



Professional IT Services for Businesses of All Shapes and Sizes

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In today's digitally driven existence, essentially every business—irrespective of industry or size—has substantial information technology requirements to fulfill. It's the technical aspect of IT that makes it such a problematic endeavor for so many businesses: the role it plays is critical, but creating an adequate structure, maintaining and, when necessary, upgrading it is beyond the capacity of many companies to undertake themselves. Performing the critical role of what is often described as “professional services” in the IT realm is where a managed service provider has helped so many businesses.

What Are Professional Services?

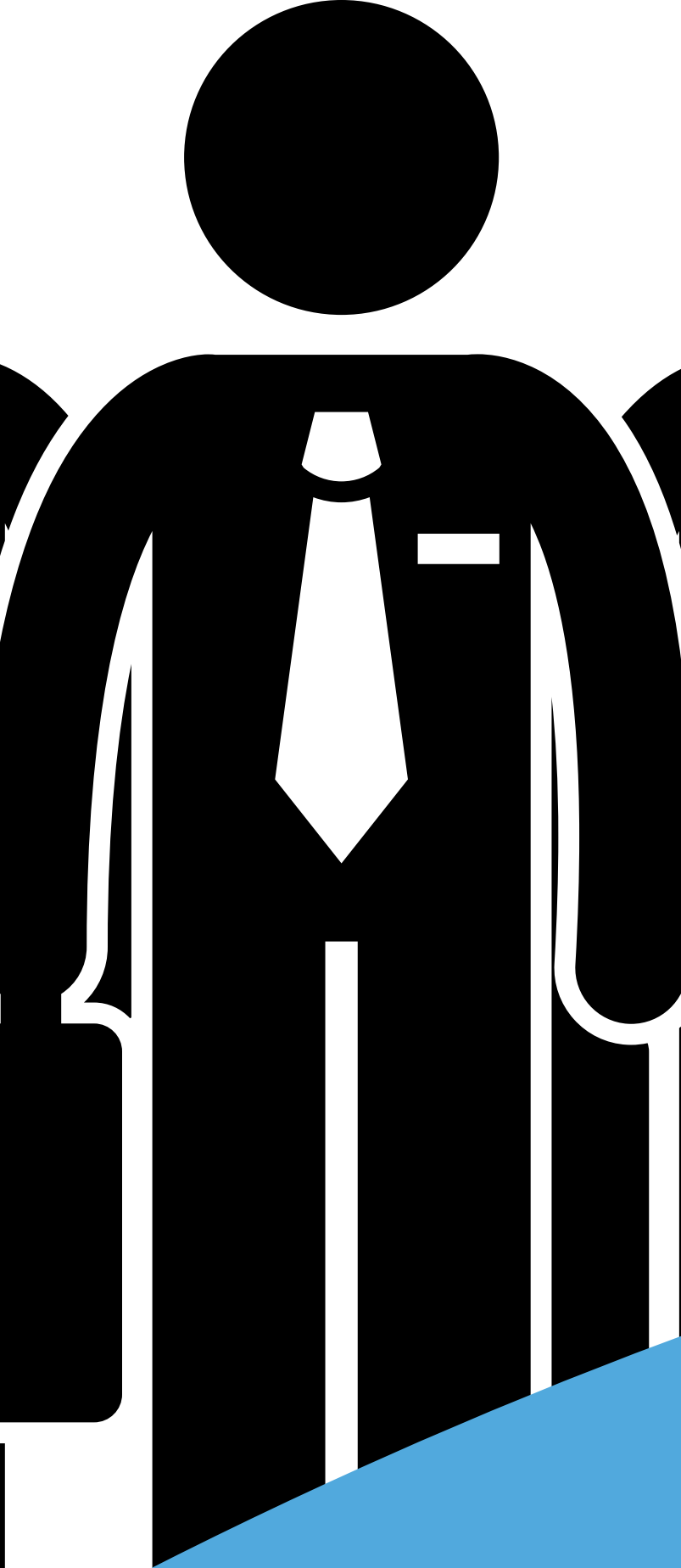
While there is no hard and fast definition, in the IT world, professional services typically cover such tasks as structured cabling, customized network design and the upgrading of network infrastructure. A unified way of thinking about the concept is as soup to nuts communications and data networking, including hardware processing capability and components as well as software solutions.

Customized Network Design

Most businesses and organizations—small, medium and large—rely upon some form of networking to manage their data and communications. A customized assessment of the ongoing needs of a company in these areas provides benefits in a number of ways:

- Productivity benefits: a network, customized for the end user, will provide all the features and functions necessary for any business to work in the most advantageous manner regarding communications and data management.

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- Cost benefits: While delivering on productivity, a well-designed customized network will provide all of the substantive and administrative capabilities as an organization needs at the optimal cost. There is no need to pay the considerable expenses for excess capacity when the network design is optimized for the end user.

Cabling and Components; Hardware and Software

Of course, the design of the network must be implemented and, in many cases, appropriately interfaced with outside networks and grids and internal infrastructure. The actual physical implementation process of network hardware—hard-wired and wireless systems, including components from routers to modems to network servers—is critical to a smooth-flowing, low maintenance network. Of course, software—both to monitor and maintain the network as well as interfacing with and taking advantage of it—is crucial as well. An experienced managed service

provider knows what components and software packages to select, as well as how best to optimize those choices, to provide for the best network experience for each business.

Network Upgrading

Data and communications networks are dynamic entities and so are the organizations they serve. As time goes by, the network that was installed will likely cease to be optimal for a changing, growing business. A network that was well-designed in the first place will be far better suited to seamless, necessary upgrades down the road. A managed service provider will be able to implement additional network capacity, software updates and other adjustments to maximize network efficiency in the least expensive, least disruptive manner.

The End Game

While essentially all companies rely on network solutions, many are either unable to carry out the necessary design, implementation and ongoing maintenance tasks themselves, either

technically or for reasons of cost efficiency. By contacting an experienced managed service provider, businesses will find that technical and economic proficiency with professional services are readily available.

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