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I.T.

BUYER'S

GUIDE

The New York City Financial Services Business' Guide To I.T. Support Services And Fees

What You Should Expect To Pay For I.T. Support For Your Financial Services Business

How To Sort Through The Confusion And Complexity Of I.T. Services Companies' Contracts, Services And Pricing To Avoid Hiring The Wrong One

Read This Guide And You'll Discover:

✔ The 3 most common ways I.T. services companies charge for their services, and the pros and cons of each approach.

✔ A common billing model that puts ALL THE RISK on you when buying I.T. services; learn what it is and why you need to avoid agreeing to it.

✔ Exclusions, hidden fees and other "gotcha" clauses I.T. companies put in their contracts that you DON'T want to agree to.

✔ 5 ways "cheaper" I.T. firms hide the TRUE cost of their services in their contracts.

✔ 21 critical questions to ask your I.T. support firm BEFORE signing an agreement.

From the Desk of:
Brad Lassiter
CEO | LastTech

Dear Colleague,

One of the most common questions we get from new prospective clients calling our office is "What do you guys charge for your services?" Since this is such a common and important question, I decided to write this report. Furthermore, there are 3 reasons why choosing your I.T. company on their fees alone – or even using that as one of the top criteria – can lead to overpaying, even if their pricing appears cheaper initially, and to extreme frustration and unappreciated risk to your organization. They are:

`1   Unlike most industries, there is no such thing as "standard" pricing for I.T. services companies, <u>even though most of the services appear to be the same.</u> That's why it's impossible to compare I.T. providers on their fees alone. In this report I'll explain the most common ways I.T. services companies package and price their services, and the pros and cons of each, so you can make an informed choice.

2   There are a few "dirty little secrets" about I.T. service contracts and SLAs (service level agreements) that "cheaper" I.T. firms use to make their fees appear less expensive, but actually end up putting you at high risk for cyber-attacks. Almost no business owner knows what to look for, what questions to ask or the true consequences to them being too cheap with backups, cyber protections and disaster recovery, which is how the "cheaper" firms can get away with it. You NEED to understand this, and I'll explain it to you.

3   I wanted to educate Financial Service Business Owners on how to pick the **right** I.T. services company for their specific situation, budget and needs based on the **VALUE** the company can deliver, not just the price, high OR low.

In the end, my purpose is to help you make the most informed decision possible so you end up working with someone who helps you solve your problems and accomplish what you want in a time frame, manner and budget that is right for you.

Aligned with your success,

Brad Lassiter
CEO | LastTech

About The Author

Brad Lassiter is the CEO of LastTech, a forward-thinking firm that specializes in Business Technology Alignment, serving companies that operate in high-stakes, complex financial environments. With a focus on investment banking, real estate development, private equity, and broker-dealers, Brad has positioned LastTech as a trusted partner for businesses aiming to align their technology infrastructure with strategic business outcomes. His team's work ensures that technology not only supports day-to-day operations but also becomes a catalyst for growth, enhanced efficiency, and robust security.

Brad's career blends a unique combination of business acumen and performing arts experience. As a former professional opera singer, Brad learned early on the importance of precision, timing, and flawless execution—qualities he now applies to the business world. This distinctive background allows him to approach technology from a holistic and performance-driven perspective, ensuring that every piece of technology a business employs is fine-tuned for maximum impact.

In addition to his practical expertise, Brad has led LastTech to receive prestigious industry recognition. The company was named to the Channel Futures NextGen 101 list in 2023, which honors MSPs that are paving the way for innovation. In 2024, LastTech was also placed on the Channel Futures Watchlist, underscoring the firm's commitment to staying ahead of technological trends and delivering top-tier results for its clients.

At the core of LastTech's success is Brad's dedication to providing tailored solutions for each client. This is evident in the firm's Business Technology Alignment Assessment, a comprehensive evaluation that pinpoints inefficiencies and risks in a company's IT infrastructure, offering clear strategies to turn technology into a competitive advantage. For businesses seeking immediate, transformative results, Brad has designed the 90-Day Tech Alignment Tune-Up, a high-impact program that enhances security, streamlines vendor management, and improves overall IT performance. Backed by satisfaction guarantees, this program delivers measurable improvements in just 90 days.

