



# **Continuous Improvement At 7-Eleven Inc.**

**UT Dallas  
Project Management Symposium**

**Wes Hargrove**  
Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer



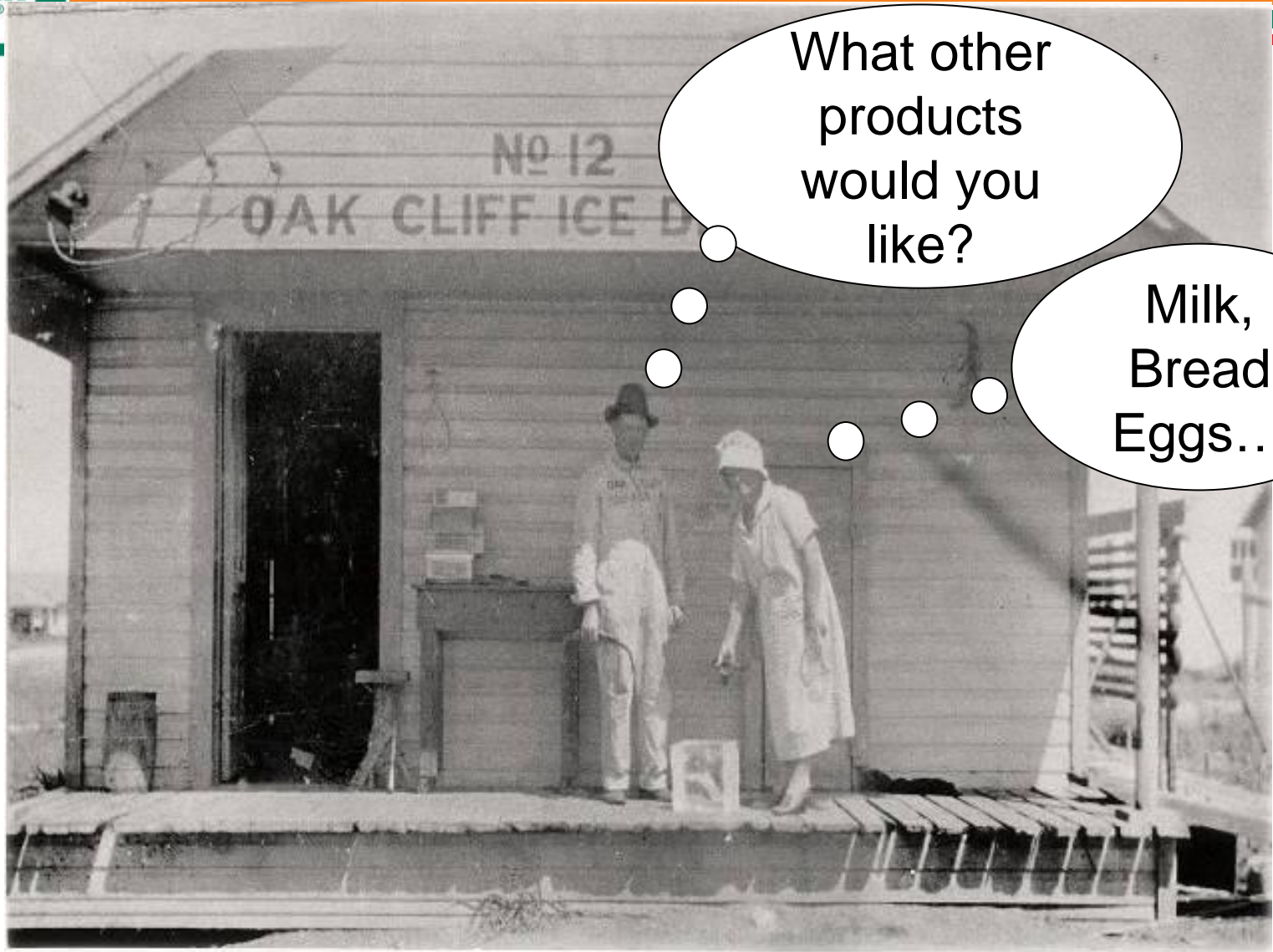
# Our Beginnings - 1927



7-Eleven started as an ice house in 1927 in Oak Cliff, Texas...



# Listening to Customers...



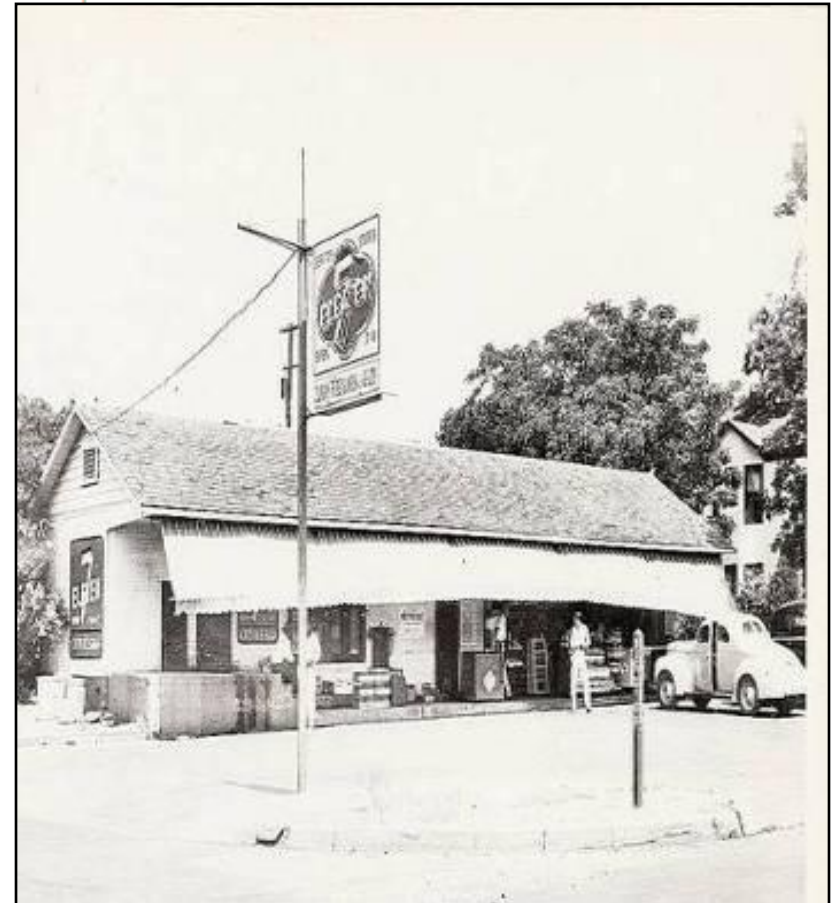


# An Industry is Born

## 7-Eleven, Inc.



THIS GIANT TRAILER-TRUCK, completely refrigerated, brings fresh fruits and vegetables direct from farms and orchards from coast to coast to the 104 7-Eleven Stores which serve Texas food shoppers. This is only one of a fleet of trucks which handle the vast amount of produce for the extensive operation.





