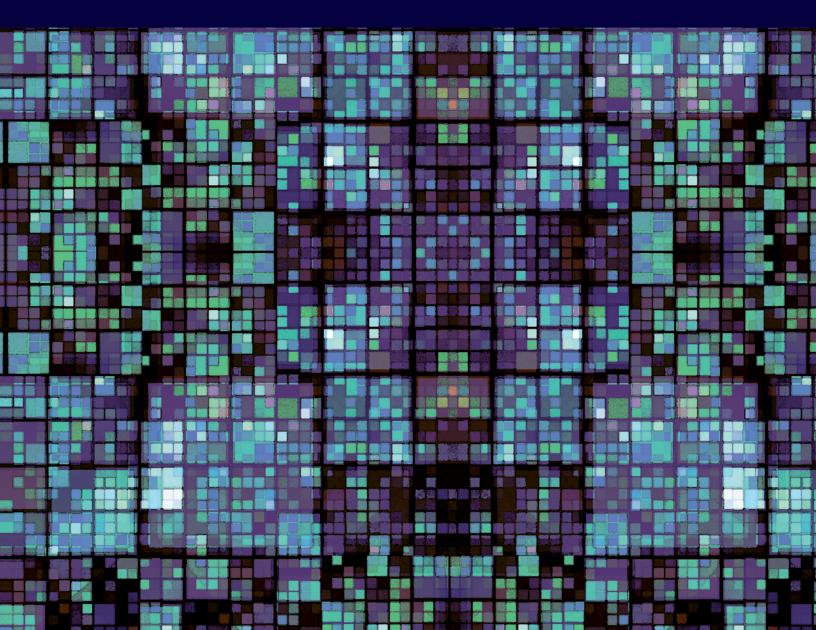


# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FOR MANAGEMENT

Advancing Sustainable, Profitable Business Growth

EFRAIM TURBAN • LINDA VOLONINO • GREGORY WOOD





# Information Technology for Management

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# Information Technology for Management

Advancing Sustainable, Profitable Business Growth

EFRAIM TURBAN LINDA VOLONINO, Canisius College GREGORY R. WOOD, Canisius College

contributing author: JANICE C. SIPIOR, Villanova University

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## PREFACE

Mega-forces in Information Technology (IT) are creating an exciting new world. Leading technology trends namely *social, mobile, cloud, big data,* and *analytics*—offer unprecedented business opportunities. When these technologies converge, organizations are able to gain a competitive edge, to expand market reach, to build brands, and to develop innovative features or ways of doing business. Today's managers, leaders, entrepreneurs and knowledge workers need to know how to leverage the power of innovative technologies, media, networks, platforms, services, and devices. They now need talents and skills that were not part of our vocabulary five years ago—or maybe five months ago.

In this 9th edition, students learn, explore and analyze the latest information technologies and their impact on, well, *almost everything*. Students learn how strategy, operations, supply chains, customer and supplier relationships, collaboration, reporting, recruiting, financing, performance, growth, productivity, and their career success are driven by and dependent on IT-capabilities. Here are a few examples of influential IT developments as well as disruptive impacts of IT covered in this book:

- Big data, or databases so large they can't be handled with traditional software, is the next frontier for innovation, competition, and productivity. Big data is produced by companies that track all of our Internet activity, online purchases, and social media interactions. Big data analytics turns ambiguity into clarity and action.
- Financing is a core component of any business. Crowdfunding, raising small amounts of money from many people, grew from a \$32 million market in May 2010 to a \$123 million market by May 2012. Kickstarter transformed the investment process for investors and entrepreneurs by providing a funding alternative to turn good business ideas into reality.
- From customer service and qualitative research to promotional support and reinforcing a brand, **Facebook** is a tremendous marketing tool. The value of **social media** lies in the fact that it is the most pervasive form of 2 way communication ever created. Social media helps grow business and create meaningful customer relationships.
- **Twitter** enables direct contact with customers. Brands can chat with existing customers and jump into conversations to grow their fan base.

