



"The current reality is that the IT organisation has often assumed the role of a servant, and an incompetent one at that, at least in the eyes of the business"

"This is probably the most frequent state of affairs that we encounter when we talk to business people about their IT brethren: where the latter cannot be trusted to do what they are told..." *The Technology Garden, 2007*

## Technology at the heart of business

The IT profession stands at a critical point in its development. Over the past 50 years IT has developed from a service industry into a catalyst for business transformation. The internet has made it possible for organisations to carry out their main business transactions and interact with customers online, and IT has become a major component in any change programme.

BCS, the leading professional body for those working in IT and the qualifying body for Chartered IT Professionals (CITP), has been convinced for some time that those working in such vital operational areas should be recognised as professionals in the same way as accountants and architects are regarded for their contribution to financial or structural security. Every facet of our personal and business lives is heavily dependent on computer-based systems and, in consequence, on the competence of those who design, implement and manage those systems. In short, BCS wants to see IT recognised as a business partner.

That's why BCS has established a programme concerned with developing the IT profession and growing organisational professionalism in IT. We want to see that those working in IT are viewed in a similar way to those in much longer-established professions.

### Dr Ben Booth

**Global Chief Technology Officer,  
Ipsos**

"IT has become established at the core of almost every activity and practitioners need to operate within a professional framework, both to regulate activity, and to present an attractive career option. I am passionate about giving IT the professional status it warrants, and see the BCS professionalism initiative as leading this transition to make IT the key profession of the 21st Century."

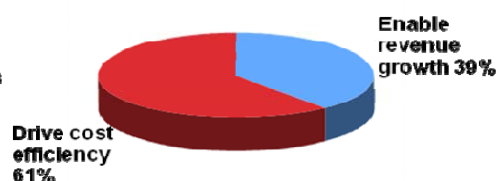
## And Business Agrees

Around three years ago, business leaders predicted that IT's primary role by the end of the decade would be to drive growth, rather than just efficiency. Over 80 per cent of

CEOs and board members were convinced that managing cost would be a small proportion of what IT departments will be doing.

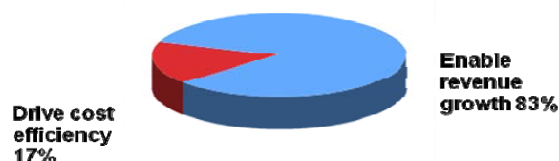
## ASSESSMENT NOW (2006)

**Enabling revenue generation will be IT's primary mission within 3 years**



**83 % of CEOs and board members are convinced of it.**

## 3 YEAR PROJECTION (2009)



The changing role of IT in business. Economist Intelligence Unit September 2006.

## IT professionals will provide a gold standard for delivery

IT has received some bad press about disruption, overrunning or in some cases failure of high profile IT-enabled business change projects. However, there have also been many unreported success stories. BCS believes the causes of failure are more often a result of management and business issues than technical failings. We are also passionate that IT and business can work well in partnership.

## The role of the CIO

Firms do not buy IT services for their own sake, but for what they do for the business. However there continues to be major differences between what IT professionals understand about business requirements, and what businesses expect from IT. CIOs have the expertise to exploit the IT profession's body of knowledge, with the capability to deliver the organisation's goals.

Money, and increasingly the lack of it, impacts on strategic decisions made by corporations. Private and public and employers of IT professionals need to be assured that senior IT practitioners have the combination of skills and business acumen that will be an asset. It is crucial that IT professionals become more aware of the needs and challenges being faced by the businesses they seek to serve and that the senior management teams of these businesses come to respect the input of their senior IT colleagues.

The BCS Chartered standard is being strengthened to provide just this assurance.

## CITP

The BCS CITP award shows employers that the owner is able to exploit IT to deliver business advantage. This is particularly important as IT professionals cross national boundaries to work on pan-country projects. BCS is working to establish CITP as the global standard for IT professionals.

### Fin Goulding

**CIO, lastminute.com**

"Attaining a certified level of Professionalism within the Technology Industry, demonstrates that not only do you know how to do your job but you are among the best in class."

## **The Future**

BCS wants IT professionals to be more aware of what is required of their profession, both in terms of the contribution they can make to the IT-enabled business change process, and also what they can achieve personally. The time is coming when employers will prefer to hire IT professionals who have gained chartered status. The award of CITP allows employers to have confidence in the individuals and their ability to contribute to the business. It allows employers to distinguish between candidates in the knowledge that CITP candidates will have received external verification of their credentials, and also adhere to a code of conduct

BCS is also keen to involve students much earlier in their professional lives, and wants to continue its work with the education sector at all levels. The profession needs to ensure that it continues to attract and educate students. Industry must also work to ensure this happens, and we are also committed to that process.

**Professor Jim Norton**

**BCS Vice President of Professionalism**

"Over the past three years, the BCS has led global thinking on the creation a competent and responsible IT profession. Now is the time to make this a reality in terms of both of the broad range of products and services delivered to our members and our contribution to society in keeping with our Royal Charter."