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.

You need to declare the use of GenAI tools.   
Please use the template provided below (Appendix).

# 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.

# Appendix: Declaration on the use of GenAI tools

[If you have not used GenAI keep the following sentence and delete the rest of the text.]

In the preparation of this paper, I have not used systems based on generative artificial intelligence (GenAI).

[If you have used GenAI complete the following declaration.]

In the preparation of this paper, I have used following tools based on generative artificial intelligence (GenAI):

1. ChatGPT
2. DeeplWrite

[List other systems if others where used.]

I further declare that

* I have labeled the content taken from the GenAI tools listed above with my details in the table below,
* I have verified that the content generated by the above-mentioned GenAI tools and adapted by me is factually correct,
* I am aware that, as the author of this work, I am responsible for the information and the statements made in it, and
* I am aware that violating the disclosure of the use of generative AI in my work is a deception and leads to an evaluation with an insufficient grade.

I have used the above-mentioned AI systems as indicated below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Areas of contribution** | **AI tool(s) used** | **Manner of use[[1]](#footnote-2)** |
| Development and conception of the research project | [Add AI tool] |  |
| Identification of literature |  |  |
| Synthesizing of literature |  |  |
| Structuring the text |  |  |
| Formulation of text |  |  |
| Revision of text |  |  |
| Creation of visualizations |  |  |
| Further contributions |  |  |
| [Other areas, if applicable] |  |  |

1. Description of the manner of use and compliance with good scientific practice  
   (if applicable, please indicate the section of the paper) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)