

Title: The Evolution of Networks: Are Suppliers of Software Companies in Ireland Sources of Innovation or Providers of Outsourced Commodities?

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ABSTRACT

The paper covers the setting up of subsidiaries in Ireland by the software multinationals and the creation of preferred supplier status for mostly indigenous software manual printing companies. It shows how and why these indigenous firms ceased to have direct relationships with the software companies as technology changed in favour of CD-ROM. The key suppliers became subsidiaries in Ireland of multinationals in the CD-ROM and other media production industries, as well as in ISP. The theoretical contexts include networking, systems of innovation and organisational integration (Lazonick). The findings include empirical evidence for product life cycles among upstream components of other products