As a thought leader in the field of technology alignment, Brad is passionate about empowering businesses to make technology work for them—not the other way around. His approachable yet authoritative style has made him a trusted advisor to executives who need reliable, future-proof solutions for scaling their operations.

If you're ready to ensure your business's technology is driving success instead of causing headaches, connect with Brad today and explore the Business Technology Alignment Assessment to discover the most critical improvements your company can make. With the right technology strategy, your business can eliminate downtime, protect critical transactions, and drive growth with confidence.

Comparing Apples To Apples:
The Predominant I.T. Services Models Explained

Before you can accurately compare the fees, services and deliverables of one I.T. services company to another, you need to understand the 3 predominant pricing and service models most of these companies offer. Some companies offer a blend of all 3, while others are strict about offering only one service plan.

The 3 predominant service models are:

Time and Materials (Hourly). In the industry, we call this "break-fix" services. Essentially, you pay an agreed-upon hourly rate for a technician to "fix" your problem when something "breaks." The price you pay will vary depending on the provider you choose and the complexity of the problem, but most will be in the $150 to $450 range.

Under this model, you might be able to negotiate a discount based on buying a block of hours. The scope of work ranges from simply resolving a specific problem (like fixing slow WiFi or resolving an e-mail problem) to encompassing a large project like a software upgrade, implementing cyber protections or even an office move. Some companies will offer staff augmentation and placement under this model as well.

Similar to this are value added reseller services. VARs typically do I.T. projects for organizations that have internal I.T. departments. The term "value added" reseller is based on the fact that they resell hardware (PCs, firewalls, servers, etc.) and software, along with the "value added" services of installation, setup and configuration. VARs typically service larger organizations with internal I.T. departments. A trend that has been gaining ground over the last decade is that fewer VARs exist, as many have moved to the managed I.T. services model.

Managed I.T. Services (MSP, or "Managed Services Provider"). This is a model where the I.T. services company, called an MSP, takes on the role of your fully outsourced I.T. "infrastructure." That includes things such as:

- Troubleshooting I.T. problems.
- Setting up and supporting PCs, tablets, Macs and workstations for new and existing employees, both on-site and remote.
- Installing and setting up applications such as Microsoft 365, Google Workspace, SharePoint, etc.
- Setting up and managing the security of your network, devices and data to protect against hackers, ransomware and viruses.

- Backing up your data and assisting in recovering it in the event of a disaster.
- Providing a help desk and support team to assist employees with I.T. problems.
- Setting up and supporting your phone system.
- Monitoring and maintaining the overall health, speed, performance and security of your computer network on a daily basis.
- Offering Business Consulting to help streamline workflows and integrate with the technology

In addition to managing your I.T., a good MSP will provide you with an I.T. Roadmap and budget for necessary projects to further secure your network and improve the stability and availability of critical applications, as well as ensure that your I.T. systems are compliant with various data protection laws (HIPAA, FTC Safeguards, PCI, etc.) and that your cyber protections meet the standards on any cyber insurance plan that you have.

These projects are not included in the routine, day-to-day maintenance and are typically planned out in advance, based on the growth of your organization, your risk tolerance, operations, unique business model, etc.

Vendor-Supplied I.T. Services. Many software companies and vendors will offer pared-down I.T. support for their customers in the form of a help desk or remote support for an additional fee.

However, these are typically scaled-back services, limited to troubleshooting their specific software application and NOT your entire computer network and all the applications and devices connected to it. If your problem resides outside of their specific software or the server it's hosted on, they can't and won't help you and will often refer you to "your I.T. department." While it's often a good idea to buy some basic-level support package with a critical software application you use to run your business (often referred to as a "line-of-business" application), this is not sufficient to provide the full I.T. services, cybersecurity, backup and employee (end-user) support most businesses need.

As a small or midsize business looking to outsource your I.T. support, you are most likely to end up having to choose between two service models: the managed services and "break-fix" models. Therefore, let's dive into the pros and cons of these two options, and then the typical fee structure for both.

