

Summary of Findings

Overall Findings

Overall, the ACME Application Strategy is very good, however there are a few areas which would help to make it more effective:

- Obtain buy-in from stakeholders through linkage of application goals to organization objectives
- Provide recommendations on when application teams should build vs. buy so that they can align to ACME's architecture
- Provide guidance on how and when to rationalize application portfolios

Initial Readiness

The strategy has the key components required to proceed:

- Includes the driver/goals
- Clearly articulates future/target state
- Has a duration of the next 5 years
- Covers the North American arm of the organization
- The CIO has provided a leadership message addressing key principles
- The overall strategy is concise and easy to read

No additional actions are required to meet initial readiness

Goals

The goals of the strategy have been clearly articulated and address stated problems. The initiatives appear to align to the goals, however it is not clear how they all align to the organization's overall goals.

We recommend that the strategy spell out how the goals address the organizations needs. This helps to increase adoption of the strategy and help to maintain its relevance, as stakeholders will better understand the business value that the strategy provides a foundation for.

Technology

The ACME Inc. application strategy is future focused. It speaks to the changes that are required to ensure the applications enable the current business goals, and that they are flexible enough to support the organization as it moves forward, at least for the next five years as outlined in the strategy.

The strategy should provide direction on whether applications are purchased or built. In addition, it should provide guidance on rationalization. We recommend that ACME add a general direction within the strategy.

Demand, Capacity and Ability

The ACME strategy talks about hiring additional resources to support the initiatives. Both internal resources and external consultants will support the delivery of initiatives and their resulting applications. Experience design has been highlighted in the strategy, and a communication plan has been outlined at a high level to ensure the strategy can achieve success.

No further recommendations for demand, capacity, and ability.

Initiatives & Visionary Roadmap

The initiatives outlined are clear and should help the ACME organization attain its goals. The roadmap shows the clear path to accomplish the initiatives within its timeline.

No further actions are required for the initiatives and roadmap.