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Following the failure of the Staples acquisition Office Depot announces another big purchase-- system integration giant CompuCom, a deal worth approximately $1 billion.

"Technology is the office supply of the future," Office Depot CEO Gerry Smith says. "Today marks a significant milestone as we move to provide a unique business services platform for our current and future customers. Acquiring CompuCom is the first step in this new strategic direction."

Founded in 1987, CompuCom provides managed IT services, products and solutions to both enterprise and SMB segments. it employs 6000 technicians (the largest workforce of its kind in N. America) and procures, installs and manages the lifecycle of hardware and software for businesses, as well as support services such as remote help desk, datacentres and on-site professionals.

Through the acquisition Office Depot plans to put CompuCom-run tech kiosks in all 1400 stores, allowing customers to access IT services while buying traditional office supplies-- creating an "immediate cross-selling opportunity with minimal overlap."

Go Office Depot Takes First Step in Strategic Transformation to Become Business Services Platform with Acquisition of CompuCom