

IT Relationship Management: Aligning IT with the Business - 3 Days

Course 902 Overview

You Will Learn How To

- Build a strong alignment between IT and the business
- Plan a strategy that positions you as a trusted IT advisor to key stakeholders
- Choose IT projects that build trust and alignment
- Articulate IT solutions that meet business needs
- Create clear and effective service delivery agreements
- Differentiate your internal IT services to ensure competitive solutions

Course Benefits

Successful relationship management bridges the divide that often arises between a business unit and its IT department. In this course, you learn the best practices of IT Relationship Management (ITRM) for facilitating actionable IT solutions that provide value to the business and satisfy the needs of business stakeholders. You learn to take on the role of the trusted IT advisor who can align the needs of the business with IT services.

Who Should Attend

IT department managers, IT executives, business/IT liaisons, project managers or anyone who establishes, manages, and maintains the relationship between IT and the business.

RealityPlus™

Extensive performance-based activities throughout this course immerse you in the role of an IT Relationship Manager. You gain practical experience in both the technical and social nuances of serving as a trusted IT advisor to the business. Activities include:

- Experiencing trust firsthand through a dynamic simulation
- Evaluating stakeholders to determine their level of influence and power
- Uncovering and documenting an IT organization's catalogue of services, including catalogue management
- Recommending solutions to complex, simulated IT relationship problems
- Negotiating and documenting business agreements using industry-standard formats
- Collaborating with others to foster new ideas and innovations
- Assessing performance with a relationship scorecard

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Course 902 Outline

Overview of Relationship Management

- Why organizations need successful relationships between IT and the business
- Balancing the needs of IT and the business
- Effectively aligning IT investments and business goals

Principles for Aligning IT and the Business

The trusted IT advisor

- Recognizing how trust feels
- Defining trust in an IT organization
- The four primary components for building a trusted relationship

IT Relationship Management (ITRM) roles

- IT relationship management vs. IT project management
- Discovering your strengths and weaknesses
- Technical and social competencies required for effective ITRM

Determining IT's Current State

Defining a catalogue of services

- Identifying IT products and services
- The components of an ideal catalogue
- Creating an initial catalogue from scratch
- Ranking services with metrics

Developing awareness of the organizational culture

- The IntCRM Model
- Overcoming common IT relationship barriers
- Exploring how things get done in the organization
- Applying tools for culture analysis

Building the Trusted Relationship

Knowing your stakeholders

- Identifying business and IT stakeholders
- The stakeholder relationship life cycle
- Classifying the roles stakeholders play
- The importance of stakeholder power and influence

Optimizing the first meeting

- Planning the meeting
- Models for understanding people
- Explaining the role of the ITRM
- Confirming relationships and roles
- Leaving with actions

Planning the relationship strategy

- Analyzing the relationship
- Recruiting trusted teams
- Forming the plan
- Executing the strategy

Facilitating Actionable IT Solutions

Performing competitive analysis

- Evaluating IT outsourcing and consulting solutions
- Establishing your competitive advantage

Identifying opportunities for improvement

- Capturing, prioritizing and documenting business needs
- Applying a framework for prioritizing and selecting projects
- Picking quick-win projects

Designing a strategy to meet customer needs

- Conducting a modified SWOT analysis
- Questions you should ask
- Making a go or no-go decision

Winning Competitive IT Projects

Responding to requests

- Differentiating your services from your competitors'
- Communicating your internal IT capabilities to the business
- Validating business needs in business terms

Selling your solutions to the business

- Translating IT-speak to business-speak
- Creatively communicating your understanding of stakeholder pains
- Articulating IT solutions in terms of business value
- Writing clear, tailored service level agreements (SLAs)

Managing project handoffs

- Ensuring a seamless transition
- ITRM across the project life cycle
- Creating and maintaining communication channels
- Building the relationship

The IT relationship scorecard

- Establishing quantitative and qualitative performance metrics
- Assessing ITRM success
- Analyzing results