- **Mobility** and **cloud computing** are changing how people and companies interact with information. Mobile technology has a huge impact on customer behavior and expectations.
- Sustainability and green business are smart business.
- With data visualization, dashboards, and enterprise mashups, users can better prepare for and respond to unanticipated events and make more effective decisions in complex, dynamic situations.

## Engaging Students to Assure Learning

*Information Technology for Management* 9th edition engages students with up-to-date coverage of the most important IT trends today. Over the years, this leading IT textbook had distinguished itself with an emphasis on illustrating the use of cutting edge business technologies for achieving managerial goals and objectives. The 9th edition continues this tradition with more hands-on activities and analyses.

Each chapter contains numerous case studies and real world examples illustrating how businesses increase productivity, improve efficiency, enhance communication and collaboration, and gain a competitive edge through the use of ITs. Faculty will appreciate a variety of options for reinforcing student learning, that include:

### 3 Cases

- *Case #1*, Opening case
- Case #2, Business case
- Case #3, Video case

### Within chapter learning aids

- Vocabulary in the margins
- Videos references
- Tech notes

### End-of-Chapter learning aids

- "Evaluate and Expand Your Learning" sections
  - 1. IT and Data Management Decisions
  - 2. Questions for Discussion & Review
  - 3. Online Activities
  - 4. Collaborative Work
- Data Analysis & Decision Making sections

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### Other pedagogical features

- **Quick Look.** The chapter outline provides a quick indication of the major topics covered in the chapter.
- Learning Outcomes. Learning outcomes listed at the beginning of each chapter help students focus their efforts and alert them to the important concepts that will be discussed.
- *IT at Work.* The *IT at Work* boxes spotlight real-world cases and innovative uses of IT.

## New and Enhanced Features of 9th Edition

The textbook consists of 14 chapters organized into four parts. Chapters 1 and 11 are new. All other chapters have new sections as well as updated sections, as shown in Table P-1.

1: A Look Toward the       Crowdfunding       Kickstarter.com         Future of Information       Cloud computing       Kickstarter.com         Technology       The Internet of Things       PaulMcCartney.com         2: Information Management       Enterprise mashups       PaulMcCartney.com         and TT Architecture       Enterprise mashups       PaulMcCartney.com         Cloud services       Virtual machines (VM)       Statabase, Data Warehouse,       Big data         and Data Mining       Operational intelligence       msnNow       Data ownership         Compliance       Sustainability       Evernote       Mobile infrastructure         and Sustainability       Sustainability       Evernote       Machine-to-machine communication         SharePoint       BYOD       Anonymous & Lul2Sec       Anonymous & Lul2Sec         and Business Continuity       Hacktivism       AT&T Toggle       Tosusumerization         Advanced persistent threats       Do not carry policies       Tf governance       Google, Inc.         6: E-Business & E-Commerce       Internet of advertsing       Realtor.com       Search engine marketing (SEM)       Shopkick         7: Mobile Technologies       Consumer use of mobile tech       Chegg.com       Innovation in traditional and       Shopkick       web-based retail <th>Chapter</th> <th>New &amp; Expanded Issues</th> <th>Innovative Organizations</th>	Chapter	New & Expanded Issues	Innovative Organizations
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are Discussed in the Chapters (continued)				
Chapter	New & Expanded issues	Innovative Organizations		
11: Performance Management using Data Visualization, Mashups, and Mobile Intelligence	Data visualization Mobile dashboards User experience D3—data driven documents	Roambi.com Tableau software AlphaVision WeDo Technologies SoftwareFX		
12: IT Strategy, Sourcing, and Vendor Relationships	Transparency High-end analytics SOA Business processing outsourcing IT vendor relationships	Mint.com Prosper.com Firescope.com		
13: Business Process and Project Management	BPM mashups Who's accountable for IT failures	BlueWorksLive.com AutoTrader.com ARIS Express BPM.com		
14: IT Ethics and Responsible Conduct	Social discrimination Responsible conduct	JobVite.com Social Intelligence		

## TABLE P-1 Overview of New and Expanded IT Issues; and Several of the Innovative Organizations that are Discussed in the Chapters (continued)

