IS Alignment and co-evolutionary principles

Abstract
Despite extensive research, results on the sources, components and mechanisms to create or sustain information systems (IS) alignment are still lacking. The quest for an IS alignment remains a critical unsolved problem. In an attempt to address this situation, we present and test a comprehensive theoretical model explaining how information systems alignment between the Open source system (OSS) project performance and open source developer’s activity level is improved. We integrate the co-evolutionary theory (adaptive tension, change rate and modular design) to understand how open source developer’s activity level is aligned with OSS project performance. This study is based on data gathered from over 750 open source projects developing enterprise applications on sourceforge.net over one year. Results support all the hypotheses and conclude that using the co-evolutionary theory help better IS alignment.

Key word:
Information System alignment, OSS projects performance, open source developer’s activity level, co-evolutionary theory