

Strategic Planning

Strategic IT planning for your small or medium sized business is important if you want your business to be successful. The right plan for your business should reduce operational costs, speed time to market, improve overall customer service, and be a budget-able investment that will grow with your business. Traditionally, larger companies hire CIOs to create a strategic IT plan, but that is typically too expensive for small and medium businesses. Instead, partner with an IT consulting service such as AlphaScan and gain the expertise and experience of multiple CIOs without footing the bill for even one.

Strategic Planning 101

Regardless of your specific business type, you share a common goal with every other business person in the world-to be financially successful. While there are many ways to do this, it all starts with a strategic IT plan. AlphaScan, an IT services provider, can help you maximise your business' investment in IT with a customised strategic IT plan that will address your current and future needs. An IT consulting company can help your business create a well-crafted plan that will address the following:

- **Collaboration-** While all businesses use IT to communicate and collaborate, each business does it a little differently. An IT support company such as AlphaScan will examine how your company currently does it and give recommendations that will make it easier to collaborate and communicate internally, with clients, and partners.
- **Connectivity-** You need to have the right type of connectivity in and out of office to support your company's business efforts. IT outsourcing companies can help you assess your current and future connectivity needs, ensuring that you have the connectivity speeds you need to get your job done, whether you are at desk or on a mobile device.
- **Remote access functionality-** Any time you are out of office and want access to company data, you need to have remote access capabilities. IT companies like AlphaScan can help you analyse and choose the best remote access solution to meet your current and future needs.
- **Line of business applications-** Because your company depends on certain business applications to take care of daily business tasks, your software applications need to be up-to-date and under warranty. IT support firms like AlphaScan can help you select the best applications for your business and ensure that they will be supported in upcoming years by the manufacturers.
- **Data Capacity-** Since your company constantly generates data you need to ensure that there is enough space on your laptops, workstations, and servers to store it. IT service providers can help you assess your current and projected data storage needs and suggest the best IT solutions for your company's needs.
- **Data backup-** The data your company creates needs to be backed up somewhere besides a local workstation, laptop, or server. An IT consulting company like AlphaScan can help you decide how often your data needs to be backed up and recommend the best solutions to meet your current and future business needs.

Layered security protections-Your business IT systems need to be protected from internet attack, viruses, hacking, and internal security breaches; if your company is governed by regulations or legal requirements, it is even more important that you have a multilayered security plan in place. IT services providers can help you choose the best way to protect your IT systems now and in the future.

- Infrastructure- The most basic part of your business' strategic IT plan is having the right IT systems in place to make it all happen. IT support companies like AlphaScan can help you determine your current and future IT systems needs, ensure that all of your critical systems are up-to-date on warranties, and that your specific hard drive redundancy needs are met. IT companies will also make sure that your IT systems are correctly configured to ensure that you have maximum uptime that your business needs.

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Your business needs a strategic IT plan that addresses your current and future IT needs. As an IT consulting company, AlphaScan can give you the skills and experience of a CIO without the payroll burden of hiring a CIO. To learn more about how a strategic IT plan can help your business, please contact the IT outsourcing experts at AlphaScan.