52,285 stores ■ 16 countries ■ Open a store every 2.0 hours





**25 million**  
customers a day



**9 billion**  
transactions a year

Revenues \$24B North America  
and \$72B total system



# Biography

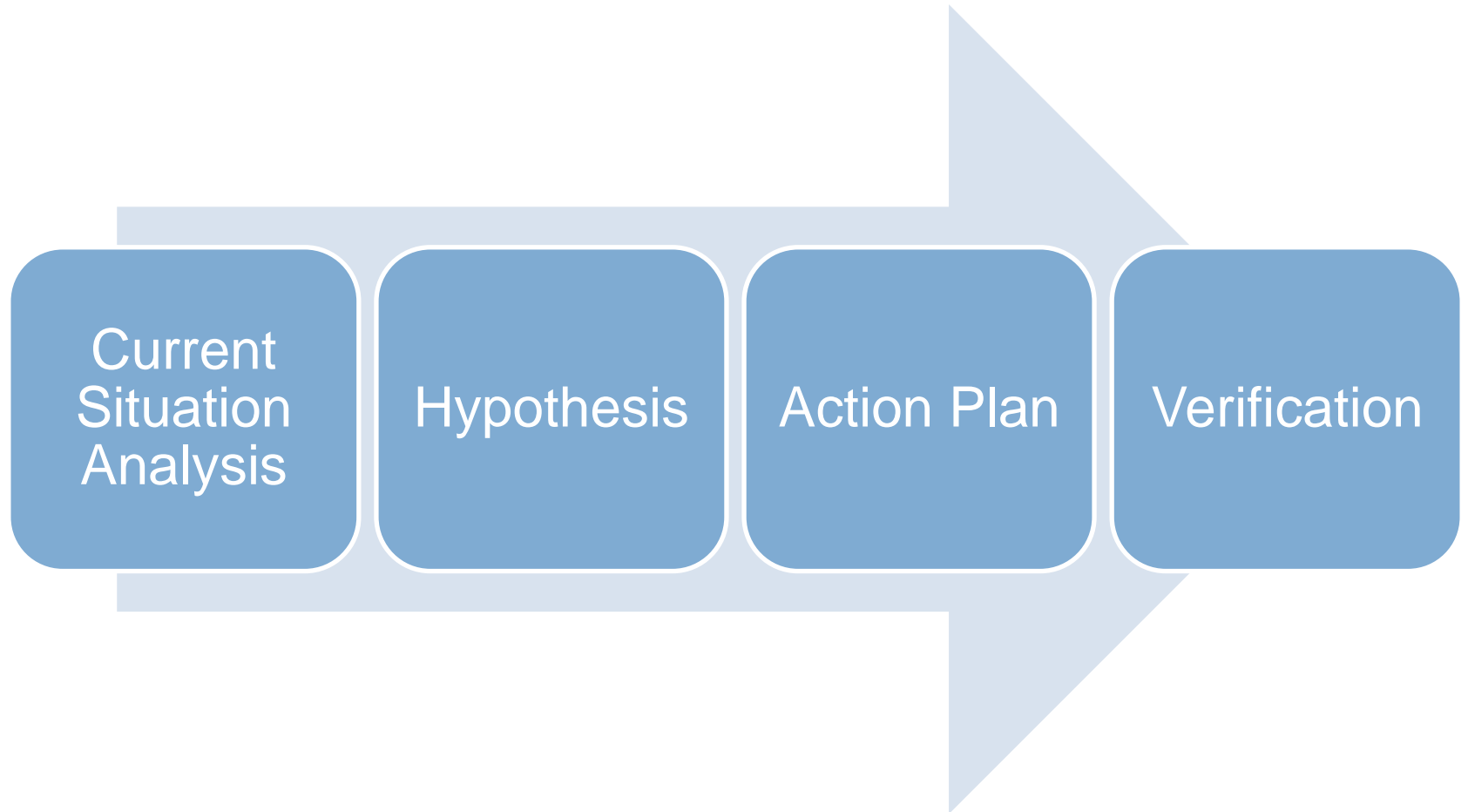
- 36 Years with 7-Eleven
- 17 Leadership Roles
  - Operations
  - Human Resource
  - Merchandising
  - Logistics
  - IT



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# Approach – 4 Step Process







# Retail is changing at an unprecedented pace

## Current State

- 1 **Economy is slowly recovering and income inequality is expanding across the U.S. population**
- 2 **Fight for the consumer discretionary dollar is driving competition and blurring channels**
- 3 **Omni-channel has ignited a digital revolution via smartphones and connected devices**





# IT's Fundamental Shift to Offense

“The focus of CEOs and boards - business growth powered by technology.”



**Success here requires a fundamental shift in thinking:**

**It is okay to be IT, just not the same old IT.**

**Gartner.**



- Align IT and Business Objectives



- Positioning IT Department with the Business



- Adding Value

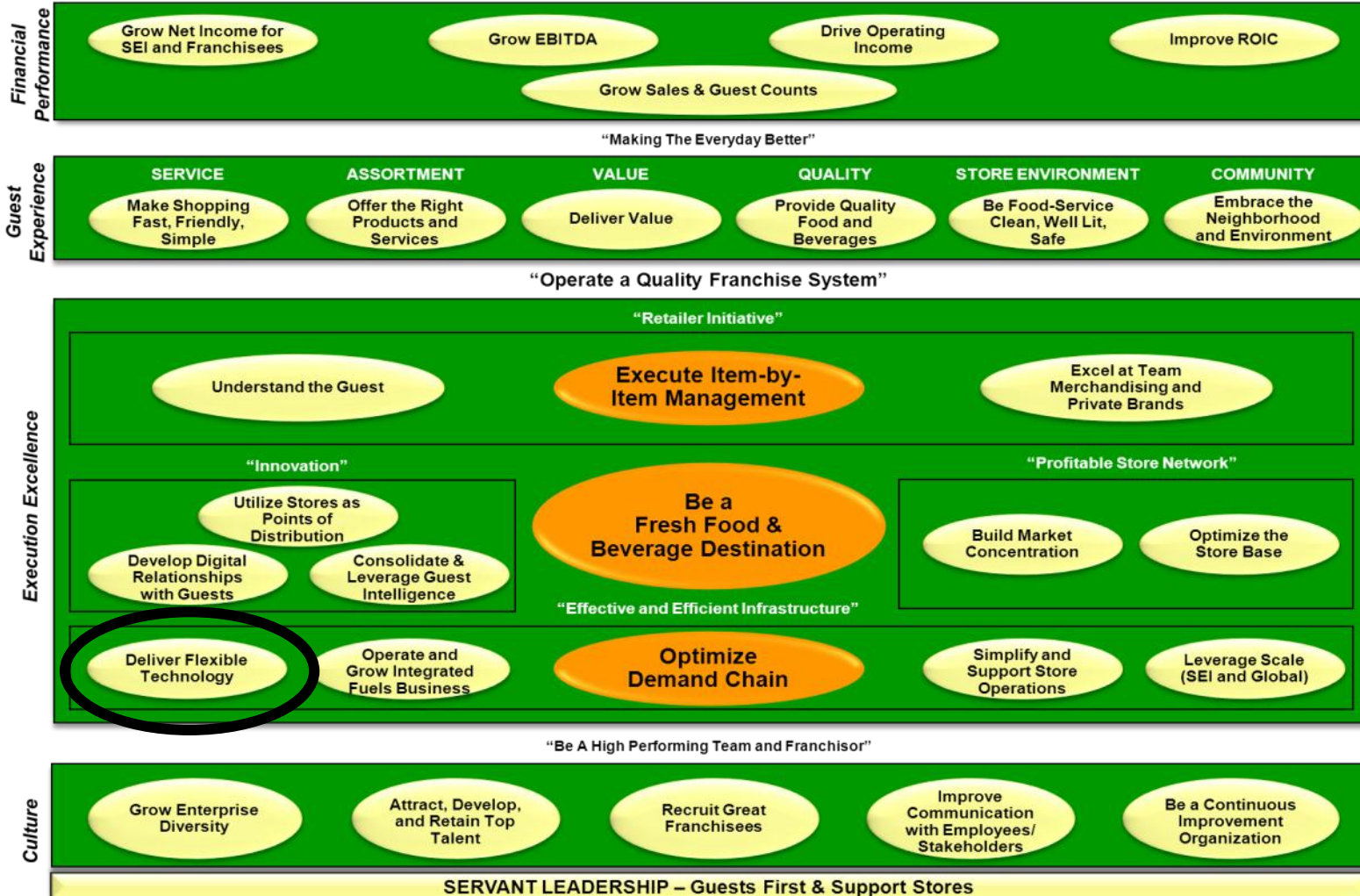




# 7-Eleven Strategy Map

## 7-Eleven Strategy Map

"Drive Profitable and Efficient Growth for All Stakeholders"





