From an organization’s point of view, the best technology is worthless when it is not appropriately implemented. In fact, systems or devices that are not well deployed could quickly transform the benefits for which they were acquired into potential risk factors. Therefore, taking control of technology, both from the strategic and operational perspective, is essential to guarantee successful implementation. This is the focus of IT Strategic and Operational Controls, by John Kyriazoglou, which is also available in Spanish (www.isaca.org/bookstore).

From the first chapter, the author challenges the reader, offering an analogy between IT and medication. Like medicine, IT reinforces the organization, allowing for the solution of real problems. However, when not strictly used, medicine can cause damage, provoke unexpected results or even have catastrophic consequences.

From here, IT controls are defined as specific actions based on procedures, policies and practices aimed at the fulfillment of organizational goals. As stated by the author, IT controls define an appropriate operational environment for IT, essentially infrastructure and systems, and ensure the adequate accomplishment of day-to-day activities.

Based on this definition, Kyriazoglou lays out 10 chapters, starting with a generic review of the organization and management of IT controls. He also covers issues related to specific fields, such as software and applications and security controls, among others. Controls related to audit and consulting services are also analyzed.

The book includes an appendix with several examples of policies, a code of ethics, IT forms and methodologies, as well as review questions for every chapter and some practical cases and useful recommendations. The book also offers a complete listing of books, articles and Internet links intended to provide the reader more insight.

The combination of a clarifying and complete conceptual framework for strategic and operational IT controls that starts from the basics, with practical cases and recommendations, makes this book interesting to any professional working in IT governance, management, auditing or security. Its reading will favor the optimization of IT implementations. It will also ease the development of controls to minimize the risk behind vulnerabilities that could potentially affect systems, infrastructure and other information resources.

IT Strategic and Operational Controls provides guidance to organizations for the implementation of integrated and effective controls and, from a strategic point of view, helps with the alignment of IT with business goals and objectives. From the operational perspective, the book provides guidance for the reduction of risk.

This publication provides a robust and clear understanding of the importance of control implementation, linking it to the assurance of successful IT deployments. Practical exercises and useful examples and recommendations also contribute to a deeper understanding of the subject, making it an essential tool for anyone who seeks to increase their knowledge of IT controls.

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