



Point of View

How Ready Are You to Support the
Accelerated Digital Enterprise?

The modern-day enterprise is evolving. As the world shifts from its traditional lineage to new ways of working (ushered by the pandemic and the subsequent recovery), every aspect of the organization is undergoing a metamorphosis. Everything we assumed as a constant, a given, has been uprooted, and the impetus for change is upon us. Who imagined that a whole population working from home would become a new normal? Or that virtual meetups and events would become commonplace?

While these examples are only the tip of the iceberg, a similar shift is happening in organizations worldwide. Their very nature, their ethos are changing. What they focused on before, what goals they set out to achieve, and what they considered standard operating procedure has witnessed a significant shift in recent times.

This changing nature of the enterprise has also ushered in an era of reimagining its IT architecture. All enterprise processes, functions, goals, and offerings are becoming heavily software-defined, intelligent, automated, and data-driven. The role of IT as we knew it has seen a paradigm shift—from that of an enabler to becoming an integral part of the core functions of an enterprise. IT is the mainstay of this digital-ready environment where value is defined, created, nurtured, delivered, and captured. Today, without question, IT has become the modern digital runtime of the modern digital enterprise.

The reimagined digital enterprise has some fundamental characteristics: agility, variability, business scaling enablement, intelligence infusion, resilience, innovation acceleration, and operations cost minimization. Achieving these goals is the impetus that is driving several enterprises to kickstart their digital transformation journey.

Yet, we see that these IT Modernization initiatives often fail to make the home run, reach their objectives, or extract the full value of their efforts and investment. And they aren't robust enough to support accelerated digital needs.

So, why aren't you digital ready?

The constraints of organizational structure and legacy ways of working pose a substantial challenge in attaining the complete results of the modernization effort. There is often a myopic view of what needs to be achieved in the short term without focusing on the bigger picture. We also see talent gaps in the organization and having to choose between process and technology when these should ideally be combined. Also, enterprises often lack the skill to fine-tune their existing machinery to attain its full value.

I see this problem as akin to that of the automotive engine. You can get all the parts, assemble them, build them up, and put them into a car. The car will run efficiently and perform the primary function of transporting passengers. Imagine if this same engine was placed in a racecar. The car would have all the parts required yet would not win any races. We do not just want to build a car; we want to build the fastest car ever.

Now imagine if we had to build the most fuel-efficient car ever. Again, you would have all the parts required, but you will not get 100 miles to the gallon. To achieve this, we would need to fine-tune the existing machinery. This implies finding a unique solution to each problem given the goals, existing hardware, and constraints. We need to optimize the processes, remove the pain points, and create a streamlined customer-focused process. We also need the engineers, the right materials, the pit-crew, the advertisers, the research, the innovation, the management involvement, the continuous collaboration, and many other things that form the base or the right environment, on top of which we can build our desired results.

What It Takes to Be Ready for the New Next?

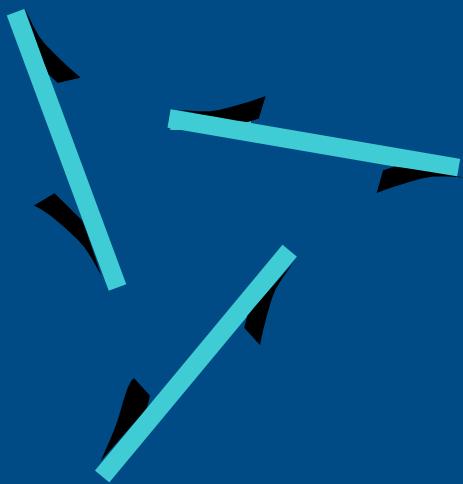
To become ready for a digitally-driven environment, we need to streamline the existing digital transformation machinery and set up a digital environment to get optimum benefits.

We need to smoothen out rough edges and create high-performance machinery by leveraging expertise, experience, and a holistic productized IT-led digital approach. We need small, expert changes that can accelerate the digital transformation journey to bring meaningful results. We would need to reimagine IT as the runtime of the digital enterprise.

```
runtime.definition()  
  
//Runtime is the environment in which a program or application operates;  
  
//It's the hardware and software infrastructure that supports the running of  
a particular codebase;  
  
  
DigitalRuntime.definition()  
  
//Digital Runtime is the environment in which a digital enterprise operates;  
  
//It's the combination of culture, people, practices, tools and technologies  
that supports the running of a digital enterprise;
```

