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AvTek Chronicle

Insider Tips To Make Your Business Run Faster, Easier and More Profitably



What Could Be Missing From Your 2027 IT Budget?

As businesses prepare their IT budgets for 2027, it's easy to focus on familiar expenses like software subscriptions, equipment replacements, and technology support.

But some of the most important budget considerations aren't always the most obvious.

Cybersecurity, risk management, and governance responsibilities continue to evolve. An IT budget that only accounts for existing technology expenses may leave important gaps in how your business protects its data, supports operations, and manages risk.

Before finalizing next year's budget, consider whether these five areas have been accounted for.

CYBERSECURITY RISK ASSESSMENTS

When was the last time your business evaluated its cybersecurity risks?

Risk assessments help identify vulnerabilities, weaknesses in existing controls, and areas that may need additional attention.

Including regular assessments in your IT budget gives your business an opportunity to identify and address potential exposures rather than waiting until a security incident reveals them.

AI GOVERNANCE AND SECURITY

Artificial intelligence is becoming part of everyday business operations, but adopting AI tools introduces additional security and governance responsibilities.
Your 2027 budget should account for more than AI software subscriptions.

Consider the resources needed for AI risk assessments, acceptable use policies, employee guidance, and ongoing oversight of how AI tools access and handle company information.

INCIDENT RESPONSE AND BUSINESS CONTINUITY

Having cybersecurity tools in place is important, but your business also needs a plan for responding when something goes wrong.

Incident response planning, backup testing, disaster recovery, and business continuity procedures deserve consideration in your technology budget.

These investments help ensure your organization has documented processes for responding to disruptions and restoring operations.

VENDOR AND THIRD-PARTY RISK

Your business likely depends on outside vendors for software, cloud services, payment processing, and other critical operations.

Each relationship can introduce risks that need to be understood and managed.

Consider budgeting for vendor security reviews, risk evaluations, and the ongoing oversight needed to protect sensitive information shared with third parties.

TECHNOLOGY LIFECYCLE AND ACCESS MANAGEMENT

Older hardware, unsupported software, and accounts that are no longer needed can create unnecessary security exposure.

Your budget should account for replacing technology approaching end of support, maintaining an accurate inventory of systems, and properly managing employee access throughout onboarding and offboarding.

These responsibilities are important parts of maintaining a secure IT environment.

Key Takeaway
Your 2027 IT budget should account for more than the technology your business uses. It should also include the safeguards, assessments, and processes needed to manage the risks associated with that technology.
Taking a closer look at these areas now can help your organization build a more complete technology plan for the year ahead.



5 Essentials to Include in Your 2027 IT Budget

Building an IT budget isn't just about reviewing last year's expenses or accounting for software and equipment.

It's an opportunity to evaluate whether your technology can support your business's operations, security requirements, and future growth.

As you prepare for 2027, there are several areas that deserve a place in your planning conversations.

Here are five essentials to consider before finalizing your IT budget.

1. EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY LIFECYCLES

Computers, servers, and other technology have limited lifespans. As equipment ages, maintenance requirements can increase, and older systems may no longer support the performance or security capabilities your business needs.

Your IT budget should account for hardware approaching replacement, operating systems nearing end of support, and technology that may no longer meet business requirements.

Start with an inventory of your existing equipment, including purchase dates, support status, and anticipated replacement needs.

2. TECHNOLOGY NEEDS ASSOCIATED WITH HIRING

Adding employees means adding technology requirements.

New hires may need computers, software licenses, secure accounts, access permissions, and IT support during onboarding.

Before finalizing your budget, review anticipated staffing changes and the technology each position will require.

Planning for these needs helps ensure new employees have the tools and appropriate access necessary to work securely and effectively.

3. SOFTWARE, CLOUD SERVICES, AND SECURITY CONTROLS

Software and cloud services are essential to many businesses, but subscriptions alone don't account for everything needed to manage these environments securely.

Your 2027 budget should include existing software and cloud requirements, anticipated growth, and the security controls needed to protect company information.

This may include multifactor authentication, access management, monitoring, vulnerability management, and appropriate data protection measures.

If your business plans to introduce additional cloud services or AI tools, consider their security and governance requirements as well.

4. CONTRACT RENEWALS AND VENDOR OVERSIGHT

Software subscriptions, service agreements, and vendor contracts should all have a place in your annual technology budget.

Beyond accounting for renewals, consider whether your organization has adequate processes for reviewing the security of vendors that access company systems or sensitive information.

Document upcoming contract renewals, planned service changes, and any vendor assessments or security reviews that may be needed.

5. CYBERSECURITY AND BUSINESS RESILIENCE

Cybersecurity shouldn't be treated as an optional addition to your IT budget.

