Education Services

IT Simplification Enterprise Assessment: Strategy and guidance to enhance IT performance
What are the most important goals for your institution?

- Maybe you are looking to benefit from new technologies that improve student achievement.
- Perhaps you are considering Cloud Computing to manage digital content and optimize Learning Management Systems.
- You may want to improve access and integration of Student Information Systems.
- Your needs might be to optimize the return on investment for existing resources and free up those funds for use elsewhere.

The next step towards a more efficient organization

Many educational initiatives require you to reduce the cost of operations, improve IT management efficiency, and prepare for the future. There are many barriers that can affect success, such as: difficult-to-manage network architecture, antiquated systems that do not support innovation, inadequate data access and storage, or just the challenge of keeping current with new technologies. Whether you are planning your next IT initiative or simply looking to address known challenges, assessing your current environment to understand potential gaps may be the right first step to begin gathering information and considering options.

Dell can help

Dell’s IT Simplification Enterprise Assessment service provides you the ability to understand existing pain points and costs prior to making your next technology investment. Our end-to-end, detailed evaluation from “As-Is” all the way “To-Be” delivers an excellent way to identify obstacles that may be in the way of achieving efficiency within your organization. This strategic assessment begins with identifying and collecting financial and qualitative data for your information technology systems. Our education industry experts will assess the level of complexity in your IT environment based on internally-developed, industry-validated standards.

The Assessment also provides a baseline of activity-based costs for your institution. By understanding your current processes and their support costs, Dell can recommend a simplified future mode of operations to improve efficiency and significantly reduce costs.

Key objectives of Dell’s IT Simplification Enterprise Assessment

- Identify the systematic, financial, and operational components of your current operations.
- Analyze and rate your organization’s IT services against Dell’s efficiency rating model.
- Identify operational effectiveness and cost reduction opportunities.
- Recommend improvements based on “best-in-class” infrastructure solutions.

Our engagements utilize:

- Skilled solution architects. Dell’s Education Technology Consultants use extensive experience in educational technology and administration combined with innovative analytical tools to get results.
- Intellectual property. We use expertise from past engagements for rapid insight into what is driving unnecessary complexity in your organization.
- Action-oriented plans. Approaches that are designed to deliver specific, predictable, and measurable outcomes.
- High-impact, fixed-scope projects. Designed to deliver quick return on investment and measurable results.
Realize the benefits

- **Match your technical and operating requirements.** Your institution may be going through substantial change because of new educational initiatives, restructuring, budgetary pressures, or simply dealing with end-of-life technologies. Our consultants identify opportunities within your infrastructure and make suggestions for improvements based on understanding your unique technical and operating requirements.

- **Continuous improvements.** Our technology professionals develop recommendations and appropriate sequencing designed to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and cost of your IT environment. Dell also works collaboratively with your team to identify “quick hit” improvements that can be implemented immediately to deliver instant value.

- **Identify next steps.** Our assessment deliverables are based on best practices and include specific findings and recommendations to reduce complexity and maintenance spend. Together, we determine priorities of a future state roadmap by detailing key projects and predicting potential cost savings. In addition, we help you plan and build the transformational initiatives needed to achieve your long-term strategic plans.

The Dell IT Services delivery team uses a standard five-step process for all of our Consulting Services:

- **Workshop**
- **Assessment**
- **Design**
- **Implement**
- **Manage/Support**

Dell provides integrated service solutions to meet your institution’s goals.

### End-to-End (Customizable) Scope

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The IT Simplification Enterprise Assessment includes everything you need to set your enterprise up for immediate and future success.

**Process Overview**

- Approximate 6-12 week engagement, based on scope and complexity
- Pre-assessment questionnaire and checklists for initial data collection reviewed and cataloged
- Extensive interviews with your key service area leaders
- Data collection including complete data analysis and validation activities
- Follow-up interviews with key leaders to clarify items, confirm data points, and validate assumptions
- Review data and document observations and assumptions
- Build out and present findings and discussion of next steps

**Deliverables**

- Assessment report of “To Be” recommendations
- Executive summary
- Strategic vision and architectural principles (if requested)
- Organizational analysis (structure, touch points, cost of service delivery by IT discipline)
- IT simplification rating
- Comparisons to best practices and benchmarks
- Key infrastructure findings and impacts
- Red-Amber-Green (pain point) analysis
- Tools and automation gap analysis
- Potential cost savings and efficiency gains
- Transformational recommendations and roadmaps
- Assessment summary overview: A unique pictorial overview of the end-to-end analysis, representing the As-Is/To-Be, key issues, business case, and transformational interdependencies.

**Preparing for success**

For IT initiatives, effective up-front preparation is perhaps the single most important element to achieve implementation success, drive teacher adoption, and deliver student benefits. Dell’s IT Simplification Enterprise Assessment helps educational institutions ensure that the proper infrastructure and technology platforms are in place to successfully deliver key organizational initiatives.

**Is your infrastructure ready for the newest learning systems?**

Many administrators are looking to prepare their campuses and infrastructure for high-efficiency instructional systems that provide greater mobility, flexibility, and value. By enabling your infrastructure to better support key initiatives such as Digital Content, Learning Management Systems, or Cloud Computing, your institution will be well positioned to use today’s proven education tools and technologies while preparing for greater efficiencies in the future.

The Dell IT Simplification Enterprise Assessment can optimize existing resources and help evaluate your institution’s readiness for future IT success.

For more information about any of our service offerings, please contact your Dell representative or visit dell.com/services.

**Case-in-Point**

By assessing IT infrastructure and processes, Dell helped Spring Branch ISD in Houston, Texas build a better foundation for the future.

As an early technology leader in providing students with access to computers years before many other districts, Spring Branch ISD was challenged to maintain that edge by refreshing systems and processes while making the most of the IT budget.

Dell’s complete on-site IT Simplification Assessment, reviewed all aspects of the district’s IT organization and infrastructure and interviewed staff to identify potential improvements.

The assessment delivered immediate benefits for Spring Branch by:

- Identifying “quick hits” that could be immediately addressed
- Enabling better communication among IT staff
- Providing a blueprint and justification for future IT investments and projects

“The district had other consultants perform IT assessments in the past, but their approach was not as focused and their final report was not as useful. Dell’s final report is more readable, practical and actionable. It is a night and day difference!”

Venu Rao, CIO
Spring Branch ISD