

The Road to Successful IT Strategic Planning

The IT Strategic Planning process does not have to be a long and winding road. Follow these 8 steps to arrive at a successful IT Strategic Plan.



Step 1: Get on Board

Because many stakeholders hold the keys to input, feedback, resources, and support, getting their buy-in is essential. What is the best way to go about this? Get them on board the planning team from the start.



Step 2: Know the Rules of the Road

Adopt procedures that support the planning process, the planning team, and information about the plan. Include a governance model to establish a clear decision-making process and procedures for addressing the planning timeline and budget.



Step 3: Know Where You're Going

Begin with the end in mind. Start your strategic planning by clearly defining your desired future state. Taking this approach allows you to focus on the IT function from the perspective of how it adds value to the organization.



Step 4: Know Where You Are

Know where you are starting from. A solid understanding of how IT currently functions and provides value to the organization is necessary before formulating any plans to move the organization forward.



Step 5: Know Why You're Going

See the big picture of why you are going by understanding the organization goals and objectives. Aligning IT objectives and goals to Agency objectives ensures that IT initiatives, operations, planning, and leadership are synchronized.



Step 6: Map How You'll Get There

Map how to get to the clearly defined destination by creating a technology roadmap. Outline how the organization will cross the bridge from the current state to arrive at the plan's desired future state.



Step 7: Are You There Yet?

With the IT strategic planning process complete, hold your organization accountable to implement it on time and on budget. Check your team's progress frequently with formal metrics. Make corrections along the way.



Do You Still Want to Go There?

Don't let the finished IT strategy plan collect dust like an old atlas. Track progress and make adjustments as unexpected factors alter its course. Establish a regular planning cycle to keep the IT strategic plan current and aligned with the organization's goals and objectives.