## 3 Fundamentals

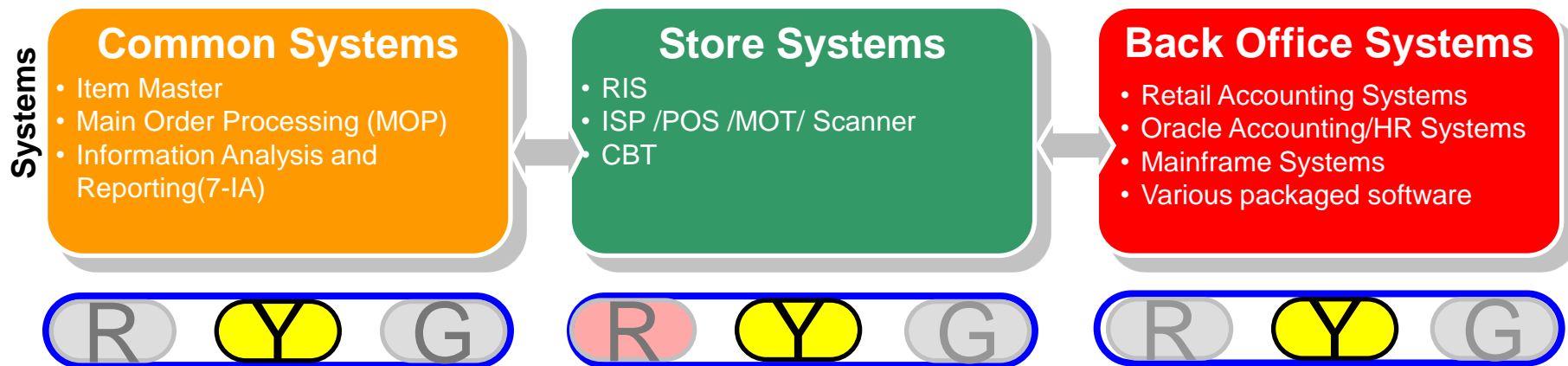
### Spirit of Re-engineered IT Department

- **Do the right thing based on strategy**
  - Simplify store operations
- **Think like we run the company**
  - Improve FZ's profits first to improve SEI's profit
  - Always keep both short term / long-term perspective
- **Be flexible and innovative**
  - “Don't rely on past experience”
  - “Challenge the future with a solid hypothesis



# IT Proprietary Technology CSA – Operating Model

IT's deep dive on the system capabilities to support business processes



- Costly
- Multiple applications
- Lacks support for future direction

- Inflexible architecture
- Hardware at end of life

- Inflexible systems
- Out of support code
- High costs



# CSA – Lacks a business focus IT takes too long, cost too much, not meeting needs

## –Customer Service

- Poor IT Performance
- 17 out of 75 projects over budget
- Average Project Overrun 25%

Excellent

Good

Poor



## –Misaligned Cost Structure

- Multiple Staff Aug Contractors and Consultants
- 50 IT Vendors
- Insufficient Challenging of Vendor Pricing

## –Lack of business focus and alignment

- Project Write offs ~ \$34.9M
- Inadequate Pre-Project Funding Review
- No Roadmap
- Poor Communication with Business





- Cost Management
  - Prioritization / Roadmap
  - Re-engineering / Right Sizing
  - Outsourcing & Contract Review

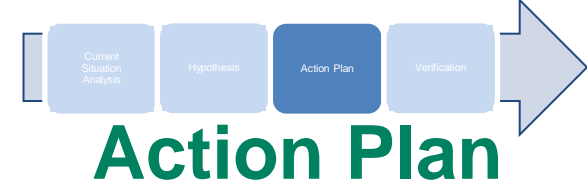


- Business Process Improvement
  - Store Efficiency
  - Operations Excellence



- Guest Centric
  - IT Org Aligned with Business Areas
  - Store and Guest Focus





- Organization Structure



- Communication Process

- IT Strategy Aligned with Business Goals

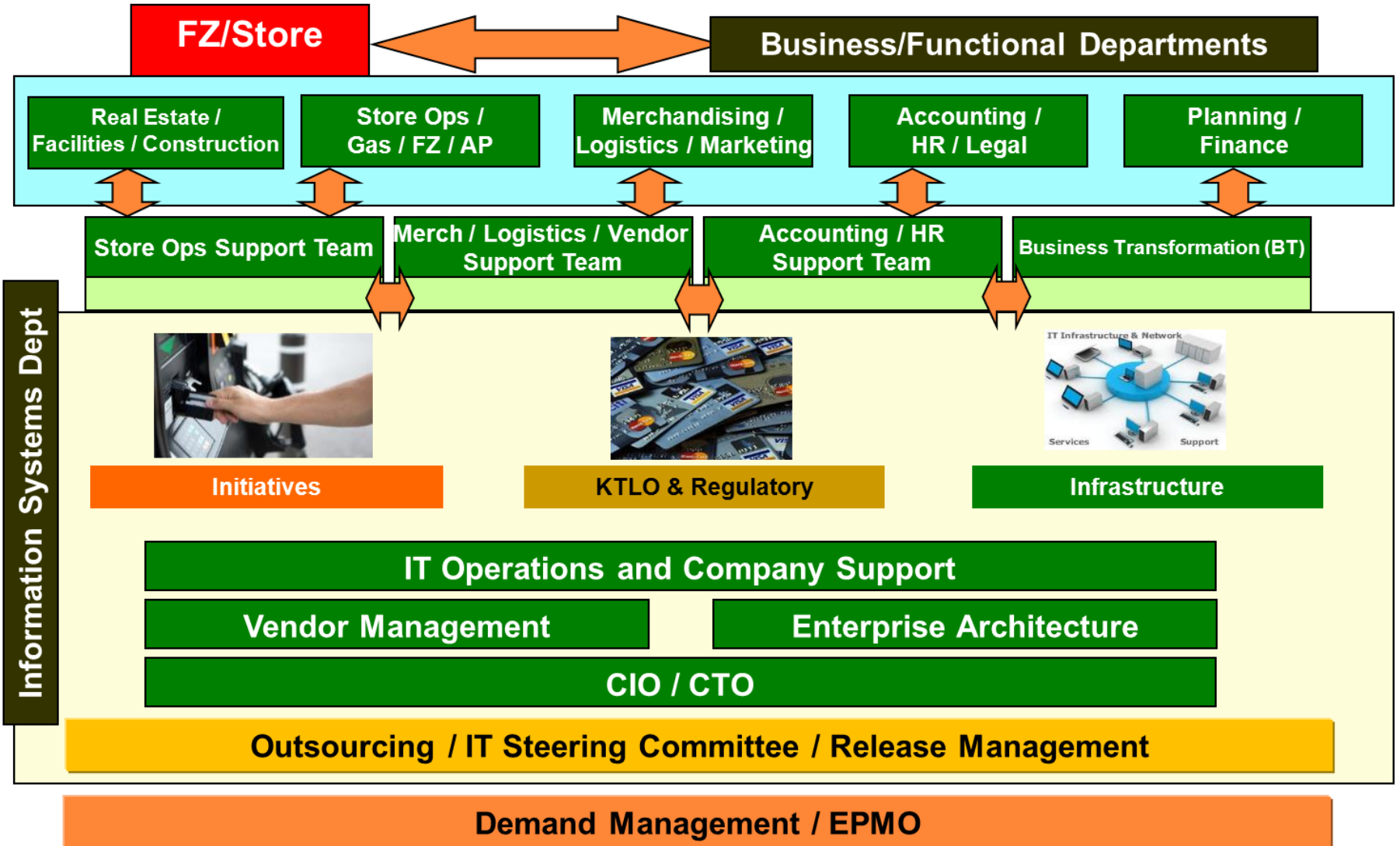


- Prioritization











# Organization – IT Operating Model





# A Simple Comparison: Store & IT

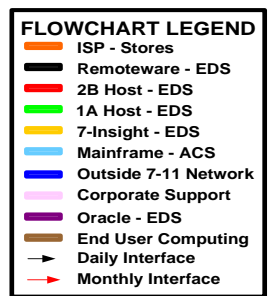
Infrastructure	<b>STORE</b>	≈	<b>IT</b>	<i>Generational upgrades of software and hardware that improve system reliability and flexibility</i>
				
	<b>Remodels</b>		<b>Infrastructure</b>	
Base Activity		≈		<i>Maintain essential business systems, mitigate risk and protect shareholder value</i>
	<b>Repair &amp; Maint.</b>		<b>KTLO &amp; Regulatory</b>	
Functional		≈		<i>New strategic and functional capabilities to grow revenue and gross profit to help us better connect with the guest</i>
<b>New Programs</b>	<b>Initiatives</b>			

