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10 REASONS
TO CHANGE TO A NEW MANAGED IT SERVICES PROVIDER

Are you looking to make the shift to a new managed IT services provider? It might feel like a huge step, but there are lots of benefits to changing. Whether you're currently managing your own technology systems in-house or have a provider in place, here are some reasons shifting to a more suitable vendor could be good.
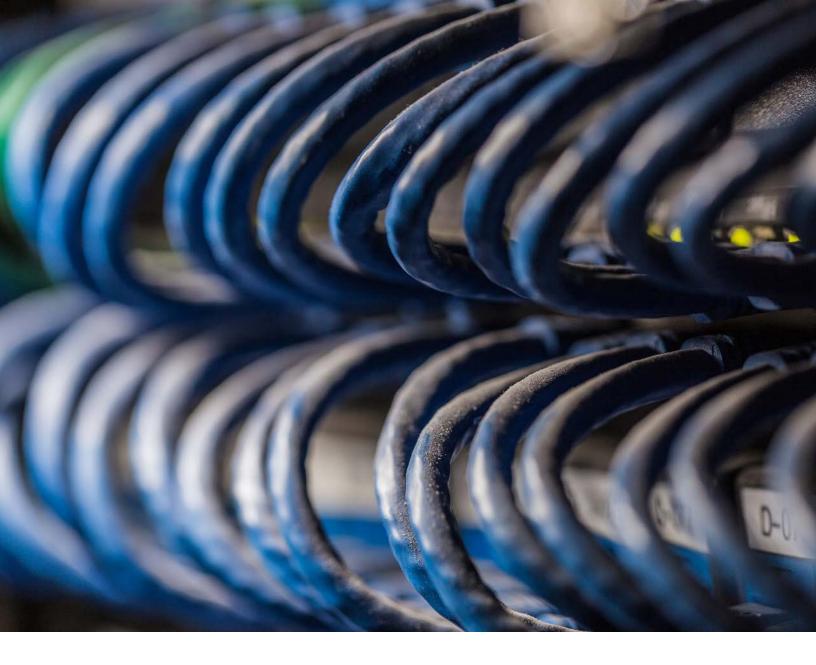
#1 IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY

One reason to use technology in your business is to improve the productivity of your staff. When the systems and programs you have are no longer as efficient as you need, productivity is the first thing to slump. If your current IT support team is unable to get you up and running fast enough, you'll lose money every second users are unable to work.

Deploying managed IT services who are on the ball reduces downtime caused by technical problems, and improves the productivity of workers. An IBM study showed respondents added more than $20,000 per year in revenue for every user by reducing unplanned downtime.

#2 SAVE ON INFASTRUCTURE COSTS

For companies that still manage their own IT, physical space is often at a premium. Finding a suitable, secure location to store servers and other hardware can be challenging. The cutting edge technology used by service providers enables you to monitor the business IT environment, while remote management of IT can help you save money on physical spaces as well as hardware costs. Outsourcing also frees up space used for technology, and makes room for employees and inventory. In addition, your company overheads reduce when you no longer need to maintain the computer systems or pay utility bills for the energy they use.

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#3 FOCUS ON BUSINESS

Managed IT services should effectively make computer problems a thing of the past. You should be able to spend your time focused on running your business instead of worrying about protecting your company against ransomware attacks, which ramped up in 2018 and show no sign of slowing down. The right IT vendor enables business owners to stop thinking about training employees on new software or processes. Instead, they can focus on coaching and development to help their business succeed.

You also no longer need concern yourself about being compliant with processes, whether your backup and disaster recovery plans are adequate, or keeping up with industry changes. A reliable IT managed services provider will handle all this, leaving you free to focus on your business.

