

**Information Technology (IT) Archetypes and Implementation Framework:
IT as a Strategic Partner in Organizations**

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There were various debates involved in the evolution of IT governance (ITG) frameworks and IT archetypes as how spending on IT delivers a justifiable return for the overall strategic aspects of the organization. The term ITG defines as a concept to enhance the effectiveness of IT utilization in order to achieve integration with the overall strategic requirements and IT archetype refers as the organizations IT related patterns. Researches have been conducted to propose archetypes and frameworks to assure effective utilization of IT. There is no single ITG framework which is universally accepted due to varying complex organizational and situational factors. The objective of the study is to propose a mechanism in elevating IT as a partner in delivering the overall strategic requirements through customized IT archetypes and ITG framework.

The foundation for the study was laid through internal and institutional perspectives with the use of multiple contingency theory and the institutional theory. The study was mainly conducted through a survey and qualitative case study to enhance the validity of the result. The study finds five archetypes for 12 main ITG processes and the total number of sub processes used in the study was fifty-eight. Out of the resulted five archetypes, three are complying with the previous research findings and two are unique findings of this study.

Based on the above findings, primary components were proposed as suitable for ITG framework for universities in Sri Lanka. Consideration of environmental forces as coercive, mimetic and normative and use of software assessment and various maturity indexes are unique features proposed by the study to the existing knowledge domain of ITG. This study proposes a new model for implementing IT strategies in universities in Sri Lanka. It suggests having process-based shared IT archetypes for implementation of main processes of ITG.

Key words: *IT archetypes, IT governance, IT framework, IT strategy, IT management*