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Designed for Change

How today's CIOs use data and
the cloud as the engine of
business agility

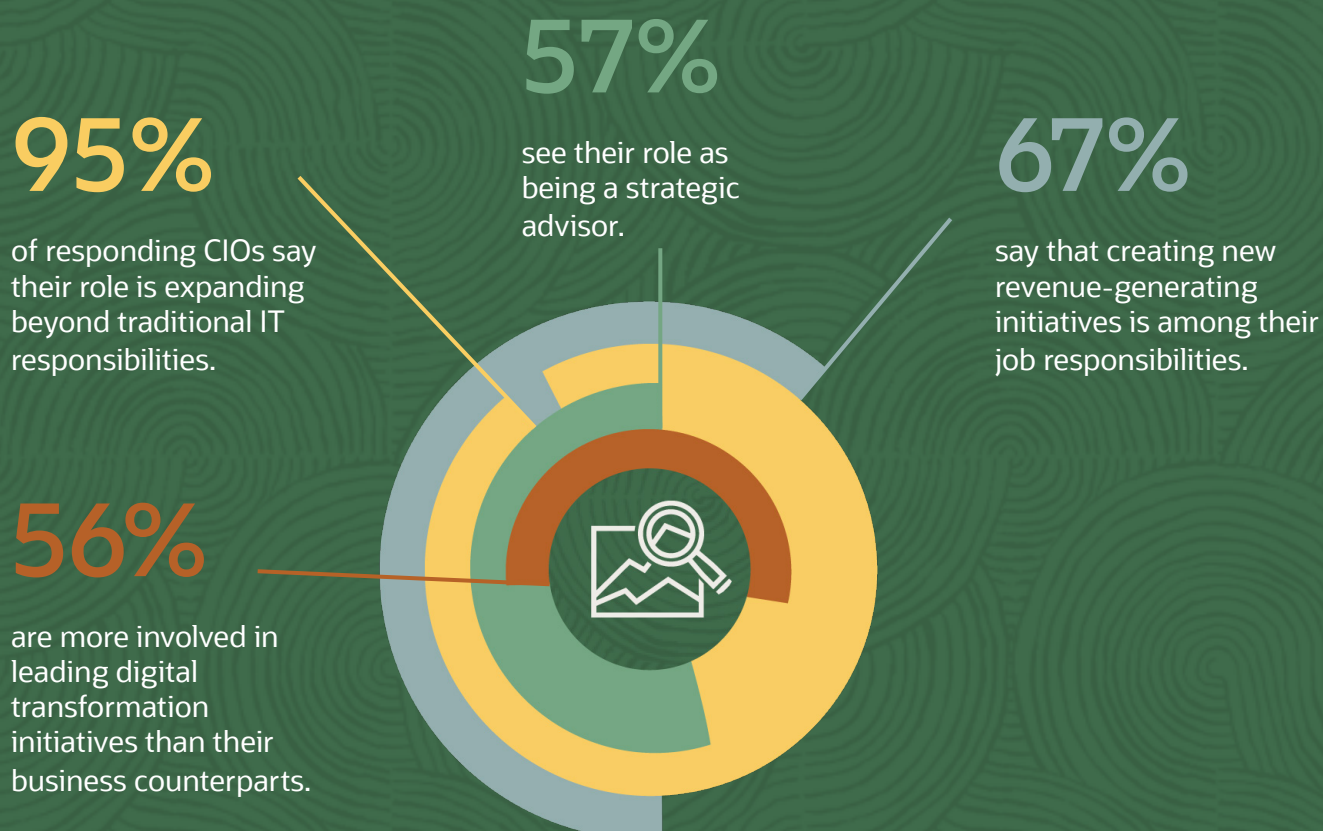


The state of the CIO

In 2003 the Harvard Business Review published a controversial essay by Nicholas Carr entitled “[IT Doesn't Matter](#),” which made the case that the evolution of information technology was following a pattern similar to that of railroads and electric power.

In retrospect, that argument appears almost absurd. IT is now not only a major source of competitive advantage in nearly every market, but should also be counted among the business heroes of the recent pandemic response and are also the driving force behind organizations acting faster than ever before on their digitization plans.

