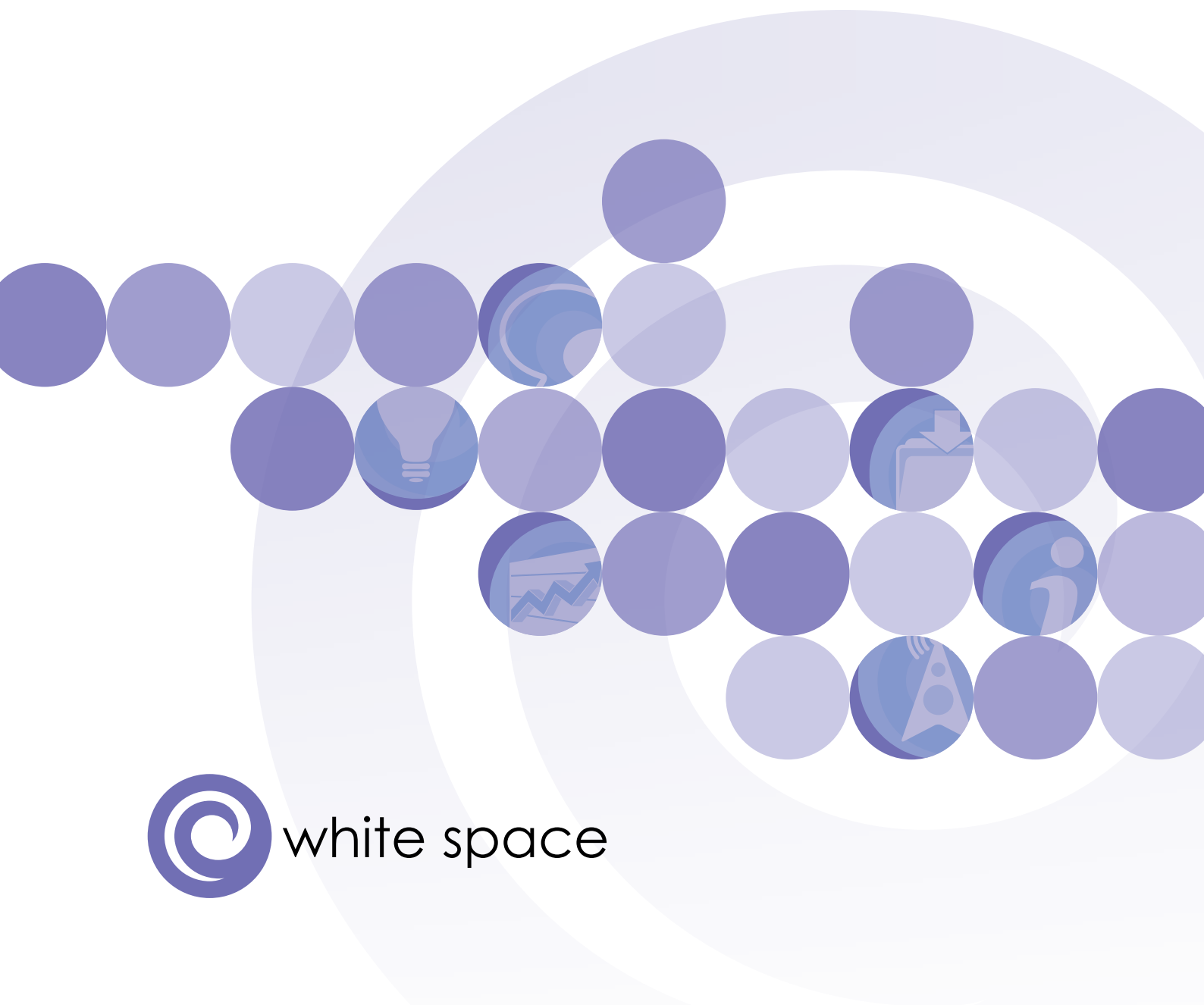


THOUGHT LEADERSHIP DIGEST

The best new research and ideas from consulting firms for IT leaders

JANUARY 2012



The purpose of our digests is to make it easier for business leaders to find the best research and ideas. Every month, we trawl the websites of about 30 of the world's leading consulting firms looking for the latest thought leadership. What we find, which now totals over 20,000 articles, we categorise by sector and service line, and make available – with supporting analysis – via a searchable database which we call White Space. In the process of doing so, we get a very good sense of what's being said in any particular business area, and which the best quality pieces of thought leadership are. This allows us to present time-pressed managers with a summary of the things that really merit their attention.

