



Digital architecture and the Digital Backbone

Design and deploy logical, streamlined and outcomes-focused technology and data solutions to address your organisation's complex challenges.

CGI Business Consulting and Advisory insights



An end-to-end digital framework to power your success

In today's complex and competitive business landscape, it is common for organisations to embed digital technologies that enable their growth strategies. For many, this involves implementing IT throughout their organisation, but few develop a holistic business case or transformation roadmap covering everything they do, or have a comprehensive strategy that aligns their IT with broader strategic goals.

At CGI, we believe that true digitalisation isn't just about adopting new technologies; it's about embracing a holistic mindset. As a leader in IT and business consulting, we help organisations unlock their full potential, driving our clients' growth through the power of "digital".

But digital transformation isn't simple. That's why we developed our value-led, technology-enabled Digital Backbone framework, which delivers best practices and lessons learned to inspire your journey.

The Digital Backbone offers the fundamental building blocks to drive your transformation success. It helps you envision secure and sustainable solutions that combat your challenges and support your ambitions.

Combined, your new capabilities will create a robust, IT-enabled structure – a digital backbone – that transforms everything you do, enabling your organisation to thrive in our ever-evolving world.



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Navigating digital transformation



In today's rapidly evolving digital landscape, navigating a digital strategy – whether at inception or during deployment – requires a clearly defined, unambiguous, and well-articulated architecture.

Understanding digital architecture

Architecture is defined as the art and practice of designing structures. It connects initial concepts and design with practical, future-proof solutions.

In an organisational context, CGI uses “digital architecture” to refer to the design, construction, and implementation of technology solutions across an extended enterprise, making it central to digital transformation.

Before embarking on a digital architecture journey, it is essential to understand the key features and core outcomes:

- **Fit for purpose digital architecture** - The end-to-end digital journey is articulated, communicated and agreed upon, ensuring alignment with organisational goals.

- **Entrenched design principles** - Rigorous architectural principles are signed off by executives, forming the basis of digital change programmes, and influencing users who must embrace new technologies, processes and operations.
- **Bespoke, modular design** - Fluid digital design enables implementation agility, so that organisations can adapt to changing requirements.
- **Self-governed design authority** - A centralised design committee manages key design decisions, with protocols and processes aligned to the digital architecture strategy.
- **Comprehensive roadmap** - Digital initiatives are prioritised and sequenced in line with business outcomes, providing a clear transformation journey.
- **Consistent tooling** - Digital architecture is enabled by a suite of tools and accelerators which are standardised and applied across transformational programmes – equipping organisations to respond to pressing digital challenges.

By effectively leveraging digital architecture, you can design and deploy technology and data solutions that address your complex organisational challenges, enabling a robust foundation for future growth and innovation.

Digital architecture and the Digital Backbone

Unlocking your organisation's full potential – **transformation done right**

What is a digital backbone?

A digital backbone goes beyond simply applying IT to areas of your organisation as a support mechanism. When designed effectively, a digital backbone becomes the cornerstone of a successful modern organisation; it embeds technology throughout all operations, using the power of IT to create a robust structure that enables continuous innovation and transforms everything you do.



Increase **efficiency and productivity** across operations.



Increase **revenue** and enable cost efficient processes.



Greater **agility and growth** with faster time to market.



Better **regulatory compliance** including empowering sustainability initiatives.



Improve **service and product quality** for customer, employee and stakeholder satisfaction.



