Foreword

Information technologies help businesses in achieving their goals in today's highly competitive economy. However, the implementation of information technologies may bring some business risks as well. Some businesses had experienced IT-based horror stories due to wrong implementations of enterprise information systems or some sort of data loss.

Information technologies have opened new opportunities for businesses in their efforts to cope with increasing competition, reduce the costs of doing business, increase the profits, improve the quality of products and services, improve relations with customers.

The main objective of this book is to assist managers and IT managers in becoming aware and more knowledgable on the economics of downtime and continuous computing technologies that help in achieving business continuity and managing efficiently information resources.

The book has three main goals. The first goal is to provide clear and precise understanding of several information technologies that can be used in order to enhance business continuity. The second goal is to help managers and IT managers in understanding how important are information technologies in modern business. The third goal is to explore in more details the role of enterprise servers, server operating systems and serverware solutions within the form of integrated server operating environment in improving both continuous computing and business continuity dimensions.

This book is aimed at providing the framework for using and managing information technologies in order to enhance the availability ratios of business computing platforms. It is not the intention of the book to provide the reader with enough specific and detailed technological knowledge on each continuous computing technology to make them business continuity experts on that particular technology.

What makes this book different when compared to other books in this area is in a systemic approach that explores a set of continuous computing technologies for enhancing business continuity and in exploring the role of server operating enviromnets for enhancing business continuity. The methodological approach used in the book is also distinctive.

The book consists of three parts and includes fourteen chapters. Each chapter includes a list of discusssion questions, and one or more case studies related to that chapter.

The first four chapters (I–IV) build a foundation for understanding modern business, business computing, economics of downtime, and business continuity. The second part (subsequent eight chapters, V–XII) describes the major continuous computing technologies that can be implemented for enhancing business continuity. The third part of the book contains two chapters dealing with business continuity management (Chapter XIII) and relations between business continuity and business agility (Chapter XIV).

I strongly recommend this book for both researchers and practitioners in the area of information systems.

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