



IT CONSULTING
GROUP



I.T. STRATEGY

FIXED BUDGET

IN-HOUSE STAFF

MINOR TECH ISSUES

4

**MAJOR SIGNS
YOU NEED
MANAGED
SERVICES**



A great exercise for you, as a small business owner, is to take a minute to list the most critical areas of your firm in order. Many put sales first, and marketing or finance close behind. Very few remember to put IT near the top of their list. After all, when your IT is running well, operating fast and always working, what does IT even do?

The goal of IT is simply to keep your business on track and operating to its fullest capacity. Many firms can't justify in-house staff for just IT. Some opt instead to 'make do' with quick fixes and temporary patches.

IT issues hamper productivity, damage reputations, and impact small businesses the hardest. These are precisely the firms that can benefit most from IT managed services contracts.



Taking the hassle, cost, and unpredictability out of conventional IT. Managed services provide dependable, reliable, and professional IT for a fixed monthly cost.

If you can recognise the advantages to your business, you might recognise some of these four sure-fire signs your firm needs IT managed services today.



You Don't Have an IT Strategy

Today's technology is constantly changing. The tech landscape seems to shift entirely every 18 months. Market leaders and entrepreneurs jump on new technology almost instantly to get a better, faster, and more competitive edge over the competition.

Many small businesses are perfectly happy with their IT the way it is today. While not perfect, for many, it works well enough and 'gets the job done'. Not every firm has to claim the title of fastest, best, or most secure. Sometimes however, market forces change the equation. Sometimes you can benefit personally, and sometimes it works better for the competition.



A smart, technology savvy business should always have an updating picture of the current technology landscape. That picture should include a map of how technology and systems can change to keep up with, and ultimately improve on the competition.

Even without implementing these strategies immediately, knowing where and how the firm can adapt and improve goes a long way to keeping up-to-date.

In many marketplaces, new regulations are changing the requirements that businesses have to meet. A huge number of companies have been forced into making changes to tighten security, improve privacy, and comply with new data controls.



Making major changes to the way you handle data and security can come with an enormous cost. Knowing how and where to make these changes is almost worth the weight of an entire department itself. The penalty for failure can be prohibitively steep.

IT managed services makes it our business to know your business. Using professional knowledge and experience, we can guide your firm through tough new regulations to keep you on the right side of compliance.



You Don't Have In-House IT Staff

Large firms commonly have the luxury of a complete in-house IT staff. The role of this department, or departments, is to keep the company connected and operating at full capacity no matter the cost. Small business rarely has such a luxury.

For most small business operations, a dedicated in-house IT staff doesn't make sense. Most small businesses have, at best, a hard-working employee who is "good with computers". Often, when a firm is made of a single or pair of employees, a diligent staff member is good enough.



As a firm begins to grow and its requirements and responsibilities become more complex, professional setup and maintenance starts to become more and more critical.

Typically, an untrained but enthusiastic staff member lacks experience with business systems. Picking up knowledge from home networking and hobby systems is a fantastic way to get involved in technology and learn IT, but business systems require different capabilities than home setups.

Guarantees that ensure the system remains active at critical moments and peak load are vital for many firms. Professional configuration is often the difference between unreliable and great IT.



The business environment is typically a poor place to learn about setting up systems for the first time. A managed service provider can configure systems to meet the current and future requirements of your company.

The added benefit of switching to a managed service provider is that your staff, experts in their field, are freed from battling IT problems to work on business projects.



You Have A Fixed IT Budget

Business owners regularly report a healthy fear of their own IT. It is often regarded as the single most likely department to spring unplanned and unexpected costs as a result of failures or downtime.

For many owners, paying for IT on a regular basis at a fixed price feels counter intuitive. Accustomed to paying out of pocket only when systems break, or new equipment is needed; IT can often be regarded as a necessary nuisance.

Managed service contracts aim to prevent IT problems occurring in your business before they even happen. This can be achieved by using diagnostic tools and notifications that alert problems within the system before they build up and result in failure.



