MISSION POSSIBLE

MAXIMIZING IT OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

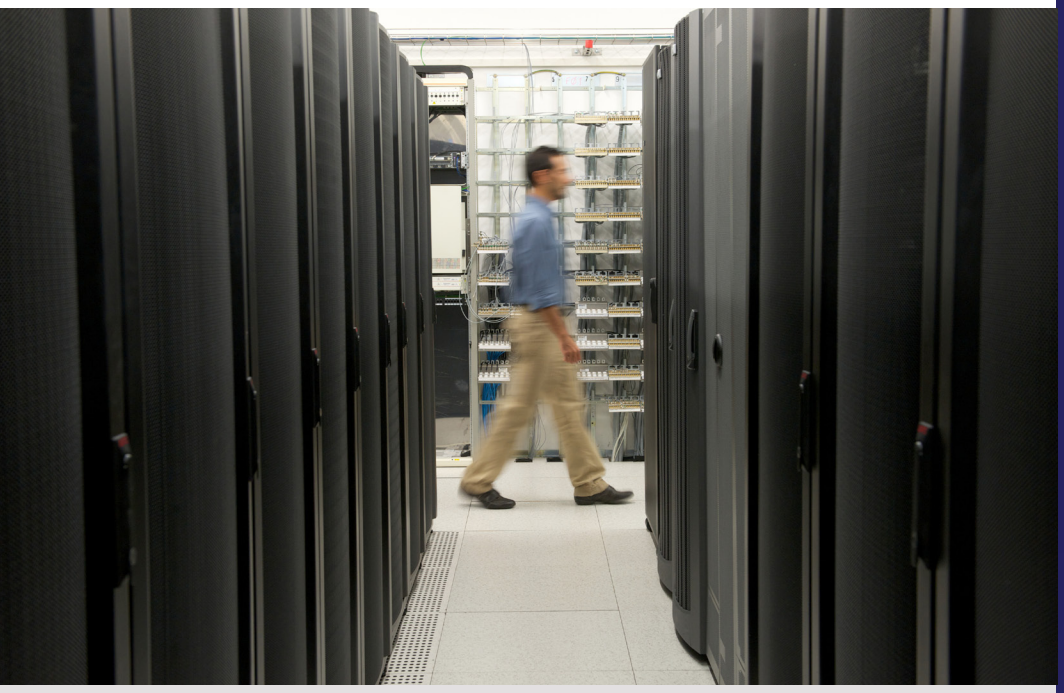
MAXIMIZING IT OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT POTENTIAL WHILE MINIMIZING COSTS

YOU CAN INCREASE YOUR CURRENT SERVER WORKLOAD BY 25%. HERE'S HOW TO DO IT.

Today's business environment has pulled company IT departments from being a back-end operation to a customer-facing one. IT is now expected to deliver services not only to its internal customers, but to the company's external ones as well. Thanks to the rapidly changing technological environment and the dynamics of the U.S. economy, there are many challenges that IT operations management faces today that did not exist even five or ten years ago. Companies therefore have a critical need to maximize their IT departments' efficiency while minimizing costs.

However, these daunting challenges also offer vast potential for innovation. By partnering with world-class consultants like those at International Integrated Solutions, Inc., companies get highly personalized, proactive and effective solutions for their individual IT challenges, maximizing their infrastructure's productivity and adaptablity. Not only will this lower operating costs, but it will also contribute to a greater overall return on IT investment.

COMPANIES GET HIGHLY PERSONALIZED, PROACTIVE AND EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS FOR THEIR INDIVIDUAL IT CHALLENGES...



APPLICATIONS DEVELOPMENT

The time it takes to design an app has become incredibly short. IT is often seen as a bottleneck that slows down the release of new functionality. The mismatch between the tools and metrics used by Applications Development and IT Operations Management can further complicate this process. It may seem a daunting challenge, but this need for more agility is also an opportunity to maximize potential.

The tools and processes used by Applications Development and IT Operations Management can be converged. There are many areas of commonality between the two, including tasks such as change management, impact analysis, and identification of dependencies and the hierarchical relationships implied. The difference lies in how both view these processes and use tools to monitor them. Instead of doing things the traditional way, key applications can be prioritized, service-level goals set, and key thresholds specified on a policy level. In this way, the process becomes further automated and more dynamic, saving IT time and resources by acting more as a monitor over the automated process, ensuring that no part of the infrastructure breaks down when the new apps are released.

More and more companies are seeing the benefits of this release management approach. One, the shared monitoring tools and processes enhances communication between Applications Development and IT, increasing efficiency several fold. It also paves the way for faster release times and better scalability when the company decides to increase the services they offer internally or externally via the cloud. Money spent on improvements in this regard will revolutionize a larger portion of the company so cost is kept low and justified.