Recommend breakdown of IT spending into three areas



# IT Legacy

**Inconsistent Device Integration**



**Business Processes Embedded Across Multiple Platforms**

**Point Solutions - Inconsistent Holistic Strategy**

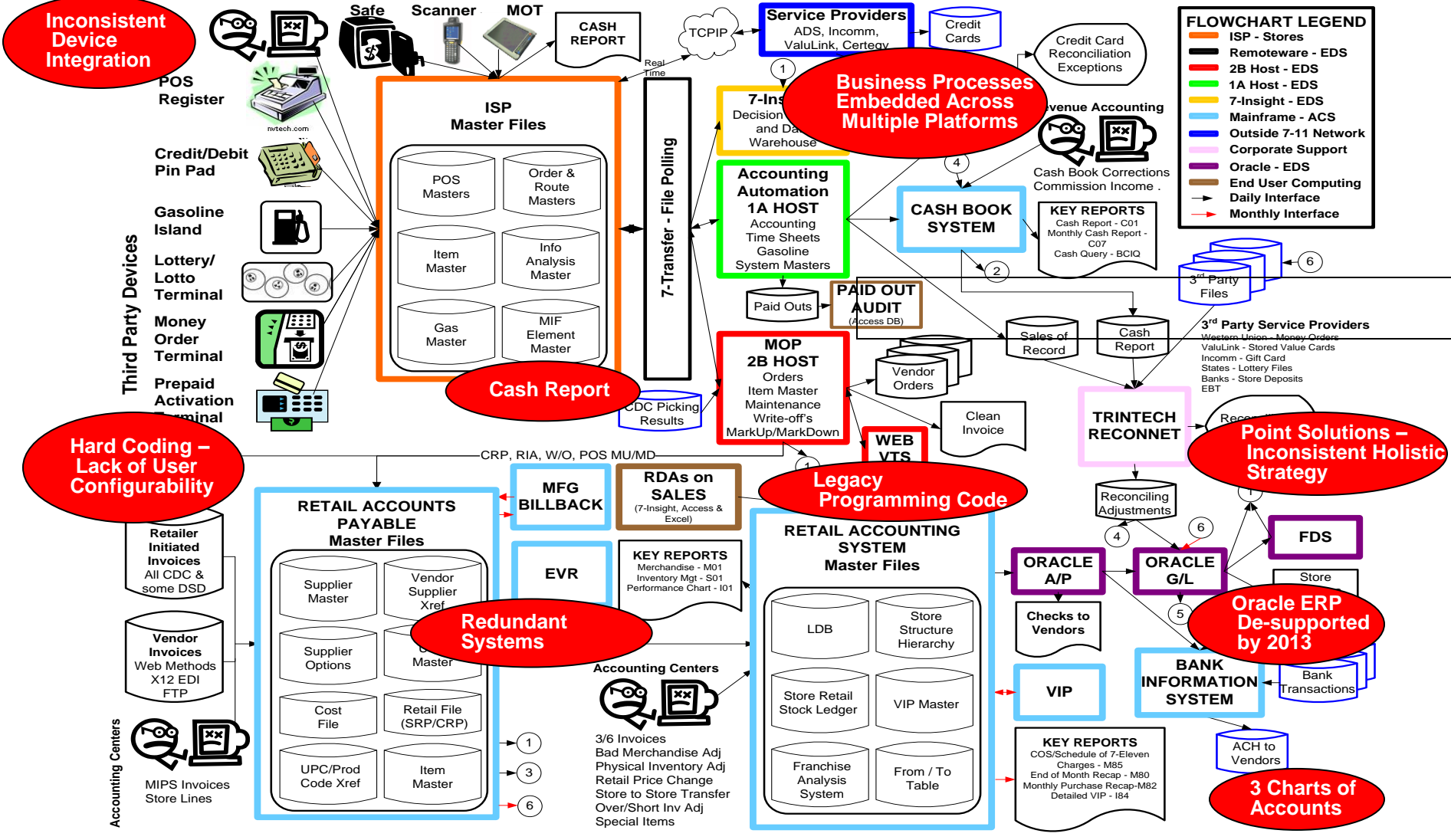
**Oracle ERP De-supported by 2013**

**3 Charts of Accounts**

**Hard Coding - Lack of User Configurability**

**Redundant Systems**

**Legacy Programming Code**





# IT Prioritization Strategy

Cost Management

Business Process

Guest Centric

Strategic Initiative 1st Priority

**Must Do**

Strategic Initiative 2nd Priority  
(If Profitable)