Managed I.T. Services Vs. Break-Fix:
Which Is The Better, More Cost-Effective Option?

The advantage of break-fix services is that you only pay for I.T. support when you need it, without being locked into a monthly or multi-year contract. If you're not happy with the service you're getting, you can change providers easily. If you're a micro-business with only a few employees, very simple I.T. needs where you don't experience a lot of problems and don't host or handle sensitive data (medical records, credit cards, Social Security numbers, etc.), break-fix might be the most cost-effective option for you.

However, the downsides of break-fix services are many if you're NOT a micro-business and are attempting to grow in revenue, staff and clients, or if you handle sensitive, "protected" data. **The 6 big downsides are as follows:**

X   **Break-fix can be very expensive** when you have multiple issues or a major problem (like a ransomware attack). Because you're not a managed client, the I.T. company resolving your problem will likely take longer to troubleshoot and fix the issue than if they were regularly maintaining your network and therefore familiar with your environment AND had systems in place to recover files or prevent problems from escalating.

X   **Paying hourly works entirely in your I.T. company's favor, not yours.** Under this model, the I.T. consultant can take the liberty of assigning a junior (lower-paid) technician to work on your problem who may take two to three times as long to resolve an issue that a more senior (and more expensive) technician may have resolved in a fraction of the time because there's no incentive to fix your problems fast. In fact, they're incentivized to drag it out as long as possible, given that they're being paid by the hour.

X   **You are more likely to have major issues.** One of the main reasons businesses choose a managed services provider is to PREVENT major issues from happening. As Benjamin Franklin famously said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." The smart way to avoid disasters and minimize the cost and damage is to prevent them from happening in the first place, not "hope" they won't happen.

X   **You can't budget for I.T. services** and, as already explained, could end up paying more in the long run if you have to constantly call for urgent "emergency" support.

X   **You won't be a priority for the I.T. company.** All I.T. firms prioritize their contract managed clients over break-fix clients. That means you get called back last and fit in when they have availability, so you could be down for days or weeks before they can address your problem. Further, because you're not under a contract, the I.T. company has no incentive to keep you happy or even address the root causes of your problems, which can lead to MORE problems and MORE costs.

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last.tech/get-aligned or call our office at 646-989-9900

X **If no one is actively maintaining the security of your network and data, your chances of getting hacked go up exponentially.** Believe me when I tell you most people grossly underestimate the costs and damage done by a ransomware attack. Your operations shut down and your client contracts, private e-mails, company financials, employee payroll and other sensitive data are in the hands of criminals who won't think twice about e-mailing your list of employees' and clients' confidential information.

Thinking you're fine because "nobody wants to hack us" or "we're 100% in the cloud" is gross ignorance. If you don't have a professional I.T. company monitor and maintain your company's I.T. security, odds are that you WILL get hacked, incurring significant financial losses, not to mention reputational damage and client losses.

For all these reasons, hiring an MSP to manage your I.T. environment for an agreed-upon monthly budget is, by far, the most cost-effective, smartest option for most businesses with 10 or more employees, or who handle critical operations and sensitive data and are risk-averse.

What Should I.T. Services Cost?

Important! Please note that the following price quotes are industry averages based on a recent I.T. industry survey conducted by a well-known and trusted independent consulting firm, Service Leadership, that collects, analyzes and reports on the financial metrics of I.T. services firms from around the country.

We are providing this information to give you a general idea of what most MSPs and I.T. services charge and to help you understand the VAST DIFFERENCES in service contracts that you must be aware of before signing on the dotted line. Please understand that this does NOT reflect our pricing model or approach for your unique situation. We are simply providing this as an educational resource to help you understand the vast differences in price and value.

Hourly Break-Fix Fees: Most I.T. services companies selling break-fix services charge between $150 and $350 per hour with a one-hour minimum. In some cases, they will give you a discount on their hourly rates if you purchase and pay for a block of hours in advance.

