Ali Rana

Technology Evangelist | Head of IT | AI Strategy & Architecture | Digital Transformation Leader

Global mobility | Open to roles in US, Australia, or Asia-Pacific (remote/hybrid)
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I'm a senior technology leader who thrives at the intersection of people, strategy, and systems. With 20+ years of experience across EdTech, telco, and consulting, I translate complexity into elegant, scalable solutions that enable meaningful outcomes.

Currently Head of IT for Navitas' Careers & Industry division, I lead enterprise strategy, IT operations, and technology innovation across Australia, the US, and beyond. My work spans AI enablement (e.g., Cogniti.ai deployment), enterprise architecture (One Navitas Blueprint), privacy and security transformation (ROPA, ISO27001), and oversight of strategic platforms such as Navigate, Salesforce, Moodle, and Google Workspace—ensuring they meet evolving business needs, support integration efforts, and are continuously improved in partnership with Corporate IT and key stakeholders.

I've established an IT Projects Office and restructured the team to improve agility, adding specialist roles and a stronger cross-functional operating model. I lead data and digital communities of practice, embed design-thinking across projects, and actively drive cultural change through collaboration and trust.

SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Enabled Generative AI in Education** by championing Cogniti.ai trial rollout across SAE and ACAP, aligning AI innovation with academic needs and broader enterprise direction.
- **Built an IT Projects Operating Framework** linking PMO with a new IT Projects Office, enabling transparent prioritisation and planning across 40+ divisional projects.
- Led divisional IT contributions to **ISO27001 certification renewal**, remediating critical controls and aligning with group-wide security standards.
- **Designed and delivered the IT architecture** for CSU-managed campuses in Sydney and Melbourne, replacing an impractical "Campus in a Box" model with a fit-for-purpose solution aligned across Corporate IT, CSU, and divisional leadership.
- Successfully **decommissioned Campaign Enterprise** marketing system, overcoming vendor inaccessibility and transitioning to HubSpot.
- Co-authored the **One Navitas Architecture Blueprint**—laying the foundation for CRM, platform consolidation, and identity strategy across the group.
- Drove **cost-saving renewals and licensing strategy** for enterprise platforms including Adobe, Canvas, Front, and Slack.
- Standardised **IT procurement and asset management** through Finance collaboration, eliminating manual tracking and improving CAPEX visibility.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Head of IT – Careers & Industry Division
Navitas Pty Ltd | Melbourne, Australia (Global Role – Hybrid) | Nov 2022 – Present
Lead IT strategy, operations, and digital transformation for Navitas' Careers & Industry division, managing a 21-person team across four countries. Spearheaded a restructure, created an IT Projects Office, and introduced specialist roles to improve delivery and cross-functional alignment. Championed GenAI enablement (Cogniti), led IT strategy for CSU campuses, and drove system simplification initiatives including CRM and marketing automation transitions.

Digital Program Manager – Careers & Industry Division
Navitas Pty Ltd | Melbourne, Australia | Jan 2022 – Oct 2022
Established and operationalised the Digital Program Office (DPO), developing prioritisation frameworks and executive reporting tools for 40+ active projects. Designed portfolio governance, enabled architectural alignment, and laid the foundation for scaled agile operations.

Manager, Analytics & Innovation – Cloud Learning
Deakin University | Melbourne, Australia | Mar 2020 – Dec 2021

Led the design and delivery of data-driven platforms for learning and teaching. Delivered Deakin's flagship Learning Analytics app and a full-stack cloud timetabling platform for 15K+ students. Provided strategic advisory to executives on data use, innovation, and agile delivery.

Program & Information Manager – Cloud Campus
Deakin University | Melbourne, Australia | Mar 2018 – Mar 2020
Oversaw delivery of 40+ online learning initiatives through lean governance models. Launched analytics services and served as Acting Director for a team of 17. Strengthened data management, service design, and cross-campus collaboration.

Consultant Project Manager – Deakin Client
IMA Management & Technology | Melbourne, Australia | Mar 2016 – Feb 2018
Led digital transformation projects for Deakin including DeakinSync portal redesign, IBM Watson AI refresh, and end-to-end RPL system implementation. Bridged technical and business teams across compliance, automation, and UX strategy.

Project & Service Delivery Leadership
Huawei Technologies | Bahrain | Dec 2011 – Dec 2015
Managed USD 25M LTE rollout, winning global recognition for project performance. Led service delivery for a USD 200M telco, secured a national LTE tender, and delivered high-availability telecom systems across wireless, core, and IP domains.

Technical & Integration Leadership – Wireless Networks
Motorola & Nokia Siemens Networks | Pakistan & Bahrain | Dec 2004 – Nov 2011
Led high-availability network deployments and multi-country rollouts. Improved SLAs, negotiated vendor contracts, and introduced automation across support and integration teams.

SKILLS & TOOLS
IT Strategy | Enterprise Architecture | GenAI Enablement | Data & Analytics | Cybersecurity | CRM/SMS Platforms | Agile Delivery | Vendor Management | Solution Architecture | Digital Transformation | Stakeholder Engagement

Projects: Atlassian suite, GitLab, SharePoint, MS Project, MS Office advanced
Visual Design: Sketch App, InVision, Adobe Creative Cloud, Miro
Cloud Platforms & Infrastructure: AWS, Azure, Docker, GitLab, Workato (integrations)
Digital Prototyping & Web Dev: NextJS (React), TailwindCSS, Nest.js, Angular, Node, Mongo, PostgreSQL, Strapi
Analytics & Data Science: Data Bricks, D3js, Spark, Python, R, scikit-learn, RapidMiner, PowerBI, Tableau
Architecture & Modelling: Archimate, Sparx Systems, Draw.io, Camunda Modeller, Visio, DBSchema
Automation: RobotFramework, Robocorp, Power Automate, Pipefy, VBA, VSCode, Selenium

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EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS
Graduate Certificate in Cyber Security Operations (In Progress), UNSW. **Manager's Advancement Program**, Deakin University. **MS Telecommunications**, NUST | CGPA: 4.0/4.0. **BSc Electrical Engineering**, UET Lahore

Certifications:
- Prompt Flow (Advanced AI Apps & Hands-On), Microsoft (2024)
- ITIL v3 Foundation | Lean Six Sigma (Motorola)
- SAFe Practitioner | MSP Practitioner | PRINCE2 Foundation
- Machine Learning (Stanford), Agile Software Development (ETH Zurich)

AWARDS & RECOGNITION
- FY24 Leadership Incentive Plan Award – Navitas Executive Board & CEO
- ISO27001 Certification – Led IT remediation for divisional accreditation
- CEO Appreciation – 480-site LTE launch delivered ahead of schedule
- Huawei Global Gold Medal – Top-performing project leader globally
- Navitas INSPIRE Award Nominee (2022 & 2024)
- NUST National Scholarship for Academic Excellence