Our aim is to do the hard work; to filter out what's important from what's not, and to put something on business leaders' desks that says 'here you go – this is all you need to read at the moment.'

IT strategy

How strategic is our technology agenda?

McKinsey

They say: IT leaders are often trapped in the status quo, their principal focus being to keep a company running in the face of sharply increasing demands and tight budgets.

We say: Short article with useful suggestions about how companies can develop a more strategic approach to IT.
(registration required)

The 2011 CIO compass: a field guide to practical IT strategy and planning

Deloitte

They say: Each article in this compendium can be read as a self-contained piece, but, in concert, they span a broad set of IT topics and issues.

We say: A little overwhelming at 130 pages but there's something in here for everyone.

How to make IT spending more effective

Bain & Company

They say: More than 80 per cent of the executives we surveyed believe that their IT is out of step with their most important business strategies.

We say: Although none of the ideas are new, it's a helpful recap on what IT directors ought to be focusing on.

Security

A better way to battle malware

Booz & Company

They say: Every minute produces 42 new strains of malware – short for malicious software – including viruses, worms and Trojans.

We say: Explores the dark side of the internet and recommends new approaches that engage all users in the battle against malware.

(registration required)

Cybercrime: protecting against the growing threat

PwC

They say: Businesses face serious threats from cyber criminals from within as well as outside. And it's clear that senior management need to take these risks more seriously.

We say: Based on an extensive global survey, this report provides insights into how other companies are protecting themselves from cybercrime.

New devices

'Bring your own device' shakes up IT departments

AT Kearney

They say: With the Facebook generation growing in size within the workplace, employees are quietly bringing their personal devices such as the iPad into the office – and forward-thinking companies are responding with their own initiatives to harness the momentum.

We say: Targeting a key issue for many CIOs, this article sets out an approach to 'bring your own device' that helps to maximise the benefits while minimising the risk.

The tablet market: act 2

BCG

They say: The next generation of devices will likely be designed to meet a growing desire among consumers and businesses for choice in functionality, price, and supporting ecosystem.

We say: A concise overview of the evolution of the tablet market – useful for all companies making tablet purchases.

Cloud

Clarity in the cloud: a global study of the business adoption of cloud

KPMG

They say: The survey was conducted among more than 900 individuals from 15 countries worldwide. From all angles, the responses showed increased readiness to accept and exploit the benefits of the cloud..

We say: This is the most thorough report we've seen to date on how the cloud is being implemented and where companies expect to go next.

Data & decision-making

Competing through data: three experts offer their game plans

McKinsey

They say: The ability to generate and analyse massive amounts of data today demands that executives rethink the role of information in business and even the nature of competitive advantage.

We say: Interesting perspectives highlighting the skills and attitudes required to make the most of data – as well as the benefits to be gained.

(registration required)

Decision insights: how organisations make great decisions

Bain & Company

They say: Too many organisations fail to make and execute their critical decisions well. Some just dither. Others come to a decision but revisit it repeatedly.

We say: Actionable insights about improving decision-making across the organisation.

The decision-making flaw in powerful people

Booz & Company

They say: Power increases confidence which can lead to an excessive belief in one's own judgment and ultimately to flawed decisions.

We say: Evidence to back up what many of us had always suspected – as well as suggestions on how to manage this phenomenon.

(registration required)

About Source

Source is a leading, and highly specialised, provider of information about the market for management consulting. Set up in 2007 and based in London, Source serves both consulting firms and their clients with expert analysis, research and reporting. We draw not only on our extensive in-house experience, but also on the breadth of our relationships with both suppliers and buyers. All of our work is underpinned by our core values of intelligence, integrity, efficiency and transparency.

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We also produce digests for leaders in finance, operations, marketing, HR and IT and would be delighted to provide any of these to you or your colleagues. Again, please contact Julie Ahadi to register your requirements.

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