Project Fees: If you are getting an I.T. firm to quote you for a onetime project, the fees range widely based on the scope of work outlined and the complexity of the project. If you are hiring an I.T. consulting firm for a project, I suggest you request the following:

- **A detailed scope of work that specifies what "success" is.** Make sure you document what your expectations are in performance, workflow, costs, security, access, etc. The more detailed you can be, the better. Clarifying your expectations up front will go a long way toward avoiding miscommunications and additional fees later on to give you what you REALLY wanted.

- **A fixed budget and time frame for completion.** Agreeing to this up front aligns both your agenda and the consultant's. Be very wary of hourly estimates that allow the consulting firm to bill you for "unforeseen" circumstances. The bottom line is this: it is your I.T. consulting firm's responsibility to be able to accurately assess your situation and quote a project based on their experience. You should not have to pick up the tab for a consultant underestimating a job or for their inefficiencies. A true professional knows how to take into consideration those contingencies and bill accordingly.

- **A detailed list of how this work will help your business.** Unless this is a project that you fully understand and request from your provider, you should get a full understand of how this will help YOU and your interests once it is complete.

Managed I.T. Services: Most managed I.T. services firms will quote you a MONTHLY fee based on the number of devices, users and locations they need to maintain. According to Service Leadership, the average fee per user (employee) ranges from $146.08 per month to $249.73 per month – and those fees are expected to rise due to constant inflation and a tight I.T. talent labor market. This is also the AVERAGE based upon national figures and large metro areas like NYC can expect the average to be slightly higher than these figures.

Obviously, as with all services, you get what you pay for. "Operationally mature" MSPs typically charge more because they are far more disciplined and capable of delivering cybersecurity and compliance services than smaller, cheaper-priced MSPs.

They also include CIO (chief information officer) services and dedicated account management, have better financial controls (so they aren't running so lean that they are in danger of closing their doors) and can afford to hire and keep knowledgeable, qualified techs vs. junior engineers or cheap, outsourced labor.

To be clear, I'm not suggesting you have to pay top dollar to get competent I.T. services, nor does paying "a lot of money" guarantee you'll get accurate advice and responsive, customer-centric services. But if an MSP is charging on the low end of $146.08 per employee or less, you have to question what they are NOT providing or NOT including to make their services so cheap. Often they are simply not providing the quality of service you would expect.

5 Ways "Cheaper-Priced" I.T. Firms Hide The **TRUE** Cost Of Their Services In Their Contracts

As we said previously, no two I.T. services agreements are alike, and unless you are technically savvy (and most C-level executives aren't, obviously), you won't really know if what you're being quoted is insufficient, overpriced or even underquoted.

If you're not careful, the "cheapest" or less expensive I.T. provider can end up costing you a lot more due to carve-outs and hidden fees in their contracts that they will later nickel-and-dime you over, or quoting inadequate solutions that you'll later need to pay to upgrade.

Here are the 5 most common things "cheaper" I.T. companies leave out of their proposal to make themselves appear cheaper – but those companies are NOT the bargain you might think they are.

1 **Grossly Inadequate Compliance And Cybersecurity Protections.**
A ransomware attack is a significant and devastating event for any business; therefore, you must make sure the I.T. company you're talking to isn't just putting a basic (cheap) antivirus software on your network and calling it done. This is by far the one critical area most "cheaper" MSPs leave out.

Antivirus is good but woefully insufficient to protect you. In fact, insurance companies are now requiring advanced cyber protections such as employee cyber awareness training, 2FA (2-factor authentication) and what's called "advanced endpoint protection" just to get insurance coverage for cyber liability and crime insurance. We provide those standard in our offering, so not only do you greatly reduce your chances of a cyber-attack, but you also avoid being denied an important insurance claim (or denied coverage, period).

2 **Inadequate Backup And Disaster Recovery Solutions.**
Make sure your I.T. company includes **daily** backups of your servers and workstations, as well as CLOUD APPLICATIONS such as Microsoft 365, Google Workspace and other line-of-business applications, such as your CRM data, client data, etc. That's because online applications do NOT guarantee to back up your data (read the small print in your contract and you'll be shocked). Further, your backups must be immutable, which means they cannot be corrupted by a hacker. Many insurance companies now *require* immutable backups to be in place before they insure against a ransomware or similar cyber event that erases data. Be sure to ask your I.T. company if that's what they quoted you.

