



IT Strategy & IT Audit

To ensure your IT systems and architecture are aligned to your current and future business needs and that your exposure to technology related risk is minimised.

**Technology-focused
Business Consulting**

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www.iep.co.uk

IT system design

In many organisations, we find that the IT systems and resources have grown organically over the years, typically in response to sporadic business requirements - perhaps a new project, a new employee, a new email system and so on.

We see IT architectures that have evolved one step at a time with little or no thought to design and future proofing - its been more a matter of adding another PC when required, expanding network resources when they run out of steam, adding layers of protection to ensure secure operations. You get the gist – it's a bottom-up approach.

Clearly there comes a point where it is not practical to continue in this fashion and in any event there may be many missed opportunities to increase performance and reduce cost, for example by adopting new technologies such as virtual servers or cloud computing resources.

However, we believe there is another significant opportunity that is often over-looked that can have a far bigger impact on a business than just an optimised IT architecture. And that is to ensure that your IT systems don't just keep you running - doing menial software and communication functions, but instead, they truly enable your business.

Instead of IT being a necessary evil, it becomes an integral part of your business strategy, an opportunity to do things that you haven't even realised are possible; to change the way you conduct business; to improve the way you engage customers, to drive satisfaction, to improve your operational efficiencies and much more.

Our IT system design services and our IT business strategy services are designed to deliver both tactical (yes those menial tasks still need doing) and strategic objectives that help to re-align your IT business thinking and deliver on these new horizons.

At a tactical level we can help optimise your IT architecture, make recommendations concerning new technologies and deployment methods, and generally add expertise and experience that you may not have access to in-house.

IT audit

We offer a comprehensive IT Audit service geared at ensuring your information assets are adequately protected and that the systems are able to properly support your business needs, providing information and resources to authorised personnel in a timely fashion as and when required.

The Audit examines availability of computer systems and network resources, security issues including machine-based precautions, software policies and staff practices. It includes where necessary, the creation of a system architecture drawing showing the interconnectivity of key physical resources & IT infrastructure.

The Audit can be customised to meet specific requirements but generally includes a review of existing IT and IT related resources including:-

- Physical (computer hardware)
- Software (operating systems, DBs)
- Services (Email, SPAM)
- Human (policies, processes, practices)
- Security (resilience, risk, access etc)
- Disaster recovery (back-up, redundancy etc)

The audit process comprises:-

- a discovery workshop with key IT personnel
- periodic questionnaires and email exchanges to fill in gaps and respond to ad hoc questions
- a risk analysis and where appropriate a remedial action plan
- a presentation workshop to review the audit output and any recommendations

A full report is provided upon completion.

Risk assessment

Our standard risk assessment package is designed to work in conjunction with our IT audit service so as to allow a comprehensive examination of risk whilst the IT audit work is being conducted.

The aim is not only to identify risk but to develop a risk mitigation strategy and where appropriate a remedial action plan. The output of the risk assessment service is a report which identifies findings and which provides a risk severity rating together with recommendations to address any issues and opportunities.

We also offer a bespoke risk assessment service for organisations that have a need to investigate a specific aspect of their IT systems and infrastructure, perhaps in response to on-going malicious attacks or in anticipation of an upgrade or enhancement to systems. In such situations the project is scoped according to needs although the underlying methods remain much the same.

IT Business Strategy

IT Business Strategy generally forms part of our Business Advisory Services in that the development of an ITB Strategy starts with a review of business objectives and an analysis of enterprise-wide and departmental business support needs such as IT services, software applications and physical resources.

Often however, our clients ask us to help them develop their ITB Strategy on the back of IT related services we are undertaking.

As stated the ITB Strategy sets out how your IT systems, software applications and online presence (in fact everything technology related) are structured and implemented so as to "enable" the business, maximise its chances of success and maintain a competitive advantage.

Developing the IT Business Strategy touches most parts of the business taking in IT architecture & systems, the organisation's data model, its software applications and databases, the information flow & management information needs, infrastructure requirements & options (e.g. cloud versus on-premise) processes, resources, best practices, policies and much more.

Get this right and you can start to take control of your destiny and remove a major potential obstacle to achieving your goals.

Other services

A range of services from strategic technology-related business consulting to hands on project management:-

- **Practical Advice** - helping you to make the right technology related decisions
- **Project Management** - an external resource to make things happen
- **Software Development Support** - find the right supplier for your needs and manage every aspect of the development
- **Joint e-Ventures** - for turning internet ideas into reality
- **Virtual CIO** - tap into the knowledge and expertise of wizened technologists without the full time cost
- **IT strategy and IT Audit** - maximising your chances of achieving your business objectives

We act as a trusted business technology advisor for organisations that don't have the in house expertise or breadth of experience to address the challenges and opportunities of today's digital economy and internet enabled world.

We help interpret your current and future business needs in terms of the IT systems, software applications and internet technologies necessary to ensure you meet your business objectives and maintain your competitive advantage. And we provide implementation services to help you deliver successful outcomes.

We provide strategic input and practical hands on advice whether it's helping to build your business case, identifying potential solutions, developing a strategy, creating specifications, assessing products/vendors, developing software or implementing your solutions.

We offer project management services for transformation projects and software development programmes, and we provide a cost effective virtual CTO/CIO service for organisations where technology is pivotal to the success of their business but where it is not cost effective to employ a full time person.

For organisations that have a need for a bespoke software solution we offer a range of software development support services to help you get the most from your investment and obtain the very best results.

Our sister company - Sibilo, provides software development services using a mix of UK based and off-shore resources delivering a quality, cost effective option for bespoke software development projects and transactional website designs.

We also offer a Joint e-Venture programme targeted at individuals and organisations who have a great idea for the Internet but don't know where to start or don't have the in house resources to turn the idea into reality.

We are happy to work on a project by project basis or on a regular long term basis, at an agreed day rate, on a fixed price contract and in some circumstances on a results-driven basis. Our Joint e-Venture programme often involves equity participation.

Other PDF downloads are available from the Services section of the IE Partnerships website at <http://www.iep.co.uk/en/services>.

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