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IS CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT - The MIND Canvas.

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1 Introduction

With the increasing ubiquity and growing pervasiveness of Information Systems (IS) in todays' organisations, one of the capabilities of essential value to an organisation is its IS/IT (henceforth IS) capability. However, despite this increasing importance of the IS capability, research has barely focused on providing a measure for assessing the IT capability of an organization. In overview, IS capability has contributed significantly in understanding how information technology remains a valuable component of any modern day firm (Bharadwaj 2000, Santhanam and Hartono 2003). While these prior research focus in itself is of value in establishing the importance of IS capability, this current study posits that this research area is attaining maturity and it is about time we extend this stream to provide a measure for assessing and evaluating the IS capability that defines an organization. To borrow a quote from Peter Drucker - *"if it can be measured; it can be improved"*.

Research on the IS/IT Capability construct has been a valuable lens in unveiling the importance of IT in a firms performance along with its contribution to a firms competitive advantage. Based on a design science research approach, this research is aimed at providing a qualitative measure for assessing the current status of an organisation's IS/IT capability in relation to its strategic objectives.

Building on existing classifications of IS capability in prior research, this study advances the MIND framework. The MIND is derived from a grounding of these IS capability classifications in prior literature (Baiyere et al. 2014) into four dimension – IS Management **[M]**, IS Infrastructure **[I]**, IS Networking/Sourcing **[N]** and IS-Business Development **[D]** Capabilities. This framework is consolidated into an IS capability assessment artefact (fig 1) with adaptation of existing measurement approaches from prior research –Balanced Score Card (BSC) and SWOT analysis.

Following the identified IS capability assessment gap in literature, this study's specific objective is: *How do we assess the IS capability of an organisation?*

1.1 DSR Research Method/Process

The research process to be adopted for the study would be the Design Science Research Methodology (DSRM) framework developed by Peffers et al (2007) which aligns with the guidelines by Hevner et al. (2004) (Gregor and Hevner 2013).

- *Problem motivation* – The need to assess the IS Capability of an organisation.

- *Define the objectives for a solution* – to provide an overview of an organisation's IS capability reflecting its current status relative to the organisation's goals.
- *Design and Development* – The study is grounded in prior research on IS Capability and leverages established assessment approaches such as the BSC and SWOT
- *Demonstration and Evaluation* – The planned evaluation approach is outlined.
- *Communication* – The audience for the study are researchers and practitioners.

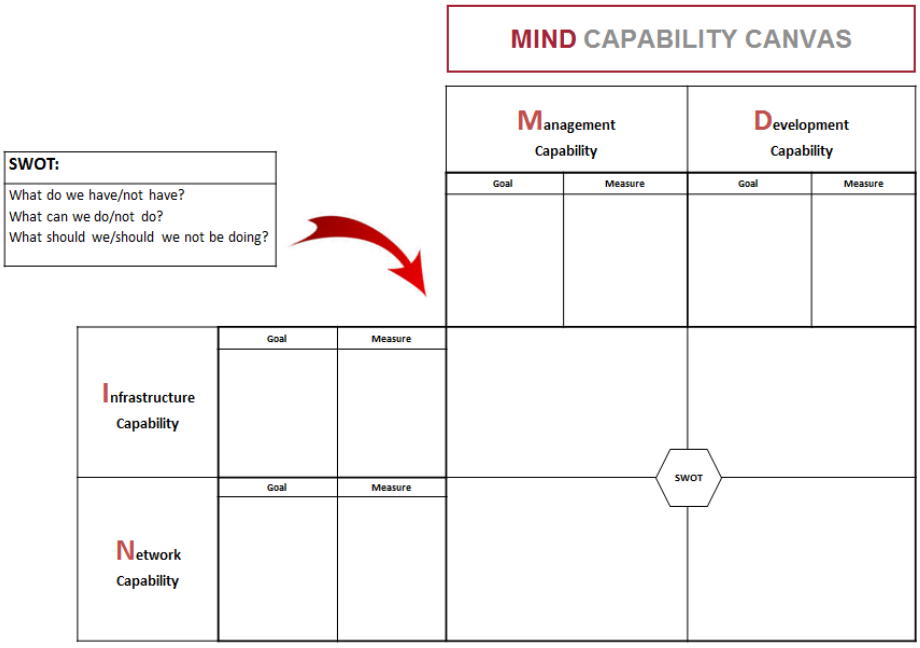


Fig. 1. Design Artifact – The MIND Capability Canvas.

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