“IT Spending/Budget” Explain Text and Definitions

For the purpose of this research, Gartner has defined “total IT spending” as the following:

“The best estimate of total spending at the end of the 12-month budget period for IT to support the enterprise. IT spending/budget can come from anywhere in the enterprise that incurs IT costs, and it is not limited to the IT organization. It includes estimates by enterprises on decentralized IT spending and or "shadow IT." It is calculated on an annualized 'cash flow view' basis, and, therefore, contains capital spending and operational expenses, but not depreciation or amortization.”

What the IT Spending/Budget Includes, From a Resource or Cost Perspective

- Hardware, software, personnel (including contractors, travel, benefits and training), outsourcing (external IT services like consulting, system integration, data and voice transmission, software as a service, infrastructure as a service, other cloud services), disaster recovery and occupancy costs associated with supporting IT within the enterprise. Costs also include all taxes (except value-added tax where it is recovered or refunded to the organization).

- Note: Occupancy costs, include fully burdened costs for the facilities being used by the IT staff supporting the enterprise. Some examples include office space, furniture, electricity, maintenance, property taxes, security and office supplies. Occupancy costs for space dedicated to IT functions, such as the data center, including power/heat management and raised floor, are also included.

What the IT Spending/Budget Includes, From an IT Functional Area or Activity Perspective

- The data center (for example, mainframes, servers, storage and facilities), end-user computing devices (for example, desktops, laptops, tablets, thin clients and smartphones), voice and data networks (including, but not limited to, voice and data transmissions, fixed and mobile telephony, and internet access services), IT service desk, and applications (for example, development and maintenance).

- IT support functions, such as the office of the CIO; supervisory management; finance and administrative costs, such as purchasing; asset management; process management; and marketing of IT services.

- Dedicated data processing equipment used in operations, production and engineering environments — examples are computer-aided design/computer-aided manufacturing (CAD/CAM) and standard computing equipment used in devices for factory automation, and tablet PCs used by healthcare professionals.

What the IT Spending/Budget Does Not Include

- Costs for technology or services that are resold. Examples include salaries for developers involved in building commercially packaged software, or IT-skilled employees who provide services for the organizations’ external clients.
Operational technology that is:

- Equipment-built or purchased for non-data-processing purposes, but which has computerized components. Examples include robotic manufacturing machines, automated teller machines, specialized point-of-sale devices, scanners, blood pressure monitors and sensors on a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system.

- Appliance-like or proprietary data processing equipment that has a single (typically industry vertical) purpose and cannot be used for other general purposes. A typical example is a computer that can only control the flow of electricity through the power grid. Since it cannot be repurposed, it is not included in our model. Note that other systems that gather data from this type of computer and can be used for other purposes would not be considered operational technology and, therefore, would be in scope of our model.

- Depreciation or amortization expenses, which could lead to double counting from an accounting perspective.

- Internal "cross charges" and corporate allocations related to large, significant and/or unusual one-time expenses, such as reductions in workforce, redundancy, relocations, retirement, human resources and chairperson's salary.

- Business data subscriptions and services (such as Bloomberg), even if they are managed by the IT organization.

Business process outsourcing services (BPO) where organizations outsource entire business functions such as payroll or benefits management. This includes cases where the BPO vendor provides access to software, and also guarantees that the outcomes of their services will meet business requirements, such as tax and withholding regulations. Note: where a vendor provides Software as a Service and only guarantees that the software will perform as specified, then this is in scope of the IT spending/budget. Traditional outsourcing of IT functions, for example servers and email, are also still within scope.