

## Preface

There is enormous literature appearing on how e-adoption in form of using the Internet and information and communications technologies (ICT) has been changing business landscapes, delivery of governmental services, learning paradigms, learning tools, and learning pedagogies. Undeniably, e-adoption revolution is promising a number of innovative and stimulating opportunities to businesses, universities, government, and other sectors of economy to drive innovations. A growing literature recognizes the positive impact e-adoption has made on health, education, learning, government, security, energy, transport, and environment. Many universities worldwide are offering courses and even degree programs entirely over the Internet using YouTube, MP3 players, podcasts, interactive television, PDAs, email, and blogs. This edited book, “Adoption of Virtual Technologies for Business, Educational, and Governmental Advancements,” reports findings of some of the research studies that are conducted for e-adoption.

The book aims to present various aspects of e-adoption and its impact on business, educational and government advancements. The literature on e-adoption is growing every month as more and more publications on e-adoption are appearing in various refereed journals, handbooks, cases, reports, and monographs. This book certainly is not intended to cover all the aspects or everything of e-adoption. Rather, this edited book features the ongoing state-of-art research in e-adoption domain. The book consists of nineteen chapters.

The first chapter presents an inter-country comparative analysis of key inhibitors and enablers affecting the diffusion of e-commerce across transition economies of Central Asia. It reveals that the combined effect of dissimilar economic, political, and technical impediments is a major underlying motive for differing e-commerce adoption patterns across these transition countries. This discussion contributes to a better understanding of the issues affecting e-commerce diffusion and reveals how dissimilar economic, political and technical impediments impact successful e-commerce implementation.

The next two chapters in the book discuss how Internet as a business strategy tool is becoming an important way for firms to expand their business through innovative strategies. These chapters present and explain the use of the Internet for revolutionizing e-commerce particularly in small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The discussion in these two chapters may help practitioners to use the Internet as their business strategy for gaining a competitive advantage.

The fourth chapter reports the issue of trust in social networking site transactions vs. those at more established e-commerce sites. The data suggest there are definite differences between the sites, perhaps explained by institutional credibility and social networking.

The fifth and sixth chapters in the book discuss the widespread adoption of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICTs) for e-government purposes. These chapters report experiences of e-government projects in few African countries.

The seventh chapter discusses e-adoption in form of e-banking in four major banks in Brunei Darussalam. The authors argue in this chapter that the acceptance of e-banking appears to be affected by several factors, some of which may be the personal attitude of the users that influences normality and context in which it is used.

In the eighth chapter, authors discuss how an Espionage Prevention Model (EP) that uses Semantic Web-based annotations on knowledge assets to store relevant information can provide an additional security layer against insider attack and espionage on knowledge management.

The next ten chapters report research on e-learning. The literature evidence through these chapters indicates that more and more number of universities around the world are adopting e-learning or online learning for delivery of their programs. Since e-learning is becoming an important part of education delivery worldwide, research on e-learning is of great interest to practitioners, policy makers, and researchers around the world. The reported research in these chapters provides leads to education administrators in understanding the various issues and challenges that need a resolve for more effective e-learning delivery.

The intended audience of this book mainly consists of researchers, research students, and practitioners in e-adoption. The book is also of interest to researchers and practitioners in areas such as e-learning, e-government, and e-adoption in internet banking. It is hoped that the diverse and comprehensive coverage of e-adoption in this authoritative edited book will contribute to a better understanding all topics, research, and discoveries in this evolving, significant field of study. Furthermore, I hope that the contributions included in this edited book will be instrumental in the expansion of the body of knowledge in this vast field. It is my sincere hope that this publication and its great amount of information and research will assist our research colleagues, faculty members, students, and our organizational decision makers in enhancing their understanding of the current and emerging issues in e-adoption. Perhaps this publication will even inspire its readers to contribute to the current and future discoveries in this immense field.

The contents of most of the chapters included in this volume were originally published in the various volumes of International Journal of E-Adoption. I am grateful to all authors who updated and enhanced their original papers to make their work current. The whole process of writing, reviewing, rewriting, editing and proofreading takes a lot of time, and we appreciate all the authors for their efforts and contributions in this project.

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