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PRESENTATION SUMMARY

The Two Most Critical Factors for I.T. Investment Success: Executive Custody and Strategic Solution Architecture

by
Dr James Robertson

The presentation outlines the problem of Information Technology investment failure and summarizes the factors giving rise to failure and the factors that must be managed for successful I.T. investment outcomes.

This analysis is presented with particular emphasis on organizational governance and the responsibility of executive management for successful investment outcomes.

Three methods of achieving executive custody are outlined and the critical focus areas for executive custody.

The critical components of executive custody are identified and particular emphasis is placed on the availability, effectiveness and efficiency of executives for effective strategic management generally and management of information technology in particular are presented.

It is noted that operational pressures on executives often hinder effective strategic management, particularly in the context of information technology.

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1

Seven critical questions that should be asked by executives prior to approving any proposed I.T. investment are summarized together with some indicators of requirements for effective executive custody.

The essential components of strategy are presented as a context to defining strategic architecture and a systematic process of strategic mapping is outlined as a precursor to creating a platform for strategic architecture and execution.

Questions that should be asked in order to create business definitions that will support high value business outcomes are outlined and a process of strategic analysis and design culminating in information technology specifications is summarized.

The presentation concludes by making a case for information technology to be treated as an integral component of executive management.