



Why COBIT Matters in a Nutshell

What

COBIT is a framework that was developed and is published and maintained by ISACA (Information Systems Audit and Control Association). Prior to COBIT 2019 the framework emphasized control objectives. As of COBIT 2019 the control objectives have been classified as either governance or management objectives.

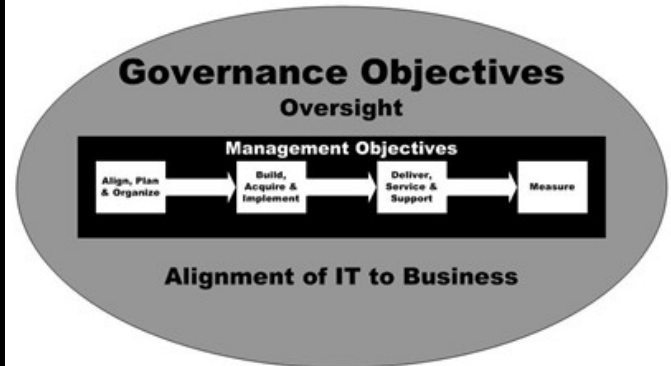
Governance applies to how IT is organized and aligned to business imperatives and operations. The objectives are focused on service level targets, IT organization structures. The goal is optimized delivery of effective service and support, and that that IT is enabling the organization to meet tactical and strategic business objectives.

Note that the term *governance* is also used to describe activities. They include managing vendors and contracts, project and application portfolio management, and organizational management at the board level. Those meanings are not the same as the COBIT 2019 definition, which is described as Evaluate, Direct and Monitor; i.e., oversight.

Management objectives, in the context of COBIT 2019, focus on managing processes and other activities in support of governance objectives. Management objectives entail: Plan-Build-Run-Monitor; i.e., operational.

Governance and Management Relationship

COBIT 2019



How

If your focus is operational then governance as defined by COBIT 2019 will be more of a concern at the executive level. However, at the IT level there are drivers, including:

1. Understanding what the organization needs with respect to services and service levels. The requirements become the basis of a service management strategy, as well as organizing IT to efficiently and effectively maintain and deliver those services at the required levels.
2. Responsibility matrices in policies are a part of governance. As are specific policy statements that govern how risks and security are managed.
3. Effective management and development of intellectual capital and human resources, and understanding and managing risks and security.

For management objectives there are thirteen management processes that provide a framework for aligning, planning and organizing to meet business requirements.

In addition:

1. There are objectives in the Build-Run-Monitor focus areas that can be integrated into your own processes.
2. The framework also provides sample metrics that can be incorporated into system maps when developing process blueprints.
3. Incorporation of standard COBIT 2019 controls make auditing processes for compliance, operational consistency and management straightforward to internal and external auditors.

Benefits

Business	Technical
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensures that IT services and support are specifically aligned to business requirements. 2. IT is staffed and organized to assure availability of services, applications and supporting infrastructure required to meet business objectives. 3. IT operates in compliance with governing regulatory and standards to which the business is accountable (i.e., HIPAA, PCI, etc.) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aligns to ITSM/ITIL framework. 2. Supports service level management and service delivery processes. 3. Provides baseline controls and metrics. 4. Guidance for developing policies, system maps and processes.