

# ARE SMALL BUSINESSES PAYING TOO MUCH FOR IT?



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**More than half of an SMB's IT budget goes to simply maintaining the organization's technology - a function that does not add value to the organization. Yet...**

**"Increase IT capacity to drive business innovations"** was the #1 IT priority as identified by 69% of SMB IT managers in Forrester Research's 2012 IT Benchmarks Report.

So how can small businesses increase their capacity for new IT initiatives and decrease their spending on maintenance of current systems? Simple - **control your MOOSE!** (spending to **M**aintain and **O**perate the **O**rganizations **S**ystem and **E**quipment). If you can control your MOOSE, you can shift spending towards new IT initiatives, which will add value to your business.

Simple cost cutting may only provide a temporary fix and could ultimately hurt vital business processes that rely on technology support. Instead, proactive MOOSE management is a business imperative. Take for example, the simple fact that 90% of successful exploits involve vulnerabilities for which a patch has been available for six months or longer! Even more mind-boggling... free software is available to automate downloading these patches and manage pushing them across your network. At its most basic level, proactive MOOSE management means following best practices, (like ensuring free software is installed), which can prevent a costly breach of your systems and save your business money in the end.

Let's take a quick glance at the **Top Ten Steps for Proactively Managing your MOOSE.**

- Hardware/Software Lifecycle Management
- Defined Password Policy
- Business-Class Perimeter Security
- Role-based User/Data Access Controls
- Centralized Anti-Virus/Software Update System
- Close Security Holes
- Complete Data Backup Plan
- Complete Disaster Recovery System
- Recurring IT Awareness/User Training Program
- Rolling 3-yr IT Strategy Plan with Annual Review

Proactively managing your IT operations, systems, and equipment can help free up money that could be used towards new IT initiatives. For more information on how to put this ten step strategy in place to control your MOOSE and stop paying too much for IT, contact SSE today!