



Infonomics
Plain language about IT Governance
for executives and directors.

Corporate Governance of IT: AS8015 Readiness Services.

Australia now has a formal standard addressing the board's role with IT.
What does this mean for your organisation?

An Important New Standard

AS8015-2005: Corporate Governance of Information and Communication Technology is written for directors and their equivalents in small, medium and large organisations in both public and private sectors. It gives them clear high level information of the role they need to play in being sure that the organisation's IT activities are appropriate and effective.

AS8015 Boardroom Briefing

Begin by understanding why it is important for IT Governance to be a standard board agenda item. Choose from a one hour briefing on the standard, or go further to look at the calibre of IT Governance in your own organisation. This 3 hour briefing includes a 30 point diagnostic survey of your management's view of IT.

AS8015 Alignment Check

The AS8015 Alignment Check is an essential step to compliance. Using a robust formal process, with key player interviews and a broad based, in depth survey, the alignment check provides rapid insight to the depth and quality of the IT Governance regime in any organisation. More than 80 important characteristics of IT Governance are examined, along with established governance processes and policies.

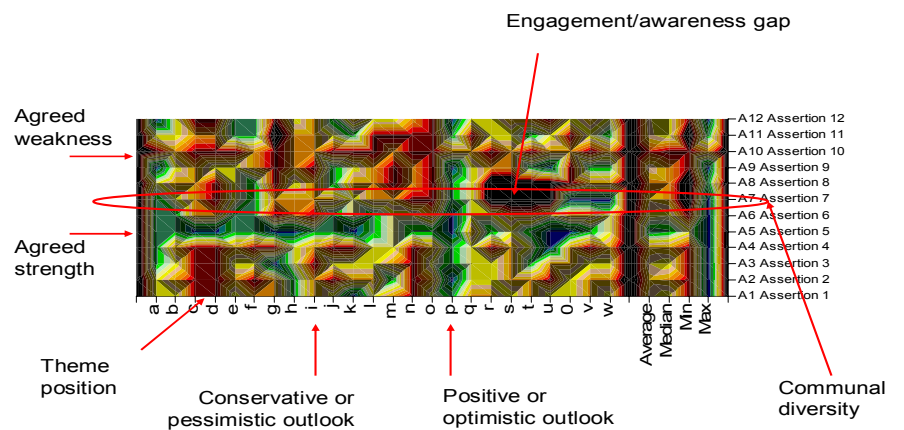
A typical AS8015 Alignment Check will take from 3 to 5 weeks, depending on the number of personnel involved.

Seminars and Workshops

AS8015 informs Directors of their duties – but how do they actually do the job? IT Governance – The Business and Boardroom Perspective delivers the necessary insight using a no-nonsense, plain language framework and discussion of what often goes wrong behind the scenes. At a day each, these sessions are a small investment which delivers frequently amazing new insight regarding how critical yet fragile IT can be.

Situation Assessments

In some organisations, the AS8015 Alignment Check will expose situations that may be creating inappropriate risk. Infonomics offers a range of specific diagnostics, all using the same proven and robust techniques to drill down and confirm the reality.



To learn more about governing your organisation's IT, or to gain a clearer view of what is happening inside your organisation's IT environment, please contact Mark Toomey at Infonomics now.

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Directors and Information Technology

Directors do have a role to play in relation to their organisation's use of IT. Australian Standard AS8015 - Corporate Governance of Information and Communication Technology reinforces the message and explains what Directors should do, at a high level.

Like most standards, AS8015 is a timely response to a growing awareness that the matter is important. Leading organisations, such as Centrelink and Bendigo Bank have sophisticated engagement models where their boards play a clear and vital role in governing the use of information technology. AS8015 encourages more owners and directors to become involved in the IT Governance cycle, in the interests of improved business performance and reduced business risk.

