

IS 628: Computer-based Information Systems
Reading Preparation Assignment
Chapter 12
Planning Information System Resources

Read Chapter 12 of the text, pp. 519 – 533.

Be prepared for class discussion based on the following questions:

1. This chapter emphasizes that an IS plan should be linked to the strategic plan for the overall organization. Why is this important?
2. Why might companies today develop IS operational plans that cover only one year?
3. How does an information vision differ from an IT architecture?
4. Describe the five basic steps in information resource planning, and some ways that business managers might participate in each step?
5. What are the major implications for the business manager if an assessment of current practices indicates substantial inconsistency in the information vision and IT architecture for the company? What are the major implications for the IS leaders?
6. Why is it important to assess business user attitudes, not just their use of information?
7. Comment on the differences between the IS mission statements by IS and business managers in Figure 12.3. What are some conclusions that could be drawn from these differences?
8. How would you respond to the criticism that a proposed IT architecture is not feasible based on today's technology?
9. Given the rapid rate of change in both information technologies and business environments, do you believe that extensive information resource planning efforts are worthwhile for most organizations? Why or why not? Under what circumstances might they not be?
10. Some have argued that a company's existing IT architecture should drive the business strategic plan, instead of being driven by it. Can you think of an example where this might be the case?
11. Do you believe that strategic advantages obtained by the effective use of IT are sustainable? Why or why not?
12. How might a business manager's participation in an information resource planning initiative help with the evaluation of a capital investment request that is exceedingly difficult to quantify?