Ernst Enterprises Newsletter

CALL TODAY:
To schedule your complimentary business review
847-438-8977

EE Ernst Enterprises, LLC

Is an IT Strategic Plan part of your Business Plan?
It should be,
or your entire plan could be in big trouble.

We all work on what we know and we tend to ignore and undervalue that which we know less about. Consider your business. Most owners are not IT experts and depend on their IT employee(s) to prepare the company's systems for the future. But are your IT employees up to the challenge? Do they have the needed depth of experience and knowledge about systems strategy, scalability, security, production and inventory control, accounting, customer relationship management, sales management, web commerce, etc?

Are your systems integrated? Do they communicate effortlessly? Is your data secured and can you track who accesses your systems? When your businesses grow, can your systems accommodate that growth? Or do small changes cause your systems to slow down, crash, and require a lot of attention.

The architecture that underpins your IT systems needs to be robust enough to support the growth of your business. Consider this metaphor: You build a foundation and infrastructure for a three-story office building. Adding three extra floors making it a six-story building will produce all sorts of problems ranging from inadequate water pressure on the top floors to short circuits due to insufficient power. The same is true with your IT systems. If your systems were designed for 50 users and 500 Gigs of data, and you now have 200 users and more than a terabyte of data, things break.

Don't blame the equipment...it functions as it was designed to. The problem is the limitations of your IT staff and their knowledge of more complex systems. Going back to my building analogy, a builder who builds only one or two-story office buildings can't have the expertise and experience of an

architect or engineer who designs and builds ten-story and larger office buildings. All of the systems are more complex and more dependent on each other to function well.

Your IT staff may have been well equipped to manage your IT systems when your business was newer and less complex; unfortunately the business growth may have outstripped their expertise. Their knowledge of more complex networks, shared data bases, large integrated packages, and buy-versus-build decisions may be limited. With no or limited prior experience at this larger, more complex scale, new tasks or corrective actions may be viewed too narrowly, resulting in fixes that don't seem to last or work well.

TELLTALE SIGNS

Are you experiencing increased downtime, lost information, system "crashes," delays, slow retrieval of data, limited ability to use new software, etc.? Then you may have infrastructure or system integration issues. Your IT staff member(s) have "grown-up" in your business and have typically been responsible for computer set-up, help desk support, installing new hardware and software, and haven't worked in larger companies on more complex systems.

YOUR I.T. ORGANIZATION HAS VERY SERIOUS RESPONSIBILITIES.
ARE THEY UP TO THE CHALLENGE?

Call Rich today at 224/578-9924 to discuss your systems and to schedule a complete assessment of your computer systems: a review of your current IT environment, future growth plans, increased systems demands, and more. He can also do a confidential assessment of your IT staff.

Rich Kern is our IT Practice Leader. He brings more than 25 years of IT leadership and expertise to helping clients assess the effectiveness of their IT Operation and staff. Rich can cut through the confusion of and translate IT into your business advantage.

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- How secure are your systems? Take our systems security quiz to learn more.
- To read more, see Newsletters.   To see upcoming webinars that can be customized for your group or business see webinars.
- Follow us on our new blog, Be a Better Manager.
- What keeps entrepreneurs up at night? Take our newest SURVEY and see how you compare.

Sincerely,

Mark

Mark Ernst

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