Top 3 Reasons Microsoft Office is Holding Back Your IT Strategy

First, let's make one thing clear, Microsoft Office has great tools and serves a critical role in modern business. However, when it comes to enterprise architecture and IT strategy, the Office suite of products falls short.

Static Content

The first problem is the one and done nature of the content. While there are new features that help organizations collaborate and share documents, they are still created for a single purpose - a point in time reflection of information, and then set aside. IT strategy and design documents are filed away once the project is implemented and rarely used on future efforts. While the information contained in these documents is extremely valuable, the nature of the format makes it difficult to access and iterate. It is often easier to reach out to the architect or creator of the document to obtain the insight you are seeking.

Lack of Collaboration

Crowdsourcing is built on the idea that many people can accomplish a task more quickly and with better results than having only a few people. This is very relevant to the development of the IT strategy as distributed information needs to roll up across a wide group of people and locations. The Microsoft Office document formats do not leverage crowd-sourced data and are most often curated by a single author. The breakdown in the documents' ability to enable collaborative sourcing of information creates knowledge gaps, leads to poor conclusions, and impacts transformation efforts.

One-Dimensional

Information about interdependent systems and how the organization is using them is critical to a complete IT strategy. Understanding where performance is lacking, risks are present and how investments should be made can help guide the IT strategy and improve satisfaction across the organization. Just having a list of applications and technologies in Microsoft Office tools doesn't provide insight into the connected relationships between them without significant effort. Understanding the multi-dimensional relationships between applications and technologies provides real-time, enterprise intelligence, that enables IT leaders to make better decisions and deliver technology solutions to exceed business expectations.

Having the right tools can make all the difference in developing an effective IT strategy. Enterprise Architecture Management (EAM) solutions specifically solve these shortcomings. If you are interested in learning more, ADMG can help. We have years of experience selecting and successfully implementing EAM solutions.

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