Why Construction Projects Need Technology Consultants

Today the typical commercial space needs:

at a minimum	*and may also need*	*and perhaps even*
• voice system vendor	• elevator(s) with emergency communications	• extensive electrical or data cabling for specialized equipment
• voice service vendor	• computer network vendor	• secure, dedicated space with separate cooling & ventilation system
• Internet service provider	• WAN connection	
• security system vendor	• campus-wide wireless	
• fire alarm system vendor	• CCTV	

Does your current design team have the technical expertise and experience to coordinate these vendors' offerings with the building occupant's needs? Consider these points:

➡ A qualified consultant can help reduce the total cost of a technology project by as much as 15% (including fees) by accurately defining needs, planning effectively, and coordinating services.

➡ Security means more than a burglar alarm system. Merchants who accept credit cards for payment may need segmented networks for PCI compliance, video camera systems in a particular configuration and restricted access to data storage areas.

➡ Computers and other electronics aren't furnishings you can put just anywhere. Their location requires cabling (electrical, voice, data, fiber, alarm) that should be planned in advance, with flexibility for future needs.

➡ Electrical load in offices and work spaces varies tremendously by utilization. A graphics/print shop will generally pull more power than a chiropractor.

➡ Bandwidth needs vary just as much. Engineering and graphic design shops may generate many times more traffic than a retail outlet.

➡ Technology of some form will be needed in nearly every space -- from patient examination rooms to the shop floor to the checkout lane.

➡ Communications requirements for fire alarms and elevators are changing as technology evolves, but not as quickly. A tenant's plans for their company phone system may not meet safety regulations.

➡ The full-time IT staff (or network service vendor) of a building's eventual occupant generally does not have the expertise or the available time to provide the technology consulting required on a construction project.

➡ Technology is no longer an amenity but a critical part of a building's infrastructure, as important and complex as plumbing and electrical systems. A technology consultant can assist your team in designing a robust, flexible infrastructure that will support current and future occupant needs.