

Why an MSP is the Right Choice For Your Nonprofit Organization

Utilizing Managed Service Providers to
optimize nonprofit technology operations

White Paper



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Introduction

[According to one report](#), 11% of nonprofit organizations say they handle digital resources effectively. In addition, only 20% of nonprofits believe they lead the tech adoption drive. Most nonprofit organizations don't compete with profit-making companies. However, it doesn't mean nonprofits don't require progressive IT services. The right [technology solutions can help nonprofits](#) reach and surpass their goals.

Many nonprofit organizations lack the in-house IT operations to attain this. Instead, they are left to deal with outdated, cumbersome systems and little help to improve things. This is where managed IT service providers jump in! Managed IT solutions can be highly beneficial and valuable for nonprofit organizations. They allow nonprofits to create, deliver and manage information and technology, and help optimize business operations.

This whitepaper will explain how nonprofits can take advantage of managed IT solutions, including cloud solutions, cybersecurity, and IT consulting, in the ever-changing digital world.

Industry Overview: What is an MSP?

Managed service providers (MSPs) are third-party individuals or companies that work either/both remotely/virtually or onsite to keep various aspects of the business running effortlessly. MSPs offer solutions to your applications, security, infrastructure, and network. They thoroughly scan a client's tech status and ensure it operates properly. Various government agencies, small and medium-sized businesses, and nonprofit organizations hire MSPs to execute their daily technology management services.

Here are a few IT services MSPs provide:

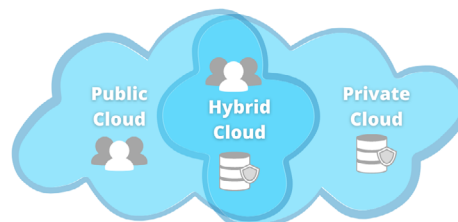
Managed IT

Managed IT services/solutions are a great way to keep IT applications and infrastructure cost-effective, stable, and pertinent to ever-changing business needs. It's [a proactive way to help](#) address your pressing IT-centered business problems.

- Business continuity
- Disaster recovery
- Complete IT coverage (Manage360)

Cloud Solutions

Cloud computing solutions are built and managed to meet your organization's application requirements. Cloud solutions allow businesses to focus solely on results, maximizing IT processes while increasing software innovation and development.



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IT Consulting

IT consulting solutions balance business needs within budget. They help identify IT solutions and help organizations choose products, services, and providers that best meet their needs.

Some notable IT consulting solutions are:

- Project management
- Design and architecture
- Migration and implementation
- Asset and vendor management

Specific services that MSPs offer each can benefit nonprofits, and we'll explain why and how in the following sections.

Cybersecurity

[IT security prevents and detects threats](#) on networks, users, and endpoints by setting prompts for each identified risk. An automated investigation flow kicks in, revealing the attack's origin and cause, and automatically fixes the issue.

Managed IT Services for Nonprofits

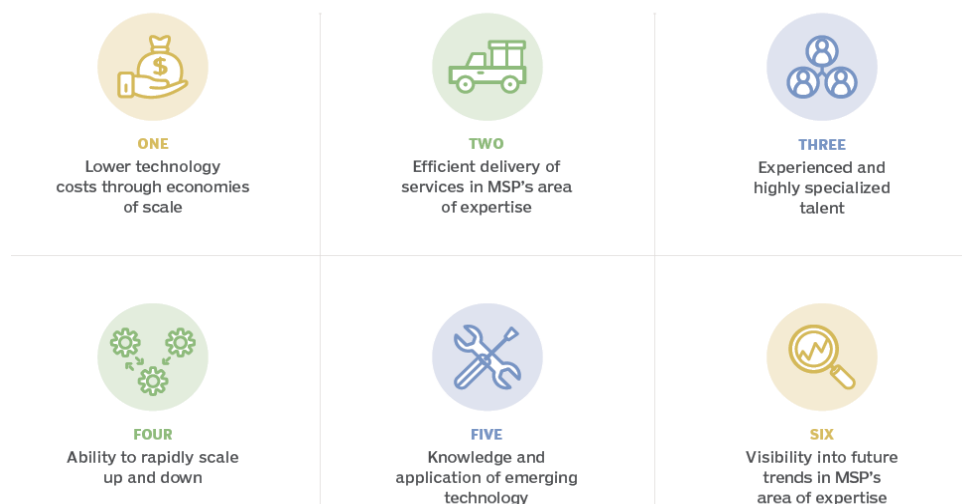
Here's the thing: when you're working for nonprofits, you might be wearing several hats, no matter the organization's size. Nonprofit CEOs may manage marketing matters, execute occasional clean-up jobs, and provide tech support.