Risk assessments, security improvements, incident response planning, employee training, and backup and recovery testing all support your organization's ability to manage technology risk.

Businesses with regulatory or contractual security obligations should also account for the documentation, assessments, and ongoing oversight needed to meet those requirements.

These considerations deserve attention alongside traditional IT expenses.

Key Takeaway

A well-developed IT budget accounts for the technology your business needs and the security measures required to support it.

Before finalizing your 2027 budget, review these five categories with your leadership and IT teams to identify any gaps that should be addressed in the year ahead.



5 IT Costs to Plan for With Every New Hire

Adding new employees is an exciting sign of business growth, but each new hire also introduces technology and security requirements.

From equipment and software to secure access and IT support, accounting for these needs in your budget helps make onboarding smoother while maintaining appropriate security practices.

These costs shouldn't be seen as barriers to bringing new employees onto your team. Technology expenses are a normal part of hiring, and planning for them helps reduce disruptions while keeping onboarding organized and secure.

Building these requirements into your 2027 IT budget also helps ensure your business can accommodate growth without overlooking important technology or security responsibilities.

COST #1: COMPUTERS AND EQUIPMENT

Hardware is the first and most obvious cost for many businesses, but it can still come as a surprise if you're not careful.

Especially for larger businesses with a closet of old devices, hardware costs might be put off and new employees given older models. But setting up staff for success with the right equipment is instrumental to building a productive business.

Depending on the requirements of the position, a new hire may need the following:

- Laptop or desktop computer
- Headset for taking calls
- Mobile device
- Monitors

Establishing standard equipment packages for roles before the hiring process begins helps make budgeting and onboarding more predictable.

COST #2: SOFTWARE AND LICENSES

Recurring software costs are one of the most reliable budget items on a spreadsheet. You know what tools your employees use and can plan for the licenses needed as your team grows.

However, it's easy to overlook how much additional software access each new employee may require.

From productivity applications and cloud platforms to security tools and specialized software, each new hire may introduce additional recurring expenses.

Building an itemized list of required applications and licenses for each role helps ensure these needs are included in your IT budget.

COST #3: ACCOUNTS, ACCESS AND SECURITY

Accounts: Establish individual accounts with appropriate permissions for the

QUICK TIP

New Computer?
Check What's Installed.

New computers often come with preinstalled software, sometimes called bloatware.

Manufacturers may include these programs through promotional agreements or trial offers.

Some are useful, but others may slow performance, create unnecessary notifications, or encourage unwanted subscriptions.

Before using a new computer:

- Review installed programs.
- Remove unnecessary trial software.
- **Check with IT before uninstalling anything on a work device.**



Thank you to all who have served. Today we honor you and your sacrafice.

systems and applications each employee needs. Include secure authentication, multifactor authentication where appropriate, and processes for managing access as roles change.

Access: Configure keycards, fobs, or other physical access technologies required for employees to access the office without relying on borrowed or temporary credentials.

Security: Include cybersecurity awareness training in your onboarding process so new employees understand company policies, recognize common threats, and know how to handle sensitive information appropriately.

Focusing on these three areas helps your business maintain appropriate security practices while creating a consistent onboarding experience.

COST #4: IT SETUP AND SUPPORT

Whether your business works with an external IT service provider or maintains an internal IT team, onboarding requires time and resources.

New devices must be configured, software installed, accounts created, access permissions assigned, and security controls verified.

The labor involved in completing these tasks may not always be clearly defined in an IT budget, but it's an important requirement to account for.

Even when support is covered by an existing agreement or employee salary, onboarding additional staff requires time and planning.

Including IT setup and support in your budget helps ensure new employees can begin working with the technology they need.

COST #5: TECHNOLOGY GROWTH OVER TIME

One new employee may not significantly affect your existing technology environment, but continued growth can place additional demands on your systems.

As your organization adds employees, you may need additional software licenses, increased cloud capacity, stronger access management, or upgrades to existing infrastructure.

Because hiring often happens gradually, these requirements can be easy to overlook.

Review your organization's anticipated growth and consider how additional employees may affect your technology environment over time.

Accounting for these needs helps your business support expansion while maintaining performance, security, and reliability.

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THESE COSTS

Planning for technology requirements should be part of your organization's broader hiring and budgeting conversations.

Before adding new positions, consider what equipment, software, access permissions, security training, and support each role will require.

Working with your internal IT team or a trusted technology provider can help identify these requirements and ensure they're accounted for in your 2027 IT budget.

Key Takeaway
Every new hire introduces technology, support, and security requirements. Including these needs in your 2027 IT budget helps your business support growth while maintaining secure, efficient onboarding processes.

