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## The KIT – Knowledge & Information Technology

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### → Architecture-Driven Modernization

[These reviews](#) by Mike Rosen and Grady Booch will explain why the recent book by William Ulrich and Philip Newcomb, "[Information Systems Transformation: Architecture-Driven Modernization Case Studies](#)" may be an important read. According to Rosen, the authors propose "modernization in an incremental, risk-based process that delivers business value" and avoids the pitfalls of other approaches including greenfield replacement, commercial off-the-shelf product deployment, or middleware encapsulation.

### → Object Management Group Meeting Report

Claude Baudoin attended the quarterly OMG Technical Meeting in Cambridge, Mass., on Sep. 20-24 (highlights from the Business Architecture Information Day were mentioned in the KIT No. 33). A more complete report about the event has not been written, and is available [on request](#). It covers the work of the BA Special Interest Group and of the Business Modeling & Integration Task Force, the Business Architecture Information Day, the sponsor presentations, and a summary of the other subgroup reports.

### → Enaxis Consulting White Paper Library

Enaxis Consulting, a small Houston-based consultancy (20+ people) , founded in 2002, which delivers a mix of management and technical consulting with a focus on the energy industry, offers 9 white papers for free download from their [Web site](#). Topics range from the more technical end of IT infrastructure (how to make decisions on data centers and how to manage them, how to frame a networking strategy, IP Telephony), to the management end of the spectrum (how to support decisions with good analysis, or the most effective way to control projects).

### → Long Internships: the French VIE System

All of us who have employed student interns appreciate the work they can do for a reasonable pay, the ideas they can bring, and the excitement of mentoring a new person. But the usual short duration (three months) limits the scope of projects we can give to interns. The French "Volunteer in International Enterprises" (VIE) system is an interesting improvement. Heir to the "international cooperation" program offered in the past to college graduates as a substitute for compulsory military service (ended in 1997), it is a 6- to 24-month assignment to an overseas division of a French company. The student is under contract to a French agency, not to the actual

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employer, which makes administration less cumbersome (and means the student often need not appear in the company's headcount). The salary is fixed by the agency, which also takes care of the visa. If you are a US company with a division in France, you can reverse this relationship for the purpose of obtaining a VIE, i.e. your French legal entity files the request as if it was your parent company.

c♦b♦ has regular contacts with French academics and students in various disciplines (software engineering, IT, EE, ...) and can help locate suitable candidates. Please [contact us](#) for more information.

 **Seen Recently...**

*"Complexity kills. It sucks the life out of developers, it makes products difficult to plan, build and test, it introduces security challenges, and it causes end-user and administrator frustration. Moving forward, within all parts of the organization, each of us should ask "What's different?", and explore and embrace techniques to reduce complexity."*

*- Ray Ozzie, Chief Software Architect at Microsoft,  
in a [memo to his staff](#), October 2005*