



# **Digital Transformation (DX) Best Practices**

**A Proactive, Collaborative and Balanced Approach for  
Managing, Securing and Improving the Online Services  
that Drive a DX Enterprise**

**By**

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**December 2018**

## **Digital Transformation (DX) Best Practices**

Adopting and Operationalizing DX Best Practices Across an Enterprise Supply Chain

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## Digital Transformation (DX) Best Practices

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Three things are certain in today's business world: first, **digital services** are now at the center of all businesses; second, business is a moving target and third businesses are under attack from those trying to steal the critical information companies rely on for daily business operations and revenue generation.

The demand for a proactive, collaborative and balanced approach for managing, securing and improving digital assets and digital services across stakeholders, supply chains, functions, markets, and geographies has never been greater.

Digital services are fundamental to corporate success, and cyber service decisions, like all other business decisions, must consider both the value and risk the service will contribute to the customer experience. In-light of this, a solid, sound business case for cyber investments requires mature business, and risk judgment. Unfortunately, there are no shortcuts to developing maturity or to developing judgment – both take time and experience. There is only one way to gain traction in these circumstances and that is to apply the collective experience of all stakeholders in the pursuit and execution of a single customer experience strategy. In this case the integrated whole is much greater than the sum of the individual parts.

To support this new cyber service business model, enterprises must adopt and adapt a best practice approach to **Digital Transformation (DX)**. The DX program must deliver a proactive, collaborative and balanced approach for adopting and operationalizing the incremental improvements to stabilize, optimize, secure and improve an enterprise digital service portfolio.

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### *Shaping the Future – DX Best Practices*

Before an enterprise can adopt and operationalize a DX program, it must demonstrate three main characteristics; an unambiguous understanding of their customer's need, repeatable processes to ensure consistency of execution, and the ability to innovate in a structured manner.

To achieve an unambiguous understanding of the customer's needs, enterprises must, in a structured repeatable manner, define and categorize the enterprise process, technology and capability requirements. The next step is to compare these requirements to the existing environment to understand what it will take to achieve and manage the required capability. The provider must do this in the context of governance based on enterprise goals and achievement measured against expected outcomes.

Repeatable processes are required to ensure consistency of execution. This is critical because day-to-day business processes rely so much on embedded technology that failure to execute consistently directly impacts the enterprise's ability to deliver its products or services.

Finally, the enterprise must develop a utility grade delivery platform and practice management model that is capable of supporting emerging utility-based architectures and applications such as Real Time Infrastructure (RTI), Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) and Software as a Service (SaaS). The delivery platform provides the portal through which the enterprise receives its business enabling technology. The enterprise brokers those services irrespective of their source, internal or external. Therefore, the enterprise can deliver utility grade, business-aligned services as needed, and manage technology investments and innovation in a structured manner.

Underpinning all of this is the need for a model that helps identify what services need to be sourced internally and what services can be sourced

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externally. This model will provide the guidance the enterprise needs to classify the services and processes that are critical to quality service delivery and differentiation in the marketplace (See Figure 1). The internally sourced services are prime candidates for investment, as they are critical to the success of the business. The business may source other activities according to the capability of the enterprise using established sourcing policies and guidelines such as Carnegie-Mellon's eSCM capability model.

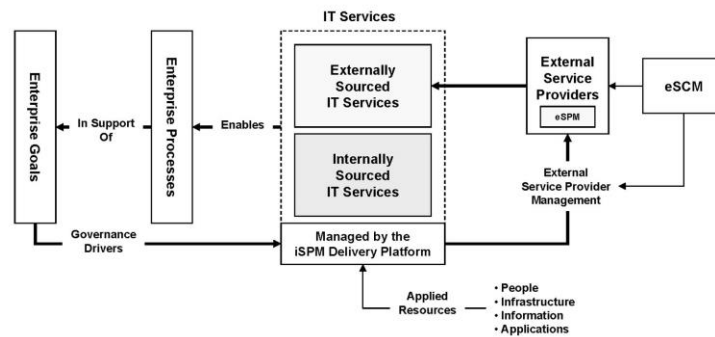


Figure 1

### ***DX Frameworks, Methods & Standards***

To support this new DX model, enterprises need to transform the traditional Business – IT paradigm from one focused on technological value to one focused on service value. This service provider paradigm encompasses widely accepted digital transformation frameworks, methods and standards focused around stabilizing, optimizing, securing and improving an organization's digital services portfolio.

Over the years to support this new digital service model, enterprises began to operationalize DX best practice frameworks, methods and standards

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to better manage the cost, quality, compliance and delivery of an enterprise digital services portfolio. Enterprise programs included ITIL® for IT Service Management, COBIT for IT Governance, PRINCE2 for effective project outcomes and ISO 20000 for organizational ITSM certification.

