

Editorial: Workshop on the Role of Platforms for Enterprise Ecosystems (3EP)

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1 Motivation and Introduction

Since their introduction, information systems have substantially changed the way business is conducted. This is particularly true for cooperation between firms that leads to an integration of value chains across multiple entities. The emerging networks span not only the various business units of a single company, but also include multiple units from different firms. As a consequence, companies do not only need to consider their internal organization in order to ensure sustainable and superior business performance, but also need to take the entire ecosystem of entities surrounding them into account. In order to allow these different units to cooperate successfully, the existence of a common platform is crucial. Such platforms enable the transformation of monolithic, closed system infrastructure into an open infrastructural backbone for business networks. An example is the increasing adoption of service-oriented architecture (SOA). Through its higher degree of modularity, SOA allows companies to integrate external services much more easily. Moreover, the process and service chains of various entities along a value chain can be integrated much more seamlessly. Another case in point is the growing importance of Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS) concepts and corresponding offerings.

The workshop on Emerging Enterprise Ecosystem Platforms (3EP) provides a forum for the scientific discourse dealing with the role of platforms in business networks. It aims at taking a both diverse and balanced look at the impact and effects of platforms on enterprise ecosystems. During the workshop we want to discuss technological, economic, and organizational issues and want to encourage an exchange concerning design and usage of platforms in enterprise ecosystems among software developers, platform providers, and users.