HR TRANSFORMATION AND THE DIGITAL JOURNEY
How Small and Medium-Sized Businesses Can Deliver Strategic HR
Introduction

Does digital transformation impact me?
Far from just a big business challenge, IDC defines digital transformation as the application of digital technologies that fundamentally impact all aspects of business and society as a whole. In this respect, digital transformation touches all organizations, their customers, and fundamentally their employees.

What if my team is too busy to address this?
By failing to address digital technologies, your organization could become less competitive. More importantly, you could start to lose talented employees and become less successful in attracting new ones. Digital transformation is also the source of new ideas, business models, and ways of working. It has the potential to reengage employees, management, and customers through new methods and tools.

Can digital transformation help me in my role?
Digital transformation has the potential to reinvigorate the HR functions, freeing up more of your time to concentrate on delivering value to the business, rather than managing requests. Around the world, small and medium-sized businesses are investing in resources to improve employee productivity and improve their competitive positions.

How does digital HR transformation happen?
Far from an overnight solution, digital transformation and HR transformation are a journey that you can begin at any time using the skills and people you already have access to. This IDC interactive guide takes you on this journey, outlining the drivers and key aspects you need to consider. It also helps you understand where you should be heading and the kinds of challenges you can address through HR transformation. Critically, it shows you how digital will transform your own role.
Disruption and Transformation

Digital Transformation is Happening

Digital transformation is happening in more and more organizations, and small and medium businesses can not afford to ignore it. Critically for HR, the barriers to successful transformation are people, knowledge, and culture. Like it or not, the business will be looking to the HR department to support these initiatives and make this happen for the employee base.

Organizations Engaged in DX (%) | More than 5 years in DX
---|---
84% | 22%

Who is Leading DX? (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHRO</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEO</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTO</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIO</td>
<td>27</td>
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Top 4 Recognized Barriers to Successful Digital Transformation:

- **People**: 24%
  - Our organization does not have enough people with digital skills

- **Knowledge**: 22%
  - We lack a sufficient understanding of what digital transformation is and who can help us

- **Financial incentives**: 21%
  - Our financial systems do not incentivize us to take the required risks for digital businesses

- **Culture**: 21%
  - Our organization does not have a risk-taking, innovation-driven culture

**TAKEAWAY**
The fundamentals of digital transformation success will be based on HR transformation success.
Disruption and Transformation

Transformation of the workforce, and the way it is utilized, managed, and improved, is a central feature of this process. On top of everyday tasks and managing a team, many HR professionals will be tasked with keeping pace and delivering change.

This can only be achieved by HR helping to create an agile organization that meets the demands of the business, but also one that helps employees and managers become and remain engaged, productive, and focused. At the same time, HR must maintain a development path and training goals, and manage overall employee performance. This includes not only the talent you have, but also the talent you target. To achieve this, HR professionals must:

- Drive HR transformation through a highly engaged workforce
- Ensure HR becomes central to realizing transformation and continuous change
- Create an agile, flexible, and reactive organization, built on a collaborative culture
- Develop, retain, and attract the right talent into and within the business

TAKEAWAY
Ensure your HR processes begin with the employee, involve the LOB, and result in a highly engaged and collaborative workforce.
HR is central to delivering digital transformation, but very few HR leaders are heading this process ... why?

This comes down to the traditional perception that HR professionals are less strategic and that their department (which may be under-resourced) does not possess the necessary skills or leverage within the business.

HR departments and HR leaders cannot afford to be seen as a process and policy driven section of the business. They must be seen as central to the business and demand a seat at the table.

**TAKEAWAY**

Those leading digital transformation must be made aware of the "people" element, sooner rather than later ...
Your Existing Resources Will be Key

Q. When choosing an external service provider in support of your digital transformation, which type of provider would you prefer to use for each of the following stages?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy Development</th>
<th>Project Management</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internal resources</td>
<td>59% 42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business consultant</td>
<td>24% 25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design agency</td>
<td>16% 25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System integrator</td>
<td>14% 19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software/hardware vendor</td>
<td>7% 9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TAKEAWAY
The process of digital transformation requires identification, availability, and access to the right talent. You cannot hire your way to transformation …
Delivering Strategic HR

Become a "Strategic" HR Department

Strategic HR is the process of delivering HR based on wider business objectives and outcomes, rather than process or administrative requirements – the bigger picture as opposed to (or as well as) the everyday.

Within four years (2012-2016), there has been a significant increase in the number of organizations that implement a formal talent management strategy.

Q. Does your organization have in place or plan to implement a formal talent management strategy?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No, but we have plans to</th>
<th>No, and no plans to</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TAKEAWAY

Now is the time to formalize your talent management strategy.
The Transformation Journey is About Changing HR Priorities

One of the first steps to delivering HR transformation is automating processes and streamlining everyday tasks and admin. From here, you can drive employee engagement, which is central to productivity and talent retention.

**TAKEAWAY**

The shift in importance placed on HR priorities signals a change in focus and a migration away from administration and towards performance and talent management. This has to be supported by automation and self-service tools.
Despite the Urgency of an HR Strategy ...

