

How can a Virtual IT Director help transform your organisation?

A Virtual IT Director (vITD) – or Virtual CIO (vCIO) - brings all the skills, knowledge and experience of an IT leader into your organisation at a fraction of the cost of recruiting in-house.

At Smartdesc, we have a team of vITDs who work on site with clients typically a few days a week, shifting IT from a reactive “break / fix” state to one that is strategic, forward thinking and proactive. Our IT Directors take ultimate accountability for the IT function within the organisations they represent, reporting to Board level.

A key part of the vITD role is owning the IT Strategy. This often involves working with representatives from across the organisation to create a strategy where none existed before, then overseeing its implementation over a one- or two-year period.

The role is flexible by nature; typically the first few months may need more time to set up or improve processes or systems, then it can scale back to a day or two a week to maintain momentum and provide management information to the Senior Leadership Team.

Our Virtual IT Directors work hand in hand with the existing IT Team – be that in-house, outsourced to another vendor, or a hybrid model. Indeed, ensuring the organisation has the optimum resource model for IT Service Delivery is another responsibility of the vITD, along with:

- ✓ Implementing a proactive IT roadmap designed exactly to meet the needs of the organisation
- ✓ Managing 3rd party vendors, holding them to account and negotiating new contracts
- ✓ Giving expert technical and strategic guidance to create and deliver on the IT Strategy
- ✓ Managing the wider IT team, ensuring service delivery levels improve over time
- ✓ Reporting to the Board and Senior Leadership Teams with giving visibility on what is happening within the IT function, on projects and service levels
- ✓ Setting and owning the IT budget, tracking actuals and providing forecasts to control costs
- ✓ Looking for new, innovative solutions and bringing a wealth of experience to provide an injection of new ideas and thinking into the organisation
- ✓ Helping raise the profile, visibility and accountability of IT

Charities that use our Virtual IT Directors find they offer exceptional value for money, and often unlock different ways of working and stimulate innovation around technology and Digital. Smartdesc have been providing this service to non-profit organisations, some of whom are NCVO members, for many years.

<https://www.smartdesc.co.uk/our-services/strategic-and-project-services/virtual-it-director/>

