STEVE BUTLER KARECHIO

CISA, CISM, ITIL, MBA, BSc IT

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Professional Profile:

A seasoned CIO and business leader with a proven ability to excel in fast-paced, deadline-driven environments. Demonstrable exceptional expertise in IT strategic planning, emerging technologies, and cyber security, with a knack to create and monetize sustainable solutions.

With over 18 years of experience, I have designed, implemented, and supported digital transformation, complex infrastructure and technology projects across various sectors, including Banking, Government, FMCG, Real Estate, and Development Agencies.

I have a successful track record of growing effective teams and translating business requirements into actual frameworks, leveraging existing validated technologies to achieve and exceed objectives.

As an innovator, I consistently deploy cutting-edge technology solutions within budget, on schedule and proven ROI.

As a progressive thinker, I thrive in collaborative environments, working seamlessly across business and technical teams to enhance profits and reduce costs through strategic IT planning.

Link to notable projects: https://butlerkarechio.com

Work History

Feb 2013 - Current

Group Head of IT (10+ years)

Centum Investment Company PLC

Skills & Competence

- Board Advisory (Tech & Digital)
- Strategy Development and Execution (Business Transformation)
- Data Centre & Intelligent Wide Area Network Architecture
- Smart Cities and IoT
- AI and RPA
- Business Intelligence and Big Data Engineering
- Product Development & ERP Deployment
  - DevOps Expertise
  - Full Stack Developer (Node, Angular, GO, PHP)
  - SAP, Business Dynamics, Navision
  - MSSQL, MySQL, Oracle
- Payments - API's (Mpesa etc.)
- Information Security Management
  - COBIT 5 and ISO 27001/270032 Certification
  - GDPR and PCI DSS Compliance

Certifications

CISA
Certified Information Systems Auditor

CISM
Certified Information Security Manager

ITIL Foundation
IT Service Management

BulletProof Manager
Leadership training

4DX Principles
Focus, leverage, engagement and accountability

Lead in the overall planning, organizing, and execution of ICT across all group functions and aligning IT strategic goals with business objectives and goals.

Notable Achievements

- **Implemented and Supported SAP Business One ERP | Centum Group & 9 Subsidiaries**
    - o Successfully led the implementation and support of SAP Business One ERP, streamlining operations and enhancing real-time report consolidation.
    - o Achieved over $1million in annual operational cost savings through improved efficiency and reporting across the group and its 9 subsidiaries.
- **IT Implementation Lead | Almasi Beverages (Centum Group)**
    - o Effectively led the IT integration of 3 Coca-Cola bottlers post-acquisition by Centum into Almasi Beverages.
    - o Implemented Microsoft Dynamics Navision as the ERP, developed a Sales force automation tool and deployed seamless IT infrastructure across the bottlers and HQ.
    - o Digital transformation at Almasi significantly enhanced operations efficiency and improved cost control by over 30% thus contributing to a $20 million exit by Centum.
- **IT Lead | Longhorn Publishers & Safaricom (Centum Group)**
    - o Effectively digitalizing education with Longhorn Publishers, by developing a dynamic digital book platform for over 300,000 subscriptions in Kenya.
- **IT Infrastructure Implementation Lead | Two Rivers Smart City Project**
    - o Spearheaded the groundbreaking Two Rivers Smart City Project, a pioneering initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa and a renowned case study on smart cities.
    - o Conceptualized and executed the project design and implementation, raising USD 4 million in project funding.
    - o Innovated and deployed GPON Fiber to the Building (FTTx), Active LAN and WIFI, a state-of-the-art Data Center (100KW and 20 racks), and extensive security measures including over 600 CCTV cameras, Intelligent Video Management Systems, Intelligent Operations Center (SOC/NOC), Under Vehicle Surveillance Systems (UVSS), and Trace Detectors.

- Developed and implemented Smart Billing and Smart Metering solutions, along with a Smart Parking solution.
- Created a regulated eWallet approved by the Central Bank of Kenya and a multi-tenant loyalty system to enhance customer engagement and financial transactions.