- *Solid theoretical foundations*. Throughout the book, students learn the theoretical foundation necessary for understanding IT.
- *Up-to-date.* Every topic in the book has been researched to find the most up-to-date information and features.
- *Economic justification*. With the sluggish economic recovery, IT costs and proofs of concept are being demanded prior to investments. Students learn about various cost factors, including total cost of ownership and service level agreements.
- *IT Ethics, sustainability, and responsible conduct.* IT has become so pervasive, invasive, prevalent, and a power-guzzler that ethics, sustainability and responsible conduct need to be addressed. For example, we clearly explain how contributions from the field of IT can lead to reduced carbon emissions and global warming, improving quality of life on the plant now and for future generations. We also help students to understand the critical issues related to cyber security, privacy invasion and other data-related abuses so that students can and assess characteristics of responsible conduct.

## Supplementary Materials

An extensive package of instructional materials is available to support this 9th edition.

• *Instructor's Manual*. The Instructor's Manual presents objectives from the text with additional information to make them more appropriate and useful for the

instructor. The manual also includes practical applications of concepts, case study elaboration, answers to end-of-chapter questions, questions for review, questions for discussion, and Internet exercises.

- *Test Bank.* The test bank contains over 1,000 questions and problems (about 75 per chapter) consisting of multiple-choice, short answer, fill-ins, and critical thinking/essay questions.
- *Computerized Test Bank*. This electronic version of the test bank allows instructors to customize tests and quizzes for their students.
- *PowerPoint Presentation*. A series of slides designed around the content of the text incorporates key points from the text and illustrations where appropriate.
- *Video Series.* A collection of video clips provides students and instructors with dynamic international business examples directly related to the concepts introduced in the text. The video clips illustrate the ways in which computer information systems are utilized in various companies and industries.
- *Textbook Web Site.* (*wiley.com/college/turban*). The book's Web site greatly extends the content and themes of the text to provide extensive support for instructors and students. Organized by chapter, it includes Chapter Resources: tables, figures, link libraries, exercises, and downloadable media-enhanced PowerPoint slides.

## Acknowledgments

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### **xiv** Preface

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> Efraim Turban Linda Volonino Gregory R. Wood Janice C. Sipior

## Part I

Maximizing the Value of Data and Information Technology

Chapter

# A Look Toward the Future of Information Technology

Quick Look

**Case 1, Opening Case:** Need Start-up Cash? Try Crowdfunding at Kickstarter.com

IT and Management Opportunities and Challenges

1.2 Top Management Concerns and the Most Influential ITs

**1.3** IT Agility, Consumerization, and Competitive Advantage

1.4 Strategic Planning and Competitive Models

**1.5** Why IT Is Important to Your Career, and IT Careers

Key Terms

Chapter 1 Link Library

Evaluate and Expand Your Learning

- IT and Data Management Decisions
- Questions for Discussion & Review
- Online Activities
- Collaborative Work

**Case 2, Business Case**: Building a Sustainable Big City with a Competitive Edge **Case 3, Video Case, Public Sector**:

ACCESS NYC—IT Strategy and Transformation Data Analysis & Decision Making: Online Interactive Demo: Estimating Cost-Savings from Switching to the Cloud References

### Learning Outcomes

• Describe IT and management issues, opportunities, and challenges.

**2** Identify management's top concerns and the most influential ITs.

• Assess the role of IT agility, IT consumerization, and changes in competitive advantage in the second part of the Information Age.

• Explain the strategic planning process, SWOT analysis, and competitive models.

**6** Realize how IT impacts your career and the positive outlook for IS management careers.

## QUICK LOOK at Chapter 1, A Look Toward the Future of Information Technology

In this opening chapter, you read about management's top concerns and the information systems (ISs) they consider most influential to their organizations. Understanding senior management's priorities is a smart starting point for your career. You learn about the latest information technology (IT) trends that are important across all industry sectors—small and medium businesses (SMB), multinationals, government agencies, healthcare, and nonprofits. Faced with business challenges, as a manager you need to implement IT solutions and track how well they improve performance. Faced with the latest new technology, as a manager you need to be able to determine whether to invest in it and how to acquire or implement it. The power of IT to turn challenges into opportunities, to create new markets and industries, to disrupt the way work is done, and to make commerce more social and mobile stems from the creativity and talent of managers not the capabilities of technology. Managers and workers now need talents and skills that weren't part of our vocabulary five to ten years ago—or maybe five to ten months ago.

