

Overview IT6423– IT Systems Acquisition Life Cycles and Business Process Modeling- LM2

Updated by Richard Halstead-Nussloch, Version 01Sep18

IT Systems Acquisition Life Cycles (SALCs): IT System or Service acquisition projects are often extremely complex. Experience with software development projects has shown that one way of managing complexity is to adopt a so-called system development life cycle (SDLC) model, which is a systematic identification of the different activities that need to be performed in the project, the grouping of these activities in phases, and the order in which the phases are to be performed and how the various activities interact with each other. IT System and Service acquisition projects can be managed in the same way. In this module, we introduce the concept of an IT system acquisition life cycle (SALC) model, and provide high-level description of example SALC models. Subsequent modules will discuss the various phases and activities in more detail. The reading assignment for this module covers some SALC models for the organization as well as some current life cycles scoped for utilization within IT, e.g., Agile and Waterfall through web links posted in D2L. You might optionally do some web research to supplement the readings on life cycle models.

Business Process Modeling in IT: Organizations often acquire a new IT system or service to improve their organizational efficiency. This is particularly true for enterprise systems, or other large software applications, such as customer relationship management systems (CRM). Systems of this type often embed globally best business practices, and, in order for an organization to take full advantage of the enterprise system, it may have to adopt the (business) processes embedded in the software. Conversely, as an organization sets out to acquire an enterprise system, it needs to determine in which areas, if any, it believes its business practices to be superior to those of its competitors. It would clearly be a bad decision to acquire an enterprise system that forces an organization to redesign its business practices in an area in which it believes it outperforms its competitors. Business-process modeling is a cluster of concepts that this module also focuses on. In particular, it will discuss the terms "business process," "business process owner" and "business process redesign", and give a first introduction to "change management," an issue we will return to throughout the remainder of the course. The reading material for this module section is accessed through web links, which have been posted in D2L.

Readings for this module:

- LM2 Readings ReadMe file with instructor notes and web links (LM2)
- Selected readings on the web for deeper understanding
- A2 Assignment page (Link in LM2)

Module Objectives- LM2 IT Systems Acquisition Life Cycles and Business Process Modeling

The content and learning activities in this module will help you achieve course level objectives 1 and 3 as listed in the syllabus. Specifically, upon completion of this module, you will be able to:

- Discuss the IT SALC, how IT delivers value to the business through business-process modeling, and associated challenges in IT systems acquisition and integration
- Model business processes (through IT system requirements)

Task List- Actions/Deliverables for this Module:

- Read as per above
- Research what you read
- Download the Assignment Folder A2 file and edit in your responses within the file (leaving all questions and formatting intact). Please save as a pdf file and also upload your PowerPoint file in A2.
- Please cite all references and indicate which method used at the end of the file.
- Deliverable: Upload your response pdf file using the A2 Assignment Folder in D2L
- Deliverable: Make entries on the Module 2 Discussions