Solution Building

I. Introduction

In this module, we will learn how to link business strategy and information technology, and how to coordinate the two to find solutions that will help a business optimize its strategy.

The first thing you must learn to do (and, therefore, the first thing we will discuss) is to develop an IT systems plan, which is a blueprint for the future. Then you will learn about business processes, which must be as efficient as possible before you can begin to build solutions. You must understand what the term IT infrastructure means, because that is where all of a business's technical assets come together to provide the framework for future business applications and technology purchases. In other words, when we look at solutions, we must understand the infrastructure, because that is where most IT dollars are spent. In addition, the coordination of different elements of the infrastructure is an important consideration when calculating the total costs of solutions.

With that in mind, we will begin this module by discussing an information technology plan. We will see that this is the key starting point for the efficient use of IT resources and the basis for budgets, project definition, and plans for the use of corporate assets. It is where business strategy and IT strategy are coordinated.

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Return to top of page