The opening case describes how *Kickstarter* responded to a universal business challenge facing entrepreneurs and artists—getting enough start-up cash—with crowdfunding.

## CASE 1 OPENING CASE

### Need Start-Up Cash? Try Crowdfunding at Kickstarter.com

**Crowdfunding** is a way to raise money (capital) for new projects by asking for contributions from a large number (crowd) of people via the Web. It's peer-to-peer funding. Also known as **crowdsource funding** or **crowdfinancing**.

**Kickstarter** is the world's largest crowdfunding platform for creative projects.

**Project creator** is the creative person who posts his or her project with a video, a description of the concept, and target dollar amount on *Kickstarter.com*.

**Backer** pledges money to a project, in effect making a financial vote of confidence in the project and creator.

**Funding goal** is the amount of money requested by the project creator. If this goal is not reached, the deal is off.

**Figure 1.1** *Kickstarter.com* gives entrepreneurs and those in creative industries online access to money to fund their artistic or business ideas.

If you have a brilliant idea for a film, music album, street art, or cool tech gadget, where would you get start-up money to make it happen? *Hint:* It's unlikely that you'd get a bank loan and certainly not easily. Huge numbers of cash-challenged entrepreneurs and artists could not achieve their visions because of the lack of financing options available to them.

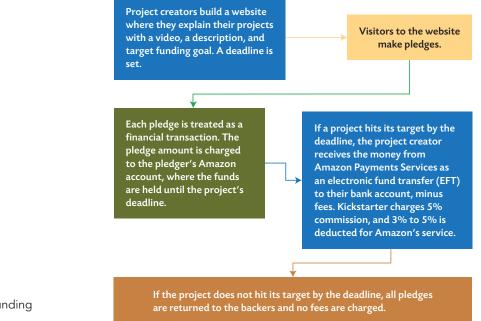
That is, until **crowdfunding.** In simplest terms, people who need money ask for donations to reach their financial goal and explain what they will produce if they reach that goal; and citizens of the Internet—the "crowd"—decide whether to donate and how much.

**Kickstarter** is the world's largest crowdfunding site for creative projects. Kickstarter is to crowdfunding as eBay is to auctions. They're IT platforms with payment systems that became fun and popular social commerce sites.

## Crowdfunding Opportunities for Cash-Challenged Artists and Entrepreneurs

Crowdfunding bypasses banks, family, and friends as funding sources. Crowdfunding needs an IT platform that makes it easy and secure to request, donate, and collect online contributions.





**Figure 1.2** The crowdfunding process.

Anyone with a creative project—called project creator—can post an online pitch to potential backers across the world on *Kickstarter.com*. Every week, tens of thousands of people (the crowd) pledge typically from \$1 to \$1,000—totaling millions of dollars—to film, music, art, technology, design, food, publishing, and other creative projects. The crowd decides which projects are worth their investments by pledging funds. Project creators keep 100% ownership and control over their work. Figure 1.2 shows how crowdfunding at Kickstarter works.

### **Social Commerce and Incentives**

Kickstarter provides the IT platform and payment systems that enable people-to-people commerce, or **social commerce**. Clever incentives and exclusive memberships are offered to backers, which provide the forum for social commerce. Here are three examples:

