Editorial

Practical Guidelines for chain-computerisation

J.H.A.M. Grijpink & M.G.A. Plomp
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In the autumn of 2012 the Platform Chain-computerisation has been functioning for 15 years. This group of professionals who are systematically involved in the use of ICT for major social issues has been increasing gradually. Twice a year the Platform Chain-computerisation has been organising a seminar offering an opportunity to discuss chain project experiences and helping each other to develop better large-scale communication systems for chain collaboration. The Platform is a major supplier of articles for the Journal of Chain-computerisation, too.

Knowledge about the development and management of large-scale communication systems has been increasing, as well. In this special section, six members of the Platform offer guidelines and directions to chain workers, researchers and professionals from as many different angles.

Marijn Plomp presents some guidelines derived from the results of applying our often small-scale thinking to large-scale communication systems. More often testing the validity of our principles and assumptions in large-scale situations could enormously improve the use of ICT on that scale. The theory of Chain-computerisation provides guidance for dealing with large-scale projects and systems, he concludes.

Gerrit van de Ven contrasts the classic, traditional way of computerising with the approach of Chain-computerisation. Chain-computerisation is grafted on process thinking enabling to connect autonomous ICT solutions. From this new focus he argues that ICT should conform to the worker's information needs instead of vice versa.

Martijn van der Veen presents some guidelines for better privacy protection in large-scale situations such as a chain. Application of the theory and methods of Chain-computerisation impedes unwanted information exchange: ‘privacy by design and method’?

Tjitske Visser investigates what types of chain initiatives have a good chance to succeed. This relies on some important aspects of the initiative in relation to some environmental factors. Her guidelines can be of practical use for many professionals.

Jan Grijpink presents some insights in identity issues in chains. In the identity domain there is ample room for improvement – even in small-scale deployment of ICT. Prevention of identity fraud is lacking in many procedures. With interactive closed communication loops for identity and control we are on the right track.

Henk Plessius, finally, presents a practical view of the tension between resistance to change, interests of players in the supply chain arena and incomprehension. He advocates ‘chain checks’ based on the test method of Chain-computerisation.

This collection of articles highlights in a special way that so many professionals and researchers have been working together for 15 years to better large-scale information infrastructures. Opposite many disappointing experiences there is this valuable moment that inspires us to continue on this path!

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