

# **IT Complexity: Which way out?**

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Most business organizations need information and computerized systems in order to compete and be successful. But information technology (IT) is becoming more difficult to manage and organizations are not prepared to mastering this complexity. Statistics says that unbelievable 80 percent or more of an IT budget is spent on maintenance and development of existing systems!

The best way to reduce complexity in IT is to strive for simplicity, which leads to functionality - in business opinion to greater revenue a organizational benefits. But how?

Managing complexity is not an easy process, and it certainly isn't free of costs. It is a balancing act. The challenge is to find the right balance across several management objectives in terms of quality, flexibility, initial costs, and time to market.

Main aspect is supporting and providing sufficient resources by motivated management. Reducing IT complexity (alternatively business complexity) is not just a one-time effort, but a continuous process that may be unfamiliar to management. With determination to success is organization able to target the causes of complexity and build a platform for better business-process integration.

Also this "clean" and evolutionary platform is convenient, long-time measure against rising IT complexity. One part of this architecture should be decomposition. It seems that simplicity is the main characteristic of the "clean" architecture embodying the engineering principle known as KISS (Keep it Small and Simple). KISS principle compose complex artifact of autonomous modules communicating one another.

Another remedy against IT complexity in close context with last point should be related to the recognition accepted standards. These standards enable easy interconnectivity and interoperability of components (autonomous fragments or subsystems) without superficial bridges and barrier layers. This approach also kills diversity and with this feature the simplicity.

Trying to be more specific, I am putting forward some other strategies to fight against IT complexity. These activities include the:

- reducing the number of vendors companies use - standardizing on only a few major vendors
- restrict unneeded software and applications
- propose and enforce quality outsourcing program

Evidently, all the IT complexity promotion require complete reformation of the company's IT architecture with powerful support of management. The experienced management backup has to select best solution to accomplish the success with long-term sight.

In conclusion, IT complexity increases costs and affects productivity. The successful effort toward simplicity can reduce IT costs significantly, providing many benefits as well, including faster time to business that heavily rely on IT services. CEOs get the agility to react more quickly to changes in the competitive environment. Summary, by managing or reducing the complexity, we attack the problem before it overwhelms us.