



Value-based Business-IT Alignment

<http://www.vital-project.org>

The VITAL project: Value-based Business-IT alignment

A project in the Jacquard software engineering research program

The VITAL project investigates the problem of aligning services offered by networked IT with the requirements of networked businesses. In businesses of any significant size, business-IT alignment is a hard problem, which is currently not solved completely. With the advent of network organizations, the problem gets a new dimension, because in a network, there is not a single decision point about IT support and different actors in a network may have conflicting requirements. Networks exist when different businesses decide to cooperate by means of IT networks, but they also exist in large corporations, which often consist of nearly independent business units.

In VITAL, we investigate an economic value-based approach to alignment in networked businesses. The project consists of three parts. All three parts build upon work in value-based requirements engineering and on IT architecture design research done in the GRAAL program.

- **VITAL/services.** We will develop techniques to describe IT services as economic value objects from a consumer (i.e. business) perspective and investigate ways to match these services in a value-oriented way with IT services described from a supplier (i.e. IT) perspective.
- **VITAL/design.** We will develop techniques to design networked IT architecture that supports services required by the business, taking into account the value offered by those services, and the costs incurred by the architecture.
- **VITAL/maturity.** We will develop models of decision processes about IT services and their architecture, and develop maturity models for those processes.

In all three subprojects we do case study research and action research. All three VITAL projects started in 2005 and have a duration of four years.

Alignment is reflected in the coordination processes in a value network. The COOP project, which is incorporated in VITAL, addresses the relation between the economic value approach and these coordination processes. COOP is funded by NWO's open competition.

VITAL/COOP team

University of Twente, Information Systems Group:

- prof.dr. Roel Wieringa, project leader and Twente team leader
- dr. Pascal van Eck, researcher
- dr. Maya Daneva, researcher
- Lianne Bodestaff, Ph.D. candidate, COOP
- Roberto Santana Tapia, Ph.D. candidate, VITAL/maturity
- Novica Zarvic, Ph.D. candidate, VITAL/design

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Business Informatics Section:

- dr. Jaap Gordijn, Amsterdam team leader
- prof.dr. Hans Akkermans
- Vincent Pijpers, Ph.D. candidate, COOP
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Participating companies

Atos Origin, CapGemini, CIBIT/SERC, Cisco Systems, Deloitte, Gartner, Getronics PinkRoccade, HP, ICTU, KPN, Labyrinth, OrangeWing Consulting, Ordina, Sogeti, YNNO, Unisys.

Related projects

E3value.com (The e³value methodology: Exploring innovative e-business ideas): <http://www.e3value.com>.

GRAAL program (Guidelines Regarding Architecture ALignment): <http://graal.ewi.utwente.nl>

How to contact VITAL?

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VITAL is a joint project of the Information Systems group (<http://is.ewi.utwente.nl>), University of Twente and the Business Informatics section (<http://www.cs.vu.nl/bi/index-en.html>), Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. VITAL is sponsored by the Jacquard program (<http://www.jacquard.nl>) of the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research NWO.