

Discover Why You Need an MSP. Answer These 4 Questions.



While technology is essential for running a business, the lack of time and resources to manage such technology can complicate everyday operations. If you need a partner to take charge of your technology, it might be time to start looking for a managed service provider (MSP).

Before you make the choice to dive into managed services, answer these questions to determine if and why you need an MSP.

1 Do you have a department or staff dedicated to IT?

Constant shifting between roles to look after the company's IT needs can cause your staff to neglect their main duties, hindering employee productivity. While it's not unheard of to have employees who wear more than one hat, staff who aren't properly trained in IT will lack crucial technology knowledge.

If your employees are overburdened or unqualified to handle IT, an MSP can provide much-needed expertise.

2 Do you have continuous tech problems?

Expensive, unexpected tech problems can take a big toll on your entire business from productivity to reliability. Technology seems simple when it's running smoothly, but once it breaks down, that's a whole other story.

You can keep up with issues, stay prepared for the future, and stay on top of IT upgrades with the support of an MSP.

3 Is your staff constantly addressing issues instead of focusing on preventative maintenance?

When staff is too busy solving issues that could've been avoided, it negatively impacts both employees and your resources. Preventative maintenance is crucial as it ensures that your network and business are running smoothly at all times.

You'll avoid issues and maintenance complications entirely when you work with an MSP. Rest assured knowing your network is monitored and your long-term needs are covered.

4 Do you need help managing your IT expenses?

Constant billing surprises due to either mismanagement of money or unexpected repairs can strain your budget. Wasting time on unneeded or unused services is frustrating and costly.

If you want to stop worrying about billing errors and start paying only for the services you actually use, an MSP will help.

Self-Audit Checklist: How's Your IT?

If you need to get into the nitty-gritty of your IT environment before seeking the help of an MSP, a self-audit will help. We've created a checklist to get you down the right path.

Curious if your IT environment is in good shape? Use this checklist to find out.

- Decide on the scope of your IT audit. The main goals of your audit are to assess current systems for effectiveness and risk and to determine if new technologies or processes will be necessary. For a smooth process, decide the scope of what your audit encompasses first.
- Take an inventory of your existing systems. Are your desktop computers, laptops, servers, and other IT infrastructure up to date?
- Determine the value of data stored on your existing IT assets. How valuable is the data you currently have stored? Are your aging IT systems putting that data at risk?
- Assess the health of your network. Take a look at all aspects of your network, from security to access points and related applications such as anti-virus and anti-malware. Is everything functioning as it should?
- Determine areas of waste. Do you have aging equipment or platforms that need to be retired or replaced? How much will it cost to replace or consolidate as necessary?
- Examine security policies. What do your cyber security policies look like? Are your employees trained and actively involved in security?
- Evaluate the need for outside resources. After going through the initial steps, does your business have the internal IT resources to implement change as needed? Or will outside support be necessary?
- Create a plan for implementation. Your self-auditing process should leave you with action items that need to be implemented wisely. Create a detailed plan, whether changes will be made by internal staff or with the help of an MSP.



Now that you've completed your audit and understand the scope of what's ahead for your business IT, it's important to ensure your plan is implemented smoothly and maintained for the long run. Access One is the MSP that will partner with you for all your IT needs. Contact us to schedule an assessment today.