Q. How many organizations have talent management and HR systems integrated?
A. Only 17% of organizations have talent management and HR systems integrated.

Q. How many organizations believe top talent is tapped wherever it is?
A. Only 10% believe top talent is tapped wherever it is.

Q. How many organizations have self-organizing teams?
A. Only 8% have self-organizing teams.

Q. How many organizations have collaborative, agile, and adaptive work methods in place?
A. Only 16% have collaborative, agile, and adaptive work methods in place.

TAKEAWAY:
Very few organizations are addressing this. LOOK FOR QUICK WINS.
Avoid the Downward Spiral of Talent Retention

HR professionals need to break this vicious circle before it becomes a downward spiral. New tools and processes are one way to drive improved employee (and management) engagement, as well as streamline HR functions to enable a more strategic focus.

**Increasing talent scarcity**
IDC research shows that finding talent is still one of the greatest challenges facing HR professionals. This is not a lack of people, but a lack of skills. The World Economic Forum projects that the United States will need to add 25 million skilled workers to its talent base to sustain economic growth. Creativity, complex problem solving, and lateral thought will define the required skill-sets of the 2020 workforce.

**Difficulty adapting to changing work practices**
Increased reliance on contingent or project based labor creates a new set of challenges for HR departments. The ability to manage a mixed workforce that also values freedom of decision, flexibility, and self-service puts the HR departments and the business in a new spectrum of responsibility. Furthermore, organizations are changing in shape and structure. HR departments need to adapt to this change, looking to new technologies to manage wider changes in employee behavior.

**Unable to deliver business outcomes**
An inability to handle high employee expectations, such as flexibility, work/life balance, benefits, and development paths is compounded by the coexistence of different generations of workers within the business. This creates an environment of different priorities, greater complexity, and a more challenging environment for HR management.

**Inability to handle high employee expectations**
Companies want to get the maximum value from their human capital. Those that have fostered an engaged workforce and stay at the forefront of innovation and performance management achieve this, but it requires constant retooling of HCM capabilities. To manage human capital is to also keep pace with change, making digital disruption work for the business, rather than against it.
Realizing the Transformation Journey

Employees Are Your Competitive Advantage

Attract
the best talent, into the best roles, with clear (and parallel) career development, as well as attracting employees from across departments.

Develop
talent across the organization, reskilling and retraining where possible, as well as empowering talent with the tools to enable this.

Retain
people, skills, and engagement by delivering opportunity and progression. Most critically, retain a highly engaged workforce.

Optimize
talent, skills, and potential (future capability). Ensure that the human capital and knowledge capital of the business exceeds the sum of the parts.
EMPOWERING HR ACROSS THE BUSINESS
IDC research shows that organizations want an inclusive HR system that lets HR staff, managers, and employees become responsible for their own experience without complicated procedures.
HR professionals must empower LOB and employees, turning everyone into "HR experts."
How do I empower LOB? What software, processes, and policies do I need in place?

IMPACTFUL HR DECISION MAKING
Analytics throughout the employee life cycle can deliver significant benefits, from identifying candidate suitability to determining flight risk and possible courses of action.
59% of the respondents in IDC's Western Europe HCM survey said that analytics and dashboards are either very or extremely important when making decisions about investing in HCM software solutions.

CONTINUOUS EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT
6% of Fortune 500 companies have abandoned rankings and annual reviews.
IDC research shows more organizations are performing frequent appraisals.
Continuous, "check-in" style personal development — engaging HR processes for performance, learning/development, and more regular feedback from peers and supervisors — is becoming the norm.

MANAGING A FLEXIBLE WORKFORCE
Only 10% of Western European HCM survey respondents were able to tap into talent wherever it is, through employment, contingent, contract, or freelancers.
Yet up to 30% of large company HR spend goes towards contingent workers.
With these employees now critical to the talent ecosystem, HR demands a redefinition of both the processes and how to best manage these people.

SOCIAL AND COLLABORATIVE LEARNING
Over half of respondents in IDC's Western Europe HCM survey said that learning integration in a complete employee life-cycle solution is a high priority.
HCM systems should also provide the opportunity for social learning, turning everyone into both "teachers" and "students."
Best practices are better communicated, databases of experiences are created, and content distributed.

TAKEAWAY
By addressing these initiatives, HR can deliver increased value but also gain time and insight to become more strategic and deliver increased value.
HR departments want a solution that frees up time from HR admin, allows for strategic inputs, and helps them deal with issues of planning, resourcing, and development.

Line-of-business managers want their staff to be engaged, with a high level of self-service, and to fulfill HR-related tasks with ease and on time.

Executives want to complete business transformation projects that will future proof their organizations. They care about efficiency, engagement, and productivity.

Employees want self-service, zero-hassle, easy-to-use HR tools that help them keep track of their KPIs, their development goals, and their prospective paths.