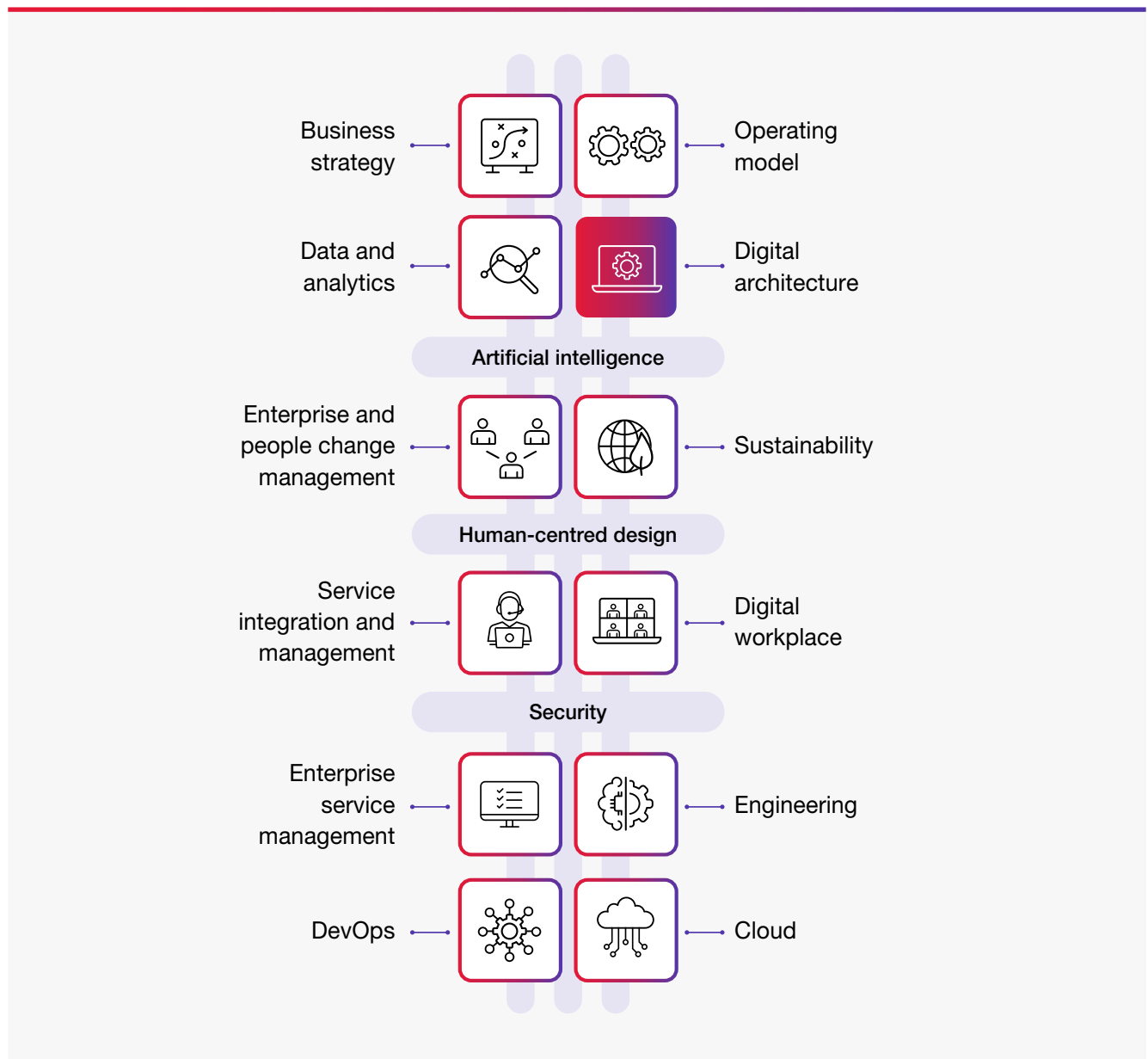
Improve **decision making** through data-driven insights.

The Digital Backbone

Our end-to-end framework to make **IT the enabler of your success.**

The Digital Backbone delivers twelve fundamental building blocks to inspire digital transformation and unlock your organisation's full potential. These can be implemented either individually or as a whole programme, with every step strengthened by three embedded enablers – artificial intelligence, human-centred design and security – so no matter where you are on your journey, the Digital Backbone provides a comprehensive vision for your transformation strategy.

That's why we made digital architecture a key component of the Digital Backbone, empowering you to create logical, streamlined and outcomes-focused solutions that drive your organisation forward. By integrating our digital architecture best practices and strategic insights, you can effectively design and implement data-driven technology solutions throughout your enterprise to address challenges, and future-proof your organisation's growth and innovation.



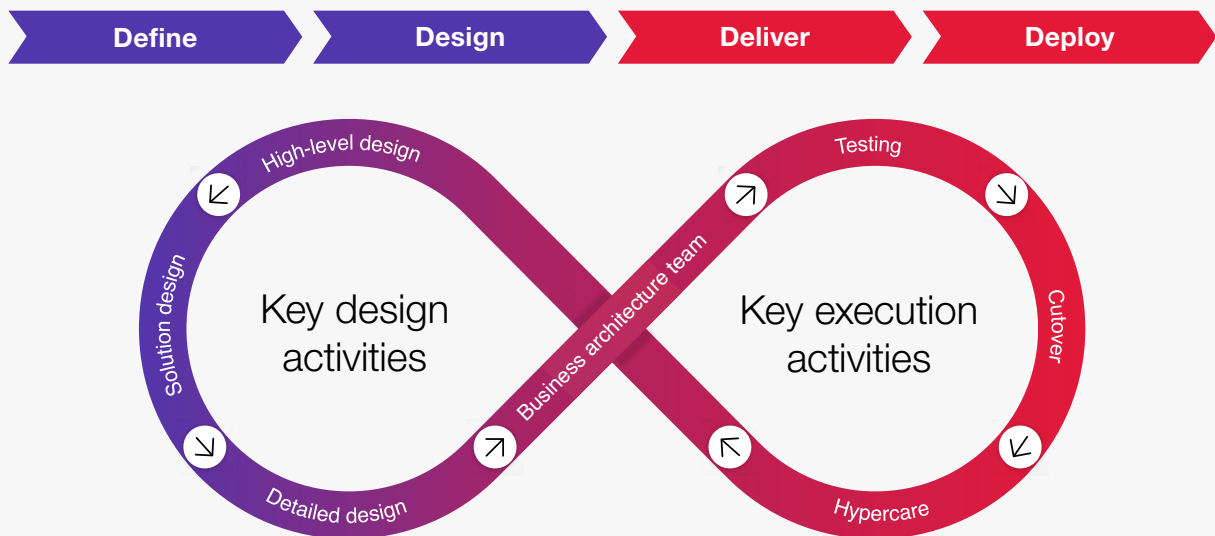
A vision for your digital architecture



Design and deploy logical, streamlined and outcomes-focused technology and data solutions to address your organisation's complex challenges.

