



Proceedings of the Informing Science + Information Technology Education Conference

An Official Publication
of the Informing Science Institute
InformingScience.org

InformingScience.org/Publications

July 26 – 31, 2026

EXPLORATORY STUDY ON EXPERT PERCEPTION ON THE INFLECTION POINT IN THE DISCIPLINE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Lily Dzamesi*	University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, United State	dzamesly@mail.uc.edu
George Owusu Dameh	University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, United State	owusudg@mail.uc.edu
Amir Reza Asadi	University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, United State	asadiaa@mail.uc.edu
Hazem Said	University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, United State	saidhm@ucmail.uc.edu

* Corresponding author

ABSTRACT

Aim/Purpose	The discipline of Information Technology (IT) has expanded across nearly every sector, yet there is limited empirical understanding of how the field itself has evolved from the perspective of those who shaped it. This exploratory study addresses the research question: What are the key inflection points (or milestones) in the evolution of the discipline of Information Technology?
Background	In today's era of rapid technological change, this study examines IT evolution through the perspectives of experienced practitioners. Rather than relying on external historical frameworks, it grounds understanding in the lived experiences of professionals with over ten years in the field to reveal how they define the discipline's major turning points.

Publishers Note: This is the abstract of the paper. The full version of this paper will be available as soon as possible.

Accepted by Editor Michael Jones | Received: February 11, 2026 | Revised: May 15 | Accepted: May 21, 2026.

Cite as: Dzamesi, L., Dameh, G. O., Asadi, A., R., & Said, H. (2026). Exploratory study on expert perception on the inflection point in the discipline of information technology. In M. Jones (Ed.), *Proceedings of InSITE 2026: Informing Science and Information Technology Education Conference, USA*, Article 25. <https://doi.org/10.28945/5788>

(CC BY-NC 4.0) This article is licensed to you under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/). When you copy and redistribute this paper in full or in part, you need to provide proper attribution to it to ensure that others can later locate this work (and to ensure that others do not accuse you of plagiarism). You may (and we encourage you to) adapt, remix, transform, and build upon the material for any non-commercial purposes. This license does not permit you to use this material for commercial purposes.

Inflection Points in the Discipline of IT

Methodology	This research-in-progress employed an exploratory qualitative design. Five semi-structured expert interviews were conducted with IT professionals from academia (n = 2) and industry (n = 3), each with more than ten years of professional experience in the field. The interview transcripts were analyzed using Braun and Clarke's six-phase thematic analysis approach.
Contribution	The paper contributes to IT evolution research by foregrounding practitioner perception as a complement to historical and bibliometric accounts. It offers a working distinction between a true inflection point and an important but non-transformative development, anchored in expert narrative.
Findings	Based on interviews, four developments were identified as inflection points in the discipline: the commercialisation of the Internet and the World Wide Web, the convergence of hardware in the smartphone era, the shift to virtualised and cloud-based infrastructure, and the emergence of generative AI. Three additional themes (technological adaptation, data privacy and cybersecurity governance, and shifting professional identity) were interpreted as cross-cutting consequences rather than inflection points.
Recommendations for Practitioners	Academic IT programs should encourage interdisciplinary collaboration, industry engagement, and adaptability to change. Corporate IT organizations should focus on cross-functional collaboration, continuous skill development, innovation, and strategic agility while maintaining strong governance and security practices.
Recommendations for Researchers	Future research should explore this topic across more industries and regions and further examine how information technology is understood across disciplines and use mixed-method and longitudinal studies to strengthen and refine the proposed framework.
Impact on Society	The findings identified four major inflection points that have reshaped societal functioning, introducing both new opportunities and increasing challenges related to equity, dependence, trust, and regulation.
Future Research	Future research should adopt longitudinal designs to track perspectives over time, use larger and more diverse samples, and employ mixed methods of approaches to balance depth with breadth. Comparative studies across different contexts would also be valuable.
Keywords	information technology evolution, inflection points, expert perception, technological transformation, IT professionals

AUTHORS



Lily Dzamesi is a Ph.D. student and Teaching Assistant in the Information Technology program at the University of Cincinnati. Her research focuses on integrated health data platforms, security for the Internet of Medical Things (IoMT), and machine learning approaches to cyber threat detection, with a broader interest in how privacy and human-centred design shape the adoption of emerging healthcare technologies. Lily has authored and presented research works across international conferences and actively contributes to cybersecurity education and outreach initiatives.



George Owusu Dameh is a Graduate Research Assistant in the Information Technology PhD program at the University of Cincinnati. He is an experienced researcher with more than nine years of work in web development, software systems, and digital information management. His research focuses on human–computer interaction (HCI), emerging technologies, digital systems in education, and the use of intelligent technologies to enhance human decision-making and institutional processes. He has contributed to major digitization initiatives for leading researchers and has served as a reviewer for prominent conferences, including IS-CRAM and ICMI. His work reflects a strong commitment to interdisciplinary research that bridges technology, usability, and societal impact.



Amir Reza Asadi is a Graduate Research Assistant at the University of Cincinnati, pursuing a PhD in the Information Technology program. With nearly a decade of industry experience, he helped startups use emerging technologies to solve problems. His main area of interest is human-information interaction for emerging technologies, including AI, and AR/VR. He is interested in design methods for new technologies. Currently, he is researching Human Digital Twin and Agentic Interactions. He has served as a reviewer for prominent HCI conferences such as CHI and CSCW.



Dr. Hazem Said is a Professor of Information Technology and the director of the School of Information Technology (SoIT) at the University of Cincinnati (UC). He is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP). Dr. Said founded the UC Information Technology Solutions Center (ITSC) in 2012, where he consults with government, public and private organizations, and leads teams of professionals, as well as graduate, undergraduate, and high school students, to investigate, develop, and support a variety of information technology solutions. In addition, Dr. Said is a co-founder and co-director of the Ohio Cyber Range Institute and the Justice, Law, and Information Technology Institute. Dr. Said is the recipient of over 200 grants and contracts totaling over \$30 million and has authored over 27 articles on topics related to information technology education.