EDITORIAL

This is the first issue of volume 12 of the Australasian Journal of Information Systems.

Our first paper is presented by Robyn Davidson & Susan Lambert from Flinders University and is entitled 'Applying the Australian and New Zealand Risk Management Standard to Information Systems in SMEs'. Unlike the identification of some business risks, identification of risks associated with information systems requires certain technical expertise. This paper advocates the use of the Australia/New Zealand Risk Management Standard (SA/SNZ, 1999) in conjunction with of a modified version of Birch and McEvoy's (1992) Structured Risk Analysis for Information Systems (SRA-IS) to identify information systems security risks in SMEs.

Charles Shoniregun, University of East London and Oleksandr Logvynovskiy, London South Bank University present our next paper, entitled 'Securing XML Documents'. This paper discusses a fast and efficient indexing technique for XML documents, and introduces the XML graph numbering scheme. It can be used for indexing and securing graph structure of XML documents.

Mohini Singh, RMIT presents our next paper entitled 'E-business Developmental Issue in the Australian Food Industry'. This paper discusses e-business developmental issues in the Australian Food industry that were identified from a research project funded by the Australian Research Council.

Bjorn Lundell, University of Skovde and Brian Lings, University of Exeter, present our next paper entitled 'On Understanding Evaluation of Tool Support for IS Development'. This paper concludes that that there is a need for enriched method support to deal with the complex socio-technical issues involved in the summative assessment of IS tools.

Sadiq Sait, King Fahd University, Khalid Al-Tawil, Ministry of the Interior, Riyadh and Syed Hussain, King Fahd University present our next paper entitled 'E-commerce in Saudi Arabia: Adoption and Perspectives. This paper reports on the consequent findings, which identify factors that may significantly affect the adoption of eCommerce in the Kingdom.

Uchenna Eze and A.L. Gilbert from Nanyang Technical University, Singapore present our next paper entitled 'The Significance of Electronic Commerce to Firms' Operations in Relation to Business Location: An Empirical Investigation'. This research examines the implications of location for electronic commerce (EC) role in firm operations through the lens of managerial perceptions of EC systems, EC activities, agglomeration economies, firm-specific features and outputs relative to industry.

Our next paper is entitled 'Realist and Postmodernist Perspectives on Information Systems Research: Points of Connection' and is presented by Philip Dobson and Peter Love, Edith Cowan University. This paper contributes to that debate by contrasting the post-modernist approach with that of the critical realist.

Ronald Becket, The Reinvention Network, Sydney presents our next paper entitled 'Exploring Virtual Enterprises Using Activity Theory'. This paper suggests that exploration of the nature of tools, communities etc is helpful in understanding VE operations, and applied at multiple levels, Activity Theory is also useful in understanding the evolution of those tools, communities etc.

Our final paper is presented by Renzo Gobbins, University of Canberra and is entitled 'The Application of Intentional Subjective Properties and Mediated Communication Tools to Software Agents in Online Disputes Resolution Environments'. This paper examines the use of subjective properties in modeling an architecture for cooperative agents using Agent Communication Language (ACL) that is used as a mediating tool for cooperative communication activities between and within software agents.