**TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT**

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**ASSIGNMENT 5**

**WHAT IS COBIT:**

COBIT is a framework for the governance and management of information and technology, aimed at the whole enterprise. Enterprise I&T means all the technology and information processing the enterprise puts in place to achieve its goals, regardless of where this happens in the enterprise. In other words, enterprise I&T is not limited to the IT department of an organization but certainly includes it.

The COBIT framework makes a clear distinction between governance and management. These two disciplines encompass different activities, require different organizational structures and serve different purposes.

**Governance**

* Stakeholder needs, conditions and options are evaluated to determine balanced, agreed-on enterprise objectives.
* Direction is set through prioritization and decision making.
* Performance and compliance are monitored against agreed-on direction and objectives.

In most enterprises, governance is the responsibility of the board of directors, under the leadership of the chairperson. Specific governance responsibilities may be delegated to special organizational structures at an appropriate level, particularly in larger, complex enterprises.

**Management**

* plans, builds, runs and monitors activities, in alignment with the direction set by the governance body, to achieve enterprise objectives.
* In most enterprises, management is the responsibility of the executive management under the leadership of the chief executive officer.

COBIT defines the components to build and sustain a governance system: processes, organizational structures, policies and procedures, information flows, culture and behaviors, skills, and infrastructure.1

COBIT defines the design factors that should be considered by the enterprise to build a best-fit governance system.

COBIT addresses governance issues by grouping relevant governance components into governance and management objectives that can be managed to the required capability levels.

**Misconceptions about COBIT:**

* COBIT is not a full description of the whole IT environment of an enterprise.
* COBIT is not a framework to organize business processes.
* COBIT is not an (IT-)technical framework to manage all technology.
* COBIT does not make or prescribe any IT-related decisions. It will not decide what the best IT strategy is, what the best architecture is, or how much IT can or should cost. Rather, COBIT defines all the components that describe which decisions should be taken, and how and by whom they should be taken.

**Components of the Governance System :**

To satisfy governance and management objectives, each enterprise needs to establish and sustain a governance system built from a number of components.

**Culture, ethics and behavior** of individuals and of the enterprise are often underestimated as factors in the success of governance and management activities.

**People, skills and competencies** are required for good decisions, execution of corrective action and successful completion of all activities.

**Services, infrastructure and applications** include the infrastructure, technology and applications that provide the enterprise with the governance system for I&T processing.