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Multiple Vendors and the System Integrator Role

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Many companies expand IT infrastructure on an incremental basis by purchasing computers, acquiring software licenses and subscribing to data transport facilities as business needs dictate and as budgets allow. As the IT infrastructure and its configuration become more complex over time, the customer must be assured that new equipment and software will not only meet the customer's functional specifications but will deliver that functionality seamlessly and as part of an integrated system. At some point however, whether due to rapid business expansion, the need to comply with new government regulations or obsolescence, a customer may need to rebuild or significantly augment large segments of its IT infrastructure used to support mission critical business operations. The business strategy may call for sourcing new equipment from multiple vendors. It also may call for having the revamped system up and running within a short period of time.

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