

GROWTH & CHANGE

A guide to digital innovation & strategic change technology.



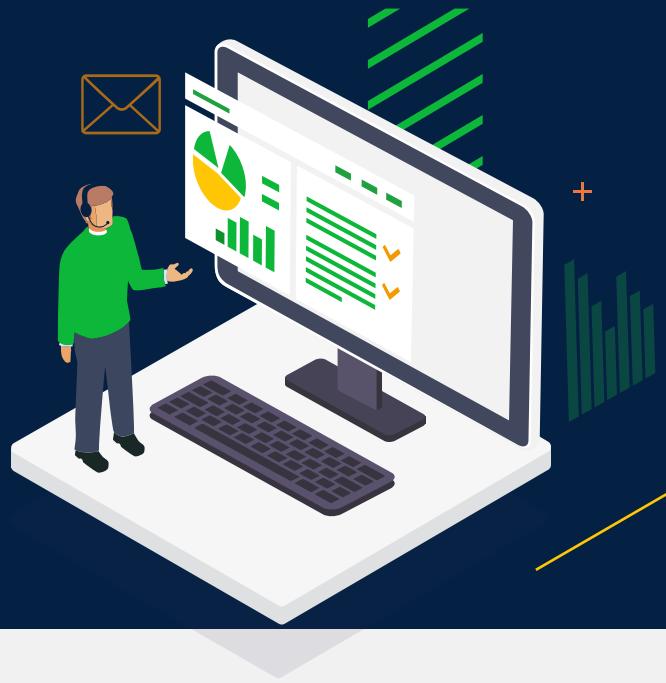
With the rapid developments of technology in today's digital landscape, businesses of any sector, whether that be Legal and Finance or Transport and Logistics, have the potential for exponential growth and change.

Digital innovation has transformed the way we work, and in turn, organisations find themselves continually evolving as customer requirements develop, and pioneering new technologies alter ways of doing business. For scaling businesses, the combination of technological advancements and business growth requires constant attention in order to maintain productivity and keep their competitive edge.

The principle challenge many businesses find as they scale up isn't productivity itself, but maintaining this productivity while growing.

In order to succeed, it's vital to understand how your technology can support and empower your business growth. However, we understand that as a business leader, time is in short supply. From our wealth of experience in working with developing SMEs, we adopt a more strategic slant, and suggest five key priorities for leaders to focus on.

1 FACILITATING THE ROAD TO GROWTH



Change doesn't happen overnight. For sustainable business growth and enduring success, long-term consideration alongside strategic oversight and operational planning is needed in order to successfully accomplish whatever your business goals might be.

Subsequently, your organisation will need to utilise industry leading technology that will flex and scale alongside you – not be an inhibitor that prevents your growth.

TECHNOLOGY

The right technology needs to be at the heart of your strategic planning. Employing a comprehensive technical solution that is bespoke to your business will build your business roadmap whilst still aligning with your company goals and allowing your workforce to benefit from continued productivity.

SCALABILITY

Build scalability into your infrastructure by operating your business technology through a flexible cloud-based solution. Through utilising AI and automation, you will be able to keep up with increasing demand whilst facilitating endless business growth.

FLEXIBILITY

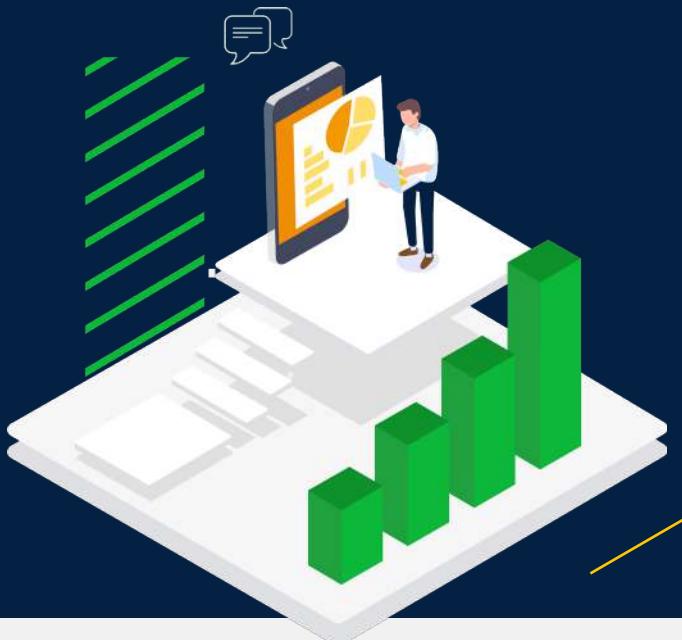
Growth is rarely linear: your business needs to be able to flex to match fluctuations in the market. That means your infrastructure needs to be flexible, able to respond and adapt quickly to support what you need to deliver.