Today, due to the ever changing threat landscape created by mobile computing, the Internet of Things (IoT) and a very sophisticated network of threat actors (i.e., the bad guys) enterprises need to beef up their DX best practice portfolio to include frameworks, methods and standards that deal with digital enterprise readiness, cybersecurity risk management, cyber resilience, cloud security and software and application security.

When examined carefully, one discovers that there is some overlap between these frameworks, methods and standards. So, while created from different viewpoints, they all address a similar set of enterprise DX business problems. The result is a series of framework's, methods and standards designed to support the end game of a delivering a proactive, collaborative and balanced approach for stabilizing, optimizing, securing and improving an enterprise digital services portfolio.

### ***NISTCSF.COM DX Training Program***

The itSM Solutions NISTCSF.COM DX training program integrates eight best practice programs in support of operationalizing an enterprise DX program.

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| DX Program                                  | Framework, Method or Standard              |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Digital Enterprise Cybersecurity Risk Mgmt. | NIST Cybersecurity Framework               |
| Digital Enterprise Readiness                | Digital Enterprise Readiness Framework     |
| Digital Enterprise Cloud Security           | Cloud Security Alliance Framework          |
| Digital Enterprise Cyber Resilience         | RESILIA Cyber Resilience Framework         |
| Digital Enterprise Service Management       | ITIL Service Management Framework          |
| Digital Enterprise Governance               | COBIT 5 Governance Framework               |
| Digital Enterprise Software Security        | Software & Application Testing Methodology |
| Digital Enterprise Project Management       | PRINCE2 Project Management Methodology     |

**NIST & NICE Cyber Security Frameworks** provides guidance and training's on how digital enterprises can proactively manage and improve a cyber service portfolio in terms of cybersecurity risk and workforce development.

**Digital Enterprise Readiness Framework** provides guidance and training's on how digital enterprises can manage and improve a cyber business in terms of operational sustainability, organizational agility, strategic agility, and operating in a disruptive culture.

**Cloud Security Alliance Framework** provides guidance on how digital enterprises can adopt the cloud paradigm safely and securely

**ITIL Service Management Framework** provides guidance and training's on how digital enterprises can proactively manage and improve a cyber service portfolio in terms of agility, development, operations, cost, quality and compliance.

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**RESILIA™ Cyber Resilience Framework** provides guidance and training's on how digital enterprises can proactively manage and improve a cyber service portfolio in terms of business resiliency and recovery.

**COBIT Governance Framework** provides guidance and training's on how digital enterprises can proactively manage and improve a cyber service portfolio in terms of risk policies and controls.

**Software & Application Testing Methodology** provides guidance and training's on how digital enterprises can make software systems and applications safer regardless of their operating environment (web, IoT, Cloud)

**PRINCE 2 Project Management Methodology** provide guidance and training's on how digital enterprises can improve the success of its cyber service projects by using knowledge and techniques that result in a desired business outcome.

### ***NISTCSF.COM – DX Enterprise Training & Mentoring Program***

Listed below is a five-phase approach to acquiring the best practice trainings and skills to operationalize an enterprise DX program.

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#### *Phase 1 – Executive Team Training*

| Organization Role                                                             | Objective                                                                                        | Training Programs                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CEO, CFO, CIO, CISO CRO, CCO, PMO Director, SMO Director, Governance Director | To help the executive team understand the benefits associated with operationalizing a DX program | DX Executive Overview<br>DX Executive Simulations<br>Digital Readiness Training |

itSM's DX executive training and simulation services are designed to help the executive team to:

- **Understand** the benefits of adopting an DX program
- **Understand** the value of Digital Readiness
- **Secure** funding for the DX program
- **Select** a leadership team to drive the DX program

#### *Phase 2 – Program Leadership Team Training*

| Organization Role                                                                         | Objective                                                                                     | Training Programs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Practice Owners, Service Owners, Change Mgrs. Operation Mgrs. CSI Mgrs. Business Analysts | To help the leadership team acquire the knowledge and skills to develop an actionable DX plan | DX Assessment Training<br>NCSF Assessment Training<br>Digital Readiness Training<br>Planning to Change Workshop<br>Internet of Things Training<br>ITIL® Training<br>RESILIA Training<br>Prince 2 Training<br>NIST Cybersecurity Training<br>DX Simulations |

itSM's DX leadership training and simulation services are designed to help the leadership team acquire a systemic structure for thinking and planning and the skills to:

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- **Become** thought leaders for the DX program
- **Understand** the value of Digital Readiness
- **Perform the Assessment** to identify and document DX GAPS
- **Organize and Condition** the enterprise for DX