- Two California design students in their early twenties, Jesse Genet and Stephan Angoulvant, set a \$12,000 goal to launch Lumi Co., a new textile printing technology. They raised \$13,597 from 188 backers. To entice backers to pledge \$500 or more, they offered a personalized leather envelope, invitations to their launch party and an exclusive event at their Los Angeles offices for the fashion line release, and exclusive newsletters and discounts.
- 2. TikTok+LunaTik kits turn an iPod nano into a multitouch watch. Project creators asked for \$15,000; but raised nearly \$1 million from 13,512 backers. Backers who pledged \$500 were offered a LunaTik Kickstarter Backer Edition including an 8GB iPod Nano that was laser-signed by designer Scott Wilson. It's now a real product and for sale in the Apple store.
- 3. Designers of PID-Controlled Espresso Machine, which brings the consistency of expensive espresso machines to a low-cost machine, set a \$20,000 goal. They raised \$369,569 by its January 20, 2012, deadline. The \$1,000 backers were offered a free custom-built machine. Every Kickstarter backer was able to buy the \$400 machine for only \$200.

In 2012, Kickstarter reported that \$100 million was pledged into projects in 2011 with \$84 million going into projects that were actually funded. Movies and music projects were the largest funded areas. Over \$32 million was pledged for films and video—leading to 3,284 successful projects. For music, backers pledged close to \$20 million for 3,653 successful projects. These 2011 stats roughly tripled the 2010 stats.

### Crowdfunding—a Creative Integrated IT Solution

Crowdfunding—which is an integration of social networking, e-commerce, and financing and payment systems—clearly is responsive to the needs of the market. In tough economic times, Kickstarter and other crowdfunding platforms offer the ability to support economic growth by funding project creators worldwide.

Sources: Compiled from Kickstarter.com (2012), Pogue (2012), lumi.co (2012), and lunatik.com/ (2012).

### Discuss

- Visit Kickstarter.com and review the "Project of the Day." What is the project? Review the offerings and number of backers in each level. Which two pledge levels (\$1 through \$1,000) have the highest number of backers? Which pledge levels are sold out, if any? Do the answers to these questions suggest that backers are actually *customers* making purchases (pre-sales) rather than *donors* making selfless contributions?
- 2. Explain crowdfunding and its advantages to new entrepreneurs.
- 3. Compare Kickstarter and eBay.
- 4. What characteristics make Kickstarter a social commerce site?

### Decide

 Research how Kickstarter and two other crowdfunding sites manage or provide for the collection and transfer of pledges. Based on what you learn, is there a site that you would recommend. Explain why or why not.

### Debate

**6.** Crowdfunding could be viewed as a technology that disrupts the financing industry. Or it could be viewed as so unique that it has created a new industry. Create two teams, and have each team select one of these views. Debate which of view better reflects the impact of crowdfunding.

## 1.1 IT and Management Opportunities and Challenges

The first section provides background on IT (information technology) and management trends, issues, challenges, and/or opportunities discussed in this chapter.

LIKE, FOLLOW, FAN, SNAP, SHARE, JOIN, SIGN UP, WATCH Consider how often and in how many ways companies or brands ask you to connect with them, as shown in Figure 1.3. Why do businesses ask you to like, follow, fan, snap, share, sign up, watch, join, or download?

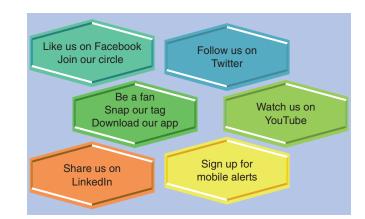


Figure 1.3 Common requests from companies and brands to connect with consumers and prospects via social media or mobile devices.



The short answer is to get access to consumers and data about them to improve performance. Three examples are:

**1.** *Overstock.com.* Jonathan Johnson, a retail executive at *Overstock.com*, explained: "We're not trying to use social media as a sales piece as much as an information-gathering piece. Finding out what our customers want; whether they like a product; how could we sell it better" (Jopson et al., 2011). See Figure 1.4.

**2. Best Buy.** Electronics retailer Best Buy learned how unpopular its restocking fees were through social media. The company changed its product-return policies eliminating those fees that were hurting sales.

**3.** Starbucks. Coffee retailer Starbucks prepared to monitor customers' tweets about a new coffee flavor on the day it was introduced. Managers were surprised to learn that a huge majority of tweets were not about the coffee's intense taste, but were complaints about the higher price. By the next day, they had dropped the price.

