Chris Sarandos

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Senior IT Executive

Transformational leader! Expert in design and delivery of cost-effective, high-performance information technology infrastructures and applications to address complex business problems. In-depth understanding of emerging technologies and commercial applications. Demonstrated ability to partner with internal and external business units and stakeholders to foster mutual trust and respect. Ability to lead and communicate across all organizational levels, from line staff to executive management. Key skills include:

Benchmarking	Business System Planning	Employee Relations
Strategic Planning/Implementation	Multi-year Budgeting	Conflict Resolution
Computer Operations/Applications	Strategic Partnerships	Contract Administration
Vendor Management	Project/Program Management	Client Relationship Management
Leadership	Leadership Development	Public Speaking

Career Highlights

Recognized $15 million savings for State of Wisconsin where half of 52 agencies managed own infrastructure. Evaluated lack of enterprise approach and coordinated with Finance Department to evaluate cost saving potential by having agencies utilize shared service model.

Reorganized dormant ERP initiatives within Wisconsin where after spending $14M for a product that hadn't been used in 7 years, organization was in dire need of solution. Brought all stakeholders – to include vendors and 26 Departments - together to plan and implement new ERP solution which was projected to save taxpayers $10M.

Led the development and refinement of a multi-faceted geographic, business intelligence warehouse that combined fragmented data into an easy-to-use visual format. Law enforcement, emergency management, and intelligence workers now analyzed trend data and became predictive and proactive rather than just reactive. Recognized by the national body of state CIOs for excellence in data, information, and knowledge management for 2014.

Professional Experience

Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS), Richmond, VA (2016-Present)
Chief Information Officer
Provides high-quality, responsive, customer-oriented technology services, in the most cost-efficient manner, supporting the mission and initiatives of 15 behavioral health hospitals, developmental training centers, and Central Office operations. Developed and implemented governance best practices and aligned operations to the Department strategic plan. Continually updated the $40M electronic health record solution in the three facilities, as well as planned for a major system upgrade that will be implemented in all facilities.

Independent Consultant, IT Management and Services, Austin, TX (2014-2016)
Advises local and state government agencies on CIO activities, policy, guidance, budgeting, programming, operations, and maintenance endeavors to ensure delivery of greater customer value through an aggressive approach towards operational efficiency as well as process/product improvement.

State of Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), Austin, TX (2012-2014)
Chief Information Officer / Assistant Director
With a budget of $32M, led 285 IT staff and managed systems providing technical support to 10,000 DPS personnel in various hardware and software applications ensuring the Department effectively managed the information technology resources including strategic planning and management to attain law enforcement and intelligence operational goals. Developed strategic roadmap for future IT endeavors.
- Launched upgrade of Highway Patrol "in-car" solution from hardened laptop to tablet computer, increasing mission efficiencies as well as increasing trooper safety. Projected cost savings was estimated to be $5M over 4 years to buy $400 tablets versus $4000 laptops for all trooper vehicles in TX.

- Established critical information security function within department where previously there had been none. Convinced senior department personnel as well as board of directors not only to fund with current funds, but also to ask state legislature for $20M for future personnel and systems to secure millions of records the department maintains.

State of Wisconsin, Madison, WI (2011-2012)
State Chief Information Officer

Managed the state's information technology (IT) assets and used technology to improve government efficiency and service delivery. Administered enterprise solutions and consulted on technology services for state agencies, local government and educational systems.

- With a staff of 385 and a budget of $150M fundamentally changed the historical way of doing business from "IT centric" to "business centric."
- Developed Shared Service Model approach for state. New process reduced total IT costs and focused staff on agency program areas. Automated processes save thousands of hours of work effort every year and focused internal organization internal IT resources on agency program goals.
- Recognized that State of Wisconsin did not have any business continuity process. Collaborated with business partners and offered business continuity services in multiple data center options ranging from real-time 24/7, to 4 hours, to 2 days. Processes saved exorbitant personnel hours and dollars to recover after any man-made or natural disasters.
- Unified State of Wisconsin citizen-facing services by launching self-funded portal. Initiative is starting but is expected to save the state around $10 million over the next 3 years.
- Developed internal and external processes to improve IT Service response to business partners. Cost and time factors drove implementation of cloud-base solutions that created robust process which saved $1,500,000 per year in operating costs and improved customer service and response.

Peace Corps, Washington D.C. (2009-2011)
Chief Information Officer
A recognized leader and key Agency partner in strategic planning, enabling, and supporting Information and Technology solutions through sustainable operational excellence. Provided global information and technology services and solutions in collaboration with Staff, Volunteers, and Agency partners to achieve its mission and strategic goals. Developed and implemented IT roadmap dovetailed with organization strategic plan.

- Streamlined IT strategic investment to drive business value by re-engineering fundamental Peace Corps business practices to increase number of Volunteers by 50% over two years. Previously, recruitment had utilized same manual process for over 40 years.
- Executed new IT governance process to ensure business leader alignment with priorities, resource allocation, and spending. Process never existed previously, and new processes streamlined support to volunteers worldwide.
- Facilitated development of career progression matrix for employees. Not only increased morale, but provided roadmap for future promotions. Resulted in reduced turnover and more stability as well as less money spent on training new hires.

U.S. Air Force, Various Locations (1979-2007)
Colonel/CIO/Commander

- To counter potential terrorism overseas led a multi-national team to develop a surveillance program to identify "friend or foe" maritime traffic in the Mediterranean Sea. The 126M-euro ($165M) solution determined which of the 5000 ships per day that traversed the area were threats.
- Planned and coordinated an innovative Air Force command post at an alternate location after the Pentagon was hit on 9/11. Collaborated with all military services and local authorities to establish all needed circuits to the new site, set up logistical processes to make it happen, and brought the new command post in under budget and within the time constraints given.
- Promoted to Colonel - only 1.8% of Air Force officers achieve that rank.
- Commander of an overseas Air Force communications unit that significantly increased operational effectiveness during worldwide evacuation crisis. Because of their collective expertise, the unit was named BEST in the Air Force in 1997.
- IT systems and management auditor/inspector for 5 years – both overseas and in the US. Increased mission readiness and mitigated potential problem areas.