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Align Workforce & Technology Strategies

Recent surveys show that many employees now spend about a third of their time on average working remotely. In fact, many economists now consider remote work an embedded aspect of the nation's labor market. Analysis confirms that many workers value hybrid work – splitting time, for example, between company facilities and home offices – as much as receiving regular raises.

How can leaders of small- to medium-sized businesses (SMBs) respond to this trend? We recommend using the leverage of **cloud computing** for these benefits:

- Ensuring reliable **remote access**
- Boosting **flexibility and scalability**
- Converting capital expenses to operational expenses – i.e., **pay-as-you-go**
- **Reducing costs** of purchasing, managing and replacing hardware
- Delivering **cross-platform support**

We can help you transform IT operations via the cloud by aligning your workforce strategy with your technology strategy. Here's how:

1. Perform a Cloud Readiness **Assessment** to determine bandwidth, reliability and security
2. **Audit** connectivity to ensure system and network accessibility
3. **Review** company policies for cybersecurity and cloud compliance
4. **Recommend** a hybrid, private and/or public cloud for best fit
5. **Support** your cloud implementation and migration processes with continuing services

We understand that business is about people, and technology is the engine that drives it. Call us to assess and identify ways to raise your operational performance.

Viewpoint

5 Reasons SMBs Invest in AI Applications

Past research already has confirmed that most small- to medium-sized businesses (SMBs) have adopted some level of artificial intelligence (AI) in their organizations.

Where? Here's a by-no-means exhaustive list of applications:

- In the executive suite as decision support
- In the finance for in-depth analysis
- In HR for screening talent
- In customer service for handling routine inquiries
- In operations for refining processes and/or controlling production quality

And of course, in IT services for detecting and deflecting cybersecurity threats.

Now, recent research indicates many SMBs plan to increase their AI investments this year and escalate in the future. Why? Here are five reasons:

1. AI can serve as an engine of digital transformation (DX)
2. AI can accelerate innovation
3. AI can sharpen competitive performance
4. AI can boost IT efficiency by optimizing tedious tasks
5. AI can boost human productivity by reducing labor

Again, by no means a complete listing of potential benefits. But this exercise certainly poses two important questions:

- A. Are your competitors reaping these rewards faster than you?
- B. And if so, how can you catch up?

Call us for a consultation.

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IT Strategy

8 Steps for Putting AI to Work for You

Research confirms that two years ago, about a third of small- to medium-sized businesses (SMBs) had engaged AI-enabled technology solutions. Last year, that number more than doubled. This year analysts predict SMBs will at least match that pace of performance.

Why? Because, as we argue in our white paper, *AI for Every Business – A Quick Business Guide*:

“Organizations that fail to embrace the innovation or delay plans for implementing these solutions could find themselves at a significant competitive disadvantage.”

How can SMB leaders avoid this problem? We advocate these steps for maximizing the positive impact of AI:

1. **Chart Challenges:** Pinpoint opportunities for measurable gains in efficiency, productivity or user experience.
2. **Scrutinize Data:** Evaluate accessibility, depth, clarity and relevance.
3. **Clarify Goals:** Write exacting implementation objectives: Where will you arrive? And when?
4. **Explore Tools & Platforms:** Research by dimensions of budget, timelines and user-friendly options.
5. **Experiment & Test:** Investigate solutions at small scale before full-scale implementation to estimate effectiveness and anticipate complications.
6. **Educate Persistently:** Train employees – and customers where applicable – how to interact with AI most successfully.
7. **Articulate Governance:** Develop guidelines for proper usage, ensuring privacy, fairness and transparency.
8. **Assess Security:** Evaluate risks and implement appropriate safeguards before going live.