

Profile – David Aitken

My Passion

I'm the bricklayer who likes to know he's building a cathedral. I have a passion for simplifying complex tasks, making them understandable and purposeful, and getting them done. I believe in establishing a bold and simple vision, adaptable strategy, and a clear set of values - then empowering competent people to do the right thing.

I've spent a couple of decades working inside the box, usually managing established and evolving products and services, and the people that deliver them. But I like to think outside the box, understand what is possible, re-imagine what could be achieved, dream the future.

My Background

I have just completed an engagement as CIO (2014 – 2016) and COO (2009 – 2014) for a privately owned Australasian software company specialising in Portfolio Program Management for corporates. The roles included researching, implementing, and institutionalising corporate level policies and processes, ISO27001 security management framework, business assurance and continuity, incident management, commercial constructs, bid management, and direct responsibility for all delivery functions including software development, operations, and supplier management.

My previous role was at IBM NZ as the Transformation Program Lead for the final four months of a two-year program to achieve CMMI® for (Software) Development, Maturity Level 3. CMMI® is a process improvement model for developing products and services, it consists of best practices that address development and maintenance activities that cover the product lifecycle from conception through delivery and maintenance.

I've provided business IT management for some of NZ's largest corporates, covering software development, internet technology applications, infrastructure, operations, processes, communications, security, commercial governance, and project management. As well as individual consultancy, this has also required leading teams of system integration architects, solution design consultants, software developers and designers, operations, and support personnel.

In 2016 I successfully completed a Master of Commercialisation and Entrepreneurship degree at The University of Auckland – covering the core knowledge and skills required to commercialise innovative new products, services, and processes. This included market validation, protecting intellectual property, obtaining funding, commercialisation strategies, understanding key business concepts and the entrepreneurial mindset.

My Focus

Jungle Strategy will shine a light on new perspectives and insights, and I bring experience in process, delivery, and relationships to map out how those insights can be turned into a simplified, purposeful and meaningful blueprint, backed by engaged people to deliver it.