At Stripe OLT, we believe strongly that the Cloud First approach is the key to achieving that flexibility. By migrating your on-premise environment to a hybrid or complete cloud environment, you are firstly, gaining Enterprise Grade resilience and services that would be impractical and unaffordable to build for yourself. Secondly, your infrastructure can flex to match your growth, allowing you to easily add or remove services when required, without costly hardware.

AFFORDABILITY

Technology investments often come in waves. With strategic planning you can smooth out the spikes in both capital and operational expenditure. For example, paying flexible monthly fees for a digital infrastructure, rather than investing in aging hardware, will undoubtedly result in major cost savings and a quick return on investment. The key is a living, breathing budget aligned with your business priorities, enabling you to identify savings and plan for expenditure.

2 STREAMLINING PROCESSES



Ensuring that standardised, defined processes are in place, is essential for any scaling business to ensure that productivity and efficiency is maintained whilst your workforce grows.

DOCUMENT EVERYTHING

Comprehensive documentation, specifically regarding your technology, will ensure that any changes are streamlined with minimal risk to the business.

DOCUMENT ACCESSIBILITY

A well-defined file structure will ensure that everyone knows where their information is, and who has access to what. For accessible file sharing and collaboration, we would recommend using Microsoft SharePoint – it provides a central location for all of your files, giving you complete control and visibility from any device.

AUTOMATE YOUR WORKFLOW

In analysing what your employees do on a daily basis, you will gain a holistic insight into the tasks that may be able to be automated. Through automating low-level workflows, your employees will have additional time to focus on the more important aspects of their job.

We would recommend using Microsoft Power Automate and the Power Platform for this – a suite of great tools that can be used to trigger automatic workflows and move data between various systems.

ASK YOUR TEAM

The biggest question we take to every quarterly review with our customers is “If you could fix one thing today – what would it be?” Ask the same to your workforce – gaining this insight will be invaluable and will allow you to adapt if necessary.

CONSIDER INTEGRATION

Avoid thinking of your business as separate departments with separate systems to support them. Your business is a single ecosystem, and all the moving parts need to be aware of each other and work seamlessly with each other. Data should not be passed around your business, it should flow through it.

Integrating multiple business applications together seamlessly often requires technical expertise and adaption to the way you do business. If needed, utilise the expertise of an MSP who has a holistic understanding of both your systems and your business goals, to provide you with a tailored solution.

3 MANAGING YOUR DATA

As the foundation of any organisation, the importance of data is indisputable. Hence, the process of correctly collecting, storing and interpreting this data holds huge importance for any business. To ensure continued growth and business continuity, your organisation's data will need to be equally structured and protected to mitigate the risks of both accidental deletion and external threats.

COLLECT

As mentioned above, having one central location for your data, such as SharePoint, will provide you with control and visibility over accessibility and will ensure that the right users have access to the right files. In addition, you can easily collect and collate your business data by using technologies such as data capture forms for recurring information, to implementing a CRM system, finance systems or industry-specific business applications.

CONSOLIDATE

Consolidating your data using a clear and logical structure will not only make it more coherent, but also mitigate the risk of inaccuracies. Utilising an on-premise data gateway for example, will provide you with a secure and easy way to transfer local data to Microsoft Cloud services, which means you can keep data on-premise whilst also being able to securely access this data in several cloud services.

PROVIDE ACCESS

With an increase in flexible working, your team no longer expect to be tied to a single location. The rise of the remote workforce has resulted in staff increasingly expecting to be able to access business data anywhere, from any device. Facilitating this will allow an increase in employee efficiency as they will be able to easily access their files through their own devices and systems.

ENSURE SECURE SYSTEMS

Since the enforcement of GDPR in May 2018, protecting your business data is not just essential for business continuity, but is a matter of legal compliance. Combine this with the ever-evolving increase in sophisticated cyber-attacks and it's easy to see why secure business systems are imperative. You need a scalable, logical approach to data security that takes into account compliance, access requirements, and risk. That's why we advocate a zero trust, security first approach, for any scaling business.

