





HOW TO CHOOSE THE BEST CO-MANAGED IT PARTNER FOR YOUR BUSINESS

Cyberthreats are real and growing with no signs of slowing down anytime soon. Are your company's resources and technologies adequate to protect you against these threats?

If you're not sure how to protect your business while managing the technology that keeps your daily operations running and thriving, it might be time to think about outsourcing some — or all — of your technology needs to an IT service provider.

What is co-managed IT?

Sometimes your internal IT department needs extra support. You can amplify their efforts by hiring an IT service provider to fill in the gaps so they can focus on the most important projects without worrying about missing a critical patch or incident alert. The question is, how do you find the right IT service partner to provide co-managed IT for your business? Keep reading to find out.

Examine your current technology infrastructure

Using a technologyassessment, you can betterunderstand your IT infrastructure and how it can be improved to provide greater security, streamline workflows and reduce costs.

STRENGTHS

Examining yourcurrentIT's capability to manage key functional areas, including data storage, cloud services, network infrastructure,disaster recovery, business continuity, cybersecurity andriskassessment, is the best method to gauge its genuinestrength.

WEAKNESSES

Onceyou know yourstrengths, you can pinpoint weaknesses withinyour infrastructure and internal IT department. Weaknesses can beanything, such as outdated technology, subparsecurity, notenough internal support, compliance failure, etc.

GAPS

By identifying thegaps within your IT infrastructure, you can betterrecognizethe needs of your business, spot current vulnerabilities andset crucial objectives.

LIMITATIONS

To be able to recover from limitations in your current technology, you must recognize the core business issue, the technical constraints and your long-term objectives. If security issues occur frequently and are persistent, then it's time to get assistance from IT professionals.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

Determine which technological requirements are most crucial to the success of your next project and whether your current IT staff can handle them.

FUTURE NEEDS

Your technology must scale as your company grows, integrating more systems, accommodating more access points and storing more data. Is your current technology scalable enough to meet these needs?



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Key factors to consider when choosing an IT service provider

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Noteveryserviceprovidercanmeetyourbusiness needs. Hereare a few things to check before partnering with an IT service provider:

- [ ] **WHAT SERVICES DO THEY OFFER?**
  Understanding what kind of support and services a potential service provider offers is importantbefore investing your time and money. Check whatplatforms, data storage and applications they offer andwhether they are compatible with your business modeland existing needs.

- [ ] **WHAT'S THEIR EXPERIENCE?**
  Make sure your IT partner has sound knowledge of the industry and a proven track record. Aprovider who is familiar with your industry is morelikely to foresee demands, raise relevant concerns andoffer the best solutions.

- [ ] **CAN THEY HELP YOU SCALE AS NEEDED?**
  The wonderful part of cloud technology and other IT solutions is that they can be tailored to fit your unique business needs. Look for an IT service provider who is willing to customize their services and solutions to optimize your technology most effectively.

- [ ] **CAN THEY MEET YOUR BUDGET?**
  It's important to choose a provider that offers predictable pricing and solutions. Pick a partner that offers a custom package of services for a monthly fee you can count on to avoid any surprises that may compromise your budget.

- [ ] **IS THEIR PLATFORM/SOFTWARE COMPATIBLE WITH YOUR EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE?**
  It's more cost-effective to integrate with your existing systems rather than replacing them with new ones. Make sure you evaluate software compatibility before you onboard any IT partner.

- [ ] **REFERENCES**
  Before signing any contracts, ask for references from past clients to get a good idea of what you can expect when partnering with the IT service provider you've chosen.

Contact us today to find out if we're the right partner to meet your IT needs!

