

Genus Global IT – Solutions Architect position overview

Genus PLC is in the process of designing a “cloud-first” strategy for all new services, building on a successful move to Office 365 and Dynamics 365, around which the strategy will be based.

The Solutions Architect will be in the great position of supporting the implementation of a new Cloud Operations team to support multiple streams of work, including the definition of cloud standards and building blocks, driving the re-architecture of existing on premise services as part of their move to cloud, and ensuring globally consistent approaches to technology across Genus’s organisation.

Reporting to the Global Head of IT Operations & Enterprise Architecture, you will be working alongside Departmental Heads and technical leads within IT to help to define, justify and maintain the technology blueprint, standards, methods, principles, governance and technology systems architecture that will be used to support and deliver the capabilities and future ways of working within both IT and the wider business. Key elements of the role include:

- Supporting the alignment of the technology blueprint to the IT and Business Strategy
- Provide clear definition and agreement of enterprise-wide, strategic building blocks to deliver these strategies
- Preparing business cases to clearly articulate the benefits, drivers and financial impacts
- Provide guidance and consistency of approach across all aspects of IT architecture, including networks, infrastructure, applications, data and information security

The role

The Solutions Architect will establish clear working practices, processes and objectives/milestones, shaping the wider IT team to introduce new approaches, adapt existing ways of working, define accountabilities and introduce clear and simple EA governance across the team.

The role key activities will be:

1. Identify current Genus approaches (“building blocks”) and agree, design, document and implement a framework/matrix of services to support the delivery of solutions to business needs using consistent, industry standard, reusable, efficient, sustainable and supportable building blocks to meet these needs.
2. To drive a “cloud first” approach to new and existing systems and services, aligning with the core Dynamics 365 and Office 365 systems implemented or in the process of global rollout.
3. To ensure these principles support interoperability, agility and value for money.
4. To influence, speed up and gain maximum value out of new change initiatives and to nurture and exploit new ideas and new ways to simplify and reuse.

What do I need?

The ideal candidate will have both a pragmatic vision for Genus technology approaches and excellent technical and analytical abilities, with a deep understanding of the IT Industry policies, practices and have a working knowledge of current Enterprise Architecture Frameworks (eg TOGAF).

They will be comfortable at operating at all levels with strong interpersonal skills and will be adept at building and sustaining relationships across the IT and wider business functions.

An ability to provide technology and strategic input into business initiatives is vital for success.

The Solutions Architect will need to nurture a new Cloud Operations function. Once the team is established, the post holder will be expected to introduce processes and procedures to continually improve the Architecture services being provided. Defining and measuring key performance indicators and establishing quality levels across the team.

In more detail:

- Proven experience in a complex third line, infrastructure lead, solutions architecture or similar technology role
- The ability to identify opportunities and lead others through organisational and technology change.
- Ability to work with imperfect information in a fast-paced environment, whilst still maintaining high standards, evidenced designs and documentation.
- Team player with the ability and tolerance to work with and influence a wide range of technical and business stakeholders.
- Can demonstrate an innovative, dynamic and creative approach to problem-solving, whilst also balancing cutting edge design against the need to reduce technical debt.
- Ability to work at all levels of design conceptually, logically and physically when required.
- Ability to manage and influence a wide range of key stakeholders.
- Able to assist in the definition of roadmaps to evolve the technology landscape, at both tribe and enterprise levels.
- Experience of using Azure (essential).