

WHO IS AHEAD?

Ahead is purpose built to enable companies to understand and take advantage of today's revolutionary technologies. These technologies drive the next-generation data center, which improves agility, availability, and responsiveness, and takes out cost. Our technologists, consultants, and sales team help clients evaluate the potential technical, operational, and financial benefits of these innovative solutions. Where the benefit is adequate, we work to properly architect, procure, and deploy these solutions in a timely and effective manner. Simply put, we help companies THINK, LOOK, PLAN, and MOVE AHEAD.

Ahead Named to Inaugural CRN Tech Elite 250

Recognized for deep technical expertise and premier certifications in today's key technology areas

Recipient of First-Ever Journey to the Private Cloud Award

The Best Cloud Computing Collaboration Partner of 2010 for driving innovation, virtualization, and private cloud enablement

Backup and Recovery Partner of the Year Award

Recognized for providing superior architecture, design, and implementation of advanced solutions



Leverage Innovation to Improve Your Infrastructure Value

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM YOUR DATA CENTER? If you're like most, your goal is a next-generation data center—fully implemented and operational, meeting your business needs. An infrastructure that takes advantage of today's new technologies and has a long-term plan in place to incorporate future advances.

It's easy to know what you want; not so easy to make it happen.

How do you know what you need—for the business and for the infrastructure? How do you make sure you've evaluated every detail? How do you determine the correct course of action, then execute it flawlessly?

Let Ahead show you the way.

From examination of your current infrastructure and needs through implementation and beyond, Ahead can help you more effectively optimize your data center. Ahead is a vendor-neutral technology solutions provider—with a defined methodology called **Think | Look | Plan | Move**.



This methodology provides the framework to precisely determine, implement, and support the technology that best meets your needs.

- Server Virtualization
- Network
- Data Center
- End-User Computing
- Compute
- DR/BC
- Cloud Computing
- Storage/Backup
- Management

While Ahead is vendor-neutral, to provide best-of-breed solutions we have strong relationships with major vendors, demonstrating our ability to execute for you.

THINK | LOOK | PLAN | MOVE Ahead Methodology

	THINK	LOOK	PLAN	MOVE
Description	Ahead presents an executive briefing to educate clients on the technology area of interest and identify opportunities for clients to take advantage of next-generation technologies and trends.	Ahead facilitates a workshop to establish requirements and rationalize architecture and design alternatives. The goal is to define the future-state environment for the selected technology.	Ahead team leads a planning workshop with key client stakeholders. Ahead assists the client team in creating a comprehensive set of project plan deliverables.	Ahead applies its expertise and experience to assist the client with the deployment and documentation of its production infrastructure. This includes helping the client develop the process and procedures to operate on an ongoing basis.
Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather information on client's current environment. • Present the current state and trends of the technology area of interest. • Discuss industry solutions. • Brainstorm high-level alternatives. • Capture meeting notes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articulate and build consensus on current-state information. • Establish project requirements. • Identify critical success factors, develop selection criteria, and capture assumptions. • Develop understanding of project constraints and risks. • Understand service-level requirements. • Rationalize architecture alternatives. • Build consensus on desired state • Develop design. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the selected design. • Identify deployment constraints and risks. • Define deployment policies and procedures. • Determine necessary roles. • Estimate resources required for the deployment. • Identify resources. • Map detailed project tasks and dependencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop operational processes and procedures. • Build scalable base infrastructure. • Provide ongoing support of the environment. • Transition environment support to the client.
Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation • Meeting notes • Next steps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desired-state design documentation, with appropriate architecture diagrams • Benefits and drawbacks of considered alternatives • Recommendations • Bill of materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployment plan • Project schedule • Resource requirements and assignments • Cost estimates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process documentation • Standard operating procedures • Infrastructure build • Knowledge transfer
Estimated Duration	Half-day workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-day workshop • Two-week deliverable development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-day planning workshop • Two-week implementation plan development 	Duration will be defined during the plan process.

***Ensure the success of your infrastructure optimization.
Leverage next-generation technology to drive efficiency,
increase agility, and reduce costs.***

***Call Ahead at 312.329.7880 or email sales@ThinkAheadIT.com
to find out how you can Think|Look|Plan|Move Ahead.***

