

Chris Ascough

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Sr. Programme/Project Manager

Delivery-driven, self-motivated, professional with 30+ years' success in leading business transformation through IT solutions for organizations in the UK, Europe and US. Takes an inclusive, results-focused approach to management with an eye for detail and a proven ability to drive consensus among key stakeholders at all levels. Subject matter expertise in systems integration, Identity and Access management, Windows 10 roll out and Information Rights Management. Highly skilled and experienced in managing remote-working, distributed, and international cross-function project teams. Proficient in business change, planning, team building and leadership, budgeting, communication and presentation, application development and deployment, and vendor management. Good French; conversational German.

Areas of Expertise & Technical Skills

- Change Management
- Identity & Access Management
- Cross-functional Team Leadership
- Application and Infrastructure deployment/change projects
- IT Consulting
- Team Building
- Risk Management
- Waterfall & Agile
- Systems Integration
- Vendor Management
- Budgeting & Forecasting
- Rights Management

Professional Experience

Samworth Brothers, Leicester, UK

2019 - 2020

Programme Lead

Initiated major (over £2m) project to transform device procurement into a group-wide device lifecycle management service. Launched Windows 10 roll-out and device replacement across the group. Managed RFP development and service vendor selection process. Developed process change and structured device deployment programme plan. Project suspended due to Covid 19.

Key Achievements:

- Defined device lifecycle and replacement service to reduce device TCO and ensure a "smoothed" flow of replacements over time.
- Implemented process for Group IT equipment "Charge Back" to businesses.
- Designed and specified equipment Service Catalogue and Asset Management systems.
- Planned structured deployment of Windows 10 replacement for aged devices to reduce legacy licence costs.
- Led client team in selection process for vendor to deliver the device lifecycle service.

AstraZeneca, Cheshire, UK

2010 - 2018

Sr. Project Manager/Project Manager

Promoted through multiple roles with increased accountability for project success, key stakeholder relations and team leadership. Utilised Prince2, ITIL, and other methodologies to establish scope, gather requirements, develop strategy, implement plans and budgets and deliver project milestones economically. Demonstrated flexibility and adaptability by successfully delivering a variety of technology solutions. Selected vendors and products through RFI process and managed suppliers, ensuring deliverables arrived on time and to rigorous specifications.

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Key Projects:

- Successfully delivered final stages of integration/migration programme, including access groups, Azure and service decommissioning, completed timely programme closure. (2018)
- Migrated 2K+ users and devices to AstraZeneca standard systems and Windows 10 with minimal user disruption, this enhanced staff collaboration and mobility and reduced IAM overheads through use of single technology. (2017)
- Implemented web-services interfaces into IAM system significantly accelerating speed of account creation (from several hours to 10 minutes) and reducing logged issues. (2016)
- Customised and deployed SOX compliance access review solution resulting in augmented accuracy and auditability yielding 50%+ decrease in review effort. (2015)
- Selected and forged relationship with FileSecure vendor for £1M Cloud IRM/DRM service solution providing secure document exchange internally and with third parties. (2013)
- Remediated security scorecard negative and delivered ability to pass compliance audit by deploying PrivilegeGuard privilege elevation software to 500+ users. (2012)
- Spearheaded successful proof-of-concept for virtual desktop/BYOD infrastructure (VDI) leading to delivering business case with savings of \$50M/year. (2011)

Birkdale Relocations, Merseyside, UK

2009 - 2010

Director

Conducted thorough research to evaluate feasibility of home find and relocation start-up. Created accurate financial and business models to demonstrate viability and provide strategic roadmap. Secured preferred supplier role with Nutricia within one month of company launch.

Network Rail, London, UK

2008

Service Transformation Manager

Collaborated with stakeholders at all levels to understand process, policy and management deficiencies within IT Support division of rail infrastructure provider with 22K users. Analysed technology use, organisation structure and expenses (OpEx). Identified sustainable solutions, presented compelling case, gained decision maker buy-in and delivered transformation plan.

Key Projects:

- Led reorganisation of underperforming Service Support group; achieved significantly improved service ratings and identified £2 million OpEx savings through improved workload management, employee engagement, and technology utilisation. (2008)

TORI Global, London, UK

2005 - 2007

Consultant Project Manager

Provided consultancy and sales support for engagements with Financial Services and other organisations in UK and USA. Delivered situational assessments, solution designs, recommendations and project initiations.

Key Achievements:

- Authored successful €1 million software sales proposal worth €400,000 to TORI. (2005)
- Identified savings of up to \$300K and 25% error reduction within projects assessment for GTECH, US. (2006)

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United Nations World Food Programme, Rome, Italy

2003 - 2004

Programme Management Consultant

Reporting directly to the Director of IT, implemented a programme of work to deliver a portfolio of in-progress and requested project activity. Provided coaching to the Director of IT in portfolio management and governance.

Key Achievements:

- Selected and Implemented project portfolio management application. (2004)
- Initiated and executed business alignment exercise. Eliminated 60% of projects. (2004)

Reuters, London, UK

2000 - 2002

Product Manager, Real-time Data Delivery

Launched replacement real-time market data delivery technology enabling organisation to meet expected growth. Delivered marketing, sales and pricing plans and materials for launch.

Key Achievements:

- Launched replacement market data delivery technology to meet market growth.
- Organised and led 2-day Product Launch conference in USA.

Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi, London, UK

1999 - 2000

Implementation Manager

Planned and co-ordinated the work of application, infrastructure and support group Y2K projects across sites. Developed and implemented IT production change control process and governance.

Key Achievements:

- Reduced production faults by 75% by implementing IT change control process. (1999)
- Orchestrated seamless desktop and device replacement roll-out to 750 users. (2000)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM EARLIER CAREER SUCCESSES

- Restored failing project to health, saving potential £300,000 cost overrun for **Lombard Finance**. (1997)
- Ensured timely and accurate management financial information through PC-based system collecting financial data from branches worldwide for **Barclays Bank**. (1996)
- Enabled on-time opening of new private bank through first live BASYS wealth management system implementation at **Goldman Sachs Private Bank**, Zurich. (1994)
- Designed and delivered custom trading & settlement system for **Gerrard & National**. The project, worth c.£6 million, was delivered within regulatory change timeframes. (1989)

Education & Certifications

2:1 Bachelor of Arts, Politics (Hons.)

Nottingham University, Nottingham, UK

Prince2 Practitioner | ITIL Foundation

4th January 2021