IT Governance in a Mobile Environment: Ensuring Governing Bodies Discharge Their Responsibility Effectively

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Abstract
Mobile technology is a disruptive technology that has changed all areas of business operations, including business strategies. Employees are increasingly using mobile devices with computing, storage and communication capabilities to perform their business functions. This gives rise to benefits, but also exposes businesses to increasing risks. International governance frameworks assign the responsibility for IT governance to the governing bodies of organisations. In order to discharge this responsibility they usually assign the risk assessment and evaluation of the systems of internal controls to other organs in the organisation, such as internal control. They have tools at their disposal such as governance frameworks, standards and practices that assist with this task, however these frameworks are generic and need to be customised to a specific organisation and technology in order to be useful. Governing bodies might not have the knowledge to customise these generic frameworks to, for example, a mobile technology environment. The objective of this research is to develop an executive matrix or tool that identifies the core objectives of good corporate governance and categorise the controls and procedures required to ensure the effective governance of mobile technology and alignment with management strategies. This will allow governing bodies to discharge their responsibility with respect to planning, organising and aligning of strategies across the various structures within an organisation, and evaluating and monitoring the effectiveness of the overall governance environment. In order to achieve the objective, the research uses COBIT 5 to develop a mobile technology risk exposure and best practices control checklist, as well as an executive controls summary, to assist governing bodies charged with its oversight to evaluate an entity’s mobile technology controls.

Key Words: Mobile technology, risk assessment, IT governance, IT controls, COBIT