

# *Planning Your 2016 IT Budget: A Guide for 5 Critical Areas*



The technology landscape is dynamic and if you are looking at new investments for 2016, it can be difficult to cut through the noise to understand the right choices to meet your needs – and what those choices may cost in order to accurately plan. Particularly for smaller firms, technology costs can be a large chunk of the budget. Getting solutions that are ‘right-sized’, fit your requirements, and will show a positive ROI are critical.



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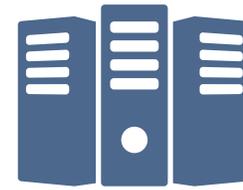
In this short, comprehensive eBook, we’ve compiled 5 critical items that should be on your 2016 budget list. The good news is that if you’ve put off buying these until now, you’re probably going to save some money since many of them have actually dropped in price since they were originally introduced. Having been involved in many technology selection and deployment projects with small companies over the years, we’ve outlined some rough pricing based on the number of users in your company to help guide your purchasing decisions. Although clearly pricing may vary based on location (ie in large metro areas, there are many resources, but you pay top dollar), you can utilize these guidelines and best practices to work on your 2016 budget. We’ll even share a few tips that may help in thinking through the best fit.

Security is (and should be) top of mind for companies. Just this year, the industry saw a record number of hacks, break-ins and exploits that landed some big names on the front page of the Wall Street Journal, including the Wall Street Journal themselves.



Small business had  
**3X THE LOSSES PER CAPITA**  
compared to large businesses

(Source: Ponemon Institute)



**1.3M DATA RECORDS**  
**STOLEN EVERYDAY**  
(and growing)

(Source: PC Magazine)

### OUR ADVICE IS SIMPLE:

- Look at what you're trying to protect
- Buy the best protection you can afford
  - Train your people
  - Have insurance

## PROTECTING DATA

In general if you're trying to protect data that is stored on your servers, make sure those servers (virtual or physical) have:

- ✓ Adequate physical protection
- ✓ Up-to-date operating system and virus/malware subscriptions
- ✓ Encryption enabled
- ✓ Strong passwords
- ✓ Two factor authentication

While most of these are free or low cost on a per server basis, it is often hard to verify and enforce that they've all been done. Ask your head of technology to certify that all conditions have been met.



### EXPERT'S TIP: SECURITY

**Budget for an annual security audit.** The first audit may cost a bit more, but you'll get a baseline of where you stand and be able to gauge improvements. In general, the first thing the auditor will ask is 'Where are your security policies?'

Generally for a few thousand dollars you can get a reputable firm to develop the policies and sometimes they will provide audit services for an annual fee, probably not more than \$10K/50 employees. Regulated companies such as healthcare or financial services, can expect to pay significantly more.

# Click [here](#) to read the full presentation



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