ANALYSE

Power BI is an extremely powerful tool for collating data from a wide range of resources and pulling it together to provide deep and rich insights into your business, be it understanding the true cost of providing a service, or recognising single points of failure in your business model.

LEARN

Gaining a comprehensive view of your business's practices and objectives is essential to ensure that the correct systems for your organisation are in place. Through a close and collaborative partnership with your MSP, you will be able to identify and develop bespoke systems that are tailored to your way of working.

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4 CROSSING BOUNDARIES



With every stage of growth, your business crosses new boundaries. You may need to unite your remote workers throughout distributed offices, partner with an organisation abroad, or set up an international office. Whatever the boundary you're crossing, cloud technology means that the modern workforce can now work from any location, on any device, at any time.

CONNECTIVITY

Unified communications and online collaboration has been around for a while now, so stay ahead of the game and invest in a quick, reliable connection.

Following the events of 2020, the world of remote working has been revolutionised, and businesses have found that flexible working can be every bit as productive, and often more so than getting everyone working in an office. Don't scrimp on your staff's home networks – in order for them to be effective for you, you need to help make their home working environment as good as their office environment.

So, prioritise your Internet connection - With 5G in circulation, the world of digital communication is getting faster, which ultimately means more demands on your business's connectivity capabilities.

COLLABORATION

Ensuring that you utilise key collaboration tools will do more than encourage business productivity – it's also essential in growing your workplace culture and connecting your team – essential for today's remote environment. Microsoft Teams is the ultimate collaboration tool that will fulfil this need, empowering your staff to create, share and collaborate on documents in real time.

BUSINESS ANYWHERE

The modern workforce and scaling businesses now require flexibility. In order to enable your workforce to collaborate efficiently from various locations, connectivity needs to be ensured at all times. Utilising smart network security and remote access will drive productivity from any device, in any location.

STANDARDISATION

Collaborating with a remote team, whether they are in another time zone, another city, or another room needs standardisation. You need to make sure your staff are using the same systems and most crucially, that they are using them in the same way. This starts with documentation and succeeds through education.

5 ENSURING SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS

Nowadays, business sustainability is about more than just being green. A sustainable business is one that takes long-term consideration into how its processes and procedures will impact the ecological, economic and social environment.

Being a sustainable business will have an immensely positive impact on your business growth as you strike the balance between people, profit and the planet, utilising innovative technology as the key enabling factor.

"65% of people around the world want to work for an organisation with a powerful social conscience." PwC Future of Work – A journey to 2022

ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Reducing energy consumption is both environmentally and commercially sensible. Advances in technology mean modern hardware and software are more energy efficient than their predecessors, and approaches like virtualisation can save on maintenance costs and licensing fees, as well as energy. Innovative cloud services will improve your business resilience, in addition to eradicating the need to run your own energy-hungry servers and infrastructure.

If you would like more information on how our experts can support your growing business, get in touch with one of the team via the below details.



SMARTER WORKING

Digital innovation has ultimately resulted in a reduction in travel requirements with collaborative technologies such as Teams and SharePoint enabling a remote workforce, shrinking both your carbon footprint and your costs whilst still uniting your workforce. Utilising expert advice will ensure that your systems are set up and operated in ways to maximise energy efficiency and highlight areas of unnecessary energy consumption, both reducing your outgoings and increasing the resources for growing your business.

TECHNOLOGY CHOICES

In today's increasingly conscientious world, many manufacturers are making efforts to reduce the use of hazardous or rare materials in their hardware – and proper disposal, following the WEEE Directive, can make a huge difference to your old hardware's environmental impact. Additionally, migrating to a virtual infrastructure will reduce the number of onsite servers, drastically reducing your energy consumption and environmental impact.

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ABOUT US



Gold
Microsoft Partner



Microsoft Gold Certified

Our Microsoft Gold-Certified employees have direct access to the latest Microsoft training, qualifications and tools; which means our workforce are not only experts in their field, but are equipped to deliver and implement industry leading technologies, all whilst imparting specialist knowledge and advice to aid your business growth.

Cyber Essentials PLUS Certified

Here at Stripe OLT we are accredited under the Cyber Essentials scheme, achieving certification for both Cyber Essentials and Cyber Essentials PLUS in June 2019.

In gaining this practitioner status, our team of experts are now ideally placed to support clients with their own accreditation journey, whilst additionally giving our partners the confidence in knowing that we are fully equipped to provide holistic protection across their systems.



OUR CLIENTS



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