

# AGILE CIO

## STRATEGIC IT LEADERSHIP ON A LONG TERM BASIS

The business world has changed. The need to be flexible and responsive to events is more important than ever before. The reliance on information becomes ever greater. The importance of communications with customers and stakeholders becomes ever more critical. And yet cost pressures dictate the use of fewer resources. Large payrolls and employing senior people who can help manage information and communications is impossible; but access to people who understand these things is key to the success of our organisations.

This is particularly true for associations and charities. These groups are typically small to medium enterprises, employing between 20 and 200 staff. However, they often have many thousands of members or other stakeholders. And those stakeholders expect the highest levels of service, including round the clock access to information, regardless of the size of the central services. It is the dilemma of being a small company, but a large organisation.

Stakeholders want full internet access to services, with high availability, quality and security guaranteed. Regulatory requirements on Data Protection and Freedom of Information must be met. Within an organisation, decisions about business applications and infrastructure are all vital to ensure the smooth running of the operation. And as a business evolves it must be confident that it has a strategy to ensure that its information systems evolve with it.

It is to meet these needs, that IndigoBlue, the UK's leading consultancy in Agile methods, has developed the Agile CIO offering. For an agreed monthly fee, IndigoBlue provide an experienced, senior IT professional to perform, on a part time basis, the role typically carried out by a CIO or IT Director in an organisation. This provides several key advantages

- Access to a senior IT professional, with high-level management experience in blue-chip companies
- Access to the wider resources and knowledge pool within IndigoBlue with significant experience across a wide range of industries, technologies and business practice.
- A long term solution to refining IT strategy and implementation rather than the 'one hit' approach of reviews, audits and other traditional service solutions
- The Agile CIO provides support in IT procurement, significantly reducing the risk associated with such expenditure and ensuring that technical decisions are constant with strategy
- IndigoBlue can call on the experience of working with a similar organisations and can help 'cross-fertilise' ideas between different interested parties.
- IndigoBlue can be on hand at short notice and we are available for 'out-of-hours' calls
- Research work into new technologies, which would typically be carried out by an IT Director, is a core part of IndigoBlue's business. In employing an IT Director or CIO directly, an organisation would have to pay for this research. In employing IndigoBlue this research comes as a default part of our service.
- Alternative cover is on-hand in the event of sickness or leave.

IndigoBlue is one of the UK's leading project management consultancies. We specialise in Agile methods; techniques that help an organisation to become more responsive to change, whilst maintaining quality and reducing administration. We employ a number of former CIOs from a variety of industries who provide the Agile CIO service.

"Using IndigoBlue gives us access to a hugely experienced group of IT personnel who can assist us in managing all aspects of our IT function; strategy, management and implementation, in an Agile and cost effective manner."

Jeanette Purcell,  
Chief Executive,  
Association of  
MBAs

**For more information contact:**

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PAGE 2 OF 2

The Agile CIO targets 5 specific areas for improvement within an organisation:

**Procurement;** getting the best value from existing IT investment, reviewing ongoing contracts and licences and assisting with new IT investment decisions

**Strategy;** aligning IT and business strategy and ensuring that IT can fully support the business objectives of an organisation

**Planning;** ensuring that IT plans are built up to support the business in the most cost-effective way, at a rate of change that the business can accommodate successfully

**Organisation;** the structure of the IT operations and the methods they follow are vital to meet the higher level

**New Opportunities;** IT can support existing business objectives and can also reveal new opportunities.

IndigoBlue's detailed understanding of IT and its applicability to business ensures that new opportunities can readily be discovered and evaluated.

The Agile CIO is introduced and developed using a proven set of steps to ensure the most rapid return on investment.

**High-level audit and strategy summary;** the first step typically takes a week and provides an organisation with a review of its existing operations and suggestions for exploiting new opportunities. This work can be carried out on a risk-reward basis—if we don't identify immediate savings, an organisation doesn't pay for the audit.

**Identify & solve key issues;** having carried out an audit and identified immediate issues and opportunities, the key function is to solve those items, delivering immediate business benefit.

**Build and agree overall strategy;** from this point on the strategy can be reviewed, refined and implemented on an iterative basis, with the Agile CIO available over the long term to oversee it.

“IndigoBlue worked closely with us to understand our business, our requirements and our culture. They worked in an Agile manner to deliver a comprehensive review of our information needs and formulated a plan to help us deliver excellent service to our members. IndigoBlue offered a very cost effective solution and delivered on-time and to budget.”

Jane Scott Paul,  
Chief Executive,  
Association  
of Accounting  
Technicians

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