

TOP TIPS

Five Strategies to Help You Run and Transform at the Same Time

Accelerating changes in the digital economy are forcing organizations to transform their business models in order to compete. Traditional financial institutions must become interactive Fin-techs, able to process major transactions such as loans in seconds. Transportation companies are switching to Gig labor forces. Telemedicine delivers medical care virtually, eliminating what had previously been physical barriers. Remote workers are changing enterprise boundaries.

A major question is how best to embrace these changes to support future aspiration without risking today's vital business- as-usual operations. Big-bang transformational changes are too disruptive, and businesses must be able to seamlessly pivot from their existing operations to new ways of working to support future innovation. A “run and transform” approach uses advanced planning and selective transitions, making for smarter transformations than traditional “no turning back” cutovers. Pragmatic, incremental changes present fewer roadblocks than large, wholesale upgrades.

The following five strategies, each of them targeting specific functional use cases, will help you streamline your transition to on-the-go business transformation, while leveraging technological innovations as they hit the market.

1) Accelerate application delivery



The challenge:

Delivering valuable applications to clients must happen at a pace that is set by the customer, not the developers. Meeting the need for rapid delivery of value has never been felt more keenly by application delivery leaders.

The solution:

Agile and DevOps practices, combined with Value Stream processes, accelerate application delivery, and can help streamline existing application delivery operations. Combined, these can create greater digital value—from strategy through release—as they leverage AI and machine learning to deliver transformational, high-quality applications at scale.

Technology trends:

Agile and DevOps-based delivery. The first key to on-the-fly transformation is to scale Agile development across the organization. While by no means a new idea, gaps still prevail in agile adoption in many organizations—which provides foundational elements to support frequent, useful application delivery. DevOps further expands agile to employ constant testing and secure deployments, aimed at detecting security and reliability problems before they enter production.

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Value Streams. The next level of transformation is Value Stream Management. Value Streams are a visual graph of the components necessary to deliver a product or service, with the goal of analyzing and optimizing the entire product manufacturing cycle. Information flows connect the Value Stream graph elements, forcing answers to such questions as what data needs to be communicated to each supplier, where quality assurance measurements should be inserted, and what effect will adding additional production capacity have on customer completion. Value stream management makes your software factory more intelligent and efficient.

2) Modernize core applications



The challenge:

Core applications are often the lifeblood of the organization. They handle key operational functions the business would not survive without. Yet all too frequently the applications themselves have, through funding decisions over time, failed to keep pace with contemporary needs, resulting in missing functionality, skills challenges, and other operational risks. The time is now to consider the next chapter for these most precious organizational commodities.

The solution:

Don't discard hard-won and still-useful business logic. Instead, evolve, and innovate based on what you have in order to continue delivering value as your business needs change this year and into the future. You'll preserve your investment in critical business systems while meeting operational and competitive pressures, which ultimately reduces risk and cost.

Technology trends:

Rapid application delivery. As previously mentioned, adopting

agility aims to make IT a more efficient engine for the business, as the demand for faster delivery of critical services gains more momentum. Finding ways to reenergize ways of assessing, updating and delivering more traditional business applications is a foundational element of offering enterprise scale agility and delivery velocity.

Deployment flexibility. The ubiquity of cloud is a great opportunity for IT to review budget and technology choices. In reality, much of the data center works in ways that were designed some time ago, and while some of that remains business critical, and fit for purpose, that is not always the case. Being able to leverage critical applications in new ways by using cloud and container technology is proving a smart way to deliver additional value to customers at a fraction of the cost of building from scratch.

3) Simplify IT transformation



The challenge:

Originally, many IT teams were often structured to support employees—not to operate revenue-generating services. Now, the complexity of IT operations—with separate toolchains for cloud and on-premises environments, and inflexible and unpredictable costs—make it difficult for organizations to keep up with evolving customer needs.

