

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This is perhaps the easiest and hardest section that I have to write - to acknowledge all those people that have contributed to the work described in this thesis. This is an impossible task, given the many people that have helped to design, implement, apply, criticize, and evangelize the work. I am going to try anyway, and if your name is not listed, rest assured that my gratitude is not less than for those listed below. It is hard enough to name all the people that helped to get this done, but it is even harder to thank them enough. I will nonetheless try...

I have observed that these pages of a PhD thesis are the most widely read pages of the entire publication. It is here where one thinks that they will find out whether they have meant something in the life of the PhD candidate. While this may be true to some level, you have to weigh my verdict with the disturbingly low level of sanity left in this PhD candidate after several years of studying dizzying trends in information technology, while simultaneously trying to become more 'oily' and relate those trends with businesses worldwide.

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My final words go to ***** - You will always be my happy thought, 300 times and more.

"You'll be bothered from time to time by storms, fog, snow. When you are, think of those who went through it before you, and say to yourself: "What they could do, I can do."

*--Antoine de Saint Exupery
Wind, Sand and Stars*