3 **Carve-Outs For On-Site And After-Hours Support.**
This is another area that takes many business owners by surprise: all after-hours and on-site visits might involve an extra fee. We include this in our top packages so you aren't nickel-and-dimed for every request, but you need to make sure you understand what is and isn't included in the service agreement you're signing.

4 **Nonexistent Vendor Liaison And Support.**
Some I.T. firms will charge you hourly to resolve issues with your phone system, ISP, security cameras, printers and other devices they didn't sell you but that still reside on the network (and give you technical problems). As a premium client of ours, you get all of that INCLUDED, without extra charges.

5 **Cheap, Inexperienced Techs And No Formal Account Management.**
Many of the smaller MSPs will hire techs under a 1099 agreement or find cheaper, less experienced engineers to work on your network and systems. Obviously, the more experienced and knowledgeable a tech is on networking and, more specifically, cybersecurity, the more expensive they are. Make sure the company you are outsourcing to has a proven process for hiring and training their staff as well as keeping them around so they can become more familiar with you and your systems to deliver the great service that you deserve.

Further, smaller MSPs can't afford proper account management, which means you have no one to pay attention to your account and look for problems brewing and critical updates that need to happen, upgrades and budgeting you need. Good account management includes creating and managing an I.T. budget, a custom roadmap for your business and review of regulatory compliance and security on a routine basis to make sure nothing is being overlooked.

Buyer Beware! In order to truly compare the "cost" of one managed I.T. services contract to another, you need to make sure you fully understand what IS and ISN'T included in the SLA you are signing up for. It's VERY easy for one I.T. services provider to appear far less expensive than another UNTIL you look closely at what you are getting.

The MSA should define the following:

- What services the MSP is providing in clear terms.
- Objective response time to a problem (both minor and major outages).
- What fees are extra (like on-site fees, after-hours support, etc.).
- Contract terms and renewals.
- Cancellation terms: specifically, how do you get out of the contract if they are not delivering the services promised?
- Liability protection, both for them and you.
- Payment terms.

But the BEST way to avoid having a problem is to pick the right MSP to begin with.

Warning! Beware the gray areas of "all-inclusive" service contracts. In order to truly compare the "cost" of one managed IT services contract with another, you need to make sure you fully understand what IS and ISN'T included AND the "SLA" or "service level agreement" you are signing up for. It's VERY easy for one IT services provider to appear far less expensive than another UNTIL you look closely at what you are getting.

The following are 21 questions to ask your I.T. services provider that will clarify exactly what you're getting for your money. Some of these items may not be that important to you, while others (like response time, adequate insurance and cybersecurity and compliance services) may be critical. Make sure you fully understand each of these items before making a decision about who the right provider is for you; then make sure you get this IN WRITING.

21 Questions You Should Ask Your I.T. Services Firm Before Signing A Contract

Customer Service:

Q1. **How do you request support?**

Our Answer: When you have an I.T. issue you need help with, how do you get support? Do you have to put in a service ticket via your PC? Can you call in to a dedicated help desk or do you have to send an e-mail? If they require you to enter a ticket, what do you do when the Internet is out or your laptop or PC isn't working? Make sure they explain exactly how they handle I.T. support requests. At our company, we we have a dedicated phone number and email address to route all support requests in a simple, user-friendly manner.

Q2. **Do you have a written objective response time for working on resolving your problems?**

Our Answer: The #1 frustration we hear from business owners about their current I.T. company is "They never return our calls" or "I have to wait forever to get someone to respond to a problem." Obviously, if you're paying for support, that's unacceptable. That's why we aim to respond to all service inquiries within 2 business hours and usually have someone working on any requests within 30 minutes.

