

3 issues IT managers face — and how to solve them

IT managers are tasked with handling many different duties including hiring, training, employee development, project management and budgeting, to name a few. With the myriad of expectations, IT managers must constantly solve problems and look for ways to efficiently and effectively produce quality results. Below, we've outlined three major issues many IT managers face and how to effectively solve them.

Issues:	Solutions:
<p>1. Lack of manpower. Unfortunately, recruiting, interviewing and hiring can be time consuming and costly. And IT managers are not usually experienced in these areas. Human resource departments can sometimes help, but a deeper technical understanding is necessary to match candidates with IT positions.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Hire an in-house recruiter to focus strictly on IT-related projects/positions. This recruiter would gain an understanding of the inner workings of the department and match candidates more effectively and efficiently than other general in-house recruiters.+ Use the services of a staffing and recruiting company. These companies have recruiters specifically focused on technology-related jobs, and usually have the resources to match a candidate in a short amount of time. The staffing company can also handle all compensation and benefits.
<p>2. Data security. The ability to use cloud storage or other means of server hosting are beneficial for businesses and IT managers, but can also cause security issues for some organizations.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Communicate with the security administrator to relay security protocols to all employees.+ Proactively identify any possible security threats and educate everyone on new technologies and best practices.+ Look into hosting classes or training sessions on security risks and the proper steps to minimize organizational security risk.
<p>3. Budget restrictions. Implementing newer technologies or updating existing ones is essential for effective operations, but can come at a high price. IT managers are then expected to find creative ways to cut costs while sourcing ways to increase overall productivity and effectiveness.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Save money through planning and forecasting software licensing needs. Software is almost always cheaper if bought in bulk, and budgeting for upcoming needs can eliminate unnecessary spending.+ Implementing voice over IP (VOIP) phone systems can save companies up to 60%.+ Using cloud technologies and document sharing also saves funds throughout the year due to eliminating expensive leases or purchases of physical storage centers.