



By John W. Thompson

## Managing Risk, Forward and Backward

Today we're more influenced by connectivity and more dependent on digital content than we ever thought possible. The ability to collaborate online, work remotely, and engage in more multi-party transactions has created a whole new set of business models. At the same time, what used to be clear lines separating enterprises and consumers have now become blurred as networks are extended not only to suppliers and partners, but also to customers.

In today's connected world it is clear that IT systems are not a frill; rather they are essential drivers of collaboration, innovation, and growth. As IT becomes even more central to your day-to-day business and long-term success we believe it is important to put in place an IT risk management program to help your organization balance IT risks and returns.

A comprehensive IT risk management program looks at risks to the security and availability of data, overall business performance, and compliance with legal and regulatory demands. Implementing an IT risk management program can help your organization reduce costs, increase overall efficiency, and enable you to focus on innovative projects that bring value to your business. Most important, effectively managing IT risk will help ensure that your customers and suppliers can be confident that their interactions with you will be safe and secure.

In this issue of *CIO Digest*, you'll hear executives from Citigroup and Aon talk about their risk management strategies in our feature story, "Odds Are." Our feature, "Message in a Bottle(neck)," addresses messaging management, and "Measuring Up," provides tips on how to find the right security metrics for your enterprise. And, be sure to read about Kari Keskiivari, CIO of Neste Oil, who shows us risk management from a unique perspective.

Sincerely,

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