### *Phase 3 – Enterprise Readiness Training*

| Organization Role                                                       | Objective                                                                                                    | Training Program                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| All IT staff, senior leadership, stakeholders and supply chain partners | To help condition the enterprise for DX change through a series of online awareness and simulation trainings | DX Awareness<br>DX Simulations<br>Digital Readiness Training |

itSM's DX enterprise training and simulation services enable the enterprise business stakeholders and supply chain partners to:

- **Understand** the DX program and its value to the organization in terms of improving the quality, risk and security of an enterprise digital service portfolio
- **Understand** the value of Digital Readiness

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#### *Phase 4A – Practitioner Training*

| Organization Role                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Objective                                                                                                              | Training Programs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1st Line Mgrs.<br>Practice & Service Owners<br>Architects & Strategists<br>Operation & System, Analysts<br>Business & Quality Analysts<br>Program & Project Managers<br>Operation & Change Mgrs.<br>Service Level & CSI Mgrs.<br>Tool Administrators | To provide the DX practitioners the knowledge and skills to plan, design, implement, operate and improve a DX program. | DX Training<br>NIST Cybersecurity Framework Training<br>NIST Cybersecurity Employee Training<br>NICE Cybersecurity Workforce Trainings<br>Internet of Things Training<br>ITIL Trainings<br>RESILIA Trainings<br>Prince 2 Trainings<br>ISO 27001 Training<br>Cobit Training<br>DX Simulation Trainings |

itSM's DX information technology training and simulation services will enable the IT organization to acquire the knowledge and skills to:

- **Plan, Design, Implement, Operate and Improve** a DX program

#### *Phase 4B – Supply Chain Training*

| Organization Role                              | Objective                                                                                        | Training Programs                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Business Stakeholders<br>Supply Chain Partners | To provide basic cyber awareness training to all business stakeholders and supply chain partners | DX Simulation Training<br>NIST Cybersecurity Employee Training<br>Digital Readiness Training |

itSM's DX enterprise training and simulation services enable the enterprise business stakeholders and supply chain partners to:

- **Learn** the techniques cyber criminals are using to break into networks
- **Understand** the results of poor cyber practices
- **Understand** the value of Digital Readiness

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### *Phase 5 – Career Pathway Training*

| Organization Role | Objective                                                                                                                    | Activities                                                                                                              |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HR Manager        | To establish HR policies and procedures for training new employees and a career pathway for existing employees practicing DX | Setup both eLearning and role-based Blended Learning DX best practice training solutions for new and existing employees |

itSM's HR DX trainings help HR departments to:

- **Establish** policies and procedures for training new employees
- **Identify** career pathways for existing DX practitioners.

### *Summary*

Three things are certain: first, digital services are now at the center of most businesses; second, business is a moving target, third organizations are under attack from those trying to steal the information companies rely on for daily business operations.

The itSM Solutions **DX** assessment, remediation, certification and skills training programs enable organizations to learn the knowledge, skills and capabilities to build a proactive, collaborative and balanced approach for stabilizing, optimizing, securing and improving a digital enterprise services portfolio.

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### *About itSM Solutions LLC*

Founded in 2002, itSM Solutions LLC is the creator of the Digital Service & Security Management (DSSM) model. DSSM is a proactive, collaborative and balanced approach for adopting and adapting the best practices necessary to manage & improve the cost, quality, compliance, security, risk and business continuity of an enterprise digital service portfolio. DSSM suite of training, mentoring and certification solutions enables organizations to adopt and adapt a systemic structure for thinking when planning and designing digital services plus the skills to operate as a service provider integrated into the business value chain.

### *About the Authors*

**David Nichols** is the President and CEO of itSM Solutions LLC, an ITSM consulting and training company. He has over 25 years experience in Information Technology. As an early adopter of the IT Service Management processes as described in the IT Infrastructure Library (ITIL), he has utilized his hardware and software engineering background as a foundation for implementing sweeping changes in how IT Services are delivered at several fortune 100 companies in the US. Working closely with the executive management teams, David has helped the strategic goals of the IT organization with those of the company and develop a more effective IT Strategy. Strategies that are customer focused, process-oriented and cost/performance optimized, and help business and IT organization establish the value of IT Services. David holds ITSM Service Manager certification.

**Rick Lemieux** is a managing partner and the Vice President of Business Development. He is responsible for overseeing the company's Sales, Marketing & Business Development programs. Rick has been involved in selling IT solutions for the past 33 years. Prior to itSM, Rick, an early proponent of ITSM and ITIL, led the Sales and Business Development teams at software companies focused on automating the best practices guidance outlined in ITIL. Rick holds a Foundation Certificate in IT Service Management and was recently identified as one of the top 5 IT Entrepreneurs in the State of Rhode Island by the TECH 10 awards.