

Consulting & Integration

ASI's Consulting & Integration methodologies are founded on deep domain expertise as well as the principle that "one solution does not fit all" customers. Our broad-based IT expertise draws on solutions incorporating components from multiple vendors and more than two decades of experience in delivering heterogeneous environment services.

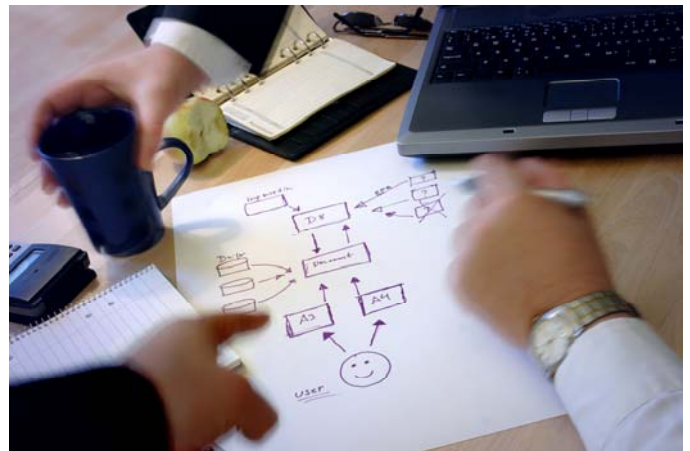
We are also fully cognizant of Sarbanes-Oxley, Patriot Act, Graham-Leach-Bliley, HIPAA, Check 21, and other critical issues of compliance that are driving many of today's IT needs. Our focus is creating a powerful interlinking with legacy, new, and future technologies that ensures cost-effective, ROI-centric delivery of solutions in an exploding market with expanding needs. We scale our delivery to any size; and therefore, bring all key technologies to any "playing field", and any client.

BUSINESS CONTINUITY AND AVAILABILITY

We live in an age where information is the key to your organization's operations and competitive advantage. As such, being able to reliably access data 24x7 is the number one responsibility for IT departments worldwide.

Before the Internet created the expectation that customers and employees alike expect to be able to access data and online services anywhere, anytime, disaster recovery (DR) revolved around backup and recovery using streaming tape drives and automated tape libraries. While the need for this has not changed, backup windows are almost non-existent.

ASI recognizes this need, and has built a competency center around addressing it. Using industry leading best-practices and methodologies, our consultants can work with your IT staff to develop and implement the processes and procedures required for proper business continuity planning (BCP). Our consultants can help to navigate through the myriad of existing and emerging technologies – advising them on the most appropriate architecture for your organization. Working with your IT staff, we identify performance, reliability and scalability requirements.



The combination of all of the various services offered by ASI – from consulting, through solution design, sourcing and support enables you to meet or exceed your organization's service level agreements (SLA) and maximize the availability, scalability and flexibility of your IT infrastructure while minimizing the Total Cost of Ownership (TCO).

DATA CENTER SOLUTIONS

ASI Managing Consultants and other technologists possess the expertise required to design and implement processes from concept to deployment. We maximize results and efficiencies, minimize risks, and optimize workflow for your data center, with the overall goal of lowering total cost of ownership of IT assets and increasing your data center Return on Investment.

Sample solutions include:

- Assessment and Scope
- Co-Location
- Consolidation
- Enterprise Data Center KVM
- Power Solutions
- Redesign
- Relocations

DATA PROTECTION

Today, many would argue, that the most valuable assets in an organization are the intangible and proprietary assets we store on magnetic media – namely hard disks, streaming tapes, etc. These intangible assets such as intellectual property, customer lists, business plans and trade secrets form the basis of an organization's competitive edge.

Properly protecting these assets have become the single most important function of an IT organization. ASI is well versed in the industry's best practices for data protection. The solutions we design and implement take advantage of the best-of-breed hardware and industry leading methodologies for implementation.

