

Optimizing IT Cost: The CIO's Handbook

'It is time for IT leaders to apply practical creativity to activities that are not delivering as much value as they should.'

Throughout the business cycle, the rationale for IT investment tends towards extremes. In booms, IT is asked to support growth and accelerate performance with little regard for cost; in busts, IT becomes an engine of cost savings and a focus for cost-cutting exercises.

Over the past year, the pressure to provide increased value at reduced cost has prompted new techniques and approaches for improving IT and business operations. Many of these ideas revisit or expand on trends and activities that are already part of the enterprise IT landscape but are not working as expected or delivering as much value as they could be.

TCS' experts have compiled pragmatic suggestions to increase returns from activities like SOA, cloud computing, and virtualization and to address the enduring problems of IT, such as multi-vendor program management and organizational change management, which have become more acute in the current environment of scarcity.

In the second issue of Perspectives, TCS' consulting journal, you will find insights around three major areas of change:

1. **Aligning IT and its Costs:** The service catalog approach helps you develop a more accurate view of how IT is providing business value to specific activities. This knowledge will provide your organization with a foundation for charging for IT services based on business value, thus supporting alignment and establishing clear priorities for IT portfolio strategy.
2. **Getting More from Operations:** The time has come to move beyond the "quick fix" to more long-term changes that will truly improve the operational efficiency of your IT operations. That means re-examining some existing efforts, like SOA, to refocus them for better outcomes and carefully designing and implementing multi-vendor program management and change management techniques.
3. **New Frontiers:** As more organizations look at the future of virtualization and cloud computing, there remains significant unrealized potential in these new tools. At the same time, some other recent technologies, such as XBRL, may also hide great value for improving risk management.

For more practical advice on optimizing IT cost, download the second volume of Perspectives [▶](#)

Transforming Science Education for Nature Publishing Group

A few years ago, Nature Publishing Group decided to launch a new division - Nature Education - devoted specifically to publishing science education materials. Together with TCS, the firm began to shape Scitable, a collaborative online learning space that provides high quality digital content, creates collaboration among the users of that content, and provides a structure to govern the learning process.

In this video, Vikram Savkar, Senior Vice President & Publishing Director of Nature Education, explains how TCS is 'ahead of the curve helping him be ahead of the curve'.



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