Establishing Technology Strategy -
Scope & Purpose

Range of Topic
Covers recommended solutions, guidelines, standards & approaches for all computer & communications technologies
All computers - largest to smallest, specialised & general purpose
All use of external & quasi-external IT services

Range of Topic
All communications - voice & digital, including mobile units
Application development methods, tech’s, tools and vendors

Scope & Purpose Cont.
- Assessing current IT status
- Recent installed hardware
- Software systems, languages, databases
- Personnel skills
- Commitment to present systems
- Commitment with present systems
- Work planned & in progress
- New start ups
- ‘Givens’

What Premise Are We Operating Under?
- Business requirements should be filtered through a number of layers
- Firstly, transformed into set of loadings on application systems portfolio
- Secondly, into a set of workloads supported by set of technology environments
  - Applications implementation decisions should become limited to selection of the appropriate type of technical environment

What Are the Benefits?
- Provision of ready-made, proven solutions to standards business requirements & problems
- More effective sharing of core databases across business where relevant & appropriate
- Improved ability to provide IT support to new business or units
- Easier provision of timely, accurate, information flows in standard format
- Standardisation of information flows
What Are the Benefits?

- Ability to sustain efficient information flows & support to units
- More effective integration of application systems & technical solutions
- More effective technical solutions attained through requirement being clearly identified & common elements highlighted

- Easier & more efficient method of assessing effect of alternative activity patterns
- Range of recommended technical components may be treated as a single pool of candidate solutions
- Questions of vendor and component qualification, range capacity & inter-component compatibility addressed once

Application Requirements Defined

- Future platforms must offer good basis for long-term evolution
- Need to support further evolution of business strategy
- Need for flexibility in terms of:
  - Types of business support the platform can sustain

- Locations of users, processing nodes & database locations
- Range of workload requires to be handled at any location
- Range of types of network connectivity required

Volatility in the physical topology - capacity, environmental tolerance of the equipment
Assessment & management of potential areas of business risk associated with IT strategy options

Long-Term Basis for Evolution
Requires:

- Application development & maintenance should be easy, fast, certain & cost effective.
- Effective control over integrity, availability, resilience, security & physical distribution.
- Good platform for packages.
Long - Term Basis for Evolution Requires:

- Should enable easy compliance with mandatory standards.
- Access should be uniform regardless of location of users.
- Wide range of useable ‘scalability’ necessary.
- Support for key networking roles, especially client/server.

- Applications must be able to be moved easily between different platforms & environments.

- Effective data management.
- Good support for business devolution.

- High level of environmental tolerance.

Computing environment should require little human intervention and place low demands on user expertise.

The End