Top Five Benefits of Using an IT Managed Services Provider

Introduction
To remain competitive, businesses must maximize current technologies. They must do this cost-effectively and with little direct information technology (IT) experience. Maintaining a dedicated, full-time IT department is simply too expensive, time consuming and inefficient for some businesses. The answer to this predicament is solved by using an IT Managed Services Provider. These providers offer on-demand talent, depth of experience, deep resources and huge economies-of-scale benefits that allow businesses to receive both peace of mind and affordable enterprise-class IT service.

1 **Gain Time to Focus on Core Business Functions** People are generally happiest doing what they do best and they get frustrated by distracting tasks that have nothing to do with their essential job functions. Doctors, lawyers, accountants, architects, engineers, marketers, executives, office managers and most everyone else are at their best when they focus on their core competencies. The time and effort spent on figuring out information technology has a very real opportunity cost. Researching solutions, implementing new technology and fixing IT-related problems are extremely inefficient for non-IT professionals. By using an IT managed services provider, internal staff are free to spend time focusing on revenue generating opportunities and the business of the business.

2 **Reduce Cost and Control Operating Expenses** Predictable IT costs. The business value of a IT managed services provider goes well beyond the cost reduction of their efficiencies and results in very hard-dollar savings. In almost all cases, small businesses will spend 25% to 50% less than the cost of even one mid-level IT professional. Additional cost savings are realized since recruiting, training, vacation, sick days, turnover and other management issues are all taken out of the equation. When utilizing an IT managed services provider, costs are budgeted, planned and controlled.

3 **Improve Your Productivity** Technology improves productivity by enabling communication, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing that allows employees to innovate. These capabilities are delivered through a multitude of technologies including file servers, central databases, broadband connectivity, mobile platforms, email communications, and many others. However, true productivity and business benefits can only be realized when this complex technology is properly planned, implemented and maintained. The best practices and comprehensive experiences around planning, implementing and maintaining such systems allow IT managed services provider to successfully deliver these productivity improvements.

4 **Reduce Downtime** Even a few minutes of system downtime carry enormous business costs. Maximizing uptime must be a high priority. Businesses can no longer afford issues with internet connectivity, email communications, corrupt data or systems failure the cost of reacting to these events is just too high. IT managed services provider offers planned, measured approaches to pro-active systems maintenance, security, backup and disaster recovery. When providers couple this with remote system monitoring and 24/7 response capabilities, they reduce and often totally eliminate costly downtime.

5 **Access Highly Specialized Talent** The complicated nature and rapid change in fields such as legal, accounting and information technology are best left to the experts if only due to the sheer amount of effort required to gain even baseline knowledge. The resources of IT managed services provider allows businesses to draw upon specialized expertise that would otherwise be too expensive to develop and maintain in-house. Businesses cannot cost-effectively achieve the human scale and flexibility necessary to properly support their technology environments. Even a very experienced and dedicated IT employee has limits to their skills and limited avenues for help with issues beyond their grasp. IT managed services provider offers access to teams of IT specialists that deliver the cross-sectional IT knowledge needed to provide both on-going and critical support for business networks.