[Managed IT services for nonprofits](#) allows you to center your focus on achieving your organization's goals. This way, you'll have additional time to perform tasks that propel your organization's objectives. MSPs provide organizations with a functional approach to offering a secure, reliable, and stable IT operating setting. In addition, they help nonprofits and other organizations use their tech more effectively to support their business needs.

Here are a few reasons why nonprofits need to hire a managed IT service provider:

[TechTarget: What is a Managed Service Provider](#)

6 Key Benefits MSPs Bring in a Fast-Changing IT Environment



Why an MSP is the Right Choice for Your Nonprofit Organization

Prompt Support And Response Time

When you hire an MSP, someone will monitor your organization's IT infrastructure round the clock. No matter the problem, such as power failure or users' account lockouts, the provider will troubleshoot issues and find solutions. Someone will always be there to address technical problems your organization might have. For example, software bugs are a major concern; the IT support will make sure all systems remain upgraded so that you won't face any problems.

Flexibility

Since nonprofit organizations exist across various industries, MSPs should remain flexible to meet a company's fluctuating needs. It can be scaled down or up based on your nonprofit's specific needs. For instance, during fundraisers where people may join you as volunteers in large numbers, the IT solution can handle the increase in users.

In addition, MSPs can recommend devices or products that will help your organization meet its respective goals throughout the year.

Cost-Effectiveness

How much do you spend on tech? Does your nonprofit have a certain budget allocated for the technology it requires?

When you're unsure what devices or software programs will best work for the organization, spending more on tech and exceeding the budget is quite easy. MSPs help nonprofits keep their tech cost under control. They will help you identify your hardware and software needs and form a suitable tech budget. With managed IT services, you'll only have to pay a specific monthly fee rather than paying separately for new devices, software packages, and various other IT needs.

This way, you'll know your nonprofit's IT cost every month, providing you with a better way to manage the budget, helping you devise your donation and fundraising goals for that year.

Cloud Solutions For Nonprofits

[81% of businesses claim cloud solutions](#) provide a competitive edge over rivals. Organizations of all sizes and types are switching to the cloud, from member-based corporations to trade organizations to Wall Street firms. The same is the case with nonprofit organizations. Nonprofits have completely transformed their functions by using cloud solutions.

Here's how [cloud solutions have changed how nonprofits work](#):

Remote Access From Anywhere

Nonprofit organizations consist of various people such as grant writers, board members, stakeholders, and more. Collaboration is the key because they're working from different locations worldwide. Thanks to the cloud, employees can easily access the data they need, no matter the location, provided they have a stable internet connection. Remote access enables nonprofit organizations to share information securely and more efficiently with members, leading to enhanced productivity.

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Cloud Solutions Helps Minimize Carbon Footprints

Many nonprofit organizations have vested interests in minimizing carbon footprints and helping keep the planet green. With cloud technologies, nonprofits can drastically reduce carbon footprints. Data centers holding cloud solutions are increasingly energy-efficient than IT infrastructure and solutions that many companies use on-premise because fewer servers are created and maintained.

Enterprise-level Solutions for Reduced Costs

Nonprofits need to save money. Cloud solutions allow them to slash their IT expenses by removing software and hardware that needs costly upgrades and/or installations. This means nonprofits can save on two major fronts: people (IT maintenance staff come costly) and power (energy required for onsite hardware).

Cloud solutions have revolutionized how these organizations work because they allow them to utilize backup services, disaster recovery, and enterprise-class security at an affordable cost.

Additional Cloud Benefits to Nonprofits

The cloud provides unmatched scalability, allowing nonprofits to manage growth efficiently. Other benefits include:

- Cloud solutions save nonprofits countless hours
- Increased fundraising opportunities
- Access to all sorts of data
- Silo-breaking integrations
- Cloud solutions offer unparalleled security such as threat intelligence, encryption, physical security, and “Identity And Access Management (IAM)” from various cybersecurity threats

General IT Consulting Solutions for Nonprofits

Information technology consulting can help businesses of all sizes solve current and potential tech problems. IT consulting provides a range of services that find the best solutions for your business and creates a complete IT roadmap to implement.

