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TECHNOLOGIES

**IT For Nonprofits:**  
**DO WHAT YOU**  
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TECHNOLOGIES

Your nonprofit is doing good work that's **worth** pursuing. But if you're like most nonprofits, you likely feel that there's always more to do than there are **volunteers to do it**.

You can keep working to grow your **donor** and **volunteer pools** (and you should!). But at a certain point, that growth may **plateau** — or you may find that growth **unsustainable** as you outgrow your capacity to administrate people effectively.

Many nonprofit organizations are turning to technology solutions and IT to overcome some of these hurdles. With the right partners and tools, it's possible to **improve your capacity, scalability, and effectiveness** as a nonprofit or NGO.



# 5 POWERFUL WAYS TECHNOLOGY CAN **IMPROVE** NONPROFIT WORKFLOWS

If your nonprofit is **overburdened** by the work **you have to do**, technology can lighten the load. With the **right set of tools**, you'll truly be able to do more with fewer resources, growing your capacity to serve and freeing up resources to pursue more **valuable work** and **service**.

These are five categories of technology that can help you grow **efficiency** and improve **workflows throughout your nonprofit organization**.

## **1** Microsoft 365 for Nonprofits: Business Premium, Grants, and Training

If you aren't already using Microsoft 365 at your nonprofit, you should be: M365 offers significant **benefits** for nonprofit organizations, enhancing your operational **efficiency** and mission **impact!**

One major advantage is access to free and discounted technology grants **tailored** specifically for nonprofits, allowing your organization to use essential tools like **email, Office applications, cloud storage, and web conferencing** without straining your budgets. The Business Premium grant supports up to 10 users for free, making it ideal for small and mid-sized nonprofits.

Another benefit of using M365 is the **comprehensive support** and **training** available: Microsoft offers extensive training and skill development resources through its Nonprofit Skilling program. This initiative includes pre-curated courses and customized learning journeys to help nonprofit staff **maximize** the impact of Microsoft 365 tools.

This training **ensures** that your staff and volunteers are equipped with the **knowledge** needed to use M365 tools to their full effectiveness, meaning you're getting the absolute most for your money (**with the rate already discounted!**).

Using Microsoft 365 correctly at your nonprofit will **reduce** your administrative burdens and **allow** you to **focus** more on your core mission! Find out more on **Microsoft's Nonprofit page:**

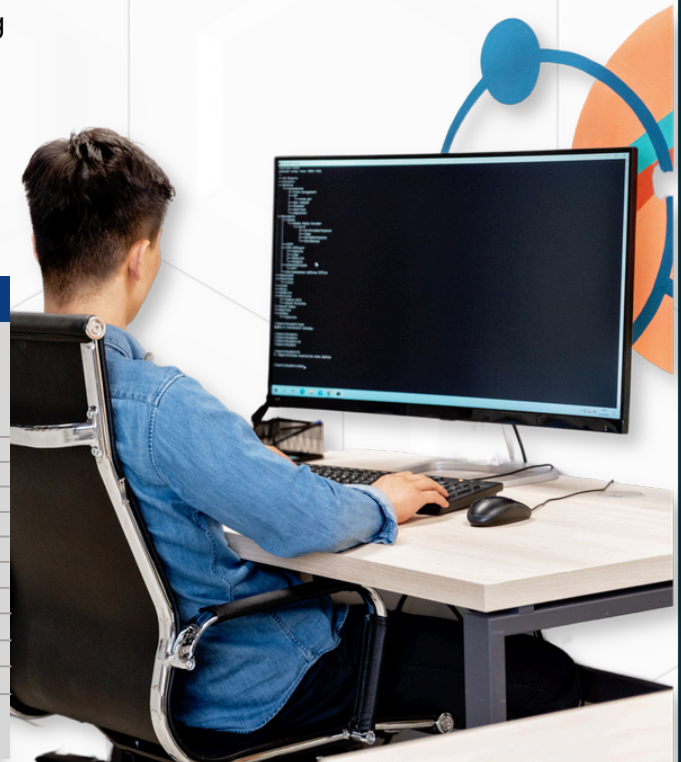
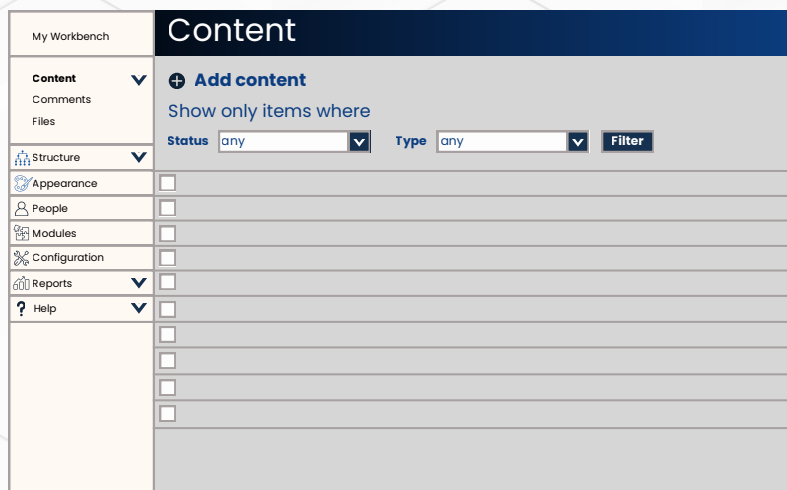


2

## Drupal:

### DIY Open-Source Web Design for Nonprofits

If your organization maintains its own website (or is looking to launch one soon), Drupal is **worth a look**. You'll need a little bit of tech skill to use it well, but Drupal's content management system is **powerful** and **effective**. It's an affordable way to build a website or application **without dropping thousands of dollars** — so long as you have someone who can do the building.



