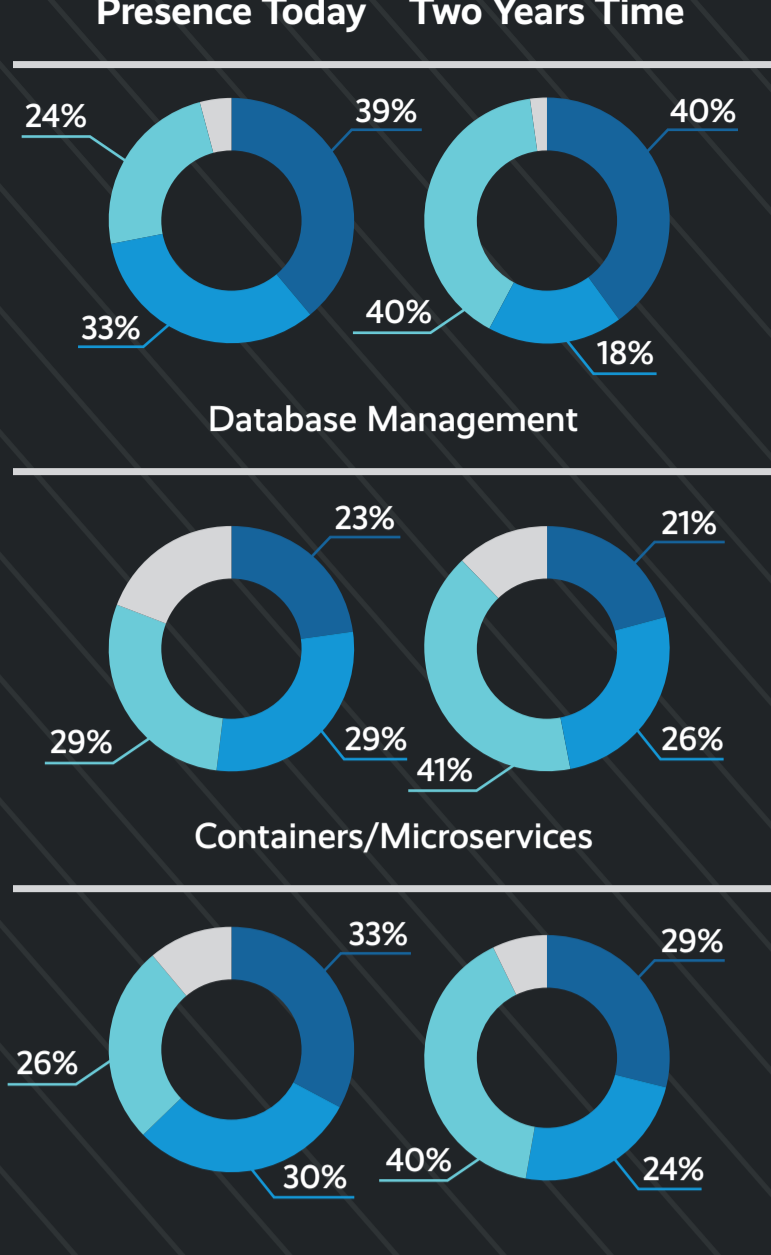


The Hybrid IT Imperative

Building a foundation for Digital Transformation

In a recent research study, 819 IT professionals worldwide gave us their thoughts on the fast-emerging world of Hybrid IT, its value, relevance and usage today.



- On-Premises (or Private Hosting)
- Both Cloud and On-Prem
- Public Cloud
- Neither/Unsure

Finding the right balance

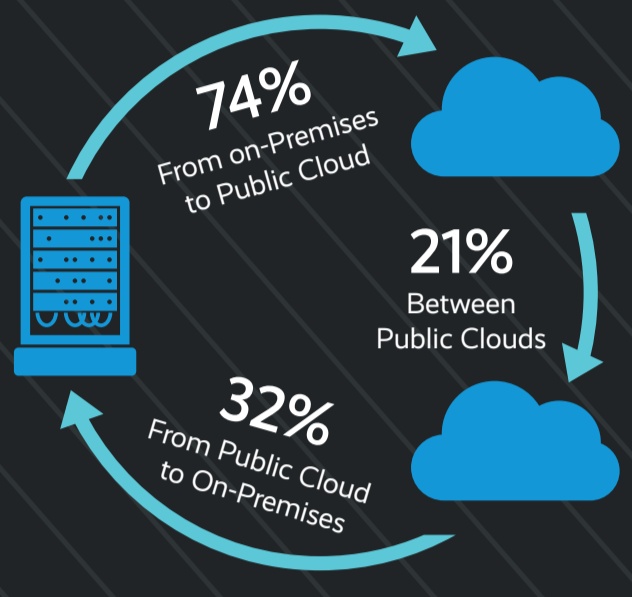
Whether it's on-prem, remotely hosted, cloud or a combination of all those, organizations are using a range of workload delivery models, even within a single application category. Looking ahead two years, we see less confusion, more cloud and the choices becoming a little more clear-cut, but the diversity will remain. Coping with that diversity - and indeed making it work together as a seamless whole - is where Hybrid IT comes in.

Similar patterns seen for other workloads such as business applications, classic virtualization, VDI, data protection, etc.

