

1. Why worry about IT governance in the boardroom?

1.6 Is IT governance adequate in your boardroom?

Most directors would say that they worry about IT and are keenly aware of its importance to the business. While they try to stay informed, few boards understand what is really happening with IT in their organisations. As a quick test, try filling in this questionnaire to see how much you do know.

Table 1.6.1 How much do you know about IT in your organisation?

	NO	YES
Do you understand how dependent your core business is on IT?		
Do you know how long you can operate as a business without IT?		
Do you have evidence that the company can recover in the event of significant IT failure?		
Do you have evidence that company data is secure?		
Do you know if your IT systems are keeping you abreast or ahead of your competition?		
Do you know if your IT systems have the capacity and/or capability to support your future business plans?		
Do you know how IT decisions are made?		
Do you know the return on IT investment?		
Do you know if you are spending too much or too little on IT?		
Do you (and most senior managers) know where you will be investing in IT in the next 12 months?		
Do business managers oversee IT investments?		
Are business managers held accountable for the delivery of business benefits from IT investments?		
Are board members aware of strategic IT decisions and investment proposals?		
Is a clear, compelling business case always developed before an IT investment decision is made?		

If you answered 'no' to most of these questions, then attention to IT is inadequate. If this is the case, it is time to think about governing IT from the boardroom.