Like many companies, Overstock, Best Buy, and Starbucks are making every effort *to learn* how to improve performance. Several examples of learning efforts to improve performance are listed in Table 1.1.

Four current technology trends that offer valuable business opportunities are *social*, *mobile*, *cloud*, and *data analytics*. These ITs are often used in combination to gain a
competitive edge, to expand market reach, and to develop new features or ways of doing business. They make it easier and cheaper to connect with customers and suppliers, to work with others from anywhere, and to manage files and data.

### Tech Note 1-1

The state of Wyoming switched to cloud computing in 2011. This was done by putting 10,000 employees on *Google Apps for Government.* 

The financial impact of *mobility* because employees could work from anywhere and better *collaboration* among employees led to a savings of over \$1 million per year.

A short video about Wyoming's Story is posted on the Google Apps for Government site google.com/apps/intl/en/government/.

#### TABLE 1.1 Common Learning Efforts to Improve Performance

- Which marketing campaigns are the most and least effective and why
- What products to develop
- What customers value and dislike
- How to appeal to key customer groups
- How to select and implement enterprise apps that will make a competitive difference
- What perks strengthen customer loyalty most cost-effectively

**Figure 1.4** Overstock.com uses data analytics to discover what their customers want, whether they like a product, and how they can sell it better.

NEXT BIG TECH TRENDS FOCUSED ON COMPETITION, GROWTH, AND INNOVATION DATA ANALYTICS— FIGURING OUT WHAT THE DATA MEANS Simply collecting data has no effect on performance. Data needs to be analyzed. **Data analytics** refers to the specialized software, capabilities, and components all geared toward exploring huge volumes of data to provide greater insight and intelligence and doing so quickly. Why is it important to analyze quickly? One reason is to be able to know how a particular sale or marketing campaign has influenced sales.

The processes needed to prepare for and conduct data analytics are complex and expensive—and require expertise in statistics and modeling. Data analytic processes include:

**1.** Locating and collecting reliable data from multiple sources that are in various formats.

**2.** Preparing the data for analysis. Collected data is not usable until it has been organized, standardized, duplicates are removed (called *deduping*), and other data-cleansing processes are done.

**3.** Performing the correct analyses, verifying the analyses, and then reporting the findings in meaningful ways.

In the early 2000s, the ability to perform data analytics in real time, or near-real time, improved when vendors and consulting companies started offering it as a service. In the 2010s, vendors offered pre-built, hosted analytics and advanced analytics solutions that reduced total cost of ownership (TCO) and made it feasible for companies to implement data analytics.

Macys' and other large retailers used to spend weeks reviewing their last season's sales data. With data analytic capabilities, they can now see instantly how an e-mailed discount code or flash sale for athletic wear played out in different regions. Charles W. Berger, CEO of ParAccel (*ParAccel.com*), a data analytics provider said: "We have a banking client that used to need four days to make a decision on whether or not to trade a mortgage-backed security. They do that in seven minutes now." Data analytics is used by Wal-Mart stores to adjust its inventory levels and prices; and by FedEx for tweaking its delivery routes. *IT at Work 1.1* identifies other users of data analytics.

## IT at Work ].]

### Watson Wins Jeopardy, Leaving Human Champions in its Silicon Dust

Data analytics have interesting applications. Here is one famous example of data analytics in action.

Watson is a computer system created by a team of 25 IBM scientists over four years. In 2011, Watson competed against Ken Jennings for Brad Rutter on the game show Jeopardy (see Figure 1.5) in a three-day tournament and won. Watson received the clues as electronic texts at the same time they were made visible to Ken and Brad. Watson would then parse the clues into different keywords and sentence fragments in order to find statistically related phrases. Watson won by using its ability to quickly execute thousands of language analysis algorithms simultaneously to compile potential answers and determine its level of confidence in any given answer.

### Questions

- 1. Explain how Watson figured out the most likely response to win the tournament.
- View the IBM demo, "Turning insight into outcomes," at ibm.com/smarterplanet/us/en/business\_analytics/article/ outperform\_with\_smarter\_analytics.html.