**Should Do**

Nice to have

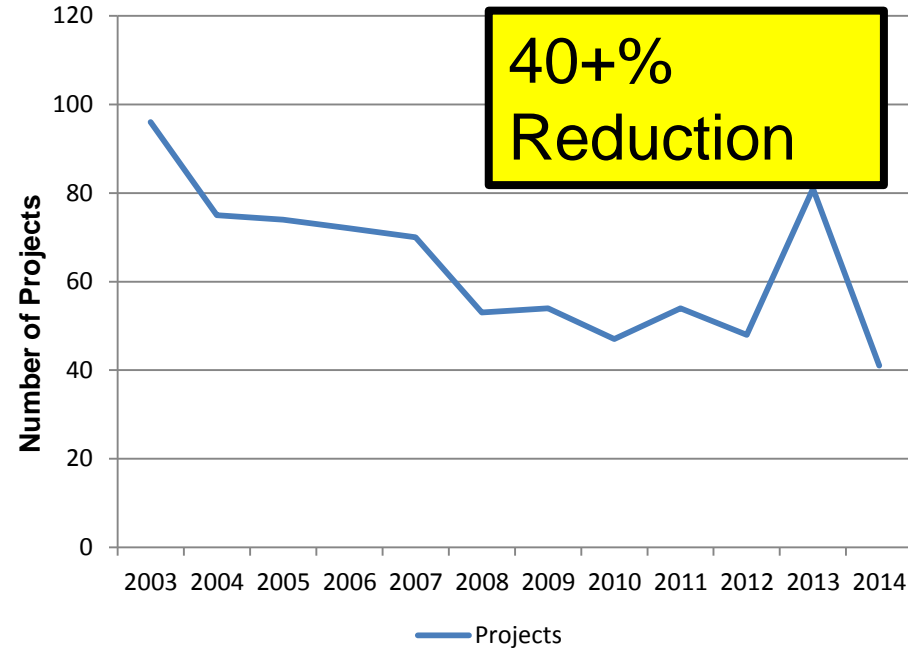
**Stop**

Keep the lights on

Regulatory

Accomplish in most cost effective manner

### Strategic IT Projects





# Defense to Offense Transition

Cost Management

Business Process

Guest Centric

## - Balanced Resources and Spending -

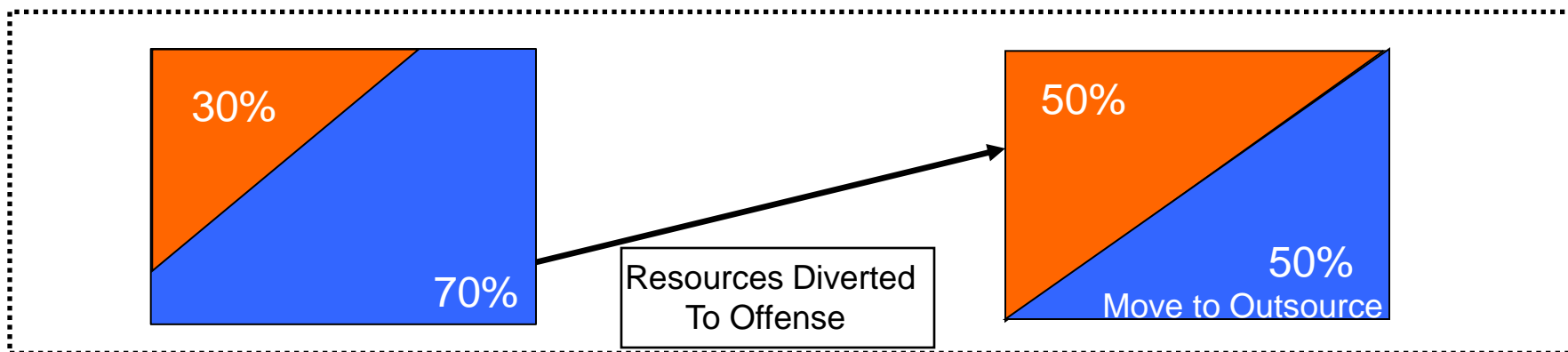
### Offense

- Strategic Initiatives
- Business Oriented
- New Biz

### Defense

- Daily Tasks
- Maintenance
- System Management

2014 Strategic Spend target related to projects is 66%, currently 64%.



## IT Outsourcing



# Standardized Outsourcing Procedure

Cost Management

Business Process

Guest Centric

1. Define Core Competencies of 7-Eleven, Inc

2. Define Core Competencies of IT department

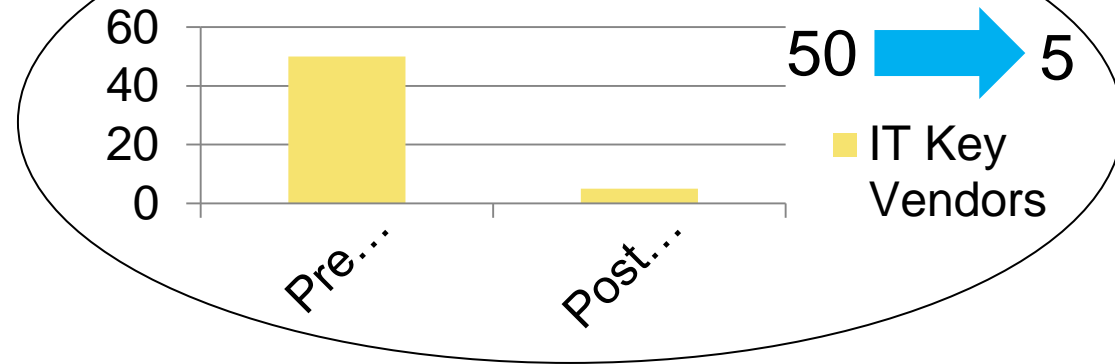
3. Define purposes of outsourcing

4. Overhaul SEI IT processes and Standardize them.  
(like deleting dead items)

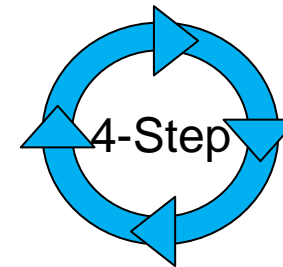
5. Define SLA (service level agreement) and SLM (service level management)

6. Relationship Management

## IT Key Vendors



- Leveraging vendor spend across fewer partners
- Less time/effort managing partners





# Improved Project Results

Cost Management

Business Process

Guest Centric

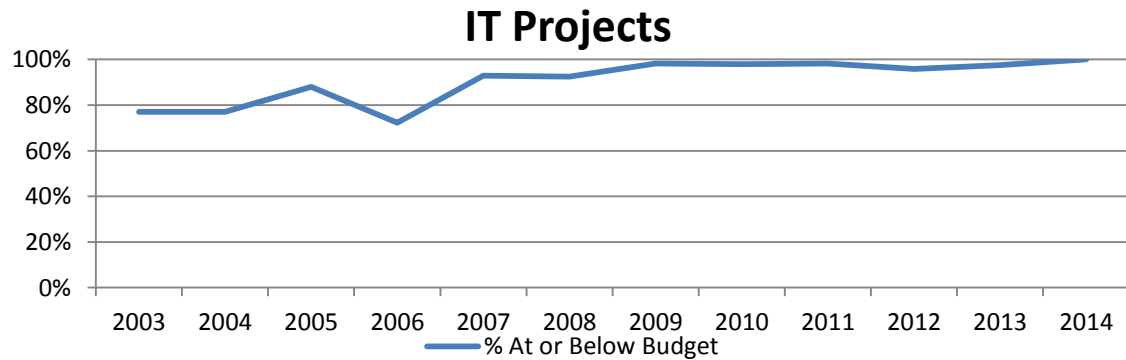
## SEI Focus

- Prioritization
- Efficient Outsourcing
- Re-engineering

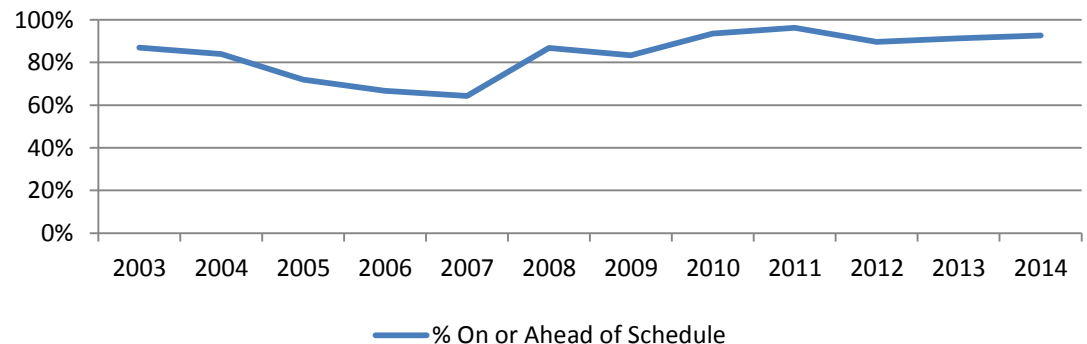
**GARTNER – “...only 68% of IT projects are completed within budget...”**

**GARTNER – “...only 56% of IT projects are completed on-time...”**

**On Budget – almost 100%**



**On Schedule – 98%**







# Contract Renegotiations

Cost Management

Business Process

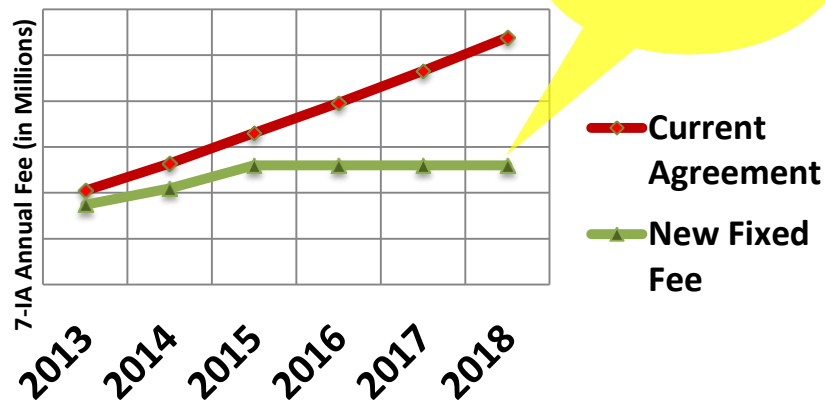
Guest Centric

## Contract Strategy

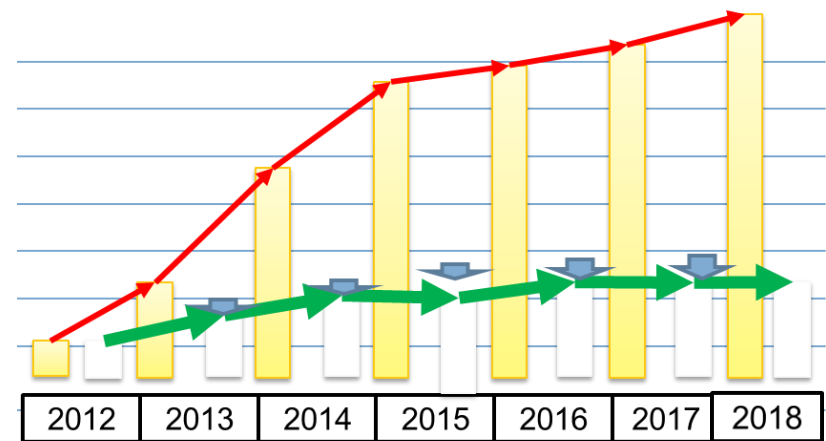
- External Benchmark
- Flexibility
- Built in Continuous Improvement

**Saves 71%**

### 7-IA Financials Negotiation Summary (in Millions)



## Main Order Processing Fee

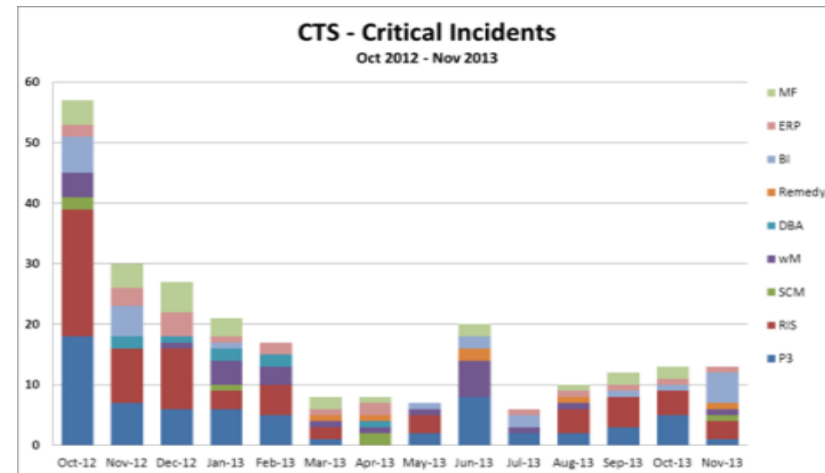




# CTS – Value Beyond Cost Savings



Participates with 7-Eleven IT Operations' new Kaizen continual improvement program



Significant reduction in critical incidents



CTS worked with 7-Eleven to define and implement the SLA measurement processes. IT Operations validates CTS performance results each month.