Q3. **Do they take the time to explain what they are doing and answer your questions in terms that you can understand (not geek-speak) or do they come across as arrogant and make you feel stupid for asking simple questions?**

Our Answer: Our technicians are trained to have the "heart of a teacher" and will take time to answer your questions and explain everything in simple terms. Just look in the client comments section of this report to see how our clients rave about our team of techs dedicated to supporting you.

Q4. **Do they create an I.T. Roadmap and budget and meet with you quarterly to review it?**

Our Answer: We conduct regular strategy meetings with our clients to look for areas of high risk (such as cybersecurity, compliance, unstable systems, old equipment, etc.) as well as new ways to help improve employee productivity, lower costs, increase efficiencies and align I.T. with your business goals. Most MSPs don't offer these fractional CIO services, don't know how to put together an I.T. budget and Roadmap, and simply offer basic help desk support and some maintenance, NOT strategy.

Q5. **Do they bill you properly and provide invoices that clearly explain what you are paying for?**

Our Answer: Another complaint we hear from new clients is over billing. Either the I.T. company forgets to invoice you for something, then hits you with a giant bill to make up for months of incorrect billing, or they invoice you so randomly with confusing bills that you don't really know what you're paying for. We provide detailed invoices that show what work was done, why and when, so you never have to guess what you are paying for.

Q6. **Do they have adequate insurance to protect YOU?**

Our Answer: Since your I.T. company is directly maintaining and supporting your critical data and I.T. infrastructure, it's extremely important that they carry cyber liability and errors and omissions insurance to cover any damages (and costs) they might inadvertently cause to you. If they fail to carry insurance, it's YOUR liability. Don't be afraid to ask to see their coverage.

Q7. **Do they have an effective account management team?**

Our Answer: If they are too small to offer effective account management, you'll end up frustrated trying to find someone to help you. If it's the owner, ask how they are going to be able to dedicate time to you while running the company. Some companies may have carved out this time while others may not have done so. Make sure you know what team is going to be dedicated to supporting YOU when you need help.

Cybersecurity And Compliance:

Q8. **Do they support all of the platforms and services that you use?**

Our Answer: We know that every client is different and every client has their own preferences and workflows. We train our technicians on the best practices for all major platforms and Operating Systems. Whether you prefer to use Mac or PC, Office 365 or Google Workspace, iOS or Android, we're here to support you and ensure that you get top notch security, predictability, and efficiency out your technology spend.

Q9. **Do they provide you with a regular report that shows all the updates, security patches and the status of every machine on your network so you know for SURE your systems have been secured and updated?**

Our Answer: Every quarter, our clients get a detailed report that shows an overall health score for their network and the updates we've made to their network. We reassess their security, stability and compliance every quarter to ensure we are doing OUR job in watching over critical operations and data to drastically reduce the chances of a disaster or cyber-attack.

Q10. **Is it standard procedure for them to provide you with written network documentation detailing what software licenses you own, user information, hardware inventory, etc., or are they the only person with the "keys to the kingdom"?**

Our Answer: All clients receive this in written and electronic form at no additional cost. We also perform a quarterly update on this material and make sure certain key people from your organization have this information and know how to use it, giving you complete control over your network.

If your current I.T. company doesn't provide you with any documentation and they keep you in the dark about what "inventory" you have of equipment, software licenses, system passwords, etc., you are being "held hostage" and should NEVER allow an I.T. person to have that much control over your company. If you get the sneaking suspicion that your current I.T. person is keeping this under their control as a means of job security, get rid of them (and we can help to make sure you don't suffer ANY ill effects). This is downright unethical and dangerous to your organization, so don't tolerate it!

Q11. **Do they, and their leadership team, understand regulatory compliance such as the FINRA, PCI compliance, and WISPs?**

Our Answer: We know that compliance does NOT equal security and being compliant can often cause friction to daily operations. Ensuring smooth alignment of these goals is of the utmost importance. We work with dozens of companies covered by these regulations and compliance needs and work with our clients to make sure we are all on the same page about what is required and what is the best way to achieve their goals at the best cost while keeping efficiency up.