The key steps

Digital architecture is fundamentally value-driven, delivering outcomes-based solutions that connect all design and execution activities, spanning across the entire business technology value chain. An end-to-end programme should encompass these steps:



Key design activities

- Current state architecture (including pain points)
- Target state architecture (including design characteristics)
- Transition state architectures (including initial design decisions)
- Requirements analysis review
- Transformational roadmap
- Initial design decision catalogue
- Executive management steering committee

Key execution activities

- Coordination of weekly design authority
- Technical architecture troubleshooting
- Systems integrations management
- Systems testing support
- Executive management steering committee technology and business health checks
- Iterative solution design management

Incorporating the key principles

The CGI digital architecture ethos is to design and deliver logical, clean and cost-conscious digital solutions to complex problems.

This is achieved by following four key principles that we recommend you consider when developing your digital architecture capability:

1

Design frameworks – CGI digital architects use industry-leading architectural design frameworks to deliver our client engagements, ensuring a consistent, quality approach.

2

Collaborative design – The CGI digital architecture experience is collaborative and immersive. Senior stakeholder engagement, buy-in and sign-off is part of the process, this ensures the digital architecture strategy and roadmap aligns to organisational goals, and new solutions are embraced when implemented.

3

Innovation – CGI digital architects are skilled and vendor agnostic, staying abreast of the latest themes in emerging technology to provide cutting-edge solutions.

4

Streamlined architecture – The target state architecture must be designed to be simplified, lean, clean and bold, with a focus on reducing the total cost of ownership and enhancing operational efficiencies.

CGI Business Consulting and Advisory

Built over 50 years, CGI is one of the world's largest providers of high-end IT and business consulting services. We are trusted to transform organisations with innovative solutions, so developed our Business Consulting and Advisory (BC&A) team to share our knowledge and experience with you.



Offerings to support your organisation

Wherever you are on your transformation journey – whether you're looking to develop a forward-thinking business strategy, improve the effectiveness of specific processes, or implement an innovative solution – we're here to help.

We understand that transformation isn't simple. That's why **our experts developed all our BC&A offerings around the Digital Backbone's twelve key propositions**, embedding artificial intelligence, human-centred design and security throughout to support you with the right approach and solutions to address your challenges, achieve your ambitions and build your own digital backbone capability.

Whether you'd like to build a complete digital backbone that will become the cornerstone of your growth, or if there's one specific area standing in the way – perhaps that's digital architecture - we have the offerings and solutions to ensure your transformation project succeeds.

Our digital architecture offerings include:

- **Project management** - Standardise your digital architecture project management tools and techniques to enable and support cross-industry best practices.
- **Strategy and vision setting** - Shape, set and socialise a best-in-class digital strategy with design practices that enable an immersive and collaborative experience.
- **Digital analysis** - Understand the implications that digital initiatives can have on your organisation.
- **Solution design** - Diagnose and address pain points with digital architectural solutions, using design characteristics and industry agnostic best practices.
- **Solution governance** – Apply tracking, management and governing tools, techniques and accelerators to ensure your solution rigour.

BC&A places you at the heart of our offerings. We work to understand your unique challenges and opportunities – whether you require strategy development, or solutions design and implementation – and we'll guide you every step of the way.

Our teams cover a range of sectors such as higher education and healthcare, as well as specialist areas including business consulting, technical advisory, service management, and sustainability.

We remain supplier agnostic, but also have teams designated to our **strategic alliances** with the likes of Microsoft, ServiceNow, Google, Dell, NetApp (and more), enabling us to design you the right solutions, working with the right partners to deliver the best outcomes.

So whatever your specific requirements, challenges or industry, with BC&A's breadth of knowledge and experience, we'll empower you with a team that is hand-picked to enable your success.



To find out more:

Explore the Digital Backbone and its twelve key propositions in more depth on [our webpage](#). Fill in [this short form](#) and we'll be in touch to discuss how our digital architecture offerings or our overarching Digital Backbone framework can support your specific needs.



About CGI

Insights you can act on

Founded in 1976, CGI is among the largest IT and business consulting services firms in the world.

We are insights-driven and outcomes-based to help accelerate returns on your investments. Across hundreds of locations worldwide, we provide comprehensive, scalable and sustainable IT and business consulting services that are informed globally and delivered locally.

cgi.com/uk/digital-backbone

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