# ITO (IT Operations)

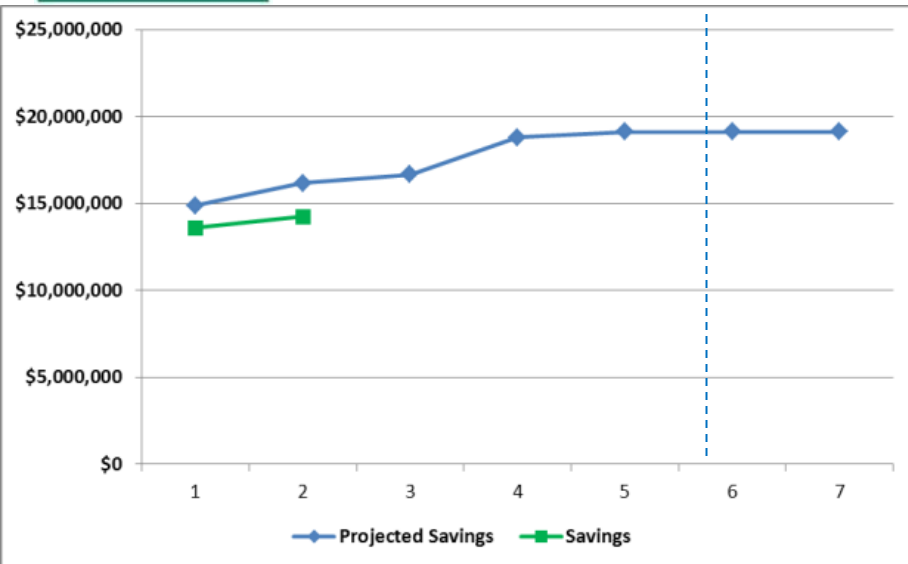
Cost Management

Business Process

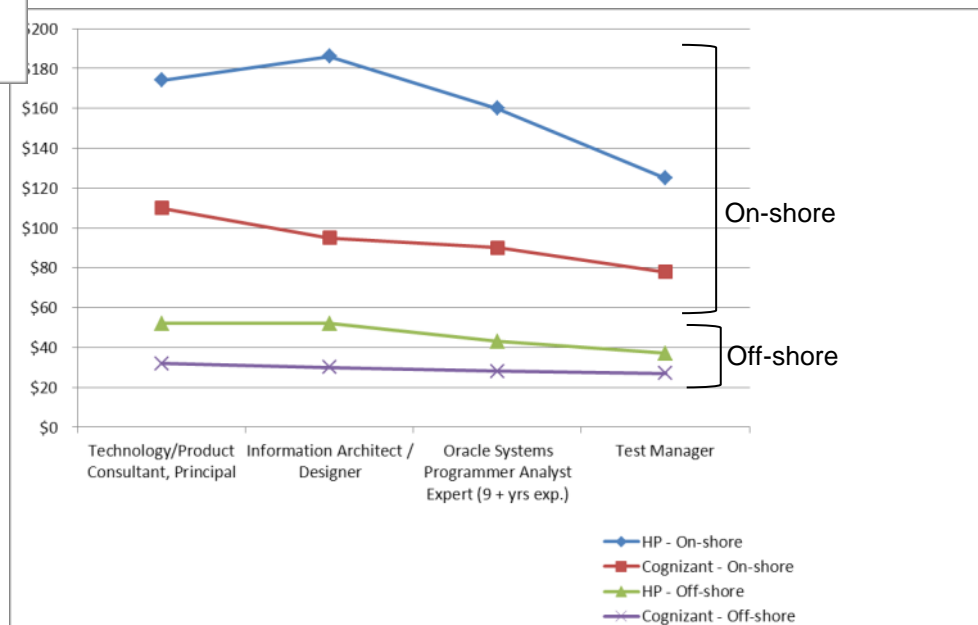
Guest Centric

## Challenge the Status Quo

Projected First 5 Year Savings:  
- 53% Cost Reduction



An average 38% reduction in hourly rates





# Business Process Improvement

Cost Management

Business Process

Guest Centric

- Store Efficiency
- Operation Excellence



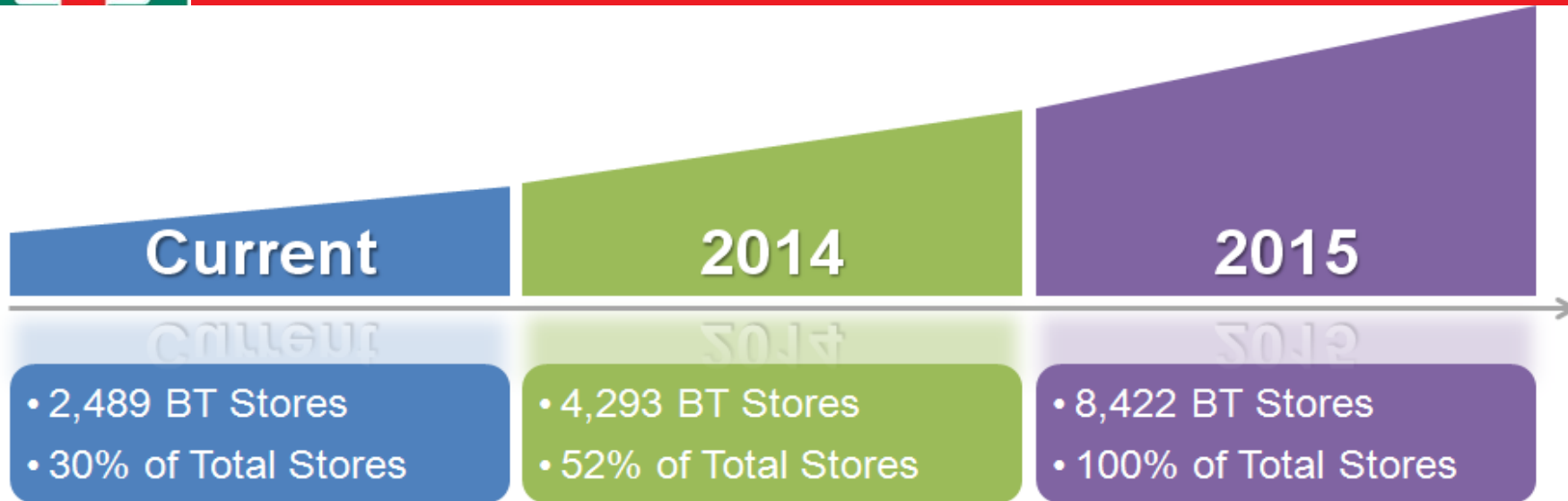


# Business Transformation

Cost Management

Business Process

Guest Centric

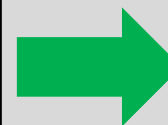
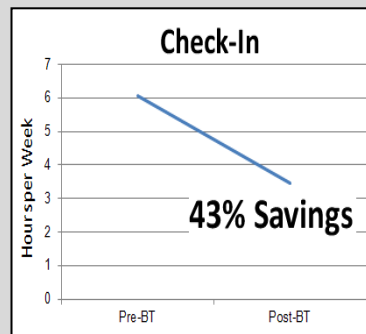
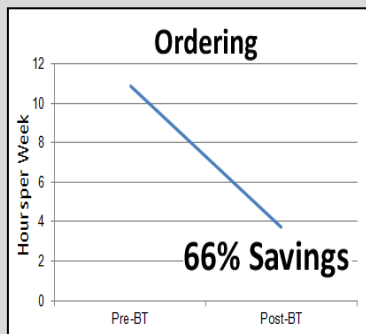
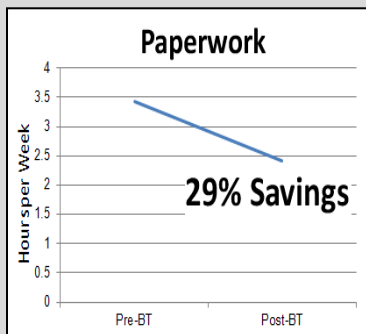
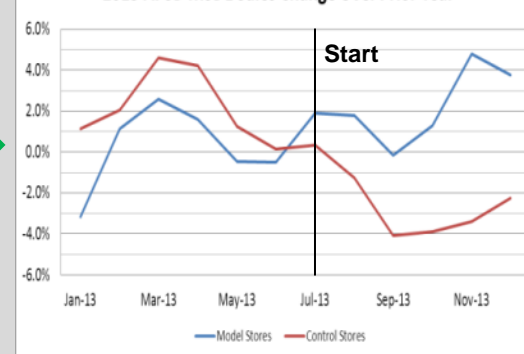