Q12. **Have they asked to review your cyber liability, ransomware or crime insurance application to ensure they are doing what is required in your policy for coverage?**

Our Answer: Many businesses now carry insurance to help cover the costs of a ransomware attack or other cyber fraud case where money is stolen from your organization. HOWEVER, all insurance carriers are now requiring strict cybersecurity protections be implemented BEFORE they will cover you. If your I.T. company has not talked to you about this, you might be at risk to have your claim denied for coverage due to your failure to meet the cyber standards YOU agreed to in the policy.

If a ransomware attack happens, your insurance company won't simply pay out. They will investigate the matter first to determine what happened and who caused it. If they discover you didn't have adequate preventative measures in place (as outlined on the application you completed to get coverage) they are within their right to deny coverage.

You might think your I.T. company is actually doing what is outlined on the policy, but there's a very good chance they aren't. We see this all the time when reviewing potential new clients' networks. One of the things we can do for you in a complimentary Risk Assessment is review this important area of protection and see whether or not you're meeting basic cybersecurity requirements that are in most insurance policies.

Backups And Data Recovery:

Q13. **Do they INSIST on immutable backups for your data?**

Our Answer: The only kind of backup you should have is an "immutable" backup, which means your backup data cannot be changed or corrupted. This is important because ransomware attacks are designed to infect your backups so you are forced to pay the ransom to get your data back. This is why cyber insurance policies now require the companies they are insuring to have immutable backups in place. If you're working with an I.T. firm, they should not only know about this type of backup, but insist you have it.

Q14. **Do they INSIST on doing periodic test restores of your backups to make sure the data is not corrupt and could be restored in the event of a disaster?**

Our Answer: We run a regular "fire drill" and perform a test restore from backup for our clients to make sure their data CAN be recovered in the event of an emergency. After all, the WORST time to "test" a backup is when you desperately need it.

Q15. **Do they insist on backing up your network BEFORE performing any type of project or upgrade?**

Our Answer: We do, and that's simply as a precaution in case a hardware failure or software glitch causes a major problem.

Q16. **If you were to experience a major disaster, such as an office fire or ransomware attack, do they have a written plan for how your network could be restored FAST and/or enable you to work from a remote location?**

Our Answer: All our clients receive a simple disaster recovery plan for their data and network. We encourage them to do a full disaster recovery plan for their office, but at a minimum, their network will be covered should something happen.

Q17. **Is their help desk U.S.-based or outsourced to an overseas company or third party?**

Our Answer: We provide our own in-house help desk and make sure the folks helping you are friendly and supportive. We consider this one of the most important aspects of customer service, plus we feel it's important to keeping your data secure.

Q18. **Do their technicians keep current on vendor education and participate in ongoing training – or are they learning on your dime?**

Our Answer: Our technicians are required to keep up with vendor training in all the software we support. As new modules and training opportunities come out, we design learning paths that help our techs to stay on the forefront. Plus, our hiring process is so stringent, 99% of the technicians who apply don't make it through. (Guess who's hiring them?)

Q19. **Do their technicians conduct themselves in a professional manner?**

Our Answer: Our technicians are true professionals who are not only polite, but trained in customer service, communication and high standards. They won't confuse you with "geek-speak," make you feel stupid or talk down to you. If they have to be on-site at your office, you would be proud to have them there. We believe these are minimum requirements for delivering a professional service.

Q20. **Are they familiar with (and can they support) your unique line-of-business applications?**

Our Answer: We own the problems with all line-of-business applications for our clients. That doesn't mean we can fix faulty software – but we WILL be the liaison between you and your vendor to resolve problems you are having and make sure these applications work smoothly for you.

Q21. **When something goes wrong with your Internet service, phone systems, printers or other I.T. services, do they own the problem or do they say, "That's not our problem to fix"?**

Our Answer: We feel WE should own the problem for our clients so they don't have to try to resolve any of these issues on their own – that's just plain old good service and something many computer guys won't do.

Are You Ready To Align Your Technology With Your Business Goals?

Say Goodbye To Frustrating IT Support And Constant Tech Problems

If you're tired of technology holding your business back, now is the time to take control. Our Business Technology Alignment Assessment is designed to give you the clarity and strategy you need to ensure your IT systems aren't just working—but driving your business forward.

