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BUSITAL'06
Business/IT Alignment and Interoperability

Workshop at

CAiSE'06

The 18th Conference on
Advanced Information Systems Engineering
Luxembourg, 5–9 June, 2006

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Preface

The BUSITAL workshop, promoted by the European network of excellence *INTEROP* is specifically dedicated to business/IT alignment, and interoperability of information systems.

Objectives of the Workshop

The objective of the workshop is to bring together a larger community interested in the various business/IT alignment issues.

The objective is to investigate how far conceptual modeling methods, techniques and tools offer an adequate answer to the challenge of maintaining a two-ways alignment between business needs and IT solutions.

On the one hand, the workshop will consider the needs for alignment between the business strategy (business goals and business models), the enterprise modeling world (business processes and organization infrastructure), the information system (infrastructure and applications).

On the other hand it will identify suitable conceptual modeling methods and techniques that can act as the glue for making this alignment effective.

Since the scope of CAiSE is development, maintenance, procurement, and usage of information systems and CAiSE'06 has a specific theme of trusted information systems, business/IT alignment is relevant to the "early stages of" development, to reflect in the change of business, and trust in the sense of understanding how the information systems contribute to business strategy.

Background

The *BUSITAL* Workshop is promoted by the EU FP6 INTEROP-Interoperability Research for Networked Enterprises Applications and Software, INTEROP is Network of Excellence grouping about 150 researchers on the topics related to: *Ontology* to identify interoperability semantics in enterprises, *Enterprise Modeling* to define interoperability requirements and models; and *Architectures and Enabling technologies* to provide implementation frameworks.

This community has identified challenges in the alignment of business and IT infrastructures, which is a key factor in the productivity of the enterprise as well as the management of its agile evolution.

Topics

The papers have been grouped in three sections: (1) Frameworks for Alignment, (2) Alignment Issues, and (3) Methodology and Architecture. They cover different topics, such as:
- Representations and frameworks for modeling business strategy
- Techniques and methods for acquiring and understanding business strategy that is relevant to information systems
- Methodologies and frameworks for guiding information system design using relevant information in business strategy
- Methods and tools for showing, analyzing, and measuring alignment
- Solutions for guiding information systems maintenance using relevant information in business strategy
- Case studies and empirical work showing the benefits and costs of alignment