

e-Business and ERP Both e-Business and ERP technologies have pretty much evolved simultaneously, since the 1990s. It has been very successful in aligning and integrating accounting, finance, human resource, and manufacturing technologies by aligning business processes with information processing logic and in transforming these organizations from pure hierarchical structures to matrix and other hybrid or flexible organizational structures. On the other hand, ERP technology has been successful in integrating business processes across the functional spectrum of the organization and in providing a central repository of all corporate data, information, and knowledge, thereby increasing organizational efficiency and worker productivity. While e-Business systems are better for sharing unstructured data and collaboration, ERP are better for sharing structured or transaction data; also, e-Business focus was on external integration (interorganizational), while ERP systems' initial focus was on internal data integration. e-Business technology focus has been on linking a company with its external partners and stakeholders, whereas ERP focus has been on integrating the functional silos of an organization into an enterprise application. e-Business technologies that have emerged as successful over the decade (e.g., business-to-consumer and business-to-business) have generally focused on market growth by selling products and services to new consumers and markets. 1.2