**Reading Topics**

Chapter 1, “The Information Systems Strategy Triangle”

Chapter 2, “Strategic Use of Information Resources” pp. 38-46; 51-54

Chapter 3, Blockchain

Chapter 4, “Digital Systems and the Design of Work” pp. 83-98

Chapter 5, “Information Systems and Digital Transformation” pp. 109-121

Chapter 6, “Architecture and Infrastructure” pp. 143-150

Chapter 7, “Security”

Chapter 10, “Information Systems Sourcing” pp. 224-234

Chapter 9, “Governance of the Information Systems Organization”

Chapter 12, “Business Intelligence, Knowledge Management, and Analytics”

Chapter 11, “Managing IT Projects” pp. 246-259

Chapter 13, “Privacy and Ethical Considerations in Information Management” pp. 299-311

**Assignment Topics**

**Assignment 1:** Why is it important for business strategy to drive organizational strategy and IS strategy? What might happen if the business strategy was not the driver?

**Assignment 2:** The vast majority of the population associates Blockchain with cryptocurrency Bitcoin; however, there are many other uses of blockchain; such as Litecoin, Ether, and other currencies. In this discussion, please describe at least two cryptocurrencies with applicable examples. Discuss some similarities and differences. Lastly, discuss if you have any experience using any cryptocurrencies.

**Assignment 3:** Given the growth in telecommuting and other mobile work arrangements, how might offices physically change in the coming years? Will offices as we think of them today exist in the next ten years? Why or why not?

**Assignment 4:** Discuss the benefits of virtualization software, as described in the text. Do you agree/disagree with these benefits, or can you think of additional benefits not already presented?  Also discuss the security concerns highlighted by server sprawl and how you would propose to solve those in your (real or hypothetical) organization.

**Assignment 5:** Discuss an organization’s need for physical security. What methods, approaches, and models can be used by organizations when designing physical security needs? Lastly, explain how these security measures will safeguard the organization.

**Assignment 6:** What do you think were the critical factors that fueled the need for IT governance? In what ways did ISO affect the standards for network security?

**Assignment 7:** What is a project, and what are its main attributes? How is a project different from what most people do in their day-to-day jobs? Discuss the importance of top management commitment and the development of standards for successful project management. Provide examples to illustrate the importance of these items based on your experience on any type of project. Discuss the unique challenges that an IT project presents.

**Research Paper Topics**

**Research Paper 1:** Industry experts believe blockchain is a technology that has the potential to affect the business of most IT professionals in the next five years. Pick an industry you feel will be most affected by blockchain and how blockchain may be used in that industry. As an IT manager, how would you embrace blockchain? For instance, how would training occur for your team, what strategies might you use, what security methods may you recommend be used?

**Research Paper 2:** If you have you been involved with a company doing a redesign of business processes, discuss what went right during the redesign and what went wrong from your perspective. Additionally, provide a discussion on what could have been done better to minimize the risk of failure? If you have not yet been involved with a business process redesign, research a company that has recently completed one and discuss what went wrong, what went right, and how the company could have done a better job minimizing the risk of failure.

**Research Paper 3:** Describe the organization’s environment, and evaluate its preparedness for virtualization.

* Explain Microsoft (or another product) licensing for virtualized environments.
* Recommend a configuration for shared storage; make sure to discuss the need for high availability and redundancy for virtualization for the organization.
* Explain Windows Azure capabilities for virtual machines and managing a hybrid cloud, including Windows Azure’s Internet as a Service (IaaS) and storage capabilities.

**Research Paper 4:** You have been hired as the CSO (Chief Security Officer) for an organization. Your job is to develop a very brief computer and internet security policy for the organization that covers the following areas:

* Computer and email acceptable use policy
* Internet acceptable use policy

**Research Paper 5:** The COSO framework of internal controls is practiced within companies around the world. The objectives of the COSO framework are closely related to its five components. For this week’s activity, please discuss these five components of the COSO framework. Be sure to include each components’ impact on each of the COSO framework objectives. What do you feel an auditor would most be concerned with during an IT audit? Lastly, discuss suggestions for integrating COSO framework compliance into a company in which you are familiar.