

Why outsourced IT *always* beats DIY

Dave



Shepherd IT
Securing your business

Once upon a time, in the land of start-ups and small businesses, there lived a valiant business owner named Dave. Dave was a go-getter, a true DIY enthusiast, and a firm believer in the power of self-reliance. When he first launched his business, he handled everything himself, from creating marketing campaigns to unclogging the office sink.

Dave's IT setup was no exception.

Armed with a trusty laptop and a can-do attitude, he embraced the role of the IT hero. He thought, "Why pay someone else when I can be the master of my digital destiny?" It seemed like a noble quest at the time, but little did Dave know, his journey into the world of DIY IT was about to take a turn for the challenging.

The early days

In the beginning, Dave's IT adventures were somewhat manageable. He had a single computer, a basic website, and a handful of email accounts. "This is a piece of cake," Dave thought, as he tackled the occasional software update and troubleshooted the rare tech hiccup.

But, as all great tales go, the plot thickened. Dave's business started growing faster than a greased lightning bolt, and with growth came new challenges. More employees joined the team, each needing their own computer, email access, and a place to store files. The business's customer base grew, requiring a robust online presence and an e-commerce platform to match.

As if by magic, Dave's digital kingdom transformed into a labyrinth of devices,

software, and cables. His once cosy home office now resembled the control room of a space station, complete with blinking lights, tangled cords, and a never-ending stream of IT issues.

The dilemma

Dave soon realised that his self-appointed title of "IT Hero" came with a hefty price tag – not just in terms of money, but in time and sanity. Here's the harsh reality he faced:

Time drain: Dave found himself spending more time fiddling with IT problems than focusing on the core of his business. Hours turned into days, and days into weeks, as he battled the endless onslaught of tech troubles.

Lack of expertise: While Dave was a savvy entrepreneur, he wasn't an IT expert. The more complex the IT issues became, the more he felt like a fish out of water. Attempting to solve intricate problems often led to more confusion and frustration.

Data dilemmas: With the business's growth, the amount of sensitive customer data and confidential business information multiplied. Dave's DIY security measures felt like flimsy paper walls in a hurricane, leaving his data vulnerable to cyber attacks and breaches.

Employee frustration: His employees, while patient initially, grew weary of the constant tech glitches and slowdowns. Their productivity suffered, and the frustration levels soared. Dave's mission to keep everyone happy was falling apart.

Missed opportunities: Perhaps most importantly, Dave realised that his time spent wrestling with IT demons could have been better used elsewhere. Opportunities to innovate, strategise, and expand his business were slipping through his fingers.

The moral of the story

Dave's tale isn't unique. Many business owners, in their quest to save money and maintain control, find themselves caught in the same DIY IT trap. The allure of being the IT hero can be strong, but it often comes at a high cost.

In this guide we'll delve deeper into the reasons why outsourced IT is the ultimate solution for smart business owners like you.

We'll explore how it can rescue you from the time-sucking quagmire of DIY IT, enhance your business's security, empower your employees, and allow you to focus on what truly matters – growing your business and achieving your dreams.



So, if you've ever felt like Dave in the midst of his IT maze, stick around. The adventure is just beginning...

The outsourced IT advantage

As Dave's journey through the tangled web of DIY IT struggles continued, he couldn't shake the feeling that there must be a better way. He was right. Enter the hero of our story: Outsourced IT. **But what are the advantages of outsourcing your business IT?**

Expertise on demand

Imagine having a team of seasoned IT experts at your beck and call. With outsourced IT, you gain access to a pool of professionals who live and breathe technology. We're armed with cyber security tools to fend off threats, solve technical glitches, and keep your IT infrastructure running like a well-oiled machine.

Excellent outsourced IT providers are well-versed in the latest industry trends, best practices, and cutting-edge technologies. We bring a depth of knowledge and experience that can make even the most complex IT challenges look like child's play.

Focus on what matters most

Remember the countless hours Dave spent troubleshooting IT issues instead of focusing on his business's growth and strategy? With outsourced IT, you can kiss those hours of frustration goodbye. By entrusting your IT management to experts, you free up precious time to concentrate

on the aspects of your business that truly demand your attention.

Think about the big picture: devising innovative marketing strategies, expanding your product or service offerings, and nurturing relationships with customers and partners. These are the activities that drive your business forward and fuel its success. Outsourced IT takes the technical burden off your shoulders, allowing you to dedicate your energies where they matter most.

Robust security measures

In an era where cyber threats lurk around every corner, safeguarding your business's sensitive data is paramount. Outsourced IT providers are equipped with the latest cyber security tools and strategies to shield your digital fortress from attacks. We proactively monitor for potential threats, conduct regular security assessments, and implement robust defence mechanisms.