To get started, call us at **646-989-9900** and reference this guide to book a brief 10- to 15-minute initial phone consultation. You can also go online to schedule your consultation here: **https://www.last.tech/get-aligned**

During this call, we'll discuss your current situation, concerns, and any questions you have. If you're ready to move forward, we'll schedule a convenient time for our proprietary Business Technology Alignment Assessment, which will provide you with an in-depth analysis of your technology and how it aligns with your business goals.

What You'll Learn from This Assessment:

- Whether your IT systems are truly secure from cyber threats like hackers and ransomware, and where vulnerabilities might be lurking.
- How effectively your data is being backed up and whether your recovery process can withstand a crisis like a ransomware attack or hardware failure.
- Where your company may be unknowingly violating industry regulations such as FINRA or PCI and putting your business at risk.
- Opportunities to streamline your IT investments, improving security, performance, and communication while lowering costs and boosting productivity.

Our fresh perspective often reveals insights your current IT provider might miss, and at the very least, this Business Technology Alignment Assessment is a **completely risk-free** way to get an objective third-party evaluation of your IT environment. There's no cost and no obligation—just an opportunity for you to see how technology can truly work for you, not against you.

At LastTech, we're committed to earning your trust and helping you discover a better way to manage your technology.

To Schedule Your Assessment,
please visit **https://www.last.tech/get-aligned**
or call our office at **646-989-9900.**

Aligned with your success,

Brad Lassiter

Brad Lassiter, CEO
LastTech

See What Other Business Owners Are Saying:

A Proven, Trusted Partner With A Holistic Approach

Having LastTech embedded in our firm's day-to-day operation provides a great benefit. Brad and his staff are **an integral part of our team**, which provides a high level of comfort for our employees. Most importantly, **LastTech is a proven, trusted partner** in helping Whitehall develop successful technology strategies for our growing company.

As an operations professional, **I appreciate LastTech's holistic approach** to the services they provide. I know that a recommendation from Brad is backed by his full understanding of our processes and business technology platforms, which are numerous in Investment Banking; this **limits redundancy and improves efficiency across our business.**

If you're looking for a new IT firm, understand that LastTech will provide **a truly integrated support structure**. Having a 'face with the name' in your operation provides a level of accountability and comfort that is hard to find in today's mostly outsourced market.

Justin Ryan | *Whitehall & Company*

LastTech - Truly Amazing IT

LastTech is an **affordable and truly amazing IT company**. The CEO, Brad, is always available to take calls and go over anything. Our tech is the best and always shows up whenever we need him and **doesn't leave until everyone's problems are fixed**. They make it so that **I can focus on other things** to help run our company.

Alex Pestone | *Triplet Acquisitions*
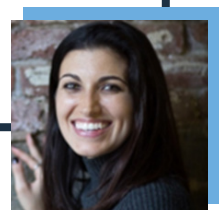
See What Other Business Owners Are Saying:

Responsive & Easy to Understand. It's a Win-Win All Around!

The LastTech Support Team is **always responsive and timely**. The advice and instructions we receive are concise and easy to understand. We feel secure knowing that our technology systems are being monitored on a regular basis.

LastTech offers **a variety of solutions for your IT needs** based on your budget. There is never a high-pressure situation when inquiring about additional services.

It's a win-win all around.
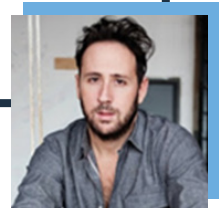
Helen Kluger | *Devlin Hair*

We Trust LastTech, There For Us And Quick To Respond

LastTech is **our one stop, preferred IT vendor** and has been since before we opened. **Outstanding all around**, but what matters most to me is their responsiveness. Whenever we need them, they are there for us and quick to respond. **Our issues get solved right away** which makes us feel that our business matters and we have trust.

There are lots of competent IT firms in NYC. However, if you want someone that will pick up the phone and take care of you when time is of the essence, **LastTech is the best**.

Jason Goodman | *Bathhouse*

Last.Tech

The last technology solution you will ever need.