MONEY SPENT ON IMPROVEMENTS IN THIS REGARD WILL REVOLUTIONIZE A LARGER PORTION OF THE COMPANY SO COST IS KEPT LOW AND JUSTIFIED.

INCREASED DATA CENTER LOAD

The increasing prevalence and accompanying challenges of big data is forcing many companies to consider retrofitting their current data centers, or even plan the construction of new sites with more floor space. IT Operations can actually change this from being an expensive project into a process where the company maintains its current service-level while ramping up data center capacity. By streamlining traditional technology into more standardized, adaptive systems, IIS helps its customers save money on expensive IT upgrades and get more out of their current equipment.

IIS HELPS ITS CUSTOMERS SAVE MONEY ON EXPENSIVE IT UPGRADES AND GET MORE OUT OF THEIR CURRENT EQUIPMENT.

Increasing the vertical density of current data center capacity into IT's maintenance cycles will push forward the need for building new data center from the ground up. One of several possible solutions is to create an efficiently cooled containment space where servers can be run at 20%, or even 25%, increased workload. This will free up space so that a number of server racks can be pulled offline once migration of their workload is transferred. The process may be long, but will ultimately benefit companies by extending the life of the data center by several years, at no drop in service level.

For data center setups where little modification is needed to allow the implementation of hot and cold containment or the use of outside air for cooling, the savings can be immediate. Every one degree Fahrenheit increase in data center temperature can result in a concurrent decrease of two percent in terms of energy consumption. Data centers with ambient temperatures of 70 F can be run at temperatures between 76 F and 78 F. Because the equipment is designed to handle temperatures around 90 F, this move will not affect functionality. This improvement can be instituted incrementally with careful planning. It then becomes part of the operations cost instead of being a capital expense.

EXTEND THE LIFE OF THE DATA CENTER BY SEVERAL YEARS, AT NO DROP IN SERVICE LEVEL.

TIME SAVED TRANSLATES INTO LOWER COSTS AND GREATER OVERALL RETURN ON INVESTMENT.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Traditionally, IT departments frowned upon the use of social media because it decreases productivity. Social media can actually be used in a practical manner to promote crowdsourcing among employees, allowing them to generate novel ideas or find solutions faster than they would by simply asking around or sending an email to IT. It can also be used to capture and enhance communication and repurpose informal collaboration between personnel. Of course, because people are involved, it is important that the end-users be educated in the responsibilities that go with using such tools.

A number of social media tools have been proven useful. These are wikis or knowledge repositories, chat or instant messaging, and text-based posts or blogs. If guidelines on security policies and workflow integration procedures are clearly defined early on, this tool will help the company manage both its internal and external reputation and promote innovation among employees. The decrease in time between identifying a problem and getting a solution for it will go a long way towards increasing IT operations management efficiency. This time saved translates into lower costs and greater overall return on investment.

THE CLOUD

THERE ARE MANY WAYS THAT IT CAN LEVERAGE THE CLOUD TO ENHANCE OPERATIONS.

There are many ways that IT can leverage the cloud to enhance operations. One, non-critical data can be moved into the cloud to increase in-house data center space that may be taken offline for retrofitting. This may be done either through the public cloud by tapping providers that sell server space, or through a private cloud setup by increasing the number of virtual machines per server to accommodate higher loads.

Another way the cloud may be used is the form of software as a service (SaaS). The potential savings makes this a very attractive option. And because the SaaS provider's own IT team manages their own software, there will be no need to train internal employees to do so, saving valuable time. Customers also get the opportunity to test out the software before they purchase. This ensures that what they get fits well with their infrastructure and provides the expected returns.

ENSURE THAT WHAT THEY GET FITS WELL WITH THEIR INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROVIDES THE EXPECTED RETURNS.

BECOMING MORE EFFICIENT AND BUDGET-FRIENDLY

Know where to go is one thing, but actually getting there is another. Goals for maximizing IT Operations Management potential may seem daunting, but the right partner can help companies create expert solutions with improved cost-effectiveness and reduced risk. IIS has been customizing effective and affordable IT solutions for companies since 1989. Their expertise and proactive approach makes them a leading service provider to help companies adapt to today's rigorous and ever-changing IT performance expectations. Their extensive experience in innovating real-world solutions helps companies and their IT departments maximize efficiency and service in a way that is tailored to their individual needs.

THE RIGHT PARTNER CAN HELP COMPANIES CREATE EXPERT SOLUTIONS