The growing centrality of IT to business strategy is supported by research such as [IDG's 2020 State of the CIO survey](#).



How your cloud strategy drives IT as agents of change

As IT leaders take on more strategic roles, they are eagerly shedding traditional manual tasks associated with maintaining data centers. This is one of the important dynamics driving cloud adoption. But the value of the cloud is increasingly being regarded as far greater than relieving monotony. Cloud platforms are now valued as enablers of business agility, as engines for innovation.

Transform IT with the cloud



Rapidly prototype and test new ideas without the cost and delay of provisioning hardware and installing software.



Scale computing resources up and down as needed without incurring large fixed costs.



Simplify data-driven applications by converging databases while securing data.



Access a wide range of ecosystem partners that innovate on top of the underlying platform.



Reduce risk and implement a security-first posture that better protects workloads and data from cybersecurity threats.

Whether you are doing a large scale migration to the cloud, or rolling out one workload at a time, the cloud can be a key enabler in creating data-centric businesses and laying the path to digital transformation. [Learn more about Oracle Cloud's next generation infrastructure services built for all of your workloads.](#)

Cloud challenges still exist

In its recent report, “[Moving Beyond ‘as a Service’ with Cloud 2.0](#),” analyst firm Ovum found that global enterprises are moving more slowly toward adopting the public cloud than small and midsize enterprises (SMEs). Their research shows that while 10% of SMEs report that infrastructure spending will increase by 6% or more in the coming 12 months, nearly 25% of global enterprises plan such increases.

Why this discrepancy?

One reason may be that large firms face more obstacles than small ones in navigating the course toward the cloud, including:

1. Skills issues

Ovum found that 45% of respondents cited skills shortages and cultural resistance as their biggest challenges. Some long-term employees resist change that they see as a threat to their influence or even their job, and cloud adoption also requires new skills that many organizations don’t have in-house.

Many of the skills issues can be addressed through automation. Next-generation cloud infrastructure is based on automation at every layer, including databases, applications, and security. Automation enables IT professionals to focus on enabling end users to handle more of their reporting needs rather than on patching and troubleshooting.



2. Organizational readiness issues

Today, many organizations are heavily siloed due to acquisitions or legacy lines of business, which can translate to the second highest-rated challenge from Ovum's research—organizational readiness. [Learn more about cloud adoption trends and some more of the challenges that companies face when moving to cloud.](#)

Cloud platforms provide a consistent framework and toolset for performing tasks across an organization, reducing complexity and simplifying choices. When organizations make well-reasoned platform and architecture selections while migrating in stages at a comfortable speed, disruption can be minimized.



3. Cloud provider trust issues

IDG's "2020 State of the CIO" survey found that 89% of IT leaders say they increasingly need to rely upon trusted advisors to help them navigate new technologies, processes, and methodologies. Despite the industry's rapid growth, customers often complain that vendors aren't fully transparent with them, especially when it comes to:

Data egress

Some cloud providers impose on customers for moving data off their platforms. Egress fees can add thousands of dollars to the cost of moving a customer's own data to a different platform.

Vendor lock-in

Some customers fear that they will become too dependent on a particular cloud provider's infrastructure or unable to shift workloads elsewhere. This is one of the major reasons customers spread workloads across multiple clouds. Complex contracts, hidden surcharges, and failure to alert customers to costly oversights such as unused instances.

Data security

A vague understanding of what cloud providers do with their customer's data, and low confidence that they will be notified of security breaches.



To overcome these issues, CIOs should look for trusted cloud partners that have earned the loyalty of their customers over years of experience, are transparent about the cost of using their services, and provide constant feedback to customers about costs and opportunities for savings.



Chart your course with a next generation cloud platform

Businesses that are migrating to the cloud today can choose from a much more robust line of next generation cloud options that incorporate advanced levels of automation, performance tuning, scaling, and security as part of the basic service. This enables them to shift workloads more quickly, completely, and securely than they could just a few years ago. The selection of the right cloud partners is fundamental to the success of the business. Not only does IT matter, it's often all that matters in distinguishing leaders from laggards.

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