

E-business

E-business is the use of Internet technologies to improve and transform key business processes. This means web-enabling core processes to strengthen customer service operations, streamline supply chains and reach existing and new customers.

E-business can be limited to going on-line with email and/or a website, or can extend to the business process of e-commerce whereby products, goods and services are sold electronically via the Internet, and dealers/suppliers can be linked online reducing lag time and paperwork.

For many organisations, the first step into the world of e-business is going on-line, developing a website strategy and then designing a website to put the strategy into action.

Further information:

UK Online for Business (www.ukonlineforbusiness.gov.uk)

UK Online for Business is a partnership between industry and Government geared to help British business - particularly small and medium sized enterprises - to get the full benefits of e-commerce and other new technologies. It has produced a wide range of useful booklets covering subjects from using email and getting online to Internet security and video conferencing. A useful toolkit is their "Be online for business" online toolkit which offers practical and tailored advice on how to create and apply a realistic plan for success in the e-business world. It also has a network of business advisers throughout the country offering independent, jargon-free and cost effective advice on how best to implement new technologies within your business strategy.

Technology Means Business (www.technologymeansbusiness.org.uk)

Technology Means Business (TMB) is part of UK Online For Business and is a scheme committed to raising the standard of information and communications technology (ICT) and business advice to small and medium sized enterprises through an accreditation process. The website has a searchable database for accredited advisers.