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5 Critical Technology Projects

You Need to Start Planning for Now

The most successful technology strategies are proactive and forward-looking. They reflect thoughtful planning that keeps pace with an ever-evolving landscape and an increasingly rapid rate of change, positioning you for sustained success while mitigating risk and disruption.

These are five business-critical technology projects that you should be planning for now.

#1 Upgrade From Windows 10 to Windows 11

Windows 10 will reach end-of-life in October 2025. After this date, Microsoft will no longer provide security updates, bug fixes, or support, leaving systems vulnerable to security threats. Upgrading is critical to ensuring ongoing system security, compliance with industry regulations, and compatibility with modern applications and hardware.

Key Considerations

- Assess and test critical software to ensure compatibility with Windows 11.
- Ensure all user data is backed up before migration to prevent loss.
- Verify software licenses and volume licensing agreements for Windows 11.

Common Challenges and Pitfalls

- Older devices may not support Windows 11.
- Migrating systems can temporarily affect productivity.
- Inadequate planning can lead to data loss or breaches during migration.
- Waiting too long can lead to rushed deployments and increased downtime.
- Not having contingency plans in case of migration issues.

#2 Migrating Workloads to the Cloud and/or Optimizing Cloud Use

The cloud is key to scalability, cost efficiency, and enhanced data accessibility in today's dynamic business environment. The demand for cloud services is growing rapidly, and businesses that delay risk falling behind competitors in terms of agility, cost management, and innovation.

Key Considerations

- Selecting the right cloud provider based on workload needs.
- Ensuring compliance with data regulations (e.g., GDPR, HIPAA).
- Building a robust migration plan to avoid downtime.

Common Challenges and Pitfalls

- Ensuring a smooth transition without impacting operations.
- Addressing security and compliance during migration.
- Underestimating migration time and complexity.
- Overlooking hidden costs like data egress fees.
- Failing to involve stakeholders early in the process.

#3 Replace Traditional Antivirus (AV) With Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR)

EDR solutions provide advanced threat detection, real-time monitoring, and incident response capabilities. This transition is critical, as AV struggles to detect sophisticated threats like zero-day attacks, fileless malware, and advanced persistent threats (APTs). Additionally, compliance requirements are increasingly demanding robust endpoint protection.

Key Considerations

- Evaluate EDR solutions for compatibility with your environment, scalability, and feature set.
- Ensure the EDR solution integrates seamlessly with existing tools and systems, such as firewalls and threat intelligence platforms.
- Verify the tool meets regulatory requirements for data security and does not introduce privacy risks.

Common Challenges and Pitfalls

- EDR solutions are more complex to deploy and manage than traditional AV software.
- Effective use often requires skilled analysts and continuous monitoring.
- Jumping into full deployment without a pilot phase can lead to operational disruptions.
- Deploying without a clear understanding of all endpoints leads to gaps in coverage.
- Not configuring alerts properly can result in either missed threats or alert fatigue.

#4 Implement Cloud-Based Data Backup and Disaster Recovery (DR)

Disruptions due to cyberattacks, natural disasters, and human error are on the rise. A robust DR strategy mitigates these risks and ensures business continuity by protecting critical data and systems against loss. A cloud-based approach allows you to store data offsite, enabling rapid recovery and reduced downtime.

Key Considerations

- Define Recovery Time Objectives (RTOs) and Recovery Point Objectives (RPOs) to determine acceptable downtime and data loss.
- Decide how often backups should be conducted based on business needs.
- Encrypt data in transit and at rest, and use multi-factor authentication for access.

Common Challenges and Pitfalls

- Ineffective configuration can lead to incomplete backups or slow recovery times.
- Failing to test recovery processes leads to unexpected failures during real incidents.
- Not monitoring storage and bandwidth usage can lead to cost overruns.
- Relying solely on the provider's security without implementing additional safeguards.
- Poorly documented processes can delay recovery efforts during emergencies.

#5 Annual IT Assessment

Due to constant advancements, IT systems can quickly become outdated. An assessment evaluates your IT infrastructure, security, processes, and alignment with business goals. It's critical for identifying vulnerabilities, inefficiencies, and innovation opportunities while prioritizing IT investments for the upcoming year.

Key Considerations

- Define the areas to assess – network security, hardware, software, processes, or IT governance.
- Use recognized frameworks like COBIT, NIST, or ISO 27001 for a structured approach.
- Gather comprehensive data on hardware, software, network configurations, and user practices.

