Recent trends have dramatically increased the focus on business governance – the process of managing an organization’s programs for accomplishing its strategic objectives. Because information technology (IT) is an integral component of the processes through which an organization executes its business strategy, IT governance has become a mission-critical initiative for information managers.

Information technology governance involves delivering value to an organization by maintaining alignment between IT and business objectives. The IT Governance Institute has developed a framework for managing the alignment process that they describe in their Board Briefing on IT Governance. In conjunction with their Control Objectives for Information and related Technology (COBIT), these publications describe a comprehensive program for governing information management activities.

The Centre for Information Systems Assurance at the University of Waterloo has developed a panel presentation that (a) provides an overview of IT governance initiatives, (b) explains how the governance process works in practice, (c) presents ideas for integrating IT governance into the classroom, and (d) discusses governance issues that could motivate academic research. This panel discussion includes presentations by three people, including a CIO who explains how IT governance is applied in a business organization and two accounting information systems professors who provide an overview and discuss teaching and research issues.