

inside zhero

Let's take a look at what is happening at Zhero



MESSAGE FROM IZAK

Greetings and wishing you all a belated Happy New Year. With 2021 now well behind us, we are hopefully nearing the end of the pandemic and the chaos that arose from its 2-year residency on our planet. At this time, I believe that these words from C.S. Lewis provide encouragement and promise for all of us:

"There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind."

In this edition of Inside Zhero, we are going to focus on the necessity of digital transformation for businesses to survive in 2022 and beyond. In my

own words: *"Anything you buy off the shelf dictates the way you work. If you don't automate business functions, you will lose competitive advantage in the 21st century."*

Assessing Zhero's IT Consultancy and Projects Services enables you to plan a success-focused, collaborative roadmap for your digital transformation. Remember that you can always trust Zhero to deliver better IT, faster.

Izak Oosthuizen
Bestselling Author and
Founder and MD of Zhero

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION – NOW OR NEVER

Tim O'Reilly, Founder & CEO of O'Reilly Media recently said:

"Every industry and every organisation will have to transform itself in the next few years. What is coming at us is bigger than the original internet, and you need to understand it, get on board with it, and figure out how to transform your business."

WHAT IS DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION?

Digital transformation is the process of using digital technologies to create new — or modify existing — business processes, culture, and customer experiences to meet changing business and market requirements. This reimagining of business in the digital age is called digital transformation.

The question remains, is the company's digital transformation as sound as Tim O'Reilly claims? According to the Digital Transformation Index 2020 from Dell Technologies, 33% of enterprise leaders are concerned that their organisations will not survive in the future. On top of this, 60% thought they would survive but would need to make many employees redundant and take years to return to profitability in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

TRANSFORMING IN A HYPER DIGITAL WORLD

The Dell report claims that organisations are transforming their operations in terms of the speed at which they consume and deploy software infrastructure and applications. Here are some eye-opening statistics:

- 89% of businesses state that COVID-19 has demonstrated the need for more agile and scalable IT to allow for contingencies
- 79% of organisations are reinventing their business model
- 74% of companies are investing in on-demand digital services

That's the reality of digital transformation, and on a massive scale. As Michael Dell, Chairman and CEO of Dell Technologies, says:

"We've been given a glimpse of the future, and the organisations that are accelerating their digital transformation now will be poised for success in the Data Era that is unfolding before our eyes."

THE DATA AGE

The digitisation of our world started in the mid-20th century and by 2000 there was the widespread adoption of the internet, the world wide web and related technologies. Fast forward to the 2010s with the advent of the smartphone, apps, and the blossoming of the IoT and AI technologies. And now, in the 2020s, we have entered the Data Age where both the value and the volume of data is expected to increase 5 times by 2025. IT and corporate leaders have stated that data is very valuable to their organisations in terms of overall success (81%), innovation (75%) and cybersecurity (78%). Of these business leaders, 57% say that their volume of data is growing at a faster rate than their IT departments can cope with.

WHY DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IS VITAL

Driven by the Data Age, digital transformation is now accelerating at such a pace that any business wanting to stay relevant and profitable needs to incorporate it across all its products, processes and strategies. Digital transformation underpins competitiveness in the marketplace and the ability to serve both customers and your workforce with unprecedented excellence.

BLOCKBUSTER – A CASE IN POINT

The story of Blockbuster Video is not a happy one – at least not one with a happy ending. Founded in Texas in 1985, the video rental operation had over 9,000 global stores at its peak in 2004 and annual revenue of \$6 billion. In 2011, Blockbuster filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Today, a single store, located in Bend, Oregon, remains open.

What went so terribly wrong in a few short years? Just as video killed the radio star, so video streaming killed video rental. Blockbuster, ignoring the necessity of digital transformation, could not compete with the likes of Netflix and Amazon that offered on-demand entertainment to eager and impatient consumers.



THE BENEFITS: WHY YOU NEED TO DEVELOP A DIGITAL WORKPLACE

The essence of digital transformation is to provide all stakeholders with world-class service. By successfully implementing relevant cloud computing applications, machine learning and AI, mobile platforms and automation, your company will see:

- new products and services entering the market more rapidly
- increased employee productivity
- improved customer service
- improved insight into customer needs
- increased responsiveness to customer requests

AVOIDING IT CHAOS IN 2022, TOGETHER

It would be negligent to prepare a text extolling the virtues of a digital workplace without drawing your attention to the fact that such practices can generate considerable vulnerabilities in the workplace if not managed correctly. Here are 5 causes of IT mayhem and what steps you can follow to crush the chaos in 2022.

Social engineering and phishing

Avoid social engineering and phishing attacks by never providing sensitive information via email, text message, instant message, or in an unsolicited phone call.

Outdated software

Maintain a strong firewall and keep your antivirus software up-to-date and patched.

Cloud vulnerabilities and cloud jacking

Develop a comprehensive cyber risk management plan – don't let your business get paralyzed by a Denial of Service (DoS) attack or account hijacking and ensure that critical data is stored locally.

Ransomware

Apply high-level endpoint protection by using Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) for remote access to the network. This will potentially stop an intrusion before it happens. Also have segregated and tested backups so when an attack occurs, you can recover quickly.

Insider threats

Your staff hold the biggest threat for hacking attacks. It is important to consistently provide staff with ongoing cybersecurity training to minimise the risk.



MEET THE TEAM

Juan Pierre Vyver

PROJECTS ENGINEER

1. What made you realise you want to go into the IT industry?

It all started with my uncle who was an IT engineer. He introduced me to the IT industry which sparked my passion. And as they say, the rest is history.

2. What's your most-used productivity tool?

By constantly communicating with clients, I would always need my phone.

3. What do you enjoy the most about your job?

To work with clients and to build a relationship with the clients. I want to make sure they are satisfied with the service I deliver. I also learn a lot from them.

4. How would you describe yourself?

I am a very friendly person. I'm not very talkative although I like to grasp a conversation and ask a lot of questions.

5. Do you have any hidden talents or hobbies?

I was a bass guitar player at a church in 2015. As for a hobby, I like to read comic books.

6. Are you a sports fan?

Yes, I am a soccer fan and Barcelona is my team.

7. What is your favourite film?

I like to watch the movie Star Wars and the series Stargate.

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