**Figure 1.5** Using data analytics, *Watson* beats Ken and Brad playing Jeopardy.

 Discuss how companies in various industries are using the insights from analytics to achieve significant outcomes in customer satisfaction and retention, operational efficiency, financial processes, and/or risk, fraud, and compliance management. Data analytics can help companies achieve these business outcomes:

- Grow their customer base
- Retain the most profitable customers.
- Continuously improve operational efficiency.
- Transform and automate financial processes.
- Detect and deter fraud.

One example is Florida Power and Light (FPL). Mark Schweiger, a senior business analyst at FPL, helped implement a data analytics program to detect electricity theft. Theft was being detected using visual inspection by meter readers and field investigators. FPL knew that an advanced metering infrastructure system would provide data that could flag suspicious accounts for closer examination. In 2009, FPL began implementing a meter data analytics program with the help of vendor DataRaker (*dataraker.com*) estimated for use by 2013.

FPL feeds its vendor meter and customer data, which the vendor crunches to create meaningful red flags indicating electricity theft. The program helps detect when someone is using an unauthorized meter, is bypassing an approved meter, is using a powerful magnet to suppress usage (and billing) data, and has reconnected service without authorization.

MESSY DATA	As you know from your own experience, a lot of data is now text—and text is messy.
1	Messy data is the term used to refer to data (e.g., tweets, posts, click streams, images,
	including medical images) that cannot be organized in a way that a computer can
	easily process. Data sources include smartphones, social networks, microblogs, click
	streams from online activities, location-aware mobile devices, scanners, and sensors
	that automatically collect everything from inventory movement to heart rates.
	Michael Olson, CEO of Cloudera (cloudera.com) explained:

The old days were about asking, "What is the biggest, smallest, and average?" Today it's, "What do you like? Who do you know? "It's answering these complex questions.

In 2012, research firm Gartner predicted that data will grow 800 percent over the next five years, and 80 percent of the data will be unstructured.

**BIG DATA ANALYTICS**— **THE NEXT FRONTIER OF OPPORTUNITIES** Huge sets of messy data from sources such as multi-petabyte data warehouses, social media, and mobile devices are called **big data**. Research by the McKinsey Global Institute found that **big data analytics**, which is the ability to analyze big data sets, is the next frontier of opportunities for competition, productivity growth, and innovation (Manyika, 2011). Most other research and consulting firms agree that data analytics to gain insights and a competitive edge is one of the biggest opportunities and challenges facing managers.

Questions

 Why do businesses ask you to like, follow, fan, or interact with them via social networks or web sites?

- 2. Why is data analytics challenging for companies?
- 3. Explain messy data.
- 4. What are the sources of messy data?
- 5. Explain big data analytics.

### 1.2 Top Management Concerns and Influential ITs

What do managers consider the most critical building blocks to improving their ability to do their jobs and organizational performance? What ITs are most influential? You will read answers to these questions in this section.

TABLE 1.2	Summary of	Characteristics of High-Quality Information
Quality Char	acteristic	Description
Relevant		Information is either relevant or irrelevant to a decision. Irrelevant information interferes with the process—no matter how interesting it is—because it wastes time or causes confusion or delay. Irrelevant information is a persistent problem because ISs are good at generating lots of it.
Timely		This characteristic means that the decision maker receives the information when he or she needs it—that is, when it would be meaningful to the decision. For example, the manager of a retail chain needs daily information on stores' performance and products that are selling unusually high or low, so that immediate cor- rective action can be taken. Receiving performance information at the end of the month leaves thirty-day gaps in corrective actions.
Reliable, accu	ırate	This characteristic means that the information can be trusted and that the decision maker has confidence that information is free from errors, to the extent possible. For example, calculations are correct and data are in correct categories. When information is trusted, it elimi- nates wasting time having to verify it. Typically, it is more important for the information to be timely than to be perfect.
Easy to under and use	rstand	This characteristic means that information is presented clearly, and concisely, and is well-documented.

### BUSINESS PERFORMANCE DEPENDS ON QUALITY INFORMATION AND IT CAPABILITIES

Business performance is directly related to the quality of information. Table 1.2 describes the key characteristics of high-quality information.

