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STEPS

FOR EFFECTIVE TECH ACCELERATION

If your business is like most organizations, you've probably experienced quite a few changes since the onset of the pandemic. To adapt to COVID-19 restrictions and keep employees and customers safe, businesses had to make snap decisions overnight when it came to implementing new technology solutions to keep operations running smoothly.

While these technology solutions addressed short-term problems and helped businesses like yours survive during a period of immense uncertainty, they may have been integrated poorly with existing solutions or no longer meet your demands and needs.

Now that we've all had time to respond to the workforce-related challenges that the pandemic presented, it's time for smart tech acceleration that goes beyond just meeting short-term objectives and considers your organization's long-term vision, market trends and the role technology can play in moving key initiatives forward.

Here are four important steps for effective tech acceleration:

1. ASSESS AND RATE
2. EVALUATE
3. MANAGE
4. MEASURE AND ADJUST

1. ASSESS AND RATE

Before choosing a new technology product or solution, start with a thorough examination of your current technology environment. This will help you zero in on a solution that will meet your long-term business requirements. First, identify the gaps within your existing IT infrastructure to understand what your top priorities should be, then define what objectives you are trying to achieve with the new solution. Finally, pick a solution that will address your top business challenges today.

Here are four things to keep in mind when assessing and rating a new potential solution:



A. Product roadmap

Create a visual representation of your product strategies and visions. Document goals, timelines, features and resources so that every department is on the same page when it comes to product priorities.

Define who will use your product. What major issues will it resolve? Evaluate if the new solution fits into your product roadmap.



B. Security

What security features does the new solution offer? Will your existing security measurements be effective or do you need additional security?

To be sure that you're picking a solution with the right features and functionalities, perform an assessment audit to identify the existing vulnerabilities or problem spots within your IT network. Evaluate what network entry points need to be safeguarded, what your risks are if any vulnerability is exploited and where bad actors are most likely to breach your current network security measurements.



C. Integration

Will this new product or solution integrate with your existing technology stack? Does it offer pre-built integration, or do you need to allocate additional resources to ensure its successful integration?



D. Ease of use

Is the new technology or solution easy to use? How much training will your team need? Does it suit your budget?

2. EVALUATE

It's important to evaluate areas the technology upgrade will benefit you the most and whether it will scale and grow with you.



A. Benchmark

Establish metrics that will gauge the success of your project.



B. Prioritize

Determine which solutions are most critical to upgrade, update or "rip and replace." Understand what is critical at this point to achieve long-term goals and work toward achieving those goals. Add additional goals later as your budget allows and be flexible and proactive when needed.



C. Define long-term goals

As an organization, what is your long-term vision? How do you expect technology to support and enable this vision to become a reality?



3. MANAGE

Be clear about who will drive the change. Ensure seamless collaboration throughout the process to avoid unexpected breakdowns.

- A. Sponsorship/accountability**
Look for an executive sponsor to help you move your project forward and hold everyone accountable to their goals and objectives.
- B. People**
Meet with relevant team leaders to inform them of the upcoming initiative and seek their feedback before detailing your new or revised tech acceleration plan.
- C. Process**
Identify and list specific processes that will be impacted or need to be changed because of your technology project. List and communicate with relevant process owners and give them implementation timeframes so they'll know when to update and relaunch documentation and processes to support the new environment.
- D. Technology**
Understand all platforms and technologies that will be impacted by the pending updates as well as admins and emergency contacts (both internally within your IT team and externally if you use a managed service provider). Be ready with a remediation plan in case something goes awry in execution.
- E. Partner**
If managing a tech acceleration program internally is too much to take on, consider partnering with an MSP to supplement your efforts or completely manage the entire project.

4. MEASURE AND ADJUST

Make sure your internal and external stakeholders are involved in critical decision-making. Their approval is necessary before you get started on any technology upgrades.

- A. Review**
Use the benchmarks established to track progress toward long-term goals on a quarterly or annual basis.
- B. Accountability**
Ensure your internal and external stakeholders are held accountable for their commitments. For example, if new features are launched by the vendor but never implemented by your team, the benefits can't be realized.
- C. Adjust**
Use data from your benchmarking to make necessary adjustments. This may mean replacing certain solutions or simply upgrading to a different level that unlocks greater functionality.



Smart tech acceleration is like a financial investment. Are you willing to go for emerging, high-risk technologies that could pay big dividends, or are you looking for tried and true blue-chip technologies that are already well-established and universally trusted?

Partnering with an MSP for smart tech acceleration can help you implement best practices that consider the people, processes and technologies impacted by ecosystem updates.

CONTACT US TODAY TO SCHEDULE A NO-OBLIGATION CONSULTATION TO FIND OUT HOW WE CAN HELP YOU DEPLOY A SMART TECH ACCELERATION STRATEGY IN YOUR ORGANIZATION.