Having protected your data, it is equally imperative to provide the best-practices and processes in terms of ensuring that the data is available even through faults and disasters. Recent man-made and natural disasters have demonstrated its economic effects on both large and small organizations.

At ASI, we have a team of experts who is trained in advising your organization on the best strategies in terms of policies and procedures which will ensure that your business remains "open" and available before, during and after disasters.

DISASTER RECOVERY

Contemporary Business Continuity Planning (BCP) often involves a fail-over process. After a disaster however, it is still necessary to recover the affected site. Many backup facilities to which an organization may fail-over are often designed to offer only the most critical services and applications. How quickly an organization can recover from a disaster is equally important.

A proper Disaster Recovery Plan (DRP) will speed up the recovery of the primary data-center and return an organization to maximum and optimal production. Our Consulting & Integration team will work with your IT organization to advise them on industry leading methods which pertain to your industry and your organization to minimize downtime.

SECURITY

Many organizations become aware of the importance of security only after falling victim to a damaging attack or security meltdown. Unfortunately, even one single security breach can have a lasting or sometimes even fatal effect on your organization. In many cases security attacks are preventable.

At ASI, we design security solutions layer by layer to proactively and aggressively guard and defend your organization's IT infrastructure from unwanted attacks. Using well tested methodologies and industry leading practices, ASI will scan your environment for vulnerability. Our security experts will pinpoint exposed and unprotected areas, develop security blueprints, and deploy appropriate solutions, and deliver educational & security management services to ensure optimum protection.

Compliance and Information Lifecycle Management (ILM)

Compliance requirements are affecting more and more organizations, forcing them to review their adherence and observance of Laws and regulations such as Sarbanes-Oxley, SEC Rule 17a (4), HIPPA, PATRIOT Act, Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (GLB) and California's Database Protection Act (SB-1386). For most organizations, they implement compliant systems because they have to, not because they want to.

The IT response to regulatory compliance is the retention of data (often) over long periods of time. According to industry analysts, the value of data often diminishes over time. By creating "tiers" of storage, data of lesser value could be moved to less expensive storage.

By implementing an effective Information Lifecycle Management (ILM) solution incorporating methodologies for managing data retention, an organization can minimize the expense of the storage requirements and comply with the regulatory requirements.

EMAIL ARCHIVING

Email has become the “killer app” of the 21st century. As a result, having an effective way of managing and protecting electronic communication is vital to the success of an organization. Apart from the more obvious aspects of meeting regulatory compliance, implementing an e-mail archiving solution also enables an organization to dramatically lower the overall cost of storage.

ASI has become a leader in the deployment and implementation of email archiving solutions. The archiving solutions ASI offers help your IT organization ensure that email assets are readily available, searchable, retrievable which ultimately minimize any exposure or liability to your organization.

COMPLIANT STORAGE

With corporate governance having such high visibility within most organizations today as well as the ever increasing number of regulations by which organizations must abide, having an effective ILM solution is a must. Deploying the right ILM solution involves knowledge of operating systems, application software, ILM software and tightly coupling that with compliant storage.

ASI has been advising our Clients on industry leading ILM practices for many years. Our Clients have reduced their total cost of storage and met their respective industry regulations by taking advantage of the industry leading compliant storage and ILM software which is most appropriate for their regulatory needs and augmenting that with the vast experience and expertise ASI has in enterprise-class operating systems.

IT Consolidation

SERVER CONSOLIDATION

Over the last several years, IT infrastructures have expanded exponentially to the point that many organizations consequently find themselves housing very large and costly servers, functioning only to a fraction of their potential. By consolidating these servers to a smaller number of more powerful servers, our Clients are benefiting from lower capital acquisition costs and lower support and maintenance expenses. Along with ever increasing software

licensing costs, server consolidation will result in further cost effectiveness and savings.

ASI provides server consolidation and integration services that help organizations to reap the most benefit out of their configuration investments. Our Clients are able to maximize asset utilization and minimizing unnecessary redundancy, resulting in a more manageable and more cost effective infrastructure. The net result is obvious, higher resource utilization and higher profitability.

