

One of the main advantages of standardized testing is that the results can be empirically documented. Therefore, the test scores can be shown to have a relative degree of validity and reliability, as well as results can be generalized and replicated; another advantage is aggregation. A well designed standardized test provides an assessment of a typology of IT projects and which, when applied, will reflect the project value according to the general standardized quality requirements; but do not forget that a standard applied “cannot measure initiative, creativity, imagination, conceptual thinking, curiosity, effort, [...], nuance...”(as Bill Ayers said).[41]

B. Some Considerations about Information Security Standards

Security in the field of IT was and still is a controversial and current problem. For any company, the dangers and threats concerning the information they possess come both from outside and from inside (the company’s employees).

Following a survey conducted by Earnast & Young company on information security within a Romanian company involved in the field of IT, the findings were difficult to predict: only 53% of the organizations have business continuity plans in case of a possible security attack, while only 41% of the organizations are concerned about internal attacks on their systems, although it is known that currently the highest number of attacks comes from inside the company.

As nowadays the information systems are in fact “the heart of a business”, because “organizations are more dependent than ever on the reliable operation of their information systems”[44]. Therefore it is obvious that the need of information security is a very high one. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electro-technical Commission (IEC), which represents a specialized international system for standardization at world level, “adopted” the standards with the best practices and methodologies in the field of information security.

“Information security is the process of protecting information. It protects its availability, privacy and integrity.”[45] Thus, for the companies that need to implement an information security management or to improve the usual security practices, the standard ISO/IEC 17799:2005 was adopted, which is known at present as *ISO/IEC 27002:2005* or *the Code of Practice for Information Security Management*. It “sets out the guidelines and general principles for organizations in order to initiate, implement, maintain and improve the information security management” [47]. The standard *ISO/IEC 27002:2005* establishes the best practices and methodologies in the field of Information Security Management for the following sectors: “security policy; organization of information security; management; physical and environmental security; communicational and operational management; access control; information systems purchase, their development and maintenance; continuous business management” [47]. We have also to add the fact that this standard is concerned only with *information*: electronic files,

paper documents, recordings (video, audio), communications and messages.

Another standard “adopted” by ISO and IEC is the ISO/IEC 27001:2005 standard or *Information technology - Security techniques - Information Security Management Systems (ISMSs) – Requirements*. This standard is also known as BS 7799-2:2002. It “establishes the requirements for an ISMS”[47].

The ISO/IEC 27001:2005 standard belongs to the series of ISO/IEC 27000 standards. “The series provides best practice recommendations on information security management, risks and controls within the context of an overall ISMSs, similar in design to management systems for quality assurance (the ISO 9000 series) and environmental protection (the ISO 14000 series).”[48] Also, this series of standards “is deliberately broad in scope, covering more than just privacy, confidentiality and IT or technical security issues. It is applicable to organizations of all shapes and sizes. All organizations are encouraged to assess their information security risks, then implement appropriate information security controls according to their needs, using the guidance and suggestions where relevant”[48].

IV. CONCLUSION

As nowadays the *information* which is “behind” the information systems in fact stands for *power*, it is normal “to safeguard” it very carefully. Without *information*, it is practically impossible for a company to cope with competition, it is impossible to achieve its set objectives, so “it is absolutely vital that information systems (IS) are properly assured from the very beginning, due to the potential losses faced by organizations that put their trust in all these IS”[49]. Among the features that standards usage offers concerning the software information systems field, the following can be included: increased productivity, allowing developers to reduce the demands and time of writing new code for the integration of two or more software products; ability to access real time information and support, regardless of platform used, including mainframe environments, different operating systems, hardware variety, target users, heterogeneous businesses having each of them distinct specific activities; optimization based on costs, allowing inter-connected enterprises to reduce time spent to unify search operations, reporting, integration between different information systems. Time spent on writing standards and unifying guidelines and rules leads to work *quality*, *performance* and *efficiency*, it allows customers to accelerate business integration processes, and developers to increase productivity. Therefore, the need for applying some standards of good practice and methodology in the field of the information technology is very high.

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