Chief Solutions Architect

Job Overview Summary:

The Chief Solutions Architect manages the IT innovation process for Executive Branches of State Government. The Chief Solutions Architect job description describes the many responsibilities of identifying innovative potentialities and bringing them to fruition in order to best benefit the overall goals of the organization. The Chief Solutions Architect reports to the Chief Information Officer and works with other Executive Management staff to develop and manage new solutions and their implementation throughout the organization to address business challenges and improve customer service.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Manage the Enterprise Research team and research activities to include:
    - Develop and implement the organization's research and development policies, objectives, and initiatives.
    - Establishes program to research/analyze emerging technologies for applicability in state environment.
    - Oversee the entire cycle of research and development from the initial concept creation through the execution and transition of research concepts into solutions often involving complex systems.
    - Identify promising areas of research or technology that addresses unmet needs and has large potential use within state government.
    - Create strategies for leveraging new and upcoming technologies with existing technology portfolio.
    - Ensure recommendations are in compliance with IT best practices and state standards.
    - Works with Enterprise Governance and Administration to assure that any research resulting in recommendations concerning state standards follows approved methodology.
    - Monitors research and development to spot trends in innovation and to supplement research findings.
    - Keeps all new innovation research projects in line with the mission and maintains consistency with the message and brand.
- Manage the Solutions Architecture Team and architecture activities to include:
    - Develop and mature the organization's architecture policies, objectives and initiatives
    - Oversee the entire cycle of the creation of the architecture from the initial concept creation through the completion of the design.
    - Develop and mature the process for ongoing updates of the architecture to accurately reflect changes during a systems lifecycle.
    - Identify promising areas of research or technology that addresses unmet needs and has large potential use within state government.
    - Collaborates with the technical teams to see the transition of the designs into an operational status.
- Manage and maintain the Enterprise Configuration Management System
    - Develop and maintain the organization's Configuration Management processes and procedures that include Management & Planning, Configuration Identification, Configuration Control, Status Accounting & Reporting, and Verification & Audit.
    - Manage the Configuration Management System and its associated Configuration Management Database (CMDB) by ensuring that the Configuration Items that are included are relevant and correct.

- o Using the CMDB and working with other operational areas identify out of compliance software and hardware and communicate actions needed as appropriate.
  - o Using the CMDB and working with other operational areas create strategies to facilitate updates to end of life systems
- Assures effective roadmaps for new solutions that do not result in stranded investments. Works closely with the IT Financial area to develop proposed cost models and analyze impacts of innovation on existing service offerings.
- Lead IT transformation for the state, including parterning the state's Data Center transformation to become a hybrid cloud services provider.
- Provide a holistic vision and approach to the state's Data Center transformation.
- Strategizes with solutions development teams to transform general ideas into workable solutions.
- Recognizes promising ideas and finds ways to introduce them into future plans and discards ideas that are ineffective, costly, or beyond the scope of the mission or abilities to develop.
- Evaluates the progress of innovation and adjusts the pace or direction of new innovation research projects.
- Defines and monitors innovation metrics and measures.
- Fosters collaboration with technical teams, domain Business Solutions Architects and business customers by listening to concerns and needs. With this understanding, as well as the state's environment (architectural, political, structural), research and propose more cost effective, efficient and maintainable new solutions and approaches to business and technical problems.
- Works closely with domain Business Solutions Architects and State agencies to encourage cross- agency collaboration to ensure participation and buy-in from business partners.
- Builds decision matrixes and white papers to inform decision makers.
- Analyzes existing practices and technologies to isolate areas ripe for improvement or enhancement.
- Encourages creative thinking in employees and finds ways to nurture innovative thinking across all areas of the organization.
- Follows customer responses to new ideas, tracks and analyzes the success of new services, and responds to customer questions or concerns.
- Identifies disruptive threats and opportunities based on trends.

Required Skills/Experience:

- Bachelor's degree in business management, IT or related field.
- A minimum of five years professional level experience in strategic program development and business model development.
- Prior experience that demonstrates the candidate's ability to successfully evaluate opportunities, creatively design and effectively deploy innovative initiatives or solutions that achieve the desired results.
- Prior experience as a change agent and superb interpersonal skills with demonstrated success in both managing through influence, as well as solid-line reporting relationships.
- Proven expertise in creating and integrating innovation initiatives within a dynamic work environment that unifies and aligns local and corporate strategies while delivering value-added operations or increasing revenues.
- Strong business acumen and ability to quickly convert strategic and operational issues into innovation opportunities that achieve the goals of the organization, operating unit and enterprise.
- Highly developed comprehension of the interaction and balance between business levers and people impacts in large scale change management projects, as well as a working understanding of the related technology requirements.
- Solid understanding of defining, developing and tracking key metrics to drive improvements that positively impact an organization.
- Ability to guide and to facilitate creative thinking and innovation across the enterprise to enhance organizational capability and agility.
- Expert level skills in cross-functional team building, consensus building, conflict resolution, and risk management.
- Superior research and data analytic skills to track and predict trends.
- Must be independent and self-directed but able to work and lead a team of creative individuals.
- Must be able to collaborate with executives, creative teams, research and development, and product development teams.
- Must be willing to take calculated risks and manage expectations of both internal development teams and potential and existing customers.
- State or local government experience is desired but not required.

The State of TN is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Resumes should be submitted via email to EIT.Resumes@tn.gov

Pursuant to the State of Tennessee's Workplace Discrimination and Harassment policy, the State is firmly committed to the principle of fair and equal employment opportunities for its citizens and strives to protect the rights and opportunities of all people to seek, obtain, and hold employment without being subjected to illegal discrimination and harassment in the workplace. It is the State's policy to provide an environment free of discrimination and harassment of an individual because of that person's race, color, national origin, age (40 and over), sex, pregnancy, religion, creed, disability, veteran's status or any other category protected by state and/or federal civil rights laws.