Strategy equals choice

Corporate and Business Unit Strategy

Strategy can be challenging, but it doesn’t need to be complicated. It should connect the dots between how we define winning, the tough choices required to differentiate ourselves from the competition, and how we enable this strategy as an organization.

We live in an era of unprecedented technological and societal change. In addition to disrupting our personal lives, these changes are also creating enormous competitive challenges and opportunities for companies in every industry. Many organizations are beginning to realize that successful approaches to running their business are unlikely to sustain their success in the future. We help companies evaluate their strategies, and we serve as their advisor and guide through each step of their strategic journey.

Three ways to get more value

Start a conversation
Over-reliance on frameworks and templates is a surefire way to stifle the strategic process. Start with a few critical questions, and let the conversation drive the process.

Embrace strategic tensions early in the process
Premature moves to build consensus only serve to reinforce the status quo. Use points of tension to focus the group’s time and energy on the most critical decisions.

Write it down
A well-defined strategy should drive organizational priorities and resource allocations. Hold your team accountable for articulating a clear, decisive strategy and communicating it to relevant stakeholders.
How Deloitte can help

Our Monitor Deloitte Corporate and Business Unit Strategy professionals work with CEOs, CSOs, and business unit leaders to help their companies win in the marketplace. We support our clients’ strategic journeys through a set of services that revolve around several key questions, including:

- Is our current strategy delivering the results we need to be successful in an increasingly competitive marketplace?
- How can we rapidly and effectively translate our strategies into actionable initiatives?
- What strategies can help us keep up with—and get ahead of—future market trends?
- Are there new or different businesses and business models we should be considering?
- How do we design a robust strategic planning process for future growth?
- How do we determine the types of innovations to pursue to help us meet our goals for the future?

Our approach is informed by four fundamental beliefs:

- **Companies should concentrate their efforts on bolder and more focused bets.** When others tend toward timidity and inertia, the most successful companies make bold (but well-informed) moves to unlock new sources of growth.

- **A successfully implemented strategy should be managed as a change journey.** Great strategy moves beyond analysis into an immersive journey where teams grapple with issues, integrate a range of diverse perspectives, and question their own myths. This process can be challenging, but it also can create the deep conviction people need if they are to commit to a bold, new direction.

- **Challenging orthodoxies is the hardest part of coming up with bold options.** The place where organizations tend to struggle the most when identifying strategic options for their business is in envisioning strategic alternatives that are dramatically different than the status quo. Making this shift in mindset typically requires looking outside of the organization for inspiration and insights.

- **Pragmatism is key.** Many strategy-setting efforts fail because they evolve into an overly academic exercise of exploring unrealistic possibilities or get bogged down in analysis paralysis as strategy teams examine all possible new product categories, geographies, and customer segments they could potentially chase. A good strategy process needs to be ruthlessly efficient, while simultaneously leaving room for exploration of the unknown.

**Your goals define your strategies**

Strategic decisions cannot be made within a vacuum. Or, to put it another way: Just because your company has a goal it wants to pursue doesn’t mean that goal is worth pursuing. Our strategy-setting process is a six-step journey rooted in the StrategyByDesign™ building blocks.

The fundamental truth about defining and setting your corporate strategy is this: You’re not likely to define a single strategy that will achieve everything you want, which means you need to make hard choices and trade-offs to achieve the things that are most important to your organization. In addition:

- A strategy needs to be clear about what the organization will and will not do.
- A well-articated strategy should serve as a guide for organizational decision making, portfolio investment, and capability building.
- Strategic decisions should be monitored to ensure ongoing value creation as organizations evolve in size, shape, and structure, with major inflection points distinctly defined at specific points in the journey.
Why Deloitte?
We help our clients balance pragmatism and ambition to define and implement the right strategic framework for their organizations. We help our clients answer the following questions:

- What is Our Winning Aspiration?
- Where Will We Play?
- How Will We Win?
- What Capabilities Must We Have?
- What Management Systems Do We Need?

Understand, compete across, and adapt to a broader range of strategic environments
Identify high-potential growth opportunities in core and adjacent markets
Articulate most optimal pathways to accelerate client growth in a rapidly changing world
Define the role of M&A, digital, and analytics in the growth portfolio
Develop an integrated strategy and a detailed plan for how to achieve it
Consistently evolve their corporate strategy over time to best adapt to disruptive trends
The big idea
There are moments in the lives of CEOs, CSOs, and business unit leaders that define their careers and the trajectory of their business. Monitor Deloitte can support you during those times as your trusted advisor to help you consider your strategic options and develop your organization’s strategic capabilities.

Learn more
To learn more about how we can help, visit www.deloitte.com/us/corporate-business-unit-strategy.

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The bottom line
Our Corporate and Business Unit Strategy practice understands the importance of making the right decisions at the right time to capitalize on opportunities before they slip away. Our years of professional experience, methodologies, and capabilities allow us to provide clients with tools and advice that others can’t. Our proprietary 10 Types of Innovation, Strategy Implementation Blueprint, Scenario Mapping, Business Model Innovation, Applied Design, and Capability Mapping services can be used individually or together to help your business create an actionable strategic framework to support future growth, and to:

- Establish a strategically sound and resilient business portfolio
- Activate new strategic initiatives, and reimagine and repurpose existing strategies to achieve long-term goals
- Effectively articulate strategic goals to key stakeholders throughout the organization
- Enhance in-house processes and capabilities to achieve success