Research Proposal

E-government Architectures and Applications

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E-government Architectures and Applications

Background

First of all, it is important to mention the fact that the core essence of the e-Government may be represented in the transformation notion. That is why it is possible to assume that with the possibility of the streamlined service delivery, while applying the Internet applications, experienced staff and the IT infrastructure, the current form of government may be transferred into the new form of their existence.

It is important to refer to the fact that the information architecture’s development may involve the set of stages or phases for growth. Evolution models or stages of growth are popular in information systems and organizational research and these issues have been applied by the scholars in the set of domains (Nolan, 1979; Layne & Lee, 2001; Grover & Segars, 2005).

The stages of growth’ model has been made popular by Nolan (1979) because of this model’s intuitive appeal. The core purpose of this model is information systems development’ deconstructing into the stages; the process of development takes its place from one stage to another.

Even though, while this model is considered to be important in science, there is a lack of focus on change management and on the strategies of organisational development. It is implied that there is a constant need of accompanying the stage models with the properly chosen strategy of change management. It is required by the change management strategy to address the entire set of the process management issues, which include the shared vision creation, development of stakeholders’ motivation, dealing with resistance to changes, intervention strategies and obtaining political support (Bruijn, Heuvelhof, & Veld, 2002).
According to Weerakkody and Reddick (2012), the initiatives of E-government are the powerful mechanisms are directed for the data processing and administrative tasks of the government agencies improvement. The best example of the internet and information utilization in terms of communication technologies practical implementation – such as reporting technologies, networking, multimedia and databases, are provided for the governmental structures by E-government (Weerakkody & Reddick, 2012).

Weerakkody and Reddick (2012) have defined the e-government in the following manner “use of technology, especially web-based applications to enhanced access to and to efficiently deliver government information and services”, while investigating it in terms of online services delivery. Vast majority of the innovative reporting technologies are considered by the scholars to be instrumental in relation to the regulatory adopters – for instance, the technologies, which are directed for the existing reporting systems and processes’ improvement. It is important to put an emphasis on the fact that the collaboration between stakeholder and groups different individuals is required by the reporting technologies’ adoption. Also, the different players should participate in the organizational context of the above listed processes (Weerakkody & Reddick, 2012).

The scientific research would be dedicated to the investigation of the core issues, implied by the strategy - such as management and service delivery, which are mainly directed for the e-Government enterprises creation.

The core question to be investigated in the scopes of the research paper is the most effective architectures of e-government from the perspective of their practical application. The way, the core purpose of the transformation to the form of e-government - customer centric approach towards the citizens is applied into the practice, is the second question of the research.
It is important to put an emphasis on the fact that e-government cannot be considered as alternative way of doing things. The scales of the transformation imply the fundamental altering of managing and delivering the public services. The fixed developmental timeframe cannot be set for the transformation because this process is evolutionary.

These questions would be investigated in the light of the Institutional Theory – the policy making theoretical approach, which puts the core emphasis on the legal and formal aspects of government structures. Such theoretical approach enables the research endeavour to investigate the questions from different angles - such as the factors, contributing the successful transformation of the government to e-Government form in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

**Methodology**

Preparing a research design is a critical part in every research endeavour. Although there are different steps, a high level of interaction between them is visible. Interaction is viewed in the form of applying a measurement instrument that determines the type of analysis tools that are used. In turn, the definite features of a measurement instrument also influence the nature of analysis that is conducted.

The combined secondary data based on the nature of the research would be employed. As in most studies, secondary sources of data are useful in highlighting the current state of affairs. Put in simple terms, secondary sources of data present what has been considered or reviewed by other researchers. The type of data is also useful in highlighting the knowledge gap or discrepancies in the existing literature. Such information is obtained after conducting a literature review. A keener look into the research issue indicates that both qualitative and quantitative data are necessary. The research will combine the two approaches in order to ensure the trustworthiness of the results, obtained in the process of investigation the changes (in terms of
their reasons and form) caused by the implementation of the e-government projects.

Furthermore, other methodologies may be employed, depending on the results of the research.

In the collection of data, several options are available. Such comprise experimental data and secondary data. Secondary data is sourced to serve as a guide during the initial stages of a study. Such information is supportive in understanding what the field of the study entails or what has been done in the field. As a result, the works of other researchers are put into perspective with a view to illuminating on what needs to be done. This informs a researcher on refining the proposed approaches of collecting data to suit the study. Conversely, collecting primary data aids to express the aim of resolving the current problem. Consequently, primary data is useful in confirming what is offered in the secondary data or made new additions as per the new evidence that is adduced.

Secondary data will be sought to determine past trends. In addition, secondary data equally facilitated a comparative approach to the study. However, this preceded the use of various informational sources, including books, journals, articles, and other academic sources in reviewing past trends in the focus area – the changes, caused by the the implementation of the e-government projects in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

**Deliverables**

One more purpose of the research would be investigation of the ‘transformation’ notion in terms of its usage in the e-government literature. Also, the trial for accessing the nature of e-government contribution would be made in terms of public management in the timeframes of last 5-10 years. The investigation of the process of e-government evolution would be made in order to make some assumptions for its future development.
Currently, governments all over the world consider the internet-based technical initiatives as the ‘transformative’ ones. Vassilakis et al. (2003) define the ‘transformation’ as “… a qualitative change that extends to a change in the spatial or temporal relationships of parts of the universe (n), that is, change of a radical nature” (Vassilakis et al., 2003). The transformation is often attributed to the e-government. Accordingly, it is possible to assume that the new ICTs’ introduction is expected to make the radical change in the public management.

After conducting the closer examination, it is possible to state a fact that the ‘transformation’ concept is used in scientific literature as the generic term, related to the e-government. It is important to put an emphasis on the fact that in the scientific literature, this term has two separate and quite different applications. It is possible to categorize these applications in the following manner: instrumental transformation and systemic transformation.

Under the instrumental transformation, the scholars usually imply the fact that if the governmental agencies introduce the new ICTs, it is possible to reach the radical changes in the existing information management, administration and in service delivery practices.

While referring to the systemic transformation, scholars usually consider that the new ICTs’ practical implementation by the governmental structures implies the radical changes in the public management model: for instance, in the constitutional responsibilities, governance arrangements, in the accountabilities and in other related relationships, which constitute the system of public management.

Among the common features of these two different applications of the 'transformation' term, it is possible to consider the nature and the magnitude of the expected changes. Scholars consider that weather the transformation is applied for the practices and processes of the public management or to the public management model itself, it is expected that after the new ICTs are
introduced and practically implemented, the significant change of the radical nature would take its place.

The researcher would make the investigation of the ‘transformation’ concept – as it is used in the government literature for further identification of the general application of this concept by commentators, public officials and academics. In order to investigate the application of e-government initiatives, the institutionalism would be applied. Additional attention within the research paper would be paid to the investigation of the correlation between the transformation concept, innovative technologies’ practical implementation and public management. The core reason for such direction is the fact that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are increasingly applied by the governments of different countries in order to improve and modernize the existing systems of public management in terms of their relationships with the businesses, citizens and other organizations.

**Outline/ Structure**

First part of the paper would be theoretical – discussion of the core essence of the architecture of E-government – the literature review would be conducted in this section. The difference between the change and transformation would be investigated in terms of the tools, reversibility of these processes and in the terms of their impact for the social life.
References