With outsourced IT, you gain the peace of mind that your data is in capable hands, protected against cyber criminals seeking to exploit vulnerabilities.

Scalability and flexibility

Dave's business grew rapidly, causing his DIY IT setup to crumble under the weight of expansion. Outsourced IT is built with scalability in mind. Whether you're adding new employees, launching new products, or entering new markets, your IT infrastructure can effortlessly adapt to your evolving needs.

Your chosen IT support partner can tailor their services to match your business's growth trajectory. We understand that your IT requirements may change over time, and we're ready to pivot and accommodate those changes, ensuring a seamless and scalable IT ecosystem.

Employee empowerment

Happy employees are productive employees. When your team is freed from the frustrations of IT problems, they can focus on their tasks and contribute to your business's success with enthusiasm. Outsourced IT not only resolves technical issues promptly but also provides your employees with a lifeline for IT support, boosting their efficiency and job satisfaction.

Imagine a workplace where your employees are not constantly battling technology but are instead thriving in an environment where their skills and creativity can shine.

OUTSOURCING



The cost-effective magic of outsourced IT

While Dave, our DIY IT hero, valiantly tried to save a few pounds by managing everything himself, he soon realised that the road to financial happiness was paved with unexpected expenses, wasted time, and missed opportunities.

Here's why outsourcing your IT needs can be a smart financial move for your business...

Predictable budgeting

Running a business comes with its fair share of financial uncertainties. Surprise expenses can throw even the most carefully thought-out budget off balance. DIY IT, with its tendency to lead to unpredictable costs, can be a major culprit in this financial rollercoaster.

Outsourcing your IT usually means a fixed monthly or annual fee, allowing you to budget with confidence. You'll know exactly how much you're spending on IT support and services, with no surprise bills or unexpected expenses to keep you up at night. Predictable budgeting is like having a financial safety net, allowing you to allocate resources where they'll have the most impact.

Elimination of hidden costs

DIY IT may seem like a money-saver on the surface, but it often conceals a host of hidden costs that can add up over time. These can include:

- **Downtime costs:** When your IT systems go down, productivity grinds to a halt, and the financial toll can be significant. We focus on preventing downtime, saving you money by keeping your business operational.
- **Data recovery costs:** In the event of data loss or a cyber attack, recovering lost information can be an expensive endeavour. We implement robust backup and recovery solutions to minimise these costs.
- **Employee productivity loss:** Every minute your employees spend grappling with IT issues is a minute they're not contributing to your business's growth. Outsourced IT maximises employee productivity, translating into financial gains.



Scalable solutions

As already mentioned, one of the beautiful aspects of outsourced IT is its scalability. As your business grows, so do your IT needs. With outsourced IT, you have the flexibility to scale your services up or down based on your business's requirements. This scalability ensures that you're not overpaying for IT services you don't need, nor are you left scrambling to catch up when your IT infrastructure struggles to keep pace with growth. Your IT expenses are aligned with your business's size and goals, offering a cost-effective solution at every stage of your journey.

Reduced labour costs

Dave, our DIY IT hero, quickly realised that time spent wrestling with IT problems was time not spent growing his business. When you outsource your IT needs, you're not just saving money on hiring and training IT staff; you're also freeing up your valuable time and that of your employees.

Outsourced IT providers bring a dedicated team of experts, ready to tackle IT issues swiftly and efficiently. This not only minimises labour costs but also maximises your team's productivity, allowing them to focus on tasks that directly contribute to your business's success.

Access to advanced technology

Keeping up with the rapid pace of technological advancements can be a costly endeavour for a DIY IT approach. We invest in state-of-the-art technology, ensuring that your business benefits from the latest tools and solutions without the hefty price tag.



Protecting your business

The importance of robust cyber security cannot be overstated. As a business owner, safeguarding your sensitive data, protecting your reputation, and ensuring the trust of your customers are paramount. Here's how outsourcing your IT can protect your business...

The cybersecurity battlefield

Cyber threats are as real and relentless as ever. From ransomware attacks that hold your data hostage to phishing scams that trick employees into revealing confidential information, the battlefield is vast and constantly changing.

Outsourced IT support providers specialise in cyber security, deploying an arsenal of tools and strategies to defend your business from these threats. They stay ahead of the curve, monitoring the digital horizon for emerging risks and proactively bolstering your defences.

Continuous monitoring and protection

Outsourced IT providers offer 24/7 monitoring and protection, ensuring that any suspicious activity is swiftly detected and neutralised.

