What Keeps IT Leaders Up at Night?

The most important IT management issues of organizations has been a central component of the SIM IT Trends Study since its inception in 1980. In 2013 the study began asking which issues were also personally most worrisome (i.e., they “keep you up at night”). This year participants were asked to select up to five IT management issues in each category. The figure below presents the personally most worrisome issues in a word cloud in which size represents how frequently an issue was selected by 785 of your fellow SIM members.

This year’s top 10 items are fairly balanced between IT and business concerns. This suggests that while operational IT issues remain personally important to IT leadership, there is also significant concern about the role IT plays in supporting the operational and strategic objectives of the organization. Personal concerns like alignment, business continuity, time to market, agility, and IT’s value proposition demonstrates that IT leaders not only consider themselves technology leaders, but also recognize the significant role they play in the achievement of enterprise goals. IT leaders are focusing on improving IT in ways that also improve the organization.

A big thanks to all of you who participated in this year’s Study. We would also like to extend a big thanks to this year’s sponsors for their generous support of this important SIM program.
The IT Trends Study report will be presented at SIMposium 2015 in Charlotte, NC on November 1st through 3rd. We hope to see you there! Before that the “Personal Benchmark Reports” will be sent to the 1218 SIM members who participated in this year’s Study. The “Comprehensive Report” will be available to all SIM members shortly after the conference.

The members of the IT Trends Study Team:
   - Barbara Stewart, Celanese
   - Bill Peterson, LiquidHub
   - Ephraim McLean, Georgia State University
   - Leon Kappelman, University of North Texas
   - Mark Snyder, Infor
   - Quynh Nguyen, University of North Texas
   - Russell Torres, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
   - Vess Johnson, University of the Incarnate Word