

Call for Papers for a Special Issue of the  
**Journal of Information Technology**

## **Openness and Information Technology**

Special Issue Editors:

**Kieran Conboy**, NUI Galway

**Joseph Feller**, University College Cork

**Jan Marco Leimeister**, University of St. Gallen / Kassel University

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### **Aim and Purpose:**

Over the past decade, “open” phenomena enabled by information technology (IT) have received an increasing amount of interest from information systems (IS) researchers. Evidence of this interest can be seen in tracks (e.g., the underlying track of this special issue, the track on “Openness and IT” at ECIS); conferences (e.g., the IFIP Working Group 2.13 OSS conferences); journal special issues (e.g., Whelan et al. 2014); and the formation of the AIS Special Interest Group on Open Research and Practice (SIGOPEN) and its related workshops (pre-ECIS and pre-ICIS).

For this special issue, we broadly understand the term “openness” to mean the accessibility of knowledge, the transparency of action and the permeability of organizational structures. This openness can be both a driver for and result of new IT, the area of interest to us in this special issue. Openness has significant implications for individuals, organizations and societies. For example, individual users actively participate in the creation of widely used common knowledge goods such as Wikipedia (Germonprez et al. 2011) or Linux (Benkler 2006). A new generation of entrepreneurs can now be seen to leverage the power of crowds in the design and delivery of products and services (Orlikowski and Scott 2015), and for the funding of their business ventures (Kuppuswamy and Bayus 2013). For established businesses, openness has changed approaches to business model architectures and innovation. This has been achieved through “internal openness” (e.g., inner source software, internal co-creation platforms and enterprise social software) and “external openness” (e.g., open innovation markets, open sourcing and crowdsourcing) in organizations including LEGO (Schlagwein and Bjørn-Andersen 2014), Philips Healthcare (Ågerfalk and Fitzgerald 2008) and SAP (Leimeister et al. 2009). Likewise, open technologies are central to new intra- and inter-organizational forms of value creation supporting “ecosystems” of interdependent actors (e.g., the app ecosystems surrounding Google’s Android, Apple’s iOS or Facebook’s social networking platform) (Morgan et al. 2013; Benlian et al. 2015). What is more, openness shifts power structures by relatively devaluing physical production facilities and emphasizing the value of information and IT-enabled business models (Chesbrough 2007) or value creation outside of traditional organizations (Feller et al. 2008; Faraj et al. 2011). Openness is one mechanism by which IT can create “a better world” through creating common goods (Benkler 2006; Walsham 2012). Increasingly, the academic sector and the research community themselves face new challenges (and opportunities) emerging from the combination of openness and IT (Kane and Fichman 2009; Cooper and Sahami 2013).

We invite applied, empirical and theoretical research papers that significantly contribute to our understanding of IT-enabled openness: its manifestations, antecedents and, most critically, its impact on individuals, organizations and societies. We welcome and encourage submissions from researchers using diverse epistemological and methodological approaches. The papers will be evaluated for the interestingness and novelty of their contributions.

Papers should focus on the concept of openness and the relationship between IT and openness. That is, “openness and IT” should be central to the paper and not merely provide a background for studies on generic business, individual or social behaviour (e.g., research on individual and social behaviour that uses social media or open source communities merely as a background would be out of scope). Authors in doubt about whether their papers are within the scope of the special issue are encouraged to submit an extended abstract to the editors (see below) for feedback.

The special issue is open to all authors. Authors with papers accepted at the “Openness and IT” track at ECIS 2013-15 are especially encouraged to submit extended and enhanced versions of their papers.

#### **Topics of Interest (Examples):**

- **Open business** (e.g., open business models, open ecosystems, value networks)
- **Open capital** (e.g., crowdfunding, crowd equity, cryptocurrencies)
- **Open innovation** (e.g., crowdsourcing, distributed innovation, co-creation)
- **Open platforms** (e.g., open APIs, open content, open data)
- **Open production** (e.g., open source software, open source hardware, open design)
- **Open scholarship** (e.g., open/citizen science, open access, open education/MOOCs)
- **Open society** (e.g., DIY/hacker/maker/participatory cultures, open government)

#### **Associate Editors / Editorial Review Board:**

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## Submission Guidelines:

For preparation and submission of manuscripts, as well as general criteria for acceptance at the Journal of Information Technology, please follow Instructions for Authors (<http://www.palgrave-journals.com/jit/instructions.html>). Papers should be no longer than 8000 words. Concise writing is appreciated.

## Timeline:

- **1 Oct 2015:** Optional (not a requirement to submit to the special issue): Authors in doubt about whether their papers are within the scope of the special issue or who otherwise wish to receive early feedback are encouraged to submit an extended abstract to the editors.
- **1 Jan 2016:** Paper submission deadline: Late submissions cannot be accepted. Only submissions made through the submission system will be considered. The editorial team will screen all submitted papers and will only forward to reviewers papers that are deemed to have a reasonable chance of acceptance.
- **1 Apr 2016:** First round reviews and decisions.
- **1 Jul 2016:** Second round (revision) submission deadline.
- **1 Oct 2016:** Second round reviews and decisions: Papers will not undergo more than two rounds of review (i.e., one major revision). Papers not accepted (subject to minor revisions) in the second round will be rejected.
- **1 Jan 2017:** Final submission deadline: For accepted papers (subject to minor revisions).
- **1 Mar 2017:** Final approval of papers.
- **1 May 2017:** Online publication of special issue (anticipated date).

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