

World Bank: IT investments can pay off

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The World Bank said Friday that investments in building up an information society can pay off if the risks are managed carefully.

In a report entitled "E-Development: From Excitement to Effectiveness," the agency found that institutional reforms and other strategies must go hand-in-hand if technological investments are to reap in rewards.

"The record of e-government projects in both developed and developing countries has been mixed," said Robert Schware, editor of the report, in a news release. "While e-government applications can be useful tools for improving governance and the quality of life of citizens, a lot can go wrong along the way."

In addition, the bank reported that the digital divide is "very much part of the broader development divide."

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