



PREPARING YOUR IT FOR A RECESSION

During economic recessions, small businesses are often hit the hardest. Here are some ways you can optimize your IT to reduce costs and be ready for whatever happens next.

ASSESS YOUR TOOLING SPEND

Evaluate what deserves your money prior to recession to ensure the least amount of loss. Ensure you are familiar with the current work applications you are paying for. There are many hidden features that you may not be fully utilizing. Here are some ways that you can assess your IT tooling spend:



Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of your current IT tools to determine which ones are worth keeping and which ones can be discontinued.



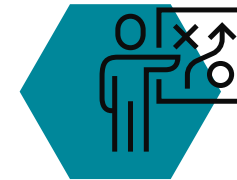
Look for open-source alternatives that offer similar functionality at a lower cost.



Reduce the number of redundant IT tools and consolidate where possible.



Negotiate better pricing or package deals with your IT service providers.



Regularly review and re-evaluate your IT budget to ensure that you are getting the best value for your money.

REVIEW AND OPTIMIZE IT INFRASTRUCTURE

Haven't had your IT audited in awhile? Reviewing and optimizing IT infrastructure can help prepare for a recession by streamlining processes and reducing redundant systems. Companies can reduce their overall IT spending and allocate resources more effectively. This can increase efficiency and reduce the risk of IT failures, which can be particularly costly during a recession. Here are 4 ways you can review your infrastructure:



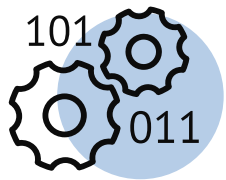
MOVING TO CLOUD-BASED SERVICES

Moving to cloud-based storage not only allows for better collaboration, but moving to cloud-based storage can help businesses increase efficiency, improve data security, and reduce costs, making it a smart choice for many organizations.



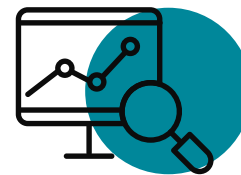
USE OPEN-SOURCE SOFTWARE

Open-source software is widely used in servers, desktops, and mobile devices, and is known for its stability, security, and flexibility. These software's can also be freely used, modified, and distributed.



IMPROVING DATA MANAGEMENT

By investing in data management, businesses can improve the quality of their data, make better decisions, and achieve greater success. It offers many benefits such as cost-savings, better decision making, & more.



CONDUCTING NETWORK ASSESSMENTS

Conducting network assessments is an important part of maintaining a secure and efficient IT infrastructure and can provide numerous benefits such as improved security, increased efficiency, cost savings, compliance, & peace of mind.

INVEST IN THE CLOUD

Cloud computing allows your business greater flexibility, take advantage of opportunities, and reduce losses by scaling up and down as needed. On-premises IT infrastructure can be expensive to maintain and doesn't offer the same flexibility that the cloud offers. Some common data businesses store in the cloud:

- ✓ Email & Communication
- ✓ Enterprise Resource Planning
- ✓ Backup & Disaster Recovery
- ✓ Customer Relation Management
- ✓ Productivity & Collaboration Tools
- ✓ Website Hosting

Using the cloud can **save a business money** in several ways:



Lower Upfront Costs

Cloud computing eliminates the need for businesses to invest in expensive hardware and infrastructure. This reduces upfront costs and eliminates the need for ongoing maintenance and upgrades.

Pay-As-You-Go Model

With the cloud, businesses only pay for the services and resources they use. This helps to reduce costs and improve cost predictability.



Increased Efficiency

The cloud allows businesses to automate and streamline processes, reducing the need for manual labor and improving efficiency. This can help to lower operational costs.

Scalability

The cloud is highly scalable, which means businesses can easily increase or decrease their usage of resources as needed.



Reduced IT Costs

By moving to the cloud, businesses can reduce their IT costs by eliminating the need for an in-house IT team.

IMPROVE CYBERSECURITY

Security isn't often the first thing on people's mind when they think of a recession, but it should be. Cybercriminals love to attack businesses that are under increased financial pressure because they cannot afford downtime or the possibility of losing their data.

What you should **already** have:



MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION (MFA)

Best way to prevent unauthorized access



MANAGED DETECTION & RESPONSE (MDR)

Protect your devices with next-gen anti-virus and 24/7 threat monitoring



IMMUTABLE DATA BACKUPS

Backups that can't be altered, or that are stored on a separate network



SECURITY AWARENESS TRAINING & TESTING

Educate your team on proper security practices and test adoption



EMAIL FILTERING

Stop malicious/fraudulent emails from reaching your team

What you should be **looking** at:



SECURITY INFORMATION AND EVENT MANAGEMENT (SIEM)

Gives your security team visibility across your IT environment



SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER (SOC)

Around-the-clock team of security analysts monitoring for threats and ready to respond



EXTERNAL VULNERABILITY MANAGEMENT

Identify weaknesses in your internet-facing services and remediate them



WEB FILTERING

Stop your team from accessing high-risk websites and known malware sources

IMPLEMENT A DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN

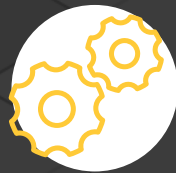
Disaster Recovery & Business Continuity are a key component of cybersecurity and your overall business resilience. When the unexpected occurs, you need to be able to resume operations as soon as possible. If you're already under financial pressure, you cannot afford to be unprepared. Here's 4 steps to building a Disaster Recovery plan:

1 IDENTIFY BUSINESS CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY AND SYSTEMS



Identify the technology and systems that are critical to the success of your business and ensure that they are protected and maintained effectively.