By continuously monitoring your network for anomalies and vulnerabilities, we can pre-emptively thwart cyber attacks, minimising potential damage and downtime.

Data encryption and privacy

The data you collect and store, whether it's customer information or proprietary business data, is a treasure trove that cyber criminals are eager to get their grubby mitts on. IT support providers like us employ robust data encryption techniques to shield your information from prying eyes.

Encryption transforms your data into an unreadable code that can only be deciphered with the proper decryption key. This extra layer of security ensures that even if your data falls into the wrong hands, it remains unintelligible and useless to unauthorised people.

Disaster recovery and business continuity

No business is immune to the unexpected. Natural disasters, hardware failures, or cyber attacks can disrupt your operations and put your business at risk. We offer comprehensive disaster recovery and business continuity solutions to make sure you're prepared for the worst.

These solutions include regular data backups, failover systems, and predefined disaster recovery plans. In the event of a catastrophe, you can quickly restore your data and resume operations, minimising downtime, and financial loss.

Employee training and awareness

While technology is a crucial component of cyber security, your employees play a significant role in safeguarding your business too. IT support providers often offer employee training programs and awareness initiatives to educate your staff about the latest cyber security threats and best practices.

By empowering your employees with the knowledge to recognise and respond to potential threats, you create an additional layer of defence against cyber attacks. It's a team effort to protect your business, and outsourced IT providers ensure everyone is on the same page.

Compliance and regulations

Depending on your industry, you may be subject to specific data protection regulations and compliance requirements. Navigating these regulations can be a complex and daunting task.

We're well-versed in compliance standards such as GDPR. That means we can help you navigate the regulatory landscape, ensuring that your IT infrastructure and practices align with the necessary requirements, protecting you from potential legal and financial consequences.



Empowering your employees

Your employees are the heart and soul of your business. Their productivity, job satisfaction, and ability to collaborate effectively are critical factors in your success. Outsourcing your IT needs can empower your employees, enhance their productivity, and create a workplace where technology is a valuable asset rather than a hindrance.

A tech-enabled workforce

The workplace relies heavily on technology. From communication tools to project management platforms and cloud-based collaboration software, technology sits at the core of almost every aspect of your employees' daily tasks.

IT support providers ensure that your technology ecosystem operates seamlessly. When your employees can rely on a dependable IT infrastructure, they can work more efficiently and effectively. It gives them the latest and greatest tools to excel in their roles.

Prompt tech support

Your employee encounters an IT issue that disrupts their workflow. In a DIY IT scenario, they might spend hours trying to troubleshoot the problem, resulting in frustration and lost productivity.

With outsourced IT, prompt tech support is just a phone call, email, or live chat away. Your employees can quickly get the assistance they need, minimising downtime and ensuring that technology doesn't become a roadblock to their productivity.



Enhanced collaboration

Collaboration is the lifeblood of modern businesses. Whether your team is working on a project together or collaborating with external partners and clients, efficient communication and collaboration tools are essential.

We can set up and manage collaboration tools that enable seamless teamwork. Features like document sharing, video conferencing, and real-time messaging make it easier for your employees to collaborate, no matter where they are.

Security awareness and training

Your employees are the first line of defence against cyber threats. IT support providers can offer security awareness training to educate your team about the latest cyber security risks and best practices.

When your employees are well-informed about potential threats and how to recognise them, they become active participants in safeguarding your business. They can identify phishing attempts, protect sensitive information, and contribute to a more secure work environment.

Mobility and flexibility

Work is no longer confined to a physical office. Many businesses embrace remote work, flexible schedules, and the ability to work from various locations. However, this flexibility requires a robust IT infrastructure.

Outsourced IT can enable your employees to work from anywhere, securely accessing company resources and data. This flexibility empowers your team to maintain work-life balance, reducing stress and enhancing overall job satisfaction.

Boosting morale and job satisfaction

A workplace where technology is an asset, not a hindrance, contributes to higher morale and job satisfaction among your employees. When technology supports their efforts rather than obstructing them, they are more likely to feel valued and appreciated.

Employees who can rely on a well-functioning IT environment are happier, more motivated, and more engaged in their work. As a result, you can expect reduced turnover and increased loyalty among your staff.



Hopefully this guide has made you realise what you could be missing out on if you're currently trying to take care of your business IT by yourself - or if you're currently working with an IT support provider that isn't doing as much as you'd like them to.

Outsourced IT can be the path to achieving a well-rounded, efficient, and secure IT environment that encourages your business to thrive.

We specialise in providing tailored outsourced IT solutions to suit your unique business needs and goals. If you're ready to talk about how we could help you, **Get in touch.**

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