By keeping aware of the status of systems throughout the company, managed services can prevent data loss and avoid downtime that would have otherwise been inevitable. This approach saves huge amounts in comparison to data recovery, systems repairs, or last-minute replacements.

Technology smart businesses prefer to pay a small monthly fee to take care of their IT around the clock. Regular fixed costs mean budgeting is made simple and reliability becomes a point of pride.

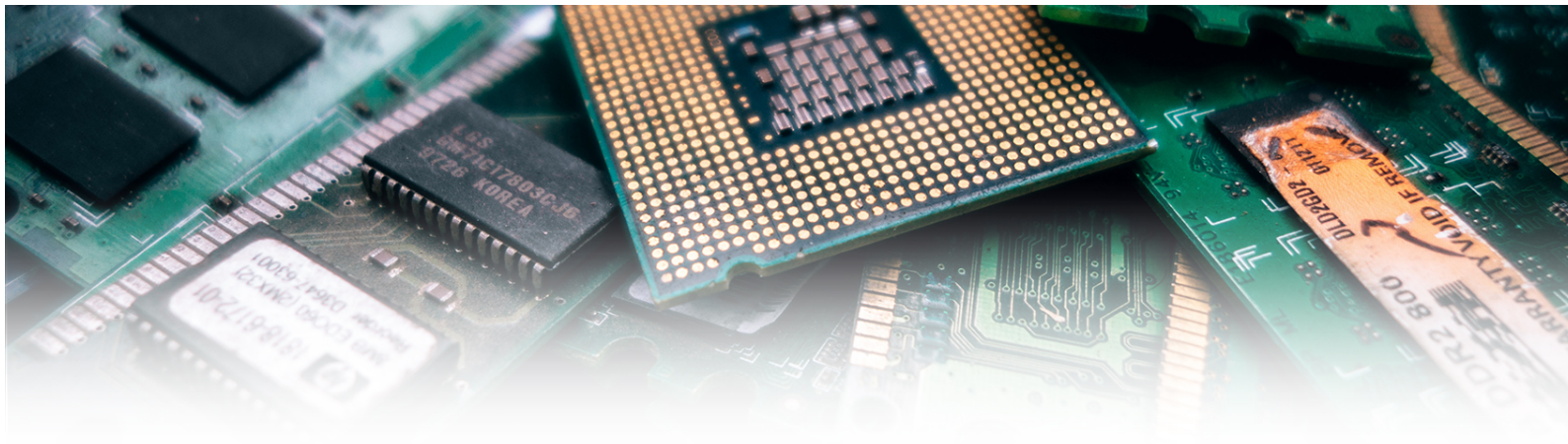


You Have Frequent Minor Technology Issues

It's surprisingly easy to get used to technology quirks and failures you learn to work around. Sometimes it's extra time required to log in, a strange procedure that makes the printer work, or a program that crashes when running on a certain computer.

Owners often put it down to the 'character' of the system and learn to deal with it daily. Visitors and new employees commonly get an unwelcome surprise when introduced for the first time.

These issues slow down your business and get in the way of essential tasks. The way we get used to them in our



day-to-day life means we begin not to notice that they're even there. Sometimes businesses even train their employees in the strange quirks of their business system.

These IT problems tend to build and build; they get more and more in the way of your business every single day. Like a runaway snowball, problems loom larger and larger until they reach a critical mass. Managed services work at all levels of your firm. From fixing the system when everything has gone down, to solving the tiny issues before they grow larger.

Whether speeding up a slow network, bringing a problem printer fully and permanently online, or getting every piece of software up and running; ironing out the annoying quirks brings your productivity back up to their intended level.



Managed Services For Your Firm

If any of these signs describe your firm; IT Managed services could be the solution you didn't know you were looking for. IT managed services provide peace of mind, easy budgets, and professionalism that enables your firm to flourish.

Simply put, taking the unpredictability, fear, and spiralling costs out of your company IT can let your business get back to doing what it does best.

Give us a call or schedule a free consultation today to talk about Managed Services.





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