

Ten Reasons for IT Educators to be Early Adopters of IT Innovations

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Abstract

Professionals in the information technology field are bombarded with an incessant stream of innovations in hardware and software as well as practices, methods, and techniques. IT educators are among the first targets in the market and must decide if and when to adopt these innovations in their instruction of students and professional endeavors. The risks are not small: educators must weigh the impact on budgets, time management schedules, instructional strategies, and student recompense. Some educators lag behind in adopting IT innovations and find that they have become pawns in the change process, vainly resisting the inevitable, while those on the front end of the adoption curve have eagerly embraced their role as change agents. This paper examines various factors that influence IT adoption among IT educators. More specifically, it presents ten reasons why educators should adopt, as soon as feasible, applicable IT innovations introduced into the marketplace.

Keywords: Information technology, IT innovations, technology adoption, IT educators, early adopters

Biographies

Sharlett Gillard is a professor of CIS, with emphasis in programming logic and languages as well as software applications. Dr. Gillard's research interests include project management and curricular issues in CIS and have resulted in publications in *Program Manager*, *Theoretical and Practical Aspects of Management*, *Journal of Information Science*, and *International Journal of Management*.

Ernest Nolan, Assistant Professor of CIS, teaches primarily systems analysis and design, applied software development (capstone senior project), programming logic, and programming languages. Ernest has many years of dedicated service in Association of Information Technology Professionals, having served as president at the Chapter, Region, and National levels. Under his guidance as faculty advisor, the USI student AITP chapter received the Student Chapter Outstanding Performance Award seventeen consecutive years. Ernest is also President of NCSD, Inc. which specializes in custom programming services for manufacturing firms and provides consulting services to numerous corporations, governmental units and not-for-profit organizations in IN, KY, and IL.

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