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From the Desk of the Editor

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From the Desk of the Editor

This is the fourth issue of Volume 24, 2015. As information systems and ICT are increasingly adopted the impact is growing. In this issue both the role of ICT in different domains (healthcare, education), its adoption / diffusion and security concerns are discussed.

The keynote paper of this issue “An Adaptive Neuro-fuzzy System with Semi-supervised Learning as an Approach to Improving Data Classification — An Illustration of Bad Debt Recovery in Healthcare” examines the effectiveness of a semi-supervised learning approach to classify unlabeled data to improve classification accuracy rates related to bad debt in a healthcare context. The role that ICT plays grows rapidly across different domains. In “Information and Communication Technologies (ICT): Components, Dimensions, and its Correlates” ICT as one of the crucial factors that affect teaching effectiveness and student learning worldwide is discussed. More specifically this study examined self-assessed computer competency in thirteen ICT areas.

Adoption and diffusion is a recurring theme in IS research. In this issue the article “Comparing Mobile App Usability Characteristics for Designers and Users” continues the search for what characteristics will help mobile apps be adopted. In an exploratory study the differences between how users of mobile applications and developers of mobile applications perceive these characteristics is looked at. In respect to mobile apps it is also important to know what precautions consumers take before installing mobile apps and whether there is a potential desensitization to excessive app permission requests. This topic is researched in “Mobile App Installation: the Role of Precautions and Desensitization”. In the paper “Long Term Factors of Internet Diffusion in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Panel Co-Integration Analysis” the phenomenon of cross-country dependence – the economic, political, and technological environment of one country affecting other countries- is studied in relation to the long-term determinants of the Internet diffusion in sub-Saharan African.

While there are many benefits to the use of ICT there is also a risk as the number of ICT security breaches is also growing. As a consequence education on information security should gain more attention. In the final paper of this issue “Ethical Hacking Pedagogy: An Analysis and Overview of Teaching Students to Hack” a more proactive approach to adequately prepare future information security professionals is examined. Specifically the research defines ethical hacking and examines the pros and cons of ethical hacking pedagogy as a viable approach for teaching network security to future professionals.

As the editor, I would like to thank Dr. C. E. Tapie Rohm, Jr., Editor-in-Chief, members of the Executive Committee of the IIMA, all members of the Editorial Review Board, as well as many ad hoc reviewers for their support whose time and efforts made it possible to go through so many quality manuscripts and select the few articles published. Furthermore, I would like to thank all the authors of manuscripts, whether accepted for publication or not and for the readers of this journal. Without your contributions, it wouldn't be possible to maintain the growth of a quality journal. I look forward to your continuing contributions of quality manuscripts.

Pascal Ravesteijn

Editor