## BT Supports Retailer Initiative

- BT stores experience a 2.4% sales increase vs. non-BT Stores
- More time for store teams to focus on RI

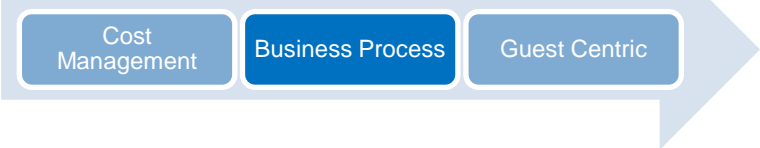
### Model Store Results

2013 APSD MSDE Sales Change Over Prior Year





# Completed



Following IT Roadmap

Modernize Infrastructure

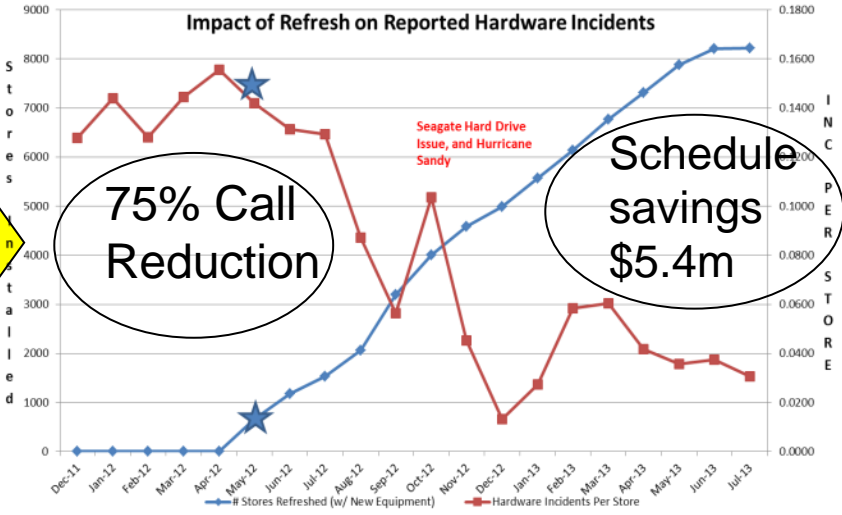
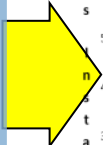
Focus

- Store Simplification
- Support RI
- Cost Efficiency

Short Term Projects

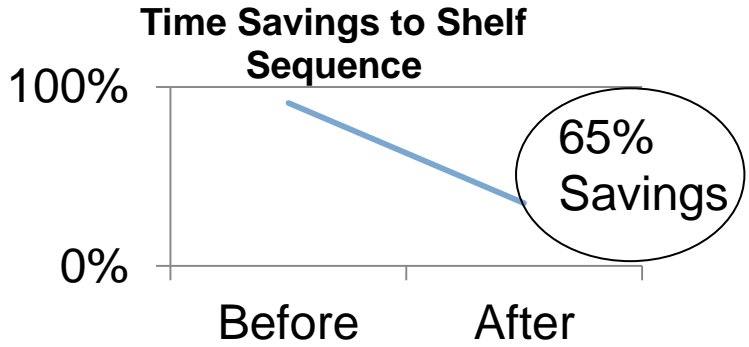
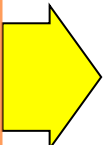
Long Term Initiatives

### Store Equipment Refresh

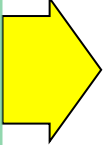


### Shelf Tags

✓ Reduced Out of Stock



### EBT



Eliminates Guest Stigma

Shortens CIC by 4-6 weeks

\$2.4M telecom saving/yr



# Completed

Cost Management

Business Process

Guest Centric

## Field Operations Efficiency



Tablets with Applications

## 7-Hub

Usage up 20%  
30K page views / day  
3K searches / day



Improved Communication

## 7-Help

On Line  
Track Status  
FZ Approval



RIS & Acctg. Cust. Service

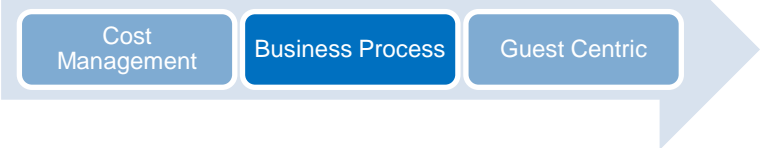
## Digital Guest Experience



Mobile App, CRM, VOC



# In Process



Following IT Roadmap

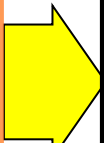
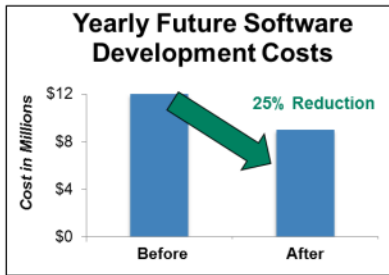
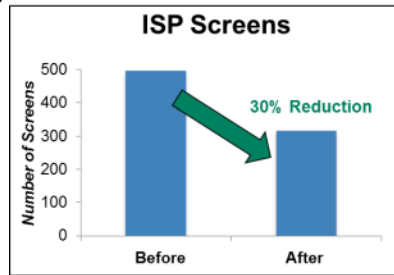
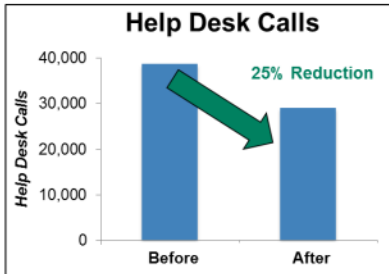
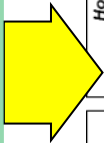
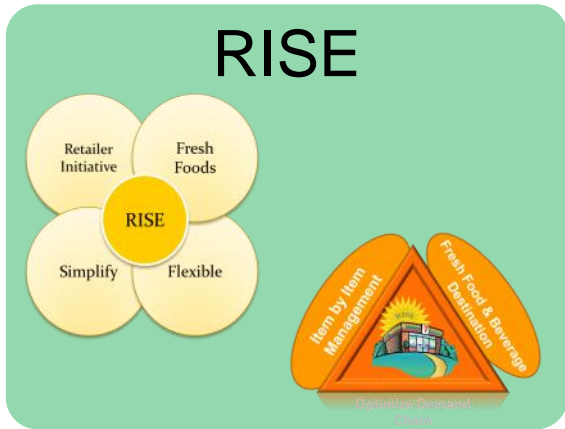
Modernize Infrastructure

Focus

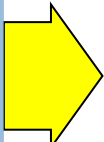
- Store Simplification
- Support RI
- Cost Efficiency

Short Term Projects

Long Term Initiatives



- ✓ Simplifies / Provides More Info
- ✓ Enables Franchising of Canada
- ✓ 20 Systems / 37 Processes Improved