3

## Donor Management Systems:

### Better Outreach, Better Relationships

Businesses rely on **customer relationship management (CRM)** software, and some nonprofits have **adopted** these tools for use with **donors** and **volunteers**. But it isn't exactly a hand-in-glove fit. Your relationship with donors, volunteers, and others isn't really the **same** as a business's relationship with its customers.

Enter donor management systems. Multiple are available, including **Donor Perfect**, **Tapestry**, and **Exceed**. These take the principles of CRM software and tailor them to make the **most sense** for nonprofits and NGOs. You'll gain a better understanding of who your donors are and what contact you've had with them (something that becomes increasingly difficult as your nonprofit scales). You'll also gain tools for communicating **effectively** at scale, leading to **increased donations** and better overall relationships with the people who care about your cause.



4

## Volunteer Management Software: Activate and Focus Your Volunteers at Scale

Nonprofits rely on volunteers to perform all kinds of **functions**, including both key **day-to-day functions** and big **scalable projects**. Especially for those one-off project and events, getting the right number of bodies in the right place at the right time is a **challenge** – and if those people need to be trained or oriented? **Things can get complicated in a hurry.**

Volunteer management software can help here. It's a bit like scheduling software, but for volunteers, and it's built with an understanding of how the volunteer-nonprofit relationship is **different** from the **worker-employer relationship**.

Just like with the previous category, there are other **mass-market products** that can kind of do the job here. But **purpose-built volunteer management software** will do a **better job**, freeing your team up to focus more on the good that you're doing and less on moving bodies around an event space (or names around a spreadsheet).



5

## Collaboration Software: Work Together Better, Even When Apart

Many nonprofits are used to collaborating under **less-than-ideal circumstances**. This may or may not be your day job, but it definitely isn't for your volunteers. So often there's plenty of after-hours work.

Others such as board members or specialists that provide a service to your nonprofit may not be on site often (**or may not even live in your city**).

**Good news:** the shift toward remote work in certain sectors has led to the creation of all kinds of **collaborative tools** your nonprofit can adapt!

This broad category includes:

- **Video calling** or **videoconferencing tools** like Zoom, GoToMeeting, Teams, or Google Meet (free with Google Workspace!)
- **Whiteboard** or **brainstorming apps** like Whiteboard and Jamboard
- **Collaborative workspaces** and **chat tools** like Teams and Slack
- **Screen sharing** and **presentation tools** like Loom, Wistia, and Camtasia



## 4 REASONS YOUR NONPROFIT SHOULD WORK WITH A **MANAGED SERVICE PROVIDER**

The tools in the previous section can help any nonprofit **improve operational effectiveness**, but tools alone will **never** deliver the **best possible results**. Improving your effectiveness through technology requires the right partnerships alongside the right tools.

And the first partnership most nonprofits should **explore?** Working with a managed service provider (MSP). Here are four reasons why partnering with an MSP makes a difference **in what you can achieve**.

**1**

### Stay Focused On Your Mission

We don't know what your mission is, **but we know what it isn't**.

It definitely doesn't start with **"to provide the best IT services possible..."** (Come to think of it, that sounds pretty similar to our mission statement!)

Whatever your mission is, it isn't IT. So that means IT, vital as it may be, is merely a means to an end. You don't want to devote any more of your day-to-day to IT than you have to — you've got **better, more missional things to worry about**.

Partnering with an MSP that understands the nonprofit landscape is the **simplest way** to improve your focus on your mission. We handle the **IT stuff**: the day-to-day, the setup, the troubleshooting, and even the long-range planning **if you desire**. That way you can think about IT less and keep more focus where it should be: **on the good work that you're doing**.



## 2

## Compliance and Digital Security

If you operate electronically, then you're a **target** for **cyber criminals**, plain and simple. You might assume they're only going after the big corporations with **deep pockets**, but this just isn't the case. Many cybercriminals would rather target **smaller, less technologically mature** or **secure organizations** — including **both** small businesses and nonprofits.

Cybersecurity isn't easy to get right, especially when you try to do it yourself (**without staff or partner expertise**). Partnering with an MSP that understands the security needs of nonprofits is the **smart solution**, here again freeing you up to stay on mission.

Depending on the nature of your nonprofit, you may also be subject to various digital **regulations** that create **compliance needs**. The same thing applies: we'll apply our many years of compliance experience to your situation, handling your compliance so you can **worry less** and **focus more**.



## 3

## Do What You Do, Well



Our philosophy is simple: whatever you do **best** and **love** to do is what you should **spend your time doing**.

For us, that's IT. For you, it's probably **something else**.

Partnering with an MSP allows for **better resource allocation**, but it also creates more **joy** and **fulfillment** as your team can spend their time and energies on **what they love to do** and **what they do well**.

It works out well for your MSP as well — because chances are the thing they love and do well is IT. **It certainly is for us.**

4

## Keep Your Donors' Data Secure

Last, partnering with an MSP **increases your ability** to keep data (including donors' data) **secure**. You want to keep your donors focused on giving to your cause, **free from worry** that their financial data might be less secure because they **donated to your organization**.

An MSP will follow data security best practices, **lessening risk and providing donors with peace of mind**.



## EXPAND YOUR CAPABILITIES WITH



At **Covergent Technologies**, we believe in nonprofits and the vital work they do. That's why we support numerous nonprofits already, serving as their managed services provider and supporting their mission through better IT.

Is your organization ready for a better approach to handling IT? Then let's talk. **Reach out today using the contact information below.**



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