#4 MANAGE YOUR RISK

Every business faces risk, but not complying with government regulations or adequately securing your data is a bigger risk than most others. Remember the fallout over Enron back in 2002? That was a pivotal lesson to teach every type of business to stay up to date with technologies, licensing and regulations. With an effective managed IT services provider, you can be sure your information is stored and backed up securely while saving both physical and digital storage space.
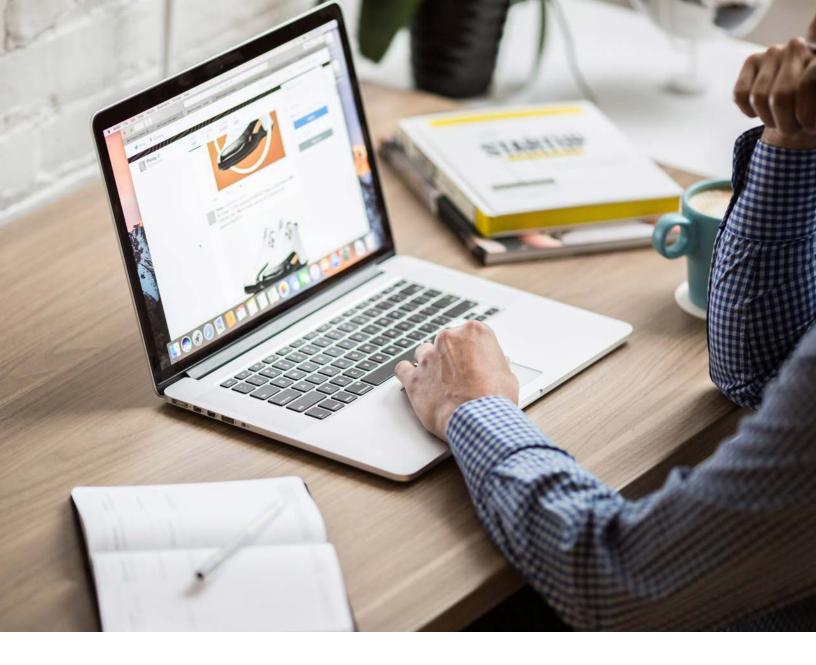
#5 KEEP YOUR DATA SECURE

With the rise of the Dark Web and online sales of hacked records including identification and financial data, the security of clients' information is top-of-mind for business owners. If your IT department isn't using industry best practices, it can lead to security breaches that are difficult to beat. Destructive cyberattacks have surged in the past year, and experts believe these are part of a bigger attack plan that includes modern bank heists and an increase in malware attacks.
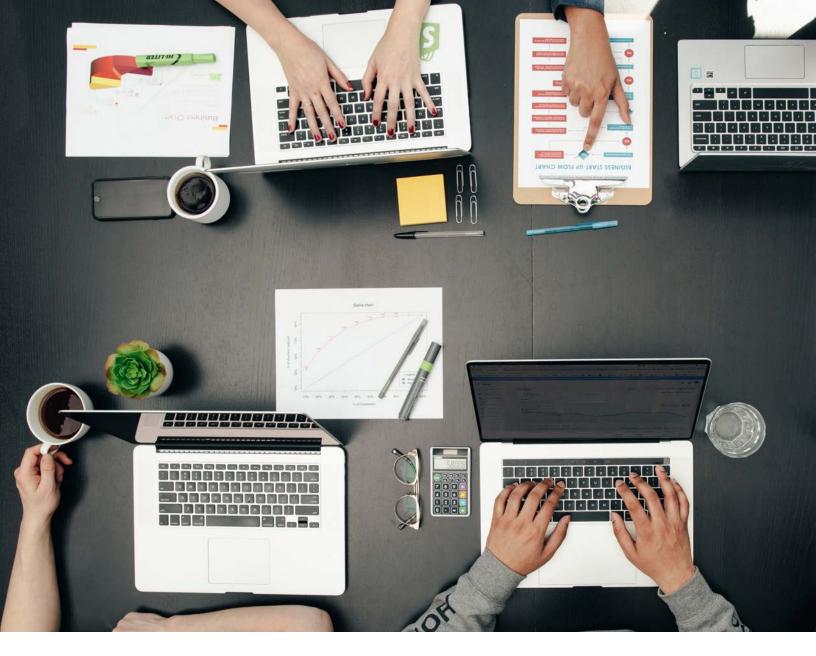
These breaches compromise clients' personal data, trade secrets, and other confidential information. A managed IT provider is equipped to use secure technologies, along with processes like penetration testing, to protect your data. These systems are more difficult to penetrate, so you can assure clients you're doing the best job you can to protect them.

