make major decisions, who has input and who is accountable for implementing those decisions. It therefore enables organisations to make and implement better IT decisions faster.

Most directors and senior management would say that they worry about IT and are keenly aware of its importance to the business. While they try to stay informed, few boards understand what is really happening with the functions of planning, building, running and managing IT in their organisations. As a quick self-assessment, fill in this questionnaire to see how much you know or do not know!

How much do you know about IT in your organisation?		Yes	No
1	Do you understand how dependent your core business is on IT?		
2	Do you know how long you can operate as a business without IT?		
3	Do you have satisfactory evidence: a. That the company can recover in the event of significant IT failure? b. That company data is secure?		
4	Do you know if your IT systems: a. Are keeping you abreast or ahead of your competition? b. Have the capacity and/or capability to support your future business plans?		
5	Do you know: a. How IT decisions are made? b. If you are spending too much or too little on IT?		
6	Do you know where you will be investing in IT in the next 12 months?		
7	Do business managers; a. Oversee IT investments? b. Are they held accountable for the delivery of business benefits from IT investments?		
8	Are board members aware of strategic IT decisions and investment proposals?		
9	Is a compelling business case developed before an IT investment decision is made?		
10	Do you have internal controls over IT: a. That are effective and efficient? b. That confirm your business complies with applicable laws, regulation and other external requirements? c. That are validated through reliable and independent sources?		

If the answer to most of the questions above is **No**, then attention to IT in the boardroom and at senior management level is inadequate and it is time to think about implementing an IT governance model. For assistance in implementing your IT Governance model, please contact:

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