BUSINESS CONSULTANCY: VCTO

Operational efficiency is always a hot topic and also a rapidly evolving ecosystem with new processes, tools, and capabilities continually introduced into the industry. Understanding this landscape and building and supporting engineering teams to make smart platform decisions is fundamental to minimising future tech debt, while maximising speed to market for new products. A significant aspect of creating and managing a reliable tech platform lies in knowing how to correctly iterate from a minimal viable product to a fully mature platform while engaging customers and the marketplace along the way to ensure a good market fit.

With Ultima, a virtual CTO (vCTO) will be executively responsible for the organisation's technological needs, assisting with selecting the right technology to improve efficiency and resilience and reduce risk.

Some of the key vCTO activities include:

⚡ Working alongside executive leadership to help develop a future strategy that leverages technology – driving top and bottom-line growth

📊 Translating the business strategy into specific technology initiatives and projects

🔄 Identifying the right technology tech stack and toolset to minimise time-to-market while meeting scalability and reliability requirements

\# Building the right internal teams to cost efficiently support operational & development efforts

🗗 Researching, evaluating, and engaging specific third parties in order to overcome identified gaps and accelerate timelines

◎ Managing contractual service level agreements with third parties to protect the organisation's investments

▭ Managing the team and the process to maximise operational effectiveness

Why a vCTO?

⚙ Technology, being the crucial business enabler is often at the forefront of organisational concern. Complex topics like cloud and "aaS" can have wide-ranging implications for businesses of all sizes. Making sure your business achieves the best efficiency in terms of tech expenditure can make or break overall business strategies.

🗄 CTOs are an expensive hire. While almost every organisation needs a CTO, not all of them can afford one. A vCTO allows organisations to avoid the expense of employing one in-house, only paying for the services and time used.

◎ vCTOs can be more experienced. A vCTO has experience working with many clients across various industries and sizes, managing various stages of technology enablement, giving them a broad range of expertise, all of which can be applied to your organisation straight away.

△ A vCTO is a consumption-based option. It is a resource that is based around an agreed scope of work, so you only pay for what you use.

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Top vCTO use cases

> Bridging a full-time hire. The departure of your existing CTO may be untimely in regard to the current technology initiatives. Our vCTO can come in, provide value in reviewing the current technology strategy and help recruit, select and transition a full-time CTO.

> Development of a mature technology strategy for a smaller business. When a full-time CTO is too costly for an SMB, a vCTO works part time to provide enterprise-calibre expertise to define a technology strategy the organisation would not otherwise be capable of developing.

> Defining an automation enablement programme. Businesses with or without a CTO many simply not have the expertise to drive a wider automation initiative within the business, one that is cost-efficient and addresses "low hanging fruit" first to deliver quick efficiency benefits.

> Optimising technology spend to achieve greater impact. Whatever the organisation was doing a year ago in terms of technology is likely not as effective today. A vCTO can help you look at the current budget, its structure, and identify ways to more effectively and efficiently spend it to create a more efficient enterprise.

"CTOs often associate with engineering and product development. What they can fail to realise, is that "IT" can very well be your product, with engineering becoming your operations. Optimising this relationship, not just in terms of technology, but processes, followed by the enablement of people are impactful things that can dramatically change the capabilities of the business with impacts reaching as far as business KPIs."
Michal Minarik, Practice Lead - Business Consultancy, Ultima

Why Ultima for Business Consultancy?

With a team of over 200 technical experts who have years of experience across a huge spectrum of industries and technologies, we can help you turn your vision into a success. We have experts on the ground daily helping customers achieve their goals, overcome challenges and make thinks work in new and imaginative ways.

This is why our recommendations do carry a punch. They can be realised, as we know what works, what does not and simply that your trust should always be backed by experience. Whether that is a technology, change of process, or significant shift in corporate culture.

To learn more about our vCTO capabilities, get in touch with your Ultima Account Manager today.