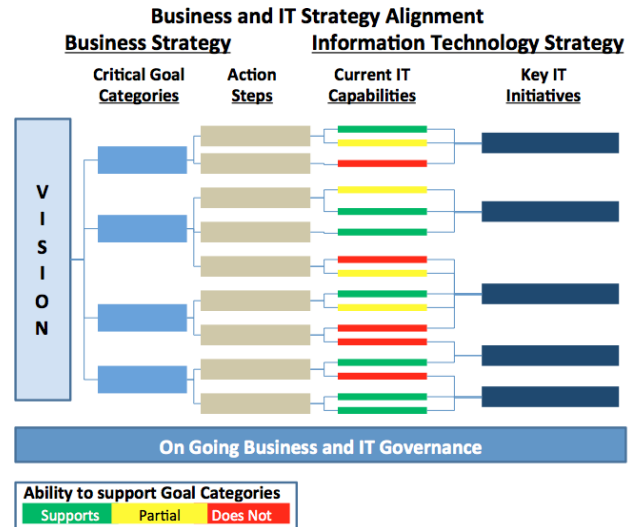


## The Need for Alignment

Successful organizations recognize the need to have a closely aligned Information Technology (IT) strategy to its overall Business Strategy. This is a critical process to ensure that the organization has focused its investment in people, processes and technology to achieve the Critical Goals that were identified during the planning process.

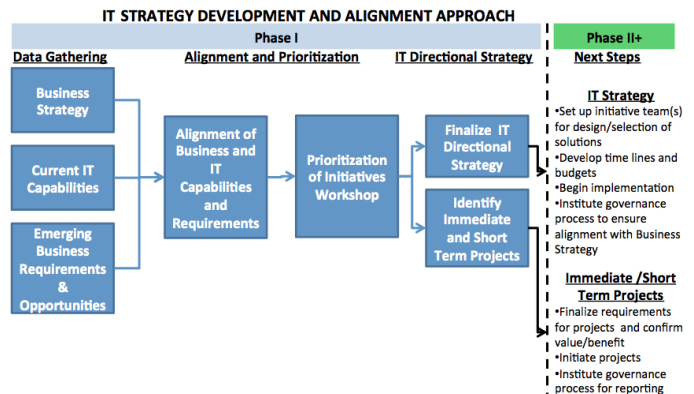
The chart on the right represents a graphical analysis of the Current Capabilities of the organization's IT systems to support the Critical Goals. This degree of fit is represented by the red, yellow and green coding which is a score card for identifying the areas for the Key IT Initiatives development activities to support the identified Critical Goals. Understanding this fit/gap relationship is critical to ensuring that the overall Business Strategy is achieved as desired.



## A Process for Results

Phase I of the IT Strategy Alignment process is typically a 4 to 8 week process intended to synthesize, align and prioritize the Critical Goals of the Business Strategy along with the Current IT capabilities and other Emerging Business Requirements and Opportunities.

Subsequent phases drill down into the detail design and implementation requirements as well as the day-to-day tasks of keeping IT running. This step is important as it identifies capacity constraints that may need to be mitigated in order to achieve the Critical Goals.



## Key Activities

- Conduct interviews with Key Stake Holders
- Review Business Strategy
- Conduct High-level review of IT capabilities
- Document emerging business requirements and opportunities
- Develop strawman of IT Initiatives in alignment with Business Strategy
- Conduct Structured Workshop with stakeholders to establish priorities for IT Initiatives based on value/benefit
- Prepare high-level IT Initiatives roadmap
- Identify Immediate and Short Term Projects
- Document issues for further consideration

IT Strategy Alignment – Tasks and Time

Activity	Line	Week			
	0	1	2	3	4
<b>IT Strategy Development</b>					
<b>Preparation</b>					
<b>Data Gathering</b>					
Capture Current State					
Review and Evaluate Business Plan					
Relate to Business Strategy to determine Gaps					
Develop High Level Process Map					
<b>Alignment and Prioritization</b>					
Initial Review of Future State Gaps to Current State					
Prioritization Workshop					
<b>IT Directional Strategy</b>					
Develop Recommendations and agreed upon deliverables					
Present to Management					
<b>Management Check Points</b>		A	A	A	A