

2023

CIO Priorities and Interests



in association with



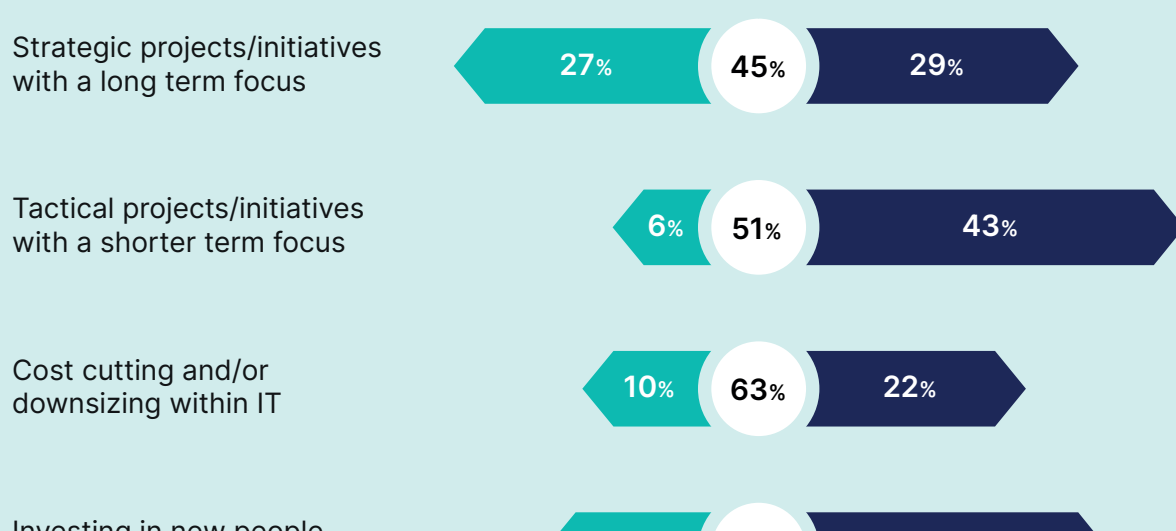
Reflecting on 2022 and Looking Ahead to 2023

In 2022, CIOs began the year with a renewed sense of optimism as the world gradually emerged from the pandemic's grip. However, unexpected geopolitical events introduced new challenges. As we embarked on 2023, we sought the perspectives of 50 CIO WaterCooler members through an online survey, and gathered feedback from 80 IT leaders attending a recent face-to-face event.

2022 retrospective

Overall, the biggest group of CIOs report that activity in key areas progressed as planned, but additional tactical work was needed to address unforeseen challenges.