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#6 STAY AGILE

The currently optimistic economy is causing many companies to consider ways to scale their businesses, while remaining flexible enough to downgrade if that becomes necessary. You'll be able to increase services when there's high demand, reduce your offering when it's lower, without worrying about letting staff go or having your employees afraid of losing their jobs. In addition, the IT team might become overwhelmed with basic requests such as login issues and other user problems. This can get them side-tracked and unable to focus on their core responsibilities.
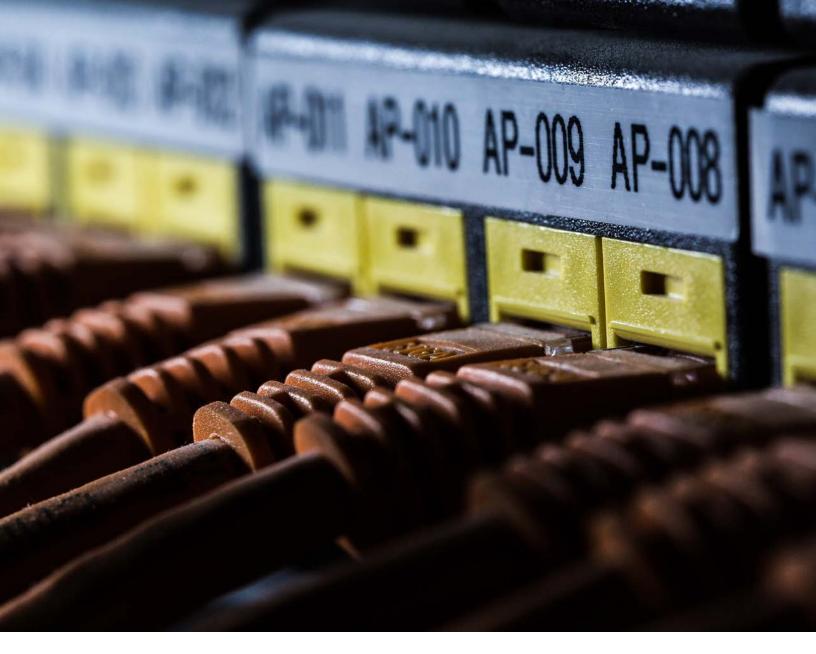
#7 GENERATE BETTER ROI

Businesses should view managed IT services as an investment, instead of an expense, because increased productivity and efficiency translate into better ROI. Whether you're shifting from an in-house option or a current provider, any move resulting in more streamlined operations delivers savings of time and money. Businesses that outsourced IT for the first time saw overall returns of 224% in three years, which can be ploughed back into new products and services, growing the business, expanding inventory, or increased marketing activities to boost sales.

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#8 GET A SPECIALIST ON YOUR TEAM

Most managed IT service providers are specialists in their fields, and often in your industry in particular. They understand the technical needs of your company, the right software to choose, the data you store, and who is likely to be after it. Companies usually have a specialist for each IT area, such as server, network, and telephony functions. By comparison, it's challenging for an in-house worker to understand all IT areas equally, and to keep up with ongoing changes in technology. An experienced service provider can provide sound advice on ways to make processes more efficient, and bring expertise and knowledge from related industries to deliver insights you didn't know you needed.

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#9 MOVE TO THE CLOUD

Moving IT operations to cloud-based services is essential these days for every-size businesses. Cloud computing provides fingertip access to everything you use from anywhere in the world, at any time. It's no longer necessary for your workers to be in the office to access their files, and in most cases, they can use smartphones and tablets to view the data they need. The cloud also makes communication and collaboration simple and efficient, and does away with the requirement for face-to-face meetings.

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#10 ALLOWS STAFF TO WORK DURING SYSTEM UPGRADES

Software upgrades are a necessary evil for company systems to continue to operate smoothly. Doing them after hours costs you money in overtime compensation, while doing them during work interrupts the activity of your staff. Employees can't do their jobs effectively, and customer service suffers while systems are down. With a managed IT service provider, your upgrades are handled remotely for you without any disruption to your operations.

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WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A SERVICE PROVIDER

Whether you're moving from an in-house IT solution to a managed service provider or changing from one vendor to another, it's important to look for certain criteria to inform your choice of company. These include customized services specific to your needs.

No two offices are the same, however, and whether you operate your company with a handful of computers and a telephone system, or you require an enterprise-level infrastructure with network cabling and cloud hosting, the vendor you choose needs to be able to implement it smoothly with no downtime for your team.

For more information on switching to a new managed IT services provider, please contact us to discuss your requirements.