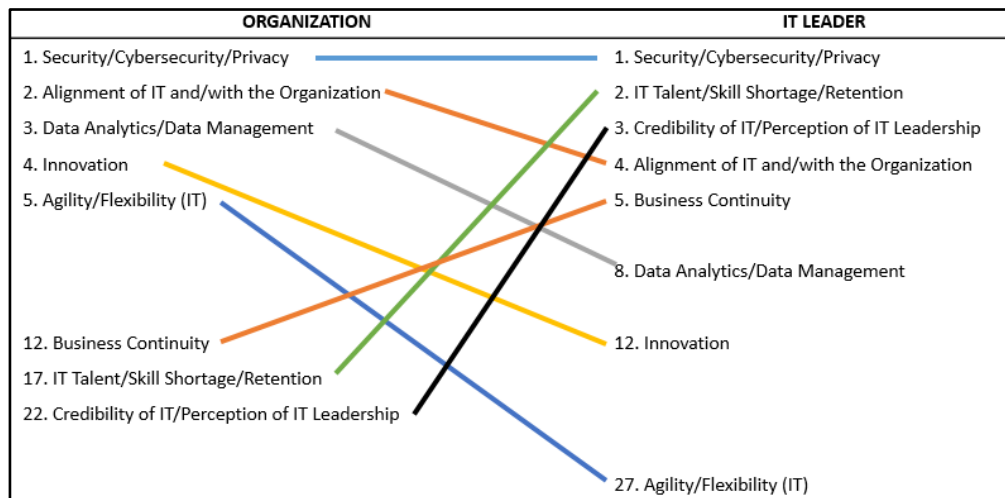




IT-Business Alignment? Differing Priorities Noted in 2018 SIM IT Trends Study

One of the most anticipated features of the annual SIM IT Trends Study is the list of top IT issues and concerns, which highlights the priorities and problem areas for IT executives in a rapidly changing landscape. An interesting benefit is that we ask IT leaders to not only select the top issues that are most concerning to them, but also to separately select issues that are important to their organization. Comparing the rankings from both lists provides insight into the alignment of priorities between the business and IT function.

In 2018, there was agreement that some issues such as cybersecurity and data analytics/data management were of great concern. Ironically, IT-business alignment was also rated as a top concern for both the business and IT leaders, yet only 5 items appeared in the top 10 for both lists.



Issues like IT talent/skills shortage and credibility of IT/perception of IT leadership were highly ranked by IT leaders but were a much lower priority for the organization. In some ways, this is a good sign for IT – if business leaders are not worried about them, then the IT function must be doing a good job. Other items, such as innovation and agility/flexibility were highly rated by the organization and received a much lower priority from IT. This could signal that organizations are expecting more from IT in these areas and the IT function could do more to meet these expectations.

These findings represent a small portion of the insights gleaned from the 2018 SIM IT Trends Study. Look for more teasers over the coming months as we prepare the comprehensive report for distribution by year end.