But board level (and frequently even senior executive level) engagement in IT Governance presents new challenges for the directors and those who advise them. How can they understand (or present) the IT agenda? How can they appreciate (or reveal) the company's true IT situation? What should they expect to see? Should there be independent inspection of IT as there is for finance, OHS and other important compliance matters? What questions can they ask without knowing the intimate detail of technology? How will understanding the IT situation give them new insight to the business in general?

IT Governance - The Business and Boardroom Perspective tackles these challenges head-on. The seminar and workshop are designed and delivered by veterans who understand, advise and practice as directors. The material and content is jargon-free. Numerous real-life examples are explored to enhance understanding of the factors that influence risk and outcomes. Extensive group discussion offers opportunity to increase understanding, share personal experience and even to start solving problems.

If you are an owner, director or senior executive of any organisation that depends on computers, you need to attend this seminar.

And if you think your organisation doesn't depend on computers, you'd better attend as well - because the reality is that you're probably mistaken!

Boardroom Briefings & Workshops

Infonomics offers a series of boardroom briefings to inform and equip directors and executives who need to be sure that they are effective in carrying out their governance obligations. Sessions cover:

- The Australian Standard for IT Governance
- Comprehensive IT Governance
- Governance Assessment Workshop
- Custom briefings as required.

Mark Toomey FAICD

Mark is the principal of Infonomics, and has worked in the IT arena for 27 years. He held senior roles with a pioneering Australian turnkey systems house, a global IT consulting organisation and a major bank.

Since 2000, he has become a leading authority on board and executive governance of information technology and associated business change activities.

His clients have included National Australia Bank, Telstra, UK National Eftpos Scheme, Bank of New Zealand, Ansett Airlines, New Zealand Bankers' Association, JBWere, CSIRO, RACV Insurance, Medibank Private, IOOF Holdings and Pickfords Records and Information Managers.

The Director's IT Compass

Most IT specialists come from a technical background. Most directors come from a non-technical background. The resulting communications gulf frequently makes for great confusion and uncertainty about IT activities. Directors may feel disenfranchised, unable to ask important and meaningful questions. At the same time, IT and business executives dealing with technology on a daily basis may feel poorly supported as directors become more reluctant to approve what they do not understand.

In 2001, Mark Toomey and Steve Moir co-wrote "The Director's IT Compass" – a handbook to help Directors understand what should be happening with IT investments and operations. Since then, more than 700 copies have been produced, and distributed throughout Australia.

AS8015-2005

The Australian Standard for Corporate Governance of Information and Communication Technology breaks new ground on a global scale. Unlike all previous IT standards, AS8015 is written explicitly for those who do not have intimate technical knowledge. Available direct from Standards Australia, the 12 page document explains what Directors should be doing (Evaluate, Direct and Monitor) and provides six powerful principles to guide them.

Structured Assessments

Infonomics has a portfolio of high performance assessments that deliver a clear picture of an organisation's IT situation in very short timeframes. Topics covered include:

- AS8015 Alignment Check – Do we evaluate, direct and monitor use of ICT as recommended?
- Overall IT Governance – Are we controlling our IT investments and activities properly?
- IT Strategy – Is our IT properly linked to and aligned with our corporate/business strategy?
- IT Plans and Business Cases – Should this investment be approved?
- IT Projects – Is this initiative likely to deliver the outcomes that were approved in the business case?
- IT Operations – Can we be sure that ongoing business operations are properly supported and will not be compromised by IT related issues?

Infonomics assessments may be conducted as team workshops, by interview and inspection of artefacts, or by questionnaire.

Infonomics Pty Ltd

Infonomics provides advice and insight to company directors, senior executives and their government counterparts, about control and assessment of their organisations' investments in and dependence on Information Technologies (IT).

Infonomics has invested heavily in development of:

Briefings to empower directors concerned about IT;

Frameworks to help directors assess IT;

Tools that provide fast and incisive views of IT.

Infonomics operates as a coalition of highly experienced independent specialists, each of whom has accumulated more than 25 years experience in the effective management and control of IT as a critical business tool.

www.infonomics.com.au