Computer Frameworks go to University!

Streamlining IT processes and saving costs for Universities-September 2009

Computer Frameworks have utilized the expertise of key architects to streamline the IT processes and reduce costs at Universities.

Work undertaken over the years has included the development and implementation of technology strategies encompassing end to end processing, storage and security architecture for new world hosting and information lifecycle management solutions; details are outlined below. From an initial investment of $200,000 in the development of a Strategic Technology Architecture, supporting business case and a detailed plan for redevelopment of IT infrastructure one notable client is realizing savings of $20m over five years!

In the initial stages Computer Frameworks completed a Current State Analysis and developed a Strategic Technology Architecture for the wholesale rationalization of infrastructure, access security and infrastructure deployment processes. This work was supported with a detailed business case for the redevelopment of all processing, storage and backup infrastructure based upon commodity hardware that would be standardised around 4 or 5 specific server offerings and utilize high levels of systems management automation and storage and server virtualisation.

In order to achieve optimum vendor terms in regard to purchasing, delivery lead times and support, Computer Frameworks developed and executed a number of approaches to market by open tender in conjunction with the clients. Tenders encompassed Intel and Unix processing hardware, enterprise storage, systems management solutions and data life cycle management technologies. Computer Frameworks was engaged in the development of the various tender materials encompassing the Procurement Strategy, Request for Tender, Tender Evaluation Models the development of the tender findings and recommendations.

During the initial analysis and architecture design phases Computer Frameworks undertook a detailed analysis of all IT infrastructure and infrastructure management and deployment processes prior to the development of a detailed IT Infrastructure Platforms and Storage Strategy and Standards, Logical and Physical Deployment Design, Access Security Model and Applications Hosting Service definition. In addition a process framework and methodology was developed to stream line the delivery of infrastructure solutions and to support capacity management within a 'capacity on demand' service model. These materials formed the basis for the redevelopment of the entire back end infrastructure and the consolidation of all applications hosting to the central consolidated hosting infrastructure.

Through the development of effective and strategic technology architecture, the implementation of streamlined and repeatable technology provisioning processes and the application of rational and practical technology standards organizations can expect to achieve It infrastructure savings in the order of 30% to 50%, reduce deployment lead times and significantly improve systems deployment management and monitoring automation. As usual, the key elements of People, Process and Technology must all work in harmony to achieve the best outcomes!