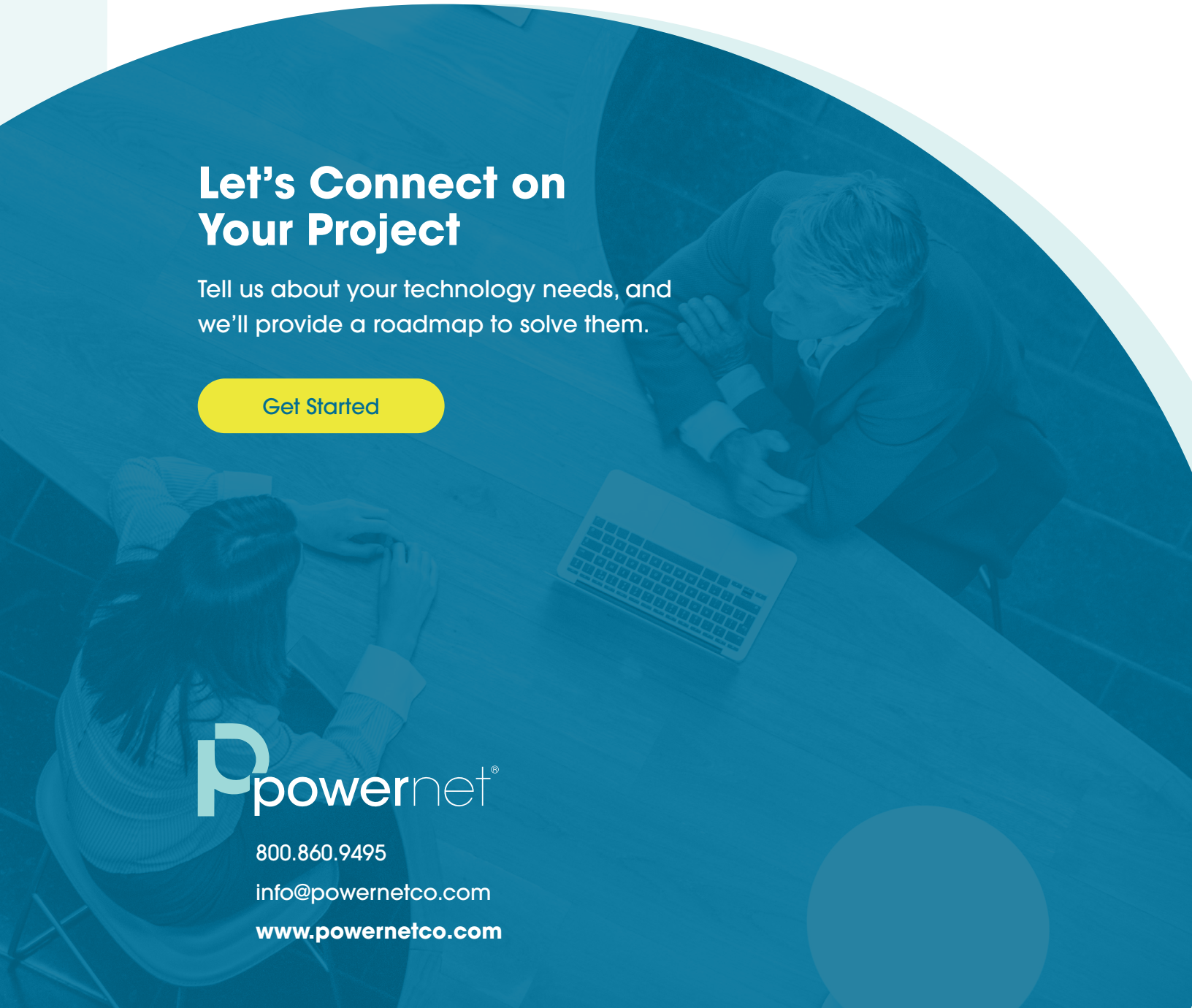
Common Challenges and Pitfalls

- Outdated or incomplete documentation can skew results.
- Large or hybrid IT environments can be challenging to evaluate comprehensively.
- Internal bias or limited expertise can result in overlooked vulnerabilities.
- Conducting the assessment without specific goals can lead to vague or unfocused results.
- Failing to act on findings undermines the purpose of the assessment.

Engage With a Partner Early

These technology projects go beyond the bandwidth – and in some cases the expertise – of many in-house teams. Undertaking them without proper knowledge, experience, resources, and planning puts you at risk for costly disruptions, overruns, and oversights.

Engaging early with a trusted technology partner with expertise and proven success on the project will ensure a comprehensive strategy that successfully connects your current needs with your future goals.



Let's Connect on Your Project

Tell us about your technology needs, and we'll provide a roadmap to solve them.

Get Started

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