

# Components of a Business

IDENTIFYING COMPONENTS OF A BUSINESS

Brandon Braxton

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Professor Chris Bowman

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Beyond IT, a business is composed of Accounting and Finance, Sales, Marketing and Customer Service, Human Resources, Leadership, Operations, Supply Chain Management, Product Development, and Legal, which are also divided into teams or groups which specialize in certain areas and job functions. Each component serves a distinct purpose, but they all “team up to push the company forward ... as they shine when they work as one, keeping the business strong (Aldabagh et al., 2025, p. 9).”

Most businesses are structured either hierarchically (top-down) or functionally (flat, cross-functional departments). The tradition structure is hierarchically where C-suite (CEO, CFO, COO) sits at the top followed by middle management (Directors), lower management (Managers, and Leads) then operations units. Each unit has specific areas of coverage and coordinates horizontally and vertically to execute the business strategy.

IT’s fit in an organization has evolved to be more of an enabler than just a support function. Through IT’s designing, provisioning, maintaining and protecting of an organization’s technology infrastructure, other business components are able to perform, evolve and break through new barriers in their respective areas of work; which is why IT is also an enabler as it “doesn’t just keep systems running (p. 7).”

The IT department’s roles and responsibilities encompass infrastructure, application development, helpdesk, data management, cybersecurity and others. From strategic leadership, operational oversight, building and maintaining infrastructure systems, threat monitoring and defense to end-user support, each role has defined ownership of assets and systems.

IT should be structured to align with business strategy while also maintaining technical needs. An example of aligning with business strategy would be where the cybersecurity role lies, which according to Aldabagh et al. (2025):

“While some companies keep cybersecurity under the IT umbrella, others treat it as a standalone department that reports directly to the CEO or board. This separation can offer better visibility, quicker responses to emerging risks, and greater independence in assessing vulnerabilities across all departments. However, it can also lead to potential disconnects if communication with IT is weak. Whether integrated or independent, a well-placed cybersecurity team helps ensure business continuity, safeguards sensitive information, and maintains trust with customers and partners (p. 8).”

## References

Aldabagh, H., Bowman, C., Kirkpatrick, C., Oesteraas, I., & Yalpi, V. L. D. (2025).  
Cybersecurity, technology & society: A multi-disciplinary look at the field of  
cybersecurity (1st ed.).