Other Achievements

- Developed and managed over **15 group websites**, enhancing online presence and digital engagement Implemented responsive designs and optimized user experience, resulting in increased web traffic and customer interaction. Integrated advanced analytics and SEO strategies, leading to improved search engine rankings and visibility.
- Ensured seamless data migration, system integrations, reliable network performance, resulting in a 99% uptime and robust performance across the enterprise for 10 Years.
- Deployed Business Intelligence tools for the Centum Group, enhancing data-driven decision-making.
- Implemented Distributor Management System and Salesforce at King Beverage and Almasi Beverage using PHP, MySQL, and Google Maps
- Delivered CRM and HCM solutions, improving customer relationship management and human capital management processes.
- Automated Centum Group Board Pack, streamlining board meeting preparations and documentation resulting in improved efficiency, confidentiality and accountability of the board.
- Implemented EDMS and SharePoint, optimizing document management and collaboration. (impact on business)
- Virtualized the server environment, improving network quality of service (QoS).
- Established state-of-the-art teleconference and video conferencing systems, improving communication and collaboration.
- Installation and deployment of IT infrastructure (CCTV, Access Barriers, Fiber, Structure cabling and Triple play services) for over 5,000 residential units in Uganda, Vipingo.
- Strengthened Cybersecurity and Information Security by implementing Intrusion Detection System and data loss prevention mechanisms, significantly enhancing cybersecurity measures.

- Successfully achieved ISO 27001 certification, reinforcing the organization's commitment to information security and compliance with international standards.

General Manager (3+ years)

Jan 2020 – To date

Tier Data Limited, a Centum Group Subsidiary

Leading the execution and development of the business strategy to drive sustainable company growth, identify scalable opportunities, manage P&L responsibilities, and refine the business model strategy.

Achievements:
- Cultivated and managed relationships with clients, vendors, partners, and strategic enablers, resulting in a revenue to USD 1.61 million in the first year and a 25% year on year growth for 3 consecutive years.
- Spearheaded successful business development initiatives in line with the company's strategy and core competencies, as well as building and growing competent team to effectively deliver initiatives, on time, within budget and visible ROI.
- Secured crucial Government cooperation and licensing from the Communications Authority, National Construction Authority, and ICT Authority through targeted business development efforts.
- Launched four successful products, achieving an annual revenue turnover of KES 200 million:
  - Smart Utility Meter Billing: revenuestadia.co.ke
  - Supply Chain Automation: procure.ke
  - HMIS: precisionpay.co.ke
  - Data Centre: ntcd.co.ke
  - Flynet (ISP)

Co-Founder & CTO

Oct 2010 - Jan 2013

Blue Range Automation

Designed, developed, implemented innovative systems and solutions for clients through strategy formulation, operations management, quality assurance and client management.
Team size: 35 on-site and remote developers

Achievements & Projects
- Annual Turnover: USD 300,000
- Safaricom IPO Automation - Citibank

- Gender-based sexual violence incident reporting on USSD, Android and IOS APP - National Gender and Equality Commission
- Digital Occurrence Book (OB), Service Standing Order App and Arms Register - Kenya National Police Service
- Uwiano National Crowdsourcing Platform for Conflict Prevention in Kenya Election- UNWomen
- Zambia Elections Monitoring tool - Hivos/Zambia Electoral Board
- Sikika police recruitment analysis Platform **-** Oxfam/PeaceNet
- ERP, Ticket and Courier Management System - Kampala Coach (Uganda and Mozambique)
- Student Exam Portal - KASNEB Kenya

Jan 2007 – Jun 2010

Systems Engineer (Programming)

Digital Concepts Ltd

Joined as a programmer and worked my way up to head the technical department with a team of seven seasoned programmers

Jan 2005 – Jun 2005

IT Support Engineer

Equity Bank Ltd

Provided IT support from 22 branches for ICT support services

Education

2014 - 2015

Master of Business Administration

USIU (United States International University)

2003 - 2007

BSC: Information Technology

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology

CISA

Certified Information Systems Auditor

CISM

Certified Information Security Manager

Accomplishments

- Under my leadership, Centum was awarded ISO 27001 information security certification with zero crystallization of security incidents for the past 10 years

- Recognized as one of the 100 top CIOs in Kenya by CIO100(2017).

- Appointed to the Information Management Adviser–State Department for Gender under the Ministry of Public Service and Gender (2020/2021)

- Recognition from the Kenya Government, Ministry of Justice and, National Cohesion and Constitutional Affairs on the development of UWIANO (2010)

Affiliations

ISACA
Member, Information Systems Audit and Control Association

CSK
Fellow, Computer Society of Kenya

Boards & Appointments

ICT Board Committee Member, Centum Investments (Since 2015)

Information Management Advisor, State Department for Gender, Kenya (Since 2020)