

## **The Need for IT Governance in your Business**

The growing list of compliance issues is a burden of reality that you simply have to accept – there's no escaping it and those who are complacent about it will soon get their comeuppance. As a helpful reminder, here's a random selection of just some of the compliance demands your organisation is expected to be fully compliant with:

- The Computer Misuse Act 1990;
- The Defamation Act 1996;
- The Data Protection Act 1998;
- The Electronic Communications Act 2000;
- The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000
- The Proceeds of Crime Act 2002; and
- The Sarbanes-Oxley Act 2002

As if current compliance isn't enough, there's plenty more coming your way, like section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act 2002 and its UK/EU equivalent. Is your IT department ready for all the challenges that particular slug of legislation brings? The fact is, it's not simply a matter of understanding and managing the security, availability and integrity of data and systems. It's all about key internal IT controls being documented and transparent to the users and to management. And what if you've outsourced key components of your IT infrastructure or development? Do you know how these third parties are dealing with compliance?

### **Effective IT governance avoids a compliance nightmare**

An effective IT Governance framework should be an integral part of your existing corporate governance and reporting structure, fully supported by executive management and deployed throughout your organisation. Establishing a governance framework not only renders compliance routine, it brings other benefits to your organisation:

- IT supports the business strategy, aims and objectives, adding value to the business.
- Appropriate and effective processes are in place to monitor, manage and report on IT and IT risks.
- IT is compliant with all relevant laws and regulations.
- The entire organisation understands its IT responsibilities including security and privacy.
- Demands on IT are managed and met in an efficient, cost effective and consistent manner.

Existing IT quality initiatives are adequately considered, including ITIL, CMMI, COSO and COBIT. Effective IT Governance ensures that your IT capabilities are understood, managed and are responsive to the demands of your business and environment. In short, IT Governance is about managing all of the risks that might impact upon delivering effective IT.

### **How we make IT governance work for you**

Whatever the maturity of your existing IT Governance, we can help you take the next steps in building and strengthening it. We recommend you start with a risk assessment tailored to your needs. Typically, this would include a review of:

- Information security;
- High-level policies and procedures;
- Organisational structures;
- Risk management;
- Process management; and
- Performance measurement and management.

We can also deploy expertise to assess the maturity of system development or carry out detailed technical security reviews including ethical hacking exercises, for example.

### ***About DeJUZ Consulting***

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