Strategic HR means HR transformation

The successful system must include the following:

- Ability to reduce mundane and repetitive tasks for user, HR staff, and managers
- Ability to interface with the existing data and offer insights and information that is tangible and useful
- Ability to incorporate feedback, training plans, and workforce planning into multiple and easy-to-use views
# Next Steps

## Playbook

### Things to Focus On

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clearly communicate the company vision for HR and digital transformation.</th>
<th>Spell out the vision with clear roles and responsibilities and set communication guidelines across the organization.</th>
<th>Understand your team's role and responsibilities and monitor the progress that you are making, by incentivizing your team members to act.</th>
<th>Let your department take the lead in fostering this vision and use internal communications to reinforce change and regular staff surveys to drive engagement.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Find the bottlenecks and take action to meet the challenge.</td>
<td>Streamline processes, secure buy-in from the executive team for rapid action on emerging issues and simplify approval for actions in line with the vision.</td>
<td>Pay attention to established practices and seek out delays and inefficiencies, work with your team to streamline process, and focus on the delivery of value.</td>
<td>Collect the inputs from different departments, document and curate best practices and help managers be productive and on time with the right set of tools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rethink your talent needs and devise the plan to act.</td>
<td>Make talent retention and attraction a key part of your strategy with continuous updates tied to performance.</td>
<td>Think and plan for the long term, determine skills that will be needed for the future, and create bespoke talent pools and succession plans.</td>
<td>Maintain an overview of the talent needs for your organization in the long term, keep managers tied to their plans, check progress, and update role profiles and skills inventory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devise a long-term training and development plan and muster resources to drive engagement with it.</td>
<td>Ask for business units to create distinct and comprehensive training plans that will meet their teams' needs and fit with the company vision.</td>
<td>Work with the business to determine what skills are no longer needed and which employees need to be retrained and ensure new staff gets access to rich and relevant materials.</td>
<td>Ensure that HR systems allow for distributed and social learning, maintain and curate the library for relevant content across the organization, and integrate learning as part of development and engagement policies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make HR transformation the core of your digital transformation project with your people leading the change in your organization.</td>
<td>Embracing change will require new measurements and KPIs, and new structures, goals, and incentives that need executive support as they trickle down in the organization.</td>
<td>Make use of new tools, analytics, and frequent feedback to monitor the process of your digital transformation responsibilities and lead your team in line with the company vision.</td>
<td>Reshape the scope of the HR department to be less process oriented and more strategic while making change a key measure of success.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recommendations

1. Transform your HR role and that of your department from a keeper of records to a strategic business partner. This means becoming a driver of change, creator of efficiencies, and agent of growth and talent attraction. Use HR to guide your business transformation rather than just keeping score of the process. Freeing up your time is central to achieving this.

2. Enable your HR department to become more efficient, save time, and spend resources on securing better access to talent and higher employee engagement.

3. Start by automating some of the mundane and repetitive tasks your team has to perform on a daily basis. One way to address this is by focusing on employee and management self-service, such as web-based holiday requests, or access to HR policies online.

4. Rethink the skills your organization needs and how you can attract the best fit for open positions. Reevaluate your hiring process to ensure the best talent flow.

5. Think about automating training and development, so employees can self-learn and also teach each other. Personal development will lead to more engaged employees and a happier workforce.

6. Make better use of analytics to identify why some employees leave. Find new ways to engage them and build policies around succession planning.

7. Empower your organization with a strong HR department that will foster your employer brand and raise your visibility in the market.
## Scorecard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Functional</th>
<th>Tactical</th>
<th>Strategic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Talent</strong></td>
<td>Simple recruiting and development structures in place — disconnected from each other and with minimal ability to engage contingent labor</td>
<td>Some integration between recruiting and development and performance management but still siloed — gig economy still at arm’s length</td>
<td>Integrated talent attraction, retention, and engagement planning with regular performance and development feedback with talent tapped everywhere and anywhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Culture</strong></td>
<td>Lack of unified culture — departmental guidelines and local practices prevail</td>
<td>General values and principles that guide a corporate vision but not fully aligned between roles, functions, and departments</td>
<td>Well communicated and articulated culture that drives business, digital, and HR transformation across all departments, roles, and geos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learning</strong></td>
<td>Decentralized and ad hoc, learning is completed to satisfy legislative requirements or CPDs and is disjointed from performance, compensation, and development</td>
<td>Breadth and width of corporate knowledge and corporately sanctioned training materials but rigid and inflexible learning structures with regular intervals and limited input by end users</td>
<td>Distributed learning where company-curated material and end-user-created content coexist to support engagement, on-the-job learning, and KPIs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Planning</strong></td>
<td>Ad hoc planning decision making and processes, no distinct plan for the future, no succession planning or talent pool in place</td>
<td>Some succession planning and some best practices in place and the ability to plan in the medium term but limited view beyond the horizon</td>
<td>Clearly defined succession planning, alumni programs, ability to adjust to flexible workforce requirements, and ability to plan for the long term</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Share with your CxO why Digital Transformation is now needed.