



## **Why Everything You Think You Know About IT Has Changed.**

The IT landscape is always evolving. What you know as IT today is vastly different than it was even just a few years ago -- is your organization keeping up?

Hiring an outside firm to manage your IT is an investment. As with any investment, you want to be sure what you're putting in will reap the benefits and rewards you expect.

**IT infrastructure** is one of your most precious resources. When it is nurtured and maintained well, it **can reduce costs, improve efficiency, drive growth and increase profits**. On the other hand, when your IT doesn't work properly, it can cause a strain on your business, not to mention a HUGE headache.

It is becoming increasingly more common and advantageous for organizations - big, mid-sized and small - to outsource their IT management to professionals. The same goes for municipal organizations like schools and town halls.

### **Where to Start**

Take a critical look inside your business and IT processes.

Where is your IT lagging? Where can it improve? In fact, your current IT may be working just fine, but you no longer have the bandwidth to manage it in-house.

### **Get clear on your objectives. What do you hope to achieve from the partnership?**

Do you need strategic services that improve efficiency, client relations and performance? Or, operational services, such as document management, email systems or accounting software?

Imagine you are a small business with a team of 15 employees. As an organization you utilize specialized, custom applications and software for areas like accounting, customer relationship management and internal document storage. All your programs are hosted on-site and every few years, you need to replace your desktop computers for newer models.

When it comes time to upgrade your hardware, what happens? Each new computer has to be manually updated with your existing software and programs, which can take hours or days to configure, and get up and running.

Imagine if instead, all your data was hosted on the cloud. Upgrading your technology would take no time at all. The hours you'd save in upgrading, installing and integrating your new technology are virtually eliminated, thus giving you more time in your day to focus on more important things.

This is just an example to get you thinking about how you can use the cloud to catapult productivity and subsequently, business growth.

Identify your needs and goals, budget and scope of the partnership (long- or short-term.). Doing so will help you identify vendors that can meet your expectations and work well with your organization.

Before settling on a provider, shop around. **Ask your network for recommendations, request multiple proposals, and follow up with referrals.** Look for a provider who is familiar with your industry and has experience in the services you require.

## **The Benefits of Managed IT Services**

### ***Peace of mind.***

You can't put a price on that. An IT services provider comes with expertise and knowledge to put all your technology woes and anxieties to rest.

Most businesses have an "IT guy" in the office, but who do you turn to after hours, when a crisis arises? Or, when your IT guy takes a vacation or has a sick day? Your technology can't wait!

Outsourcing your IT management offers peace of mind when you need it most.

With routine maintenance, system checks and near 24/7 access, you can rest assured that your IT works as it should, when you need it. **Efficient IT will undoubtedly benefit your business in tangible ways like reducing costs and improving security,** but it will also put you and your team at ease, **so you can focus on more important things.**

### ***Better resource management.***

Does this sound familiar?

Your Marketing Manager, on top of their normal workload, also manages your CRM system and email server. Your accounting department doubles as your compliance team and runs routine maintenance check on your accounting software.

Here and there, your team members dedicate bits and pieces of their time to maintaining and managing various aspects of your technology strategy. Ultimately, they are distractions, taking away from the *real* priorities of their roles.

Staff performance is down, role expectations are unclear and little things keep falling between the cracks because you don't have a dedicated IT expert on staff.

**It's not cost or time efficient to ask your employees to do their jobs as well as IT tasks outside the scope of their role.** An IT services firm will bring back the professionalism and performance of your IT systems, thus freeing up your team's time and energy which is better spent elsewhere.

Without a doubt, increasing staff productivity and focus is reason enough to hire an IT service firm.

***Security and safety of your documents and intellectual property.***

We've all heard horror stories of businesses being hacked, servers failing and precious, confidential data being lost. You probably have some form of antivirus software and backup storage set up, but chances are, you're not actually sure how it works or *if* it's working at all!

If your server failed, would your business recover? Is your data safe from the "what ifs" and worst case scenarios?

Security is of the utmost importance in the digital sphere. On any given day, you or an employee probably handles dozens of documents, files, contracts, presentations and so on.

**With an IT services firm, you can employ the power of customized, easy-to-use document management systems that allow you to create, store, manage and retrieve any document you already use, 24/7.** Gone are the days of shuffling and misplacing papers -- it's time to go digital.

Document management systems also allow you to control access rights and workflow processes, so no information ever winds up in the wrong hands.

***Get back more hours in your day.***

How often have you lost hours or even days simply trying to remedy an IT-related issue? Or, your processes may work well, but simply take up too much of your time to maintain.

**If your systems are slow, outdated or inefficient, your organization's performance will be exactly the same.**

Time is a valuable resources and one which you can never get back once it's spent. Imagine if instead of mitigating the risks and malfunctions of day-to-day technology woes, you **could reclaim your day and outsource the “problems” to a dedicated expert.**

***Get the latest and greatest in what technology has to offer.***

If you're anything like us, you *love* technology and want more of it! Yet, you don't have oodles of time to research, test drive and explore the plethora of technology advancements that spring up on a near daily basis.

A recent client came to Inspiris not because their IT was failing them, but because they wanted to make it even better. They knew there were opportunities for improvement, but they simply didn't have the time or bandwidth to research the options and figure out what was best for their organization.

After learning about their organization and its needs, we were able to identify opportunities and gaps, and give a fresh perspective to problems they didn't even know they had!

We believe you should love your technology and that it is the thing which will keep your organization strategic and competitive in this ever-evolving digital world.

***Support when you need it most.***

Our philosophy is **people first, technology forward.**

First we build a relationship with you and your firm, so we can understand how technology can propel you forward. Unlike with other providers, when a problem arises, you don't waste precious time explaining the situation, because we already *know* you and are quick to take action.

**We know you love great IT** because we do, too. If your technology isn't doing it's job or you just want more of it, **we can help.**

Get in touch with our team of experts to [explore how you can grow your business](#) and **watch your IT succeed with Inspiris.**

