

Howard Holben

Executive Biography



Howard has had a dynamic management and technical career leading multi-national world-class organizations through large-scale and challenging technology solutions for over 204 years.

He is a technically sophisticated and business-savvy professional with a pioneering career reflecting strong leadership qualifications coupled with vision and dedicated leadership. His skills include the deployment of key IS/IT technologies including system design and integration, client server networks, desktop and database management systems, help desk architecture and data center management.

Howard has a diverse industry experience in both the private and public sectors that includes chemicals, manufacturing, publishing, entertainment, communications, banking, pharmaceuticals, financial, real estate, associations, non-profits and even The United Nations.

He has over seventeen years' experience with a Fortune 100 company, IBM, plus another seven years with other industry leaders that includes Imperial Chemical Industries, Lucent Technologies, Rhone-Poulenc Chemicals, Schering-Plough, Astra Zeneca, First Manhattan Consulting, Time Warner and Merrill Lynch, among others.

Consistent Track Record of Success in:

Strategic & Tactical Planning: Howard partners with senior executives to design and plan complex global technology initiatives, project implementation strategies, organizational change management, communications, training programs and disaster recovery and business continuity programs.

Client Relations / Mediation & Consensus Building: He gains the customer's confidence through extensive mediations between multiple layers of end users, management and board directors. In this way, he builds strong relationships throughout the organization to insure deliverables.

Team Development & Training: Howard is an accomplished leader experienced in building motivated and productive cross-functional information technology teams that can deliver multiple concurrent projects worldwide. He has proven his ability to drive focused teams to performance excellence within a rapidly changing industry.

Project Management: Howard has a superior record of delivering simultaneous large-scale, mission-critical projects on time and under budget consistent with company's strategic plan. His extensive qualifications include all facets of project life-cycle management, from initial feasibility analysis and conceptual design through documentation, implementation, user training, quality review and enhancement.

Technology Initiatives: Howard is a creative and results-driven expert in the design, development and delivery of cost-effective, high-performance technology solutions. He is an expert design architect and systems integrator with extensive experience building new systems, leading implementation and migrating information systems and applications.

Howard's Personal Attributes

- He is widely recognized for his entrepreneurial spirit, integrity and strong commitment to corporate stability through attention to critical systems and processes impacted by technology.
- He has excellent collaboration and presentation skills among executives, senior and mid-level managers, customers and end users.
- His strong leadership philosophy is clearly dedicated to cross-functional problem solving with an eye toward the accomplishment of enterprise-wide goals.
- He has strong troubleshooting capabilities that can reshape infrastructures, overhaul outdated processes and procedures while promoting new programs and concepts.
- He is well known as a reliable, hard-working and tenacious hands-on leader committed to getting the job done. He maintains focus on achieving bottom-line results while formulating and implementing advanced technology and business solutions to meet a diversity of needs.
- Howard is a results-oriented problem solver who also has a very unique blend of technical expertise, business acumen and inter-personal people skills.

Howard's Career Track

Howard began his career as an entrepreneur promoting records for several major record labels. During this venture he quickly gravitated toward the technology aspects of the business. After attending night school for 18 months, he left the music industry in 1988 and joined a systems integrator in New York City. There he progressed rapidly through a series of increasingly complex and large-scale projects with increased responsibilities.

Over the past seventeen years, he has been a contractor/consultant for IBM and their clients, and has been given full autonomy as project manager and director – a position rarely held by a contractor. IBM has entrusted him to manage global initiatives for their major clients, and he has consistently been recognized for his diplomacy and unique ability to collaborate across all lines of the organization to resolve technology implementation issues, as well as political and inter-personal conflicts.

Some of Howard's notable achievements include:

- Successful execution of a \$70 million North American Global Standardization Initiative for IBM's customer, Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI), comprised of 5 distinct corporations with 38 sites throughout the US, Canada, Mexico and Puerto Rico.
- Mediation of contractual technology support issues between Lucent and IBM.
- Leading due diligence on over 6500 Lucent servers worldwide and proposed remediation, testing and contingency plans for global locations.
- Managed several Data Center consolidation projects.
- Creating from "scratch" a \$13 million support solution consisting of all new staff, new Help Desk Team and new DeskSide Support Team.
- Heading a \$10M project that hardened IBM Headquarters Data Center to CA2 Level.
- Designing & leading a \$1M Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity project for IBM Treasury.
- Managing a \$2M project implementing new server hardware, OS, Citrix and SAN solution for IBM Treasury Operations.
- Merging numerous IBM acquisitions into the IBM Treasury infrastructure.
- The migration of over 250 server "metal boxes" into a virtualized VMWare solution.