

Cost Effective IT: doing more for less

SME and High Growth businesses can lack the scale to exploit traditional IT-driven cost cutting measures. But there are now mature technologies and services which can deliver real savings. Could they work for you?

The Challenge

Traditional strategies - outsourcing, shared services, process re-engineering - are fine for big corporates. But how can you exploit IT to get costs down if you are an SME, high growth or 3rd Sector business with limited IT resources?

Six Strategies

Here are our Top 6 ways to focus on the real costs of IT for small and mid-sized businesses.

1. Cloud Infrastructure

Remove the need for capital intensive server replacement programmes and radically cut your computer room costs (power, aircon, backup) by virtualising your server estate and moving it to the Cloud. Pay a monthly fee for server and storage resources instead, based on what you actually use.

2. Hosted Applications

Move costly to support (licenses, IT resources, DR) applications like email to a managed service, charging a monthly fee based on actual mailbox, storage & transaction usage.

3. Managed Telecoms

Exploiting open networks, specialist providers integrate data and voice between your locations, adding their own service management over BT/fibre circuits. You get guaranteed performance, from a single supplier. Better service at lower overall cost than separate broadband and phone lines.

4. Mobile Working

How much time do your staff spend on travel to internal meetings or between customers and offices? On line meetings, "on demand" voice/video conferencing and mobile applications can have a huge impact on such costs as well as making staff more productive.

5. Core System Centric

Get the most from your core applications. Building a database or a spreadsheet as a quick fix is an easy option, but adds cost to support and integrate over time. Make the core system the first option. Ask "why not" of the business. As well as avoiding costs, deeper knowledge of core systems builds organisational capacity.

6. Simplify & Standardise

Budget conscious IT development saddles many organisations with a mix of systems. Individually cheap, such diversity means complexity and cost when it comes to support, and the "hidden" time of problem solving. Whether licensed or open source, standardising on agreed systems quickly makes support easier and cheaper.

The Bottom Line

You have an IT budget, but do you understand where the real cost drivers are? Work it out then see which of the above strategies could make a difference.

Avendris is a specialist consultancy, providing independent advice on IT Strategy and IT driven business change. We work with organisations that depend on technology as a key enabler for the growth and development of their business.

Our core skills are in the use of technology to achieve major business change. Our services are equally applicable to new projects or to troubleshooting existing projects.

Our methodologies address IT Strategy and Architecture, Requirements Definition, Solution Design, Vendor Selection and Project Delivery.

Application areas in which we have strong expertise include eCommerce, CRM, Business Intelligence, Content and Knowledge Management.

Our capability extends to all aspects of Change Programme Design & Management including governance, communication, risk and supplier management.

Our Tech Brief notes summarise the key features and benefits of current technology topics for business and IT managers.

Tech Briefs on the following topics are available on our web site at www.avendris.co.uk

- *Mobile Working*
- *Web 2*
- *Managing Difficult Projects*
- *Green IT*
- *Cloud Computing.*

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