STRATEGIC PLANNING QUESTIONS | IT / Technology

1. What kind of relationships is the company likely to enter with third party partners and technology vendors? (system integration & information security planning)

2. What "geography" are we likely to expand to and when? (capacity, disaster recovery, and info security planning)

3. How can IT improve the decision-making process in the company? (business analytics & enterprise architecture planning)

4. What areas of internal operations we are going to automate? (enterprise architecture & capacity planning)

5. What is our cloud/cloud migration plan?

6. What kinds of new products and services will/could we offer customers?

7. What supplementary products and/or services are we going to add to our value proposition?

8. How will existing products and services evolve?

9. What is required from IT to support Compliance and Risk Management (including disaster recovery, business continuity, and business resiliency)?

10. Do we have data governance in place?

11. How are we managing our data storage?

12. What will the Sales team require in terms of IT support? (CRM integration, live demos, specific products for trade shows, etc.)

13. What level of IT support does the Marketing department expect? (marketing automation/campaigns, business intelligence, training)

14. Do we want to create or upgrade a customer portal, intranet and/or resource website?

15. What are our security protocols for remote workers?

16. Are we going to have best business practices developed per each business model/division? If "yes," then should they be enforced by a correspondent IT solution? (For enterprise architecture and application development planning)

17. Do we need a mobile app?

18. How are mergers and acquisitions handled from an IT environment standpoint?

19. Is our documentation current?

20. How can IT support our partners and vendors?

21. What relative budgetary constraints IT can expect?

22. Which areas of IT are of a concern from growth point of view?

23. What support does IT need to provide for third-party and cross-vendor applications, including problem diagnostic and change management?

24. How do we handle complex events processing?

25. Do we have adequate database monitoring in place?

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EIGHT STRATEGIC PLANNING STEPS

Whatever the focus area of your strategy, take the following steps for your planning process.

STEP FIVE
Determine who is accountable for achieving results.

STEP FOUR
Identify resources (skills, people, financial investment) needed to achieve deliverables.

STEP SIX
Implement the plan.

STEP THREE
Prioritize objectives and decide on specific deliverables.

STEP SEVEN
Monitor progress and update the plan.

STEP TWO
Articulate the vision/desired outcome and/or targets.

STEP EIGHT
Refine the plan as new information presents.

STEP ONE
Define where you are/current circumstances.

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