STORAGE CONSOLIDATION

As your business evolves and grows, the need for efficient storage becomes increasingly critical to continuing success. Like servers, through consolidation significant cost reductions can be achieved. Through consolidation, many of the ILM principles can be more effectively applied. At ASI, we help IT departments sort through existing and emerging technologies to determine the appropriate storage architecture solution to meet your specific consolidation needs.

By identifying performance, reliability, and scalability requirements, ASI works with you to develop a consolidation plan that sets you above the competition by maximizing capacity utilization and maximizing efficiency and effectiveness, taking into account the need for agility, flexibility and scalability. Our storage solutions are designed to help reduce your footprint and increase ROI, freeing resources to propel innovation and boost competitive advantage.

VIRTUAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Virtual infrastructure provides a layer of abstraction between the computing, storage and networking hardware, and the software that runs on it. Virtual infrastructure simplifies IT so companies leverage their storage, network, and computing resources to control costs and respond faster. In a virtual infrastructure, users see resources as if they were dedicated to them. The administrator manages and optimizes resources globally across the enterprise.

ASI designs total solutions to address the major business woes of IT organizations, enabling the highest return and performance. The efforts of server consolidation and resource virtualization provide the foundation for more efficient performance management, more fluid production life cycles, and reduced disruption to services and service levels.

Data Center and Facilities Infrastructure Solutions

DATA CENTER CONSULTING

Your company's data center has been designed to accommodate critical systems and may be of showcase quality and seemingly secure and robust. Often, obsolescence, design flaws and other negative impacts to the infrastructure are not detected or detected too late. Your critical systems can be at risk.

Infrastructure consists of the high voltage power and electrical distributions, low voltage cable plant and distributions, precision cooling, all structural elements, code based fire protection, physical security and levels of availability. Additionally, your company may be accountable to the industry compliances such as SARBOX. Each solution needs to be a unique fit to your data center facility and accommodate the current and future requirements. Much of the supporting infrastructure is a composite providing the greatest level of availability possible for your critical systems. A typical infrastructure is only as strong as its weakest link in delivering services that provides system availability and that guard against the potential threat of outages, human error, deliberate actions and natural disasters.

ASI senior consultants have extensive experience in data center design, mission critical or information technology investments. When certainty of outcome is of priority, ASI Data Center and Facilities Infrastructure consultants apply our expertise and specific industry experience. Bringing our experience to your environment can eliminate wasted time and effort in identifying your data center design project needs, helping you to meet your mission critical goals while saving time and money.

Design and implementation of your facility require careful management from assessment to implementation. A number of professionals are usually involved during early construction, redesign or relocation of the facility. The common participants

are the Architect, General Contractor, Structural, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering firms. Too often budget and facilities constraints compete with the compliance and other critical requirements necessary to support today's complex IT environment. That is a perplexing quandary causing compromise and risk.

ASI managing consultants and project managers work diligently to represent your best interest through all negotiations to the final engineering designs and throughout the implementation.

Our team will support your effort from SMB to enterprise requirements. Our Infrastructure offerings coupled with ASI's complete technology offerings provides our many clients with Turn-Key solutions.

A partial list of ASI Infrastructure solutions include:

- Facility Evaluations & Assessments
- Strategic Facility Planning
- Critical Infrastructure Risk Assessments
- Systems Architecture
- Design & Construction Document Input
- Consulting Management of Build outs
- Project Criteria and Lifecycle Management
- Consolidation Planning and Management
- Relocation Planning and Management
- Central and Distributed UPS Systems
- Single or Dual Input Redundancy
- Generator, ATS, Battery and Runtime
- Fuel Cell Systems
- Chiller Systems and HVAC
- Floor Systems, Vapor Barriers
- Dual Path, Redundant Electrical
- Network and Telecomm. Cabling
- KVM over IP Enterprise Solutions