Position Specification

Retail and Manufacturing Industry
Vice-President of IT, Chief Digital Architect

The Company

Overview

Our client is one of the largest home furnishings manufacturers and retailers in the world. The company manufactures and distributes living room, dining room and bedroom furniture in the USA and internationally.

The Position

Overview

The Vice-President of IT, Chief Digital Architect is accountable for assisting the CIO, VP of Enterprise Architecture, VP of IT Digital Commerce and senior IT leadership with curating the digital technology roadmap for responses to disruptive forces by definition and execution of change toward desired business targets and vision. The Chief Digital Architect (VP-CDA) is responsible for supporting retail business leaders to enable future-state business capabilities that will drive targeted business outcomes through digital programs, projects, and initiatives. The VP-CDA will apply existing, new, and emerging technologies to new and evolving business and operating models both domestic and international. Areas of influence and control will be across business, information, solutions, technical, and security architectures. Focus is on leading, managing, and balancing both tactical and strategic operating modes, which maintains and evolves business capabilities of existing IT solutions, while also having focus on technology disruption, speed, agility, and flexibility that enables and drives new business models and designs. Specific experience and proven success are required in:

- Leading high revenue digital initiatives in retail, ecommerce, mobile commerce and contact center initiatives.
- Orchestrating and managing customer data, third-party data, click-stream, personalization, Multi-variate testing, performance, and marketing analytics.
- Utilizing and maintaining a hybrid ecosystem architecture(s), including custom, open source, third-party (both on-premise and SaaS/cloud), all integrated for optimal secure business commerce solutions.

The successful candidate will guide, prioritize, and create the overall digital re-architecture approach for the organization, and communicate architectural direction.

Location

Southeast United States

Reporting Relationship

The Vice-President of IT, Chief Digital Architect reports to VP of IT, Enterprise Architecture and will be directly responsible for approximately 5-7 employees.

Responsibilities

The successful candidate will establish strategic digital architecture and make tactical decisions, within overall strategic direction, with top management guidance; solve complex technical or strategic problems; apply digital technology or business approaches in new ways; develop and recommend new alternatives; interact regularly with peers and colleagues to communicate or negotiate essential agreements, which requires considerable tact, sense of timing and the ability to engender trust and show sensitivity to diverse audiences.

- Lead the creation and evolution of the digital technology solutions program.
- Lead development of an implementation plan for the digital technology architecture and cutting-edge commerce platforms based on business and IT strategies and requirements.
- Present a gap analysis and/or IT investment roadmap that reflects the status of the existing IT digital commerce/customer estate, namely, its ability to contribute to future-state business capabilities around ecosystems and digital platforms.
- Understand the business's economic and financial levers that are susceptible to digital transformation, to effectively support and guide technology investment decisions. Seek opportunities to highlight how digital business initiatives will potentially impact the enterprises' economic architecture and metrics.
- Design and construct future and current-state business models to practically apply new and emerging digital technologies that drive them.
- Guide and advise stakeholders about disruptive digital or commerce technologies and trends Detail potential competitive threats from digital enterprises that are generally considered outside of traditional competitors.
- Scan the spectrum for major disruptive technology and nontechnology trends that affect the business. Provide practical advice and best practices to overcome these challenges and successfully deliver the expected business outcomes.
- Track and apply innovative and existing technologies, anchoring them in the business model to assess their potential, and use rapid prototyping approaches to evolve innovations.
- Construct technology-enabled operating models and provide viable options and visibility into execution issues. Run technology experiments, helping to create new products and services and integrating the best of these into steady-state operations for the organization.
- Lead analysis of the business' future-state capabilities and future IT environment to detect critical deficiencies and recommend solutions for improvement and driving the business forward.
- Facilitate the creation of governance, assurance, and standards to guide digital architecture decision making. Oversee documentation of all digital and commerce architecture design and analysis work.

- Consult with infrastructure, project, and product teams to ensure consistency with enterprise architecture and identify when it is necessary to modify the enterprise architecture.
- Lead the development and execution of a communication and education plan for the enterprise architecture.
- Build, mentor and lead a high performing team in accordance with and adherence to company policies and procedures.

Travel
Occasional, domestic travel.

The Candidate

Education
A Bachelor's degree in computer science, information systems, computer engineering, electrical engineering, system analysis or related field of study, or equivalent experience.

Professional Qualifications
- 12+ years of experience in business, information, solution, or technical architecture, application development, middleware, information analysis, database management, or operations in a multi-tier environment.
- Experienced designing and developing enterprise scale digital commerce applications using modern development frameworks for mobile and desktop that will scale to millions of users, preferably in the manufacturing and/or retail industries.
- Broad and diverse knowledge and proven experience with technologies including modern containerization and orchestration; VMWare; RDBMS, cloud data lake and warehouse stores; marketing analytics, customer data, and digital commerce platforms; and Microsoft and Linux operating systems.
- Vendor and technology neutral, more interested in business outcomes than in personal, or those business and IT leaders vested personal preferences.
- Expert with at least one cloud platform
- Knowledge of business IT ecosystems, SaaS, IaaS, PaaS, cloud computing, SOA, APIs, open data, open systems, microservices, micro-frontends, event-driven IT and predictive analytics
- Knowledge of computer hardware. (servers, networks, SAN, RAID devices, I/O subsystems)
- Exposure and understanding of existing, new and emerging technologies, and processing environments.
- Proven ability in designing and developing highly scalable web applications and in applying design patterns
- Advanced knowledge of business engineering principles and processes.

Personal Skillsets
- Strategic, intelligent and intellectually agile. Has the grit and perseverance to succeed.

- Thrives in a fast-paced environment, pivots direction easily and adapts well to change.
- Builds productive working relationships based on trust, mutual respect and results with all colleagues across the enterprise.
- Responds professionally, with patience and empathy, when handling difficult issues.
- Detail oriented, resourceful, and works well under pressure with a sense of urgency. Successfully manages large and small initiatives to the proper conclusion.
- Demonstrate accountability, prioritizes tasks, and delivers quality consistently.
- Shows a desire to learn and a dedication to professional development.
- Possesses excellent written and verbal communication skills.

To learn more about this opportunity or provide a confidential referral, please contact:

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Please use this reference code in the subject line of your response:
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