

1.1: Introduction

During a given day, think of activities that you do to entertain yourself, deliver a work product, purchase something, or interact with your family, friends, or co-workers. How often do you snap a picture, post a text, or email your friends? Can you even remember the number of times you used a search engine in a day? Consider what you are using to do these activities. Most likely, many, if not all, of these activities involve using technologies such as a smartphone, a laptop, a website, or an app. These activities are also enabled by Wi-Fi networks that surround us everywhere, be it on the school's campus, workplace, airport, or even in cars. You are already a user of one or more information systems, using one or more electronic devices, different software, or apps, and connect globally through various networks. Welcome to the world of information systems!

Information systems affect our personal life, careers, society, and the global economy by evolving to change businesses and how we live. To prepare to participate in developing or using information, building a business, or advancing your career, you must be familiar with an information system's fundamental concepts.

1.1.1: Defining Information Systems (IS)

Students from diverse disciplines, including business, are often required to take a course to learn about information systems. Let's start with the term Information System (IS). What comes to your mind? Computers? Devices? Apps? Here are a few definitions from a few sources:

Definition: Information Systems

- “Information Systems is an academic study of systems with a specific reference to information and the complementary networks of hardware and software that people and organizations use to collect, filter, process, create, and distribute data.” (Wikipedia Information Systems, 2022)
- “An information system is a set of interrelated components that work together to collect, process, store, and disseminate information.” (Stairs et al., 2018)
- “Information systems are interrelated components working together to collect, process, store, and disseminate information to support an organization's decision making, coordination, control, analysis, and visualization.” (Laudon et al., 2012)

They sound similar, yet there is something different in each as well. These authors define the terms from these perspectives:

- What are the components that make up an information system? How do they work together?
- What is the role of IS in providing value to businesses and individuals as their need evolves?
- Can businesses use IS to develop competitive advantages?

Let's examine each perspective.

1.1.2: References

Information System. Retrieved October 28, 2022, from [en.Wikipedia.org]

Stair, R. et al. (2018). Principles of Information Systems, 14th edition. Cengage Learning, Inc.

Laudon, K.C. and Laudon, J. P. (2012). *Management Information Systems*, twelfth edition. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall

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