



Business Digitalization: Why You Need To Revitalize Your Entire IT Environment

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED: AT INC.COM ON: MAR 21, 2017

By definition, your IT infrastructure includes the work processes that you perform in your business, the information needed to support the execution of your processes, the applications required to manipulate and manage the information and the technology platforms (including hand-held devices, laptops, desktops, servers and the cloud) required to run the applications. These 4 dimensions – business processes, information, applications and technology platforms – form the backbone of your digitalization investment.



In order to drive digitalization, you must invest across these four dimensions and ensure that they seamlessly integrate into a comprehensive whole that underpins your business. If you haven't been actively driving this digital business evolution, it's wise to kick off the effort through a comprehensive IT Revitalization Planning effort; one that will ensure that your IT is aligned with your strategic direction and provides a road map for your digital future.

The objectives of your IT Revitalization Planning effort should include:

1. To establish an IT Revitalization plan that will support the implementation of the strategic initiatives identified in your firm's Strategic Plan.

2. To outline the steps and order in which to construct an IT environment that will enable the practical implementation of a modernized digitalized business setting.
3. To ensure that all of the strategic IT consequences related to the firm's Strategic Plan have been considered and are accounted for to enable smooth execution and achievement within the business.
4. To establish an IT administration function that can actively manage, adjust and execute the IT Revitalization Plan over time.

The work will produce the following kinds of work products:

- IT Baseline Assessment of the current business processes, information, application and technology (i.e. IT hardware / IT platform) management environment within the business;
- Target IT Environment Definition to support the needs of the firm;
- IT Revitalization Plan that outlines the projects and programs necessary to evolve the firm's IT environment from its current state to its target definition;
- A description of each initiative that comprise the plan;
- High-Level requirements definition for each effort, outlining the desired outcomes and key features and functions to be delivered by each initiative;
- A timeline for execution of the projects and programs based on strategic significance and project interdependencies;
- Detailed project plans for the initial projects/programs (i.e., Year 1 initiatives);
- An IT Administration Recommendation which outlines what must be done to establish the necessary mechanisms required for ongoing management of the Firm's IT Revitalization Plan.

If you do this work well, you can offer significant cost savings to the business through the improved efficiencies and process improvements that comes with digitalization. Additionally, you will provide a much richer customer experience as new digital technological advances are exploited in the delivery of impeccable service – these benefits alone should make investing in IT revitalization a “*No Brainer!*”



To close, I hope that this high-level overview of IT Revitalization Planning is informative and helpful. If you need someone to bounce some ideas around with, you're welcome to reach out to me directly. I'll work hard to help you get on with this essential work.