



## Volume 2, 2013

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*JITE Discussion Cases* (JITE-DC) is a repository for discussion cases that relate to Management Information Systems (MIS), Information Technology (IT), Informing Science (IS) and related fields. The four shared characteristics of these cases are:

1. *Designed for Discussion:* JITE-DC cases offer a detailed perspective on a situation that leads up to a set of decisions or plans that need to be developed by students over the course of their preparation and discussion. They are not intended to be examples or illustrations about which an instructor can lecture. They are not designed to be in-depth extended word problems that students “solve”. They are built as showcases for specific technologies or techniques of the sort that frequently appear on vendor sites.
2. *Authentic:* They describe, as accurately as possible, real world situations. While specific aspects of a case may be disguised at the request of organizations or individuals involved in the case, the situations described in the cases have actually occurred and been verified by the case writer. JITE-DC does not publish case studies involving constructed or hypothetical situations.
3. *Open:* Case studies are sometimes categorized as “open” or “closed”. A closed case has an intended solution, the “right” answer. For open cases, such a tidy resolution rarely exists. There will nearly always be a variety of resolutions that are “good”, and many more that are unlikely to succeed.
4. *Free:* They are available for use by all, under a Creative Commons license. Educators may use the cases in their classroom and make the cases files or printed copies available to their students at no charge.

These four characteristics distinguish the JITE-DC from other outlets. While a number of publications and conferences include “teaching cases”, many times these cases are constructed as examples, as opposed to being designed as a basis for discussion. Other repositories, such as the well-known *Harvard Business School* case collection, emphasize open and authentic discussion cases. They are, however, very expensive to use. It is our hope that by making our cases free, we can encourage their diffusion throughout the global community, including areas still in the early stages of economic development.

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# **Journal of Information Technology Education: Discussion Cases**

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