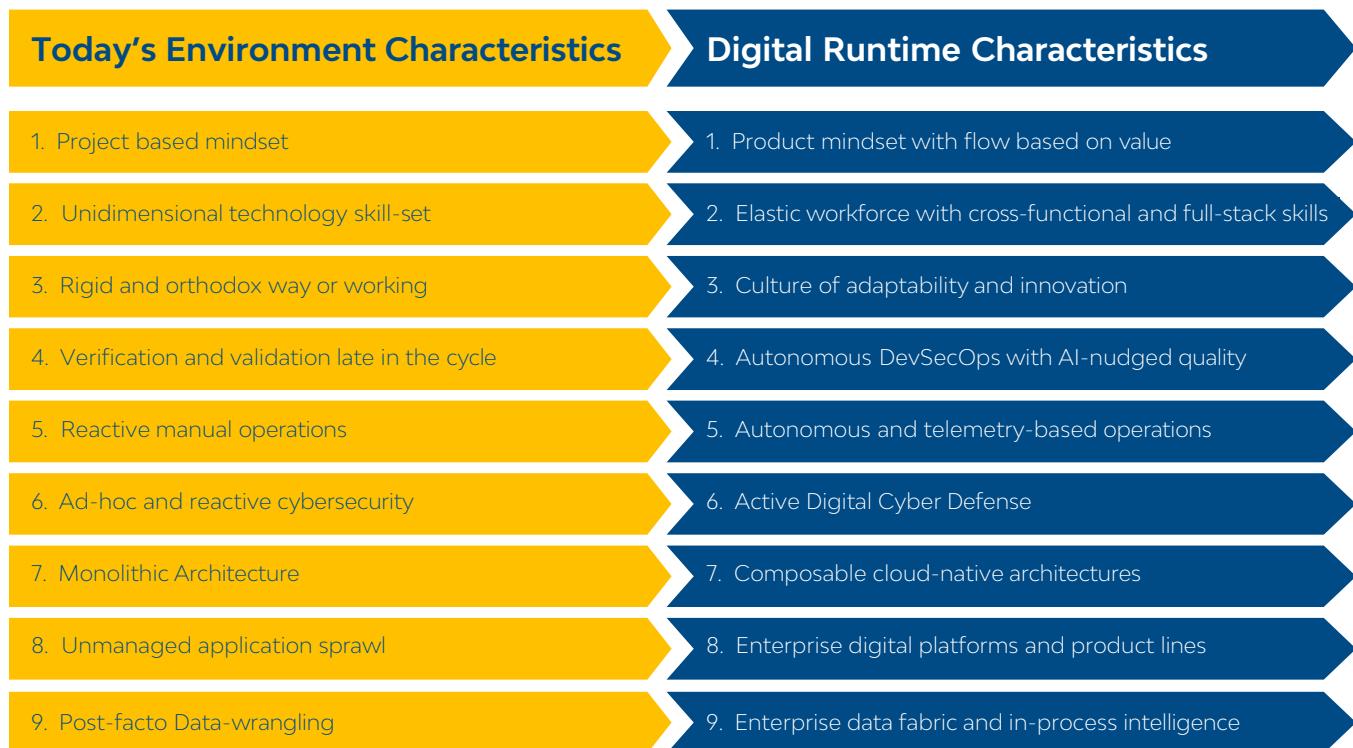
To find a solution, we should ask: what if companies could have an environment where accelerated digital growth will thrive? The answer points to the enormous value that companies could realize—both process-oriented and financial. This environment consists of a product mindset, autonomous DevSecOps and AI, an elastic Pi-shaped workforce, managed and efficient tech debt, proactive and predictive operations, business-aligned products, platforms, and security embedded in all areas of IT.

To solve this, we need a holistic framework and a comprehensive approach that weaves together the culture, technology, ways of working, people and skills, innovation, and the industry context to make IT the digital runtime for an organization's business needs. It deals with transformations within enterprises across areas of ways of working within IT, their IT platforms, and IT delivery practices.



Where Does the Digital Environment Lead?

You may ask what possible value we may unlock by taking on the above efforts and setting up the digital runtime for IT? The answer is as simple as it is powerful: a significant shift in the IT landscape.



Gearing up Support Accelerated Digital Needs

I believe that such a fine-tuned holistic transformation based on a tried-and-tested IT environment, a.k.a. digital runtime, is crucial to delivering what an enterprise promises to its customers and stakeholders. The many small, methodical, yet multiple changes we make now will have a long-lasting impact on the future of all industries and how we, as a society, function. In the words of the great Alan Turing, "We can only see a short distance ahead, but we can see plenty there that needs to be done."

About the Author



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Nachiket's vast global experience spans across tech consulting, products, and platforms, as well as driving large-scale skills transformation.

About LTIMindtree

LTIMindtree is a global technology consulting and digital solutions company that enables enterprises across industries to reimagine business models, accelerate innovation, and maximize growth by harnessing digital technologies. As a digital transformation partner to more than 700 clients, LTIMindtree brings extensive domain and technology expertise to help drive superior competitive differentiation, customer experiences, and business outcomes in a converging world. Powered by 81,000+ talented and entrepreneurial professionals across more than 30 countries, LTIMindtree — a Larsen & Toubro Group company — combines the industry-acclaimed strengths of erstwhile Larsen and Toubro Infotech and Mindtree in solving the most complex business challenges and delivering transformation at scale. For more information, please visit <https://www.ltimindtree.com/>.