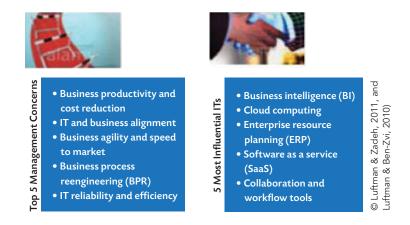
An important principle is that what a company can accomplish or achieve depends on what its ITs can do. And for many, business survival depends on IT innovation. Oana Garcia, vice president and Chief Data Officer at Citigroup New York, pointed out that "business and technology teams need to work together and understand the benefits of smart, cost-effective, and collaborative data management, and the implementation of this knowledge is key (*McKinsey Quarterly*, 2011).

Managers of a large U.S. retailer experienced this principle in 2011 as they struggled to understand why their sales were dropping. They had been implementing new online promotions, yet continued losing market share in several profitable segments to a major competitor. When senior managers researched their competitor's practices, they discovered that their problem ran deeper than they had imagined. The competitor had invested heavily in ITs to develop capabilities to collect, integrate, and analyze data from each store and every sales unit. Data was used to run realworld experiments prior to making business decisions. In addition, the competitor had linked its databases to suppliers' databases, which made it possible to adjust prices in real time, to reorder hot-selling items automatically, and to shift items from store to store easily. Their rival's agility and flexibility enabled them to gain an edge and market share.

Despite potential benefits, managers must be careful to avoid "paralysis of analysis." They should not lose agility and flexibility in the hope of gathering perfect data when making time-sensitive decisions.

Another well-known principle states *what's important gets done*. With economic and business conditions recovering slowly, but not steadily, from the worldwide 2008–2011 recessions, budgets and resources are tight. Investment options are

## PRIORITIES DRIVE



scrutinized to determine their value potential. With limited resources available, priorities (those with the highest payoff potential) get funded, while non-priorities get cut when budget decisions are made.

A helpful way to understand business priorities, issues, challenges, and trends is to look at what managers in the United States, Europe, Asia, and Latin America have reported as their top concerns and the ITs that are most influential to success. Refer to Figure 1.6. The two top 5 lists summarize the Society for Information Management (SIM) survey responses from 472 organizations—172 U.S., 142 European, 103 Asian, and 55 Latin American—in mid-2010. In previous economic downturns, business executives typically had cut back on IT budgets (as well as advertising and new product development) to reduce costs. But in the latest recession, which was worse than prior ones, the opposite has occurred. Taking both top 5 lists into consideration indicates that executives are relying on IT to help cut costs and boost productivity. You read about the ITs listed in Figure 1.6 in the next sections and chapters.

**Business productivity and cost reduction.** Business productivity and cost reduction were the top concerns by a wide margin. **Productivity** is a measure of efficiency and can be represented by the following model (formula).

$$productivity = \frac{outputs}{inputs}$$

Types of outputs depend on the industry. Outputs can be the number of units manufactured or sold, the number of customers serviced, or the value of new deposits. Inputs are the resources used to produce the outputs. Examples are the number of labor hours, amount of raw materials, and technology. Productivity gains can be achieved by:

- Increasing output, while maintaining the same level of inputs
- Maintaining output, while reducing the level of inputs
- A combination of the above

**IT and Business Alignment.** Aligning IT with business means leveraging opportunities for IT to support business strategy and improve success. IT-business alignment depends on the IT department understanding strategy, risks, opportunities; and the business understanding IT's potential and limitations.

**Business Agility and Speed to Market.** Boom economic conditions typically provide companies with plenty of opportunities to improve performance. But during downturns and global financial crises, opportunities are harder to find, and the risk of failure rises. As markets recover from a worldwide recession, managers are exploing new strategies to improve business performance, or profitability. One approach

**Figure 1.6** Top 5 management concerns and 5 most influential ITs. These findings are based on survey responses from 472 organizations—172 U.S., 142 European, 103 Asian, and 55 Latin America—in mid-2010.

### TOP 5 MANAGEMENT CONCERNS