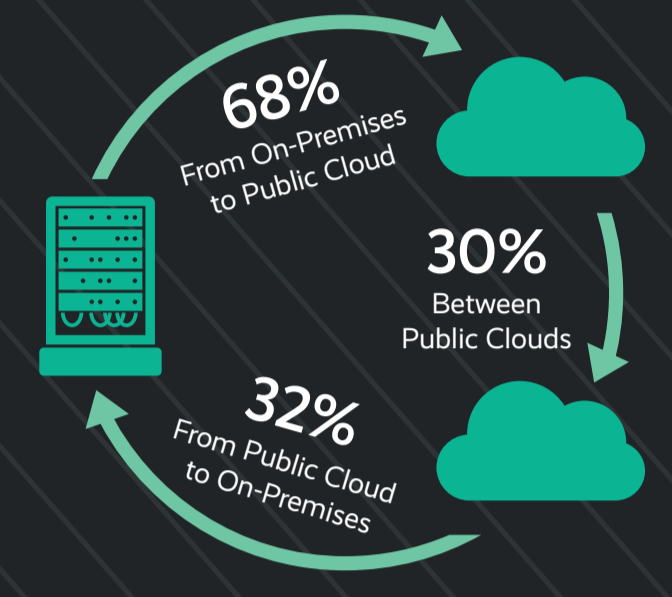
Workload mobility is essential

Migration happens in every direction, not just from on-prem to cloud - although that will remain the most common route. Workloads are also being brought back from the cloud, and there is a growing requirement to be able to move workloads from one cloud to another. And while many migrations are strategic, there are also tactical needs, e.g. to meet demand spikes or take advantage of spot pricing.

Have you undertaken any of the following types of migration over the past 2 years?



Are you currently undertaking or likely to do such migrations over the coming 2 years?



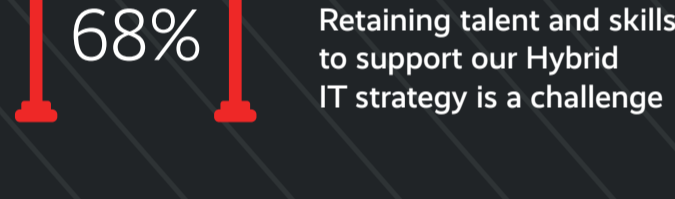
Strength in diversity

For many of our respondents, diversity is now the aim - it is seen as a strength to be preferred, not a weakness to be eliminated. That means making the strategic decision to use multiple cloud providers and also multiple software platform stacks, rather than standardizing on one and leaving yourself at risk of vendor lock-in.



Beating the skills shortage

Having the right skills for a Hybrid IT infrastructure is a major challenge. Not only does each constituent platform and delivery model require a specific skillset, but we also need people who can understand and analyze how those diverse platforms interact, and how they can come together as a seamless whole via the likes of portals and service catalogs.



Fortunately, there are solutions. Re-skilling your existing staff is an obvious one, but it is also possible to draw on suppliers and partners, whether for one-off skills needed only at set-up or for transferable skills that will be needed for the long term.

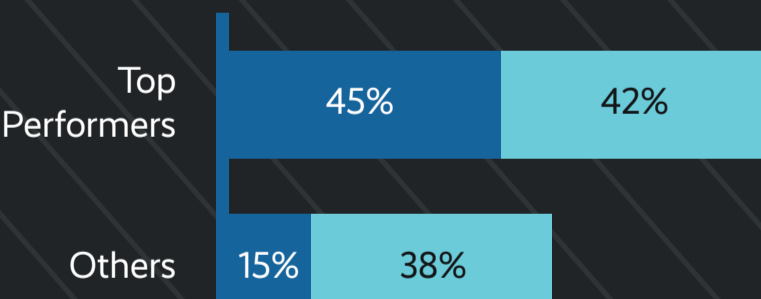


How do Top Performers see Hybrid IT?

A specially-constructed Performance Scorecard asks IT departments to rate themselves against key business metrics. We can then compare the Top Performers' thoughts and actions with those of the Others.



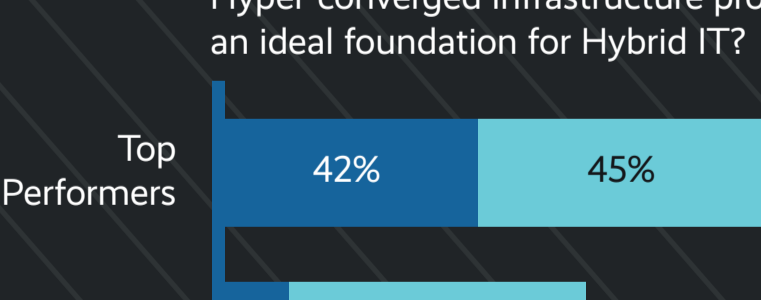
We are investing in new platforms to enable our Hybrid IT strategy?



Building with HCI

Top Performers think and act differently from the Others. They are far more likely to be investing in new platforms to enable Hybrid IT, for example to run the extra services needed to converge diverse platforms. And they are more likely to see HCI (hyper-converged architecture), with its unified management and software-based abstraction, as the ideal platform for new Hybrid IT.

Hyper-converged infrastructure provides an ideal foundation for Hybrid IT?



Understanding the value of Hybrid IT

Top Performers are also much more likely than the Others to see significant benefit in the use of Hybrid IT. They say it is valuable right across the spectrum, from application mobility and platform flexibility, through cost and performance optimization, to better security and management.

How would you rate the value (or potential value) of Hybrid IT in the following areas? (showing results where 'Significant Benefit' was selected)