Tech consultants collaborate with organizations and businesses to develop faster, smarter, and better IT solutions. They help companies streamline processes, minimize costs, and increase digital techniques to transform how they share, use and store their data.

Here are a few IT consulting services businesses can take:

- Project management (align technology roadmaps and best practices)
- Design and architecture (optimize and balance the cost and flexibility of hardware and software)
- Migration and implementation (scalable solutions addressing various IT problems)
- Asset and vendor management (relationships that best work for you)

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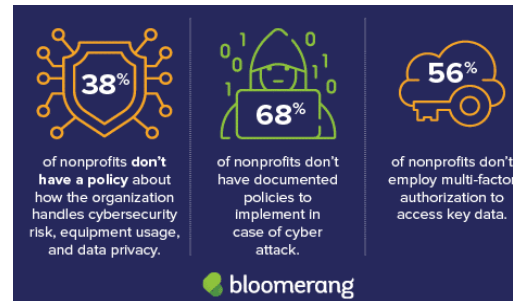
IT Security Solutions for Nonprofits

Cyber-security threats can originate from various directions, including hackers, corporate spies, etc. [No matter the type of threat](#), it can leave nonprofits at risk as they are often the most targeted.

MSPs help nonprofits overall management of cyber-security risks by organizing data, addressing threats, enabling risk-management decisions, and more. They also help develop and apply the necessary activities to detect cyber-security occurrences and provide essential means to respond to them so your organization can quickly recover.

Another important part of organizational security is ensuring you are [staying compliant with both local and foreign policies](#) and practicing data safety for internal operations, and when dealing with clients and members. MSPs will provide the best tools that are within your specific compliancy requirements.

Source: [Nonprofit Cybersecurity: 7 Tips to Keep Donor Data Safe](#)



Some key features of cybersecurity that MSPs can provide are:

- **Firewall:** establishes a barrier between your internal network and incoming traffic from external sources in order to block malicious traffic like viruses and hackers.
- **Power Filtering:** the best threat intelligence technology based on billions of email messages filtered daily from the biggest companies worldwide
- **Cybersecurity Training:** training is essential to preparing the workforce of tomorrow, and for keeping current workers up-to-date on skills and evolving threats.
- **Next-Gen AV (NGAV):** block execution of malware, exploits fileless, macros and ransomware
- **Endpoint Detection and Response:** detect advanced attacks by monitoring of endpoint file and process activities
- **User Behavioral Analytics:** profile the behavior of all user accounts to pinpoint anomalies that indicate any attempted compromise
- **Network Traffic Analysis:** monitor network traffic to unveil reconnaissance, credential theft, lateral movement, and data exfiltration attempts
- **Deception:** Plant various types of decoy files across your environment to lure attackers into revealing their presence

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Key Takeaways

But how does IT consulting help nonprofits? Operating nonprofit organizations takes dedication and hard work; it could be increasingly overwhelming with moving responsibilities, pieces, and individuals involved. Often, the best option nonprofits can take is to ask for help.

Whether with human resources, grant writing, or fundraising, nonprofit IT consultants can help make these operations smooth and easy. Nonprofit organizations that use IT consulting yield greater success. IT consultants play a major role in transforming organizations into creative and innovative hubs. They help them overcome various business obstacles and improve performance and efficiency. This way, nonprofits can grow exponentially without any hassle.

Work With Computer Resources of America

Managed IT solutions provide several benefits for businesses. However, they can be equally beneficial for nonprofits. How? Leveraging managed tech services can help you save money, facilitate donor management, budgeting parameters, data security, etc.

So, do you want to revolutionize IT operations while reducing costs? If so, choose Computer Resource of America (CRA). CRA aims to help clients succeed at all costs. We provide a range of managed IT solutions/services so that you can center your focus on nonprofit needs – not tech concerns. Our services include managed IT, cloud consulting, IT consulting, and staffing. For more info about our managed services, [visit our website](#) or [contact us directly](#)!



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