

Bettina Thurnher

Adoption and Impact of Mobile Applications in the IT Service Domain

Results from a Controlled Usability Experiment and a Family of Case Studies

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The integration of mobile workplaces is a major challenge for companies from a technical as well as a business process perspective. Market pressure, increasing competition and an increased demand on information readiness, generate the necessity to include mobile workforce into company IT and business processes. This can be reached by equipping mobile workforce with mobile devices to make them independent from desktop information systems.

Within this book interdisciplinary approaches from Human Computer Interaction and Business Process Management are combined to foster tool acceptance among mobile workforce. Furthermore, we investigated technical, process and individual aspects of mobile tool integration into existing, reengineered business processes. For the projected improvement of *Key Performance Indicators* (KPI) empirical evidence was gathered within *five industry case studies*, and recommendations for action when introducing mobile tools into an existing process, were elaborated. Moreover, a prototypic mobile help desk tool was implemented and usability tested to investigate contributions of Usability Engineering to KPI improvement. Major results are (a) same typical business process metrics are affected after mobile tool deployment in different IT-Service companies, (b) major process improvements arise not from faster job processing but from faster and more accurate data access and transmission and (c) user participation in software development as well as business process reengineering fosters tool acceptance and reduces the payback period.

With a Preface by Heinz Zemanek

Bettina Thurnher was born 1980 in Dornbirn, Austria. She studied Project and Process Management at the University of Applied Sciences Vorarlberg in Dornbirn. Her dissertation was elaborated in cooperation with the Vienna Technical University, the University of Augsburg, the University of Applied Sciences Vorarlberg and the University of Duisburg. Since 2005 she is working as a self-employed Consultant for Process Management and Usability Engineering. In September 2008 she received her PhD in natural science from the University of Duisburg. Currently she is working as a project coordinator for the University of Liechtenstein.

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