2 ESTABLISH RECOVERY POINT OBJECTIVES AND RECOVERY TIME OBJECTIVES



Determine the maximum acceptable downtime and data loss that your business can tolerate. Understand how often your RPO's and RTO's get backed up and how quickly it needs to be backed up.

3 OPTIMIZE YOUR SPEND



Find a balance between adequate protection for your critical systems and technology and cost-effectiveness.

4 ESTABLISH A BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLAN (BCP)



Your BCP should clearly outline the resources, steps, and expectations around restoring and maintaining business operations after a disruption with minimal downtime and costs.



[Key Questions you should be asking when implementing a Disaster Recovery Plan](#)

INCREASE AUTOMATION

Do you use Microsoft 365?
If so, you have access to use Microsoft's automate, [Power Automate!](#)
Check it out.

Automation can significantly reduce the cost of operations for small businesses, as it eliminates manual labor and reduces errors. Small businesses should consider investing in automation technologies, such as robotic process automation (RPA) and artificial intelligence (AI), to automate repetitive tasks and increase productivity. See some signs that you should implement automation into your business:



REPETITIVE TASKS

If a task is repetitive and requires a lot of manual effort, it may be a good candidate for automation



HIGH ERROR RATES

If a process is prone to errors, automation can help reduce the number of mistakes and improve accuracy.



TIME CONSUMING

If a process takes a lot of time to complete, automation can speed it up and free up employees to focus on other tasks.



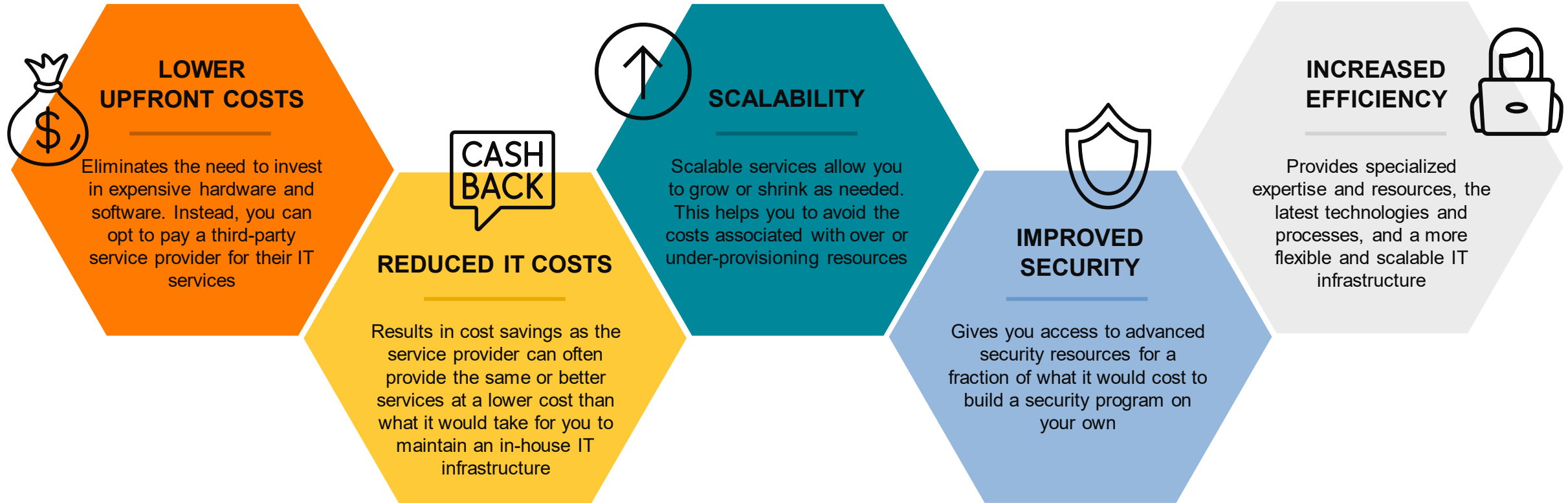
SCALABILITY

If a process needs to be scaled to handle increased volume or complexity, automation can make it easier to manage and maintain.

OUTSOURCE YOUR IT

[Learn how to outsource your IT the right way](#)

One of the main reasons that drive our clients to IT outsourcing is reducing their overall IT spend. Developing and maintaining modern IT and security expertise in-house is difficult and very expensive. Many small businesses are looking to outsource IT and security because they can get an entire team, covering all the main functions – strategy, user support, security, for the cost of one in-house IT director. See how outsourcing your IT can save your business money:





WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Need help figuring out if
your IT is recession-ready?

Learn more about [Aldridge services](#) or contact us today!



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