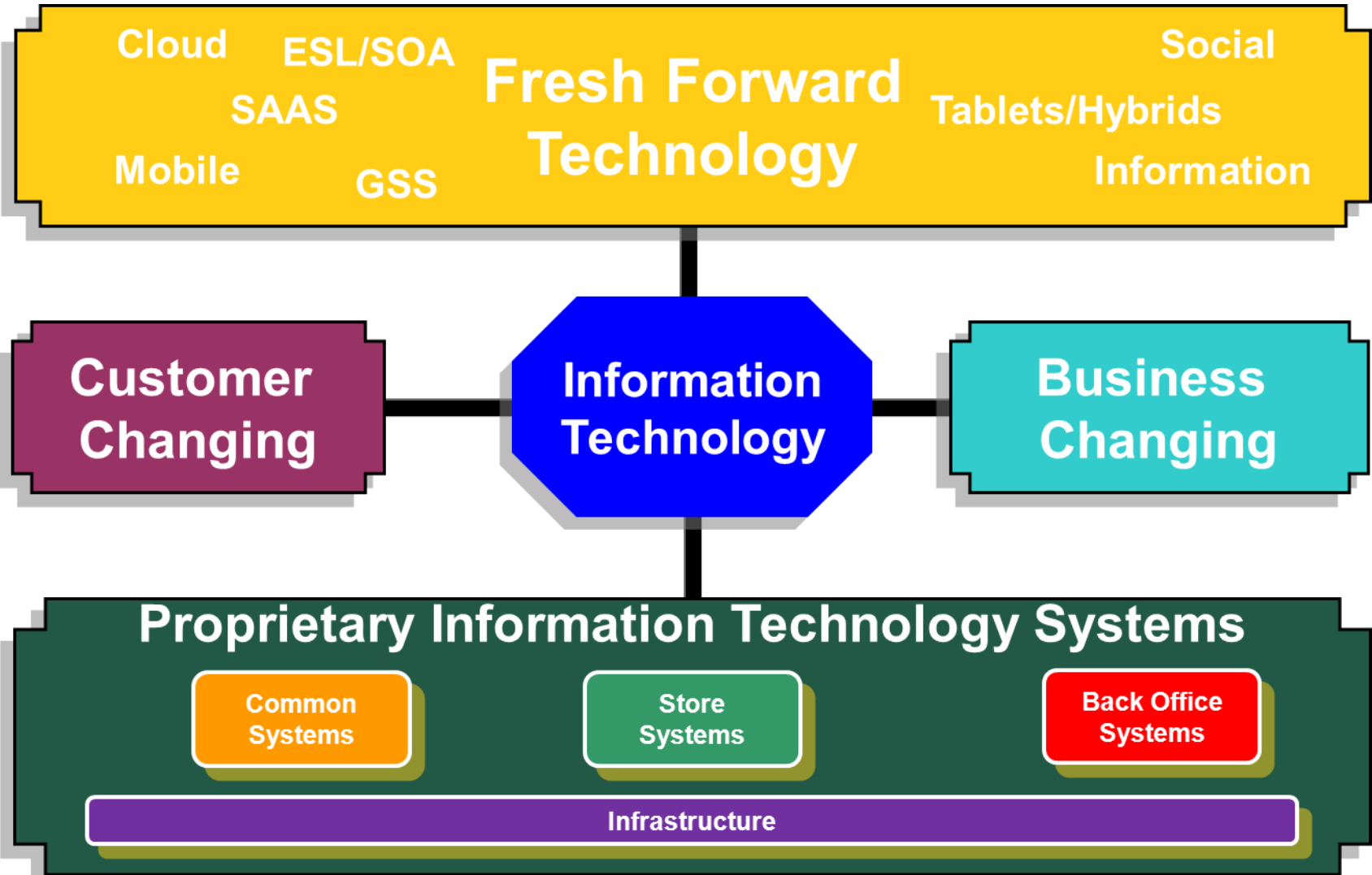


- ✓ \$M ISP Cost Avoidance 2018





# Strategy – High Level





# Historical OSG&A: Cost of IT By Store

2007

2009

2011

2013

2015

\$XX,XXX

\$XX,XXX

\$XX,XXX

\$XX,XXX

\$XX,XXX

Staffing & Application Rationalization

Vendor Contract Negotiation

Partner Change & Efficiency Projects

Store System Technology Updates

24.8% reduction since 2007

Target 28.7% reduction

***Improving Quality & Value***

Software Quality Assurance, Vendor Management, Architecture

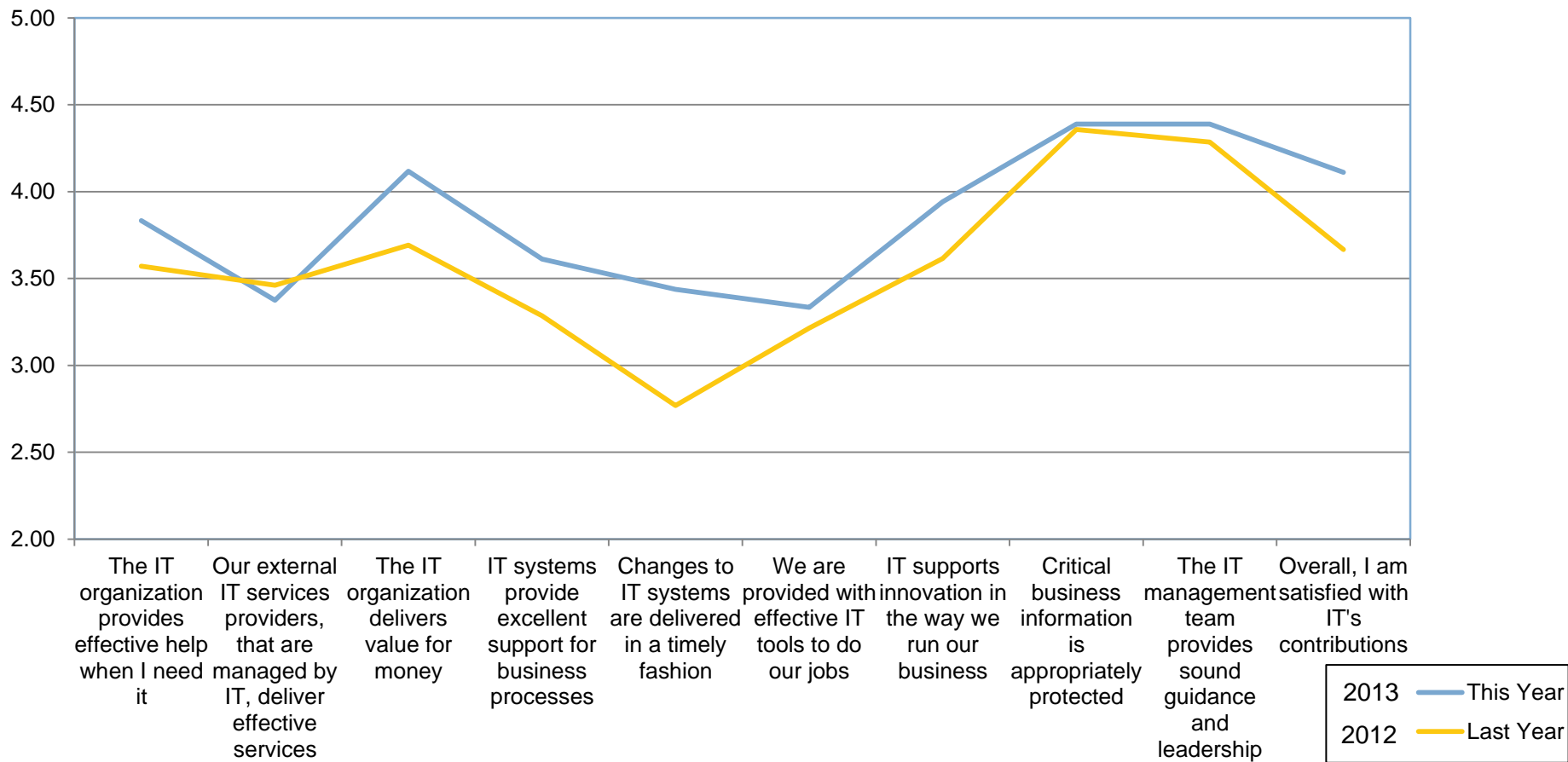


# Senior Level Survey Results

Cost Management

Business Process

Guest Centric





# Key Learning to Add Value

## ■ Cost Management

- Prioritize the Work
- Challenge the Status Quo
  - All Contracts / Include Continuous Improvement
  - All Vendor Partners



## ■ Business Process Improvement

- Utilize an end to end holistic approach
- Roadmap is critical to success



## ■ Customer Service

- Listen; communicate; align
- Roadmap is again a priority