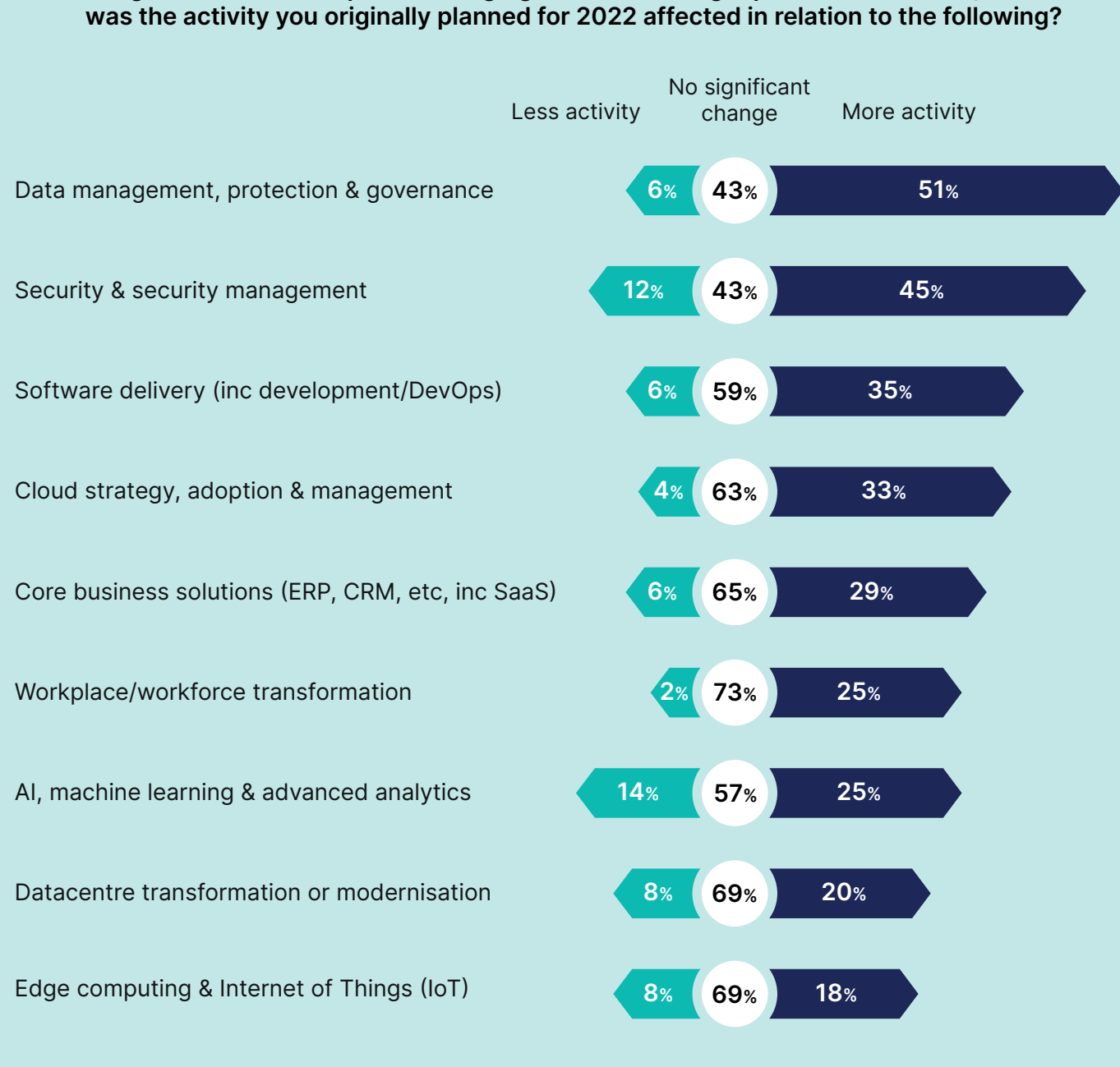
Against the backdrop of challenging economic and geopolitical conditions, how was the activity you originally planned for 2022 affected in relation to the following?



Planned vs actual in specific areas

Heightened focus on security and data management reflects evolving threats and increased uncertainty. Overall, IT teams were busier than expected.

Against the backdrop of challenging economic and geopolitical conditions, how was the activity you originally planned for 2022 affected in relation to the following?



Front-of-mind issues for 2023

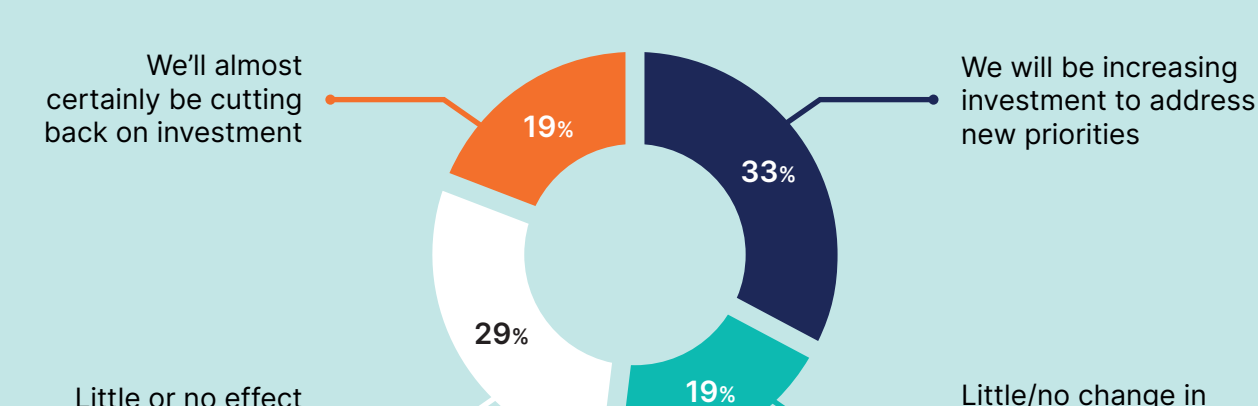
Before discussing 2023 plans, let's examine CIOs' current priorities. The list below ranks top challenges based on feedback gathered at a recent CIO WaterCooler event.

- Cybersecurity
- Digital transformation
- Data management
- Cloud migration
- Talent acquisition
- Retiring legacy systems
- Proliferation of data types
- Competing resource demands
- Senior leadership support
- Technology integration
- Reducing complexity
- Balancing tactical vs strategic

Impact of current economic climate

Coming back to the online survey results, only 1 in 5 foresee cost-cutting, a third plan to spend more, with others adjusting budget allocations without altering total investment.

