LANSA Mitigates the Risks of Shadow IT with Free Consultancy Service

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LANSA (www.LANSA.com), the low-code (http://www.lansa.com/technology/programming-language.htm) application development platform (http://www.lansa.com/technology/) vendor, has launched a free consulting service for UK based organisations struggling to manage Shadow IT practices. Shadow IT is any unofficial application development project commissioned or executed outside of the IT department's formal control or plan. LANSA's free consulting offer comprises 3 free days of requirements analysis and prototyping to illustrate the speed at which solutions can be delivered through approved IT channels. The service will enable IT management to identify the means to deliver on departmental requirements fast, thereby avoiding the risks associated with Shadow IT practices. This provides IT managers with more options to meet the demands of their business and to do so rapidly.

Shadow IT can deliver real value to an organisation; it can reduce the load on the IT department, letting lines of business achieve their goals quickly. However, understanding which projects are right for a Shadow IT approach, and which present risk, is not always clear. Complex projects, such as those requiring integration with other databases and applications, and those involving sensitive data should be delivered by the IT department. The challenge comes when the IT department is overburdened and unable to deliver applications on time.

Unchecked, Shadow IT can pose myriad risks. Application usage can spread to greater numbers of users than intended, and performance can be crippled. There can also be a need to integrate Shadow IT developed apps with existing systems over time. This can be hard to execute outside of IT's control. In addition, data usage by Shadow IT apps can violate privacy laws and sensitive data can be leaked.

Gartner's 2017 Application Architecture, Development and Integration Summit in London highlighted a 2015 Cisco study indicating that Companies are using up to 15 times more cloud services to store critical company data than CIOs were aware of or had authorized. Supporting that claim, an NTT report in April 2016 indicated that 77% of business decision makers admitted to using a third-party cloud application without the approval or knowledge of their IT department.

With Gartner estimating that by 2020, one third of successful attacks on enterprises will be through Shadow IT doors, LANSA believes that it is imperative that organisations both tackle the pressures that prevent them from delivering the applications the business needs though formal channels, and create formal guidelines for projects developed outside of the IT department's control.

"Many IT departments are struggling to deliver mobile applications, get cloud-ready or drive other digital transformation initiatives. In parallel, a significant percentage of their time is spent on maintenance and support. Inevitably an application backlog accumulates, and Shadow IT is often the business response. Line mangers, puzzled at the delays and costs quoted by IT, do what they believe is right for their own area of the business. Shadow IT solutions seem to offer an answer, but managers don't always appreciate the risks or complexity involved" said Martin Fincham, CEO at LANSA.

"Our new free consulting service will help organisations find a way to deliver applications faster,

using fewer resources, by using LANSA's Low-Code solutions. We want to help to stop IT being viewed as the department of 'No'. It is another tool in the armoury to help IT maintain its position as a key driver for growth, rather than an obstacle to it. "

Those interested in the new free service can find out more at: http://info.lansa.com/ShadowIT

LANSA has also written an executive blog on Shadow IT – you can read it here:

http://blog.lansa.com/application-development/shadow-citizen-development-love-loathe

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About LANSA (www.LANSA.com)

LANSA is the original low-code, rapid application development tool for Mobile, Web and Cloud developers. Over 7,000 customers trust the LANSA platform to develop Enterprise apps at the speed of low-code. LANSA provides a single-language IDE to generate the client-side, the server-side and everything in between. A LANSA user is in effect a full stack developer. LANSA brings 30 years of expertise in application development and integration solutions and services that dramatically improve developer productivity.

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