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2011 SIM Paper Awards Recognize Industry Academics and Practitioners

Each year, the Society for Information Management sponsors the SIM Best Paper Awards. This competition encourages research that impacts practice. Winning papers must be a collaboration between academic professionals and industry practitioners. Since SIM's thrust is toward executive management, the work should describe an initiative of interest to senior IT leaders and should have a significant impact on the organization involved.

Each year, the research paper competition encourages author teams to address these five criteria, and both the abstracts and papers are reviewed using these criteria:

- Innovation: Are new strategies and approaches described?
- Impact: Does the paper address the real problem and does it help to solve the problem?
- Implementation: Is the innovation operational?
- Re-applicability: Is the approach applicable to other organizations?
- Appeal and readability: Will the paper appeal to SIM membership?

We want to recognize the winners of the 2011 SIM Best Paper Awards competition. The first place winner was a paper entitled, "Assessing Cloud Readiness at Continental AG," by Claudia Loebbecke, University of Cologne, and Bernhard Thomas and Thomas Ullrich, Continental AG. The research provided a framework for determining which information technology services are a good "fit" for the "cloud." This framework is applicable to other organizations interested in identifying cloud-based information services.

The second place winner was a paper entitled, "Drawing 'Align' in the Sand: The Cultural Shift Towards Embedded IT," by Dr. Jerry Luftman, Stevens Institute of Technology, and Frank Wander, Mark Nathan, and Harshil Sutaria, The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America. This paper uses a framework to assess the alignment of information technology with strategy and provides a re-applicable tool to better understand alignment.

Congratulations to the 2011 SIM Paper Competition Award Winners. The competition reinforces the importance of research which impacts practice and research which provides valuable insights to inform leaders in information technology. The papers will be published in **MIS Quarterly Executive** which is available to all SIM members at the SIM web site: www.simnet.org

We also thank those who served as judges, including: Carol Brown, Editor of **MIS Quarterly Executive** and Stevens Institute of Technology; Steve Hufford, Enterprise Architect; Wendell Jones, SIM Chief Executive; Lance Eliot, President, Eliot Associates; Jack Becker, University of North Texas; and Mary Sumner, SIM Academic Liaison and Southern Illinois University.

If you have an innovative case study or best practice to share, please organize a team consisting of an academic professional and an industry practitioner and develop a paper for next year. Guidelines will be published on www.simnet.org in April 2012. If you have any questions, please contact SIM Liaison for Academic Affairs, Mary Sumner (msumner@siue.edu).