Initial Proposal

The initial proposal serves to outline the topic you want to select for your thesis. It introduces the domain, the phenomenon you would like to investigate, the reasons why it deserves (your) attention, and what the problem with the existing knowledge about this type of phenomenon is. In addition, it contains the research question and a brief outlook on how you aim to answer it.

The initial proposal is the result of your topic identification phase. It should help you to connivingly pitch your idea and, thus, also serves to get feedback from (potential) supervisors as well as your peers.

The initial proposal is like a first draft of the introduction of your thesis. It should implement following structure:

* Hook  
  *What is the problem leading to this research?   
  Why is it interesting or why does it matter?*
* Background  
  *What are the most important findings regarding the problem?  
  How does the research relate to (ongoing) discussions in academia?*
* Tension  
  *What is unresolved? What knowledge of the discipline is incomplete and, therefore needs to be completed?*
* Resolution  
  *How is the thesis going to resolve this issue (objective, theory, design)?  
  Objective: What research question is being answered?   
  Theory: What theory is being used?   
  Design: How will the research be caried out?*
* Contribution  
  What is the expected contribution?

Please write a coherent, self-contained, easy-to-read text without sections.

# Formal requirements

## Formatting

You should format your paper exactly like this document. The template file contains specially formatted styles that are designed to reduce the work in formatting your paper and increase comparability.

## Length

The original proposal should not be longer than 2 pages, without the references.

## Header and Footer

Please modify the footer.

## Sections

Use the title style for your working title. Please do not use any other subheadings.

## Figures & Tables

Please do not use figures and tables.

## References and Citations

References are to be formatted using the *APA 7th* style. References must be complete, i.e., include, as appropriate, volume, number, month, publisher, city and state, editors, last name & initials of all authors, page numbers, etc.

Your references should comprise only published materials accessible to the public. Proprietary information may not be cited.

References should be ordered in alphabetic order.

# References

Haki, Kazem; Beese, Jannis; Aier, Stephan; and Winter, Robert. 2020. "The Evolution of Information Systems Architecture: An Agent-Based Simulation Model," *MIS Quarterly*, (44: 1) pp.155-184.