The solution:

Reduce the complexity of running a mix of traditional and multi-cloud services through a Digital Factory approach that aligns IT operations with business and development resources to support the highest quality digital products. With a unified platform for Digital Factories, you can integrate or replace incompatible tools

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collected over decades—freeing up resources and accelerating transformation.

Technology trends:

Hyperscale cloud management. The growth of cloud is explosive and complex, and IT operations management tools must be able to keep up with the scale and pace of change. A transparent approach to cloud governance, discovery, and management can keep developers from harming their code and your business, while maintaining full observability to respond efficiently and rapidly when unplanned outages occur.

Hyperautomation. Hyperautomation is the approach to rapidly identify, assess, and automate as many business and IT processes as possible. It requires an integrated approach to Artificial Intelligence for IT Operations (AIOps) and IT Service Management (ESM) to unify and simplify IT operations. Hyperautomation elevates IT Operations to a business partnership by improving IT service quality and providing faster self-service fulfillment of business user requests.

4) Strengthen cyber resilience



The challenge:

In today's rapidly changing world, organizations' attack surfaces have exponentially increased. It's impossible to predict the next cyberattack, which puts business continuity at risk.

The solution:

Today's CISO must evolve the concept of IT security to also include cyber resilience—continuing operations despite ongoing intrusions. They need a comprehensive, ultra-responsive process that can meet new threats through analytics that monitor hybrid

environments.

Technology trends:

Hybrid cloud security. Hybrid security requires orchestrating controls across cloud providers and on-premises components. It also requires advanced instrumentation in the form of Security Information and Event Management (SIEM), to both detect and quantify security intrusion events. If detected quickly enough, an intrusion can be isolated so that most IT infrastructure continues to operate normally.

Business accelerator. Traditionally, CISOs and cybersecurity teams are considered cost centers. They are, however, business accelerators, and thus revenue generators. The money they save in rapidly detecting, and then avoiding data breaches, DoS attacks, and other security incidents adds to the bottom line and protects brand reputations. Modern CISOs can change the “drag” perception of cybersecurity by building security into all business processes to enable faster responses to customer need and discovery of new data-driven opportunities. Done correctly, it also gives business leaders the knowledge they need to assess risk, and the tools they need to mitigate it.

5) Analyze data in time to act



The challenge:

In order to make strategic business decisions, organizations need to base those decisions on data. But with each day, organizations are generating more and more data in more and more places—which makes it difficult to collect and analyze all that data.

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The solution:

Bring analytics to where your data resides, so you can run those analytics more efficiently. As you transform your organization to grow, these analytics ensure that you can support more users and greater data volumes.

Technology trends:

Machine Learning. The two nascent technologies in this realm are in-database Machine Learning (ML) and the Data Lakehouse. The earliest data scientists worked with data extracts far removed from the real-time, real-world database processing stream. This resulted in stale, often wrong, predictive analytics. In-database ML moves learning algorithms inside living, breathing databases, generating code automatically as table functions, like stored procedures. Every new record or update invokes these functions, down sampling the data to produce new, or refine existing, analytical predictions.

Data Lakehouse. A Data Lakehouse is the convergence of the legacy data lake—a pool of raw, unformatted data—and data warehouse’s structured, filtered repository paradigms. It has the rapid scalability of a data lake, while retaining the Extract-Transform-Load (ETL) determinism of a data warehouse. The Lakehouse also sports ACID transactional compliance, and API hooks for positive security controls required by governance controls. Other benefits include reduced data movement and redundancy, easier administration, and simplified schema and data governance.

Getting There

Any successful strategy will require a combination of skilled staff, renewed operational procedure, and supporting technology. Some of the requisite skills may exist in-house already, while others, such as hyperautomation and cybersecurity, may require deeper experience that generally takes years to accumulate. Technology specialists will typically offer training, professional services, and consultants that can often bridge any short-term skills gap.

By accelerating application delivery, modernizing critical business systems, simplifying IT transformation, strengthening cyber resilience, and analyzing proactively, you’ll enhance your enterprise competitiveness in the short run and viability in the long run.

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