

SHARE:



[Join Our Email List](#)



# The KIT

Knowledge & Information Technology



No. 275 - 2 November 2020

## In this Issue

- We're changing our look!
- Upcoming IIC webinars
- Capability mapping and IT portfolio analysis
- Four online conferences
- IT ethics, accountability and data protection
- Seen recently

## → We're Changing our Look

274 issues with the same look and feel, that was too good to be true in these image- and branding-obsessed days. ConstantContact, the tool we use to create The KIT, finally forced us to migrate to their new design environment, so here we are. Let us know if you like it and what you would suggest to change!

## Our Consulting Services

IT Strategy and Roadmap  
Enterprise Architecture  
Business Process Modeling  
Enterprise Software Selection  
IT Innovation Briefings  
IT Due Diligence for M&A  
Cloud Computing Adoption  
Enterprise Security Maturity  
Knowledge Management  
Communities of Practice  
Taxonomy Development  
Enterprise Social Media Adoption

## → Upcoming Industrial IoT Webinars

Here are the next free webinars offered by the Industrial Internet Consortium:

- Cloud-Enabled IoT: How containers and Kubernetes deliver on the promise. Thu., Nov. 5, 11:00 EDT
- IIoT Evolution and Innovation: Enablement tools that accelerate time-to-market. Mon., Nov. 9, 10:00 EDT
- How security plays a fundamental role in digital transformation and IoT edge endpoints: Tue., Nov. 10, 11:00 EDT

---

## For more information

Visit us: [www.cebe-itkm.com](http://www.cebe-itkm.com)

E-mail us: [info@cebe-itkm.com](mailto:info@cebe-itkm.com)

Phone: +1 415 870 4856

+33 970 444 992

Twitter: [@cbaudoin](https://twitter.com/cbaudoin)

See: [Previous KIT issues](#)

Forward this issue to colleagues and friends: use the "forward email" link below at the bottom, rather than "Forward" in your email software, to preserve your privacy, give the recipient more options (their own unsubscribe link, etc.) and to give us better click-through data. Thanks!

- 5G in the Factory: How 5G IoT at the edge can elevate your manufacturing business strategy: Wed., Nov. 18, 11:00 EDT

The last two events are produced jointly with the IoT Solutions World Congress, which normally takes place at Fira Barcelona but is of course "going virtual" this year.

For more information and registration, go to the [IIC webinars web page](#).

---

## → Capability Mapping and the IT Portfolio

Serge Thorn just wrote for the Cutter Consortium an interesting short "advisor" piece entitled "[Tuning into the IT Landscape Using Business Capability Modeling](#)." Ignore the hard-to-understand title (what the heck does it mean to "tune into a landscape"? Cutter's editors are usually careful to avoid this sort of language). What we're talking about here is a core piece (perhaps *the* core piece) of business architecture, namely drawing the capability map of the enterprise, and how this allows the practitioner to evaluate the portfolio of IT systems and applications in order to rationalize it.

We never let an opportunity to critique go to waste, so here are two things we would have done differently:

- The first figure would lead you to believe that associating applications with capabilities is inherent to capability maps. This is not true. In fact, a capability is usually defined as "something that the enterprise needs to be able to do, regardless of how it is done." A capability might even be fulfilled by people with pen and paper or hammers and nails, not by systems. The author should have clearly separated the two steps.
- Among the criteria to assess the value of an application (first bulleted list), the author did not ask two crucial questions: what is the annual total cost of this application (including software licenses, system administration, user training...)? And how many users does it serve? These two questions are often enough to expose opportunities to streamline the portfolio and reduce costs.

---

## → Upcoming Online Conferences

There are thousands of IT-related conferences each year. COVID-19 deprives us of the excitement of exhibit rooms, meeting old colleagues, remaking the world at the bar after each day's program, and visiting new cities. But if there is an upside, it is that we can attend online events by just paying the registration fee, which is usually much reduced since the organizers do not have to pay all the associated costs, and we don't have to go through the indignities of air travel. Here are four upcoming conferences of interest, organized by ACM of one of its Special Interest Groups::

- [SPLASH 2020](#) (Systems, Programming, Languages, and Applications: Software for

Humanity), Nov. 15-20.

- [SC 2020](#) (SC stands for Supercomputing, but the official name is now the "International Conference for High Performance Computing, Networking, Storage and Analysis" -- someone should be fired over this title, which is longer than the URL), Nov. 16-10.
- [SIGGRAPH Asia](#), Dec. 4-13. Expect a lot of dazzling computer animation work, at least if you're willing to be up during the Asia working day.
- the joint ACM/IFIP [Middleware Conference](#), Dec. 7-11

---

## ➔ IT Ethics, Accountability and Data Protection

These topics are now completely intertwined, and have taken center stage of many discussions triggered by concerns as varied as autonomous vehicles and the notoriously fallible algorithms used by social media to determine which posts are objectionable. Here are some recent news on this broad and critical issue.

In September, IFIP (the International Federation for Information Processing) adopted a "Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct" derived from ACM's Code of Ethics. You can read the announcement [here](#), but the Code itself is not available yet, apparently because IFIP wants to release it together with some case studies to help in its application.

A recent VIP forum on "transatlantic approaches on digital governance in the age of artificial intelligence" included a session on AI policy frameworks, during which three documents from the ACM Technology Policy Councils of US and Europe were mentioned:

- [Statement on Algorithmic Transparency and Accountability](#) from 2017
- [Statement on COVID-19 Contact Tracing Apps](#) (from 2020, obviously)
- [Statement on Facial Recognition Technologies](#) (also from this year)

## Seen Recently...

*"The emails and texts will stop after next Tuesday, I hope.*

-- Mike Kavis (@madgreek65). You have to be living in the US to appreciate this.

*"Oh good: all CS departments that are hiring are doing so almost exclusively in machine learning and cyber security. All other CS problems must be solved. And no other CS teaching must be done. That's a relief. #phew."*

-- Richard Paige (@richpaige)