



Summary of differences between CobiT[®] 4.1 and CobiT[®] 5

CobiT[®] 5, the new benchmark for IT functions, organisations and service providers

CobiT[®] 5 is the next evolutionary step in the definition of an IT management framework to support an organisation's business operations achieve strategic objectives as well as address operational needs. Today, more than ever, information and related technologies need to be governed, managed and operated in a holistic manner with a single integrated process model that provides end-to-end coverage of the roles, responsibilities and practices required.

Improvements in CobiT[®]

Considerable improvements have been made to the CobiT[®] framework to position it as a model for the corporate governance of information technology. Unlike its predecessor (CobiT[®] 4.1) and ITIL[®] v3, the CobiT[®] 5 framework addresses all three levels of an IT governance framework.

Both CobiT[®] 4.1 and ITIL[®] v3 are process models that describe IT practices at the operational level providing a useful source of good practices. However neither CobiT[®] 4.1 or ITIL[®] v3 address the management practices necessary to marshal and use IT resources effectively and efficiently nor does CobiT[®] 4.1 or ITIL[®] v3 describe the corporate governance processes essential for directing and controlling the use of IT.

The improvements to CobiT[®] 5 include restructuring the description of the individual processes, identifying the actual base practices within each process and describing the key activities within each base practice.

The most significant change to CobiT[®] is the reorganisation of the framework from being an IT process model into an IT governance framework with a set of *governance practices for IT*, a *management system* for the continuous improvement of IT activities and a *process model* with baseline practices.

Upgrading from CobiT[®] 4.1 to CobiT[®] 5

CobiT[®]5 builds on the process model previously defined in earlier releases of CobiT[®]. It is an evolutionary change that has rationalised the existing processes through combining and reassigning practices within the existing processes and including additional processes and practices for the management and governance of information technology.

Organisations already at a CobiT[®] maturity level of at least 2 (measured using ISO 15504) will find the upgrade relatively easy. However organisations at a maturity level 1 are likely to find the upgrade from CobiT[®] 4.1 to CobiT[®] 5 to be challenging. Organisations currently operating at a maturity level of 1 or below (i.e. without defined processes in place) may find it easier and more cost efficient to adopt CobiT[®] 5 and start afresh using the new CobiT[®] 5 framework.

Where an organisation has made considerable investments in implementing the CobiT 4.1 processes it may be desirable to first complete this initiative before merging the CobiT 4.1 processes to align with the CobiT 5 processes.

Completely new for most organisations will be the introduction of a management system and a governance framework. This will require managers to develop a structured approach to how they plan, organise, direct and control resources and deliver the performance required.

Summary of changes between CobiT[®] 4.1 and CobiT[®] 5

- ❖ Processes in CobiT[®] 4.1 that are merged in CobiT[®] 5
 - DS7 is merged with PO7 (Education and Human Resources)
 - PO6 is merged with PO1 (Management Communications and Management)
 - PO2 is merged with PO3 (Information and Technical Architectures)
 - AI2 is merged with AI3 (Application Software and Infrastructure Components)
 - DS12 is merged with DS5 (Physical Environment and Information Security)
- ❖ Processes in CobiT[®] 4.1 that are reassigned in CobiT[®] 5
 - ME4 to EDM1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (Governance)
- ❖ Processes in CobiT[®] 4.1 that are relocated in CobiT[®] 5
 - PO1 to APO2 (Strategic Planning)
 - PO4 to APO1 (Organisation, Relationships and Processes)
- ❖ Entirely new processes in CobiT
 - EDM1 Set and Maintain Governance Framework
 - APO1 Define the Management Framework
 - APO4 Manage Innovation (partly PO3)
 - APO8 Manage Relationships
 - BAI8 Knowledge Management
 - DSS2 Manage Assets (partly DS9)
 - DSS8 Manage Business Process Controls.

Implementing CobiT[®] 5

CobiT 5 comprises an operational model and a common language for all parts of the business involved in IT activities. It also provides a framework for measuring and monitoring IT performance, integrating best management practices, governance and communicating with stakeholders.

The CobiT 5 framework includes a process reference model and defines and describes the management and governance processes. The process reference model includes *all the processes normally found in an enterprise relating to IT activities*, providing a common reference model, understandable to operational IT and business managers.

The CobiT 5 process model is a complete, comprehensive model that an enterprise must tailor to its own specific needs after taking into account the internal business needs, the external business pressures and the various stakeholders' expectation of the organisation and the IT function.

Implementing CobiT 5 starts with determining which stakeholder interests have priority, what are their expectations, what is the IT functions capability to satisfy these expectations and who is accountable for doing so. This will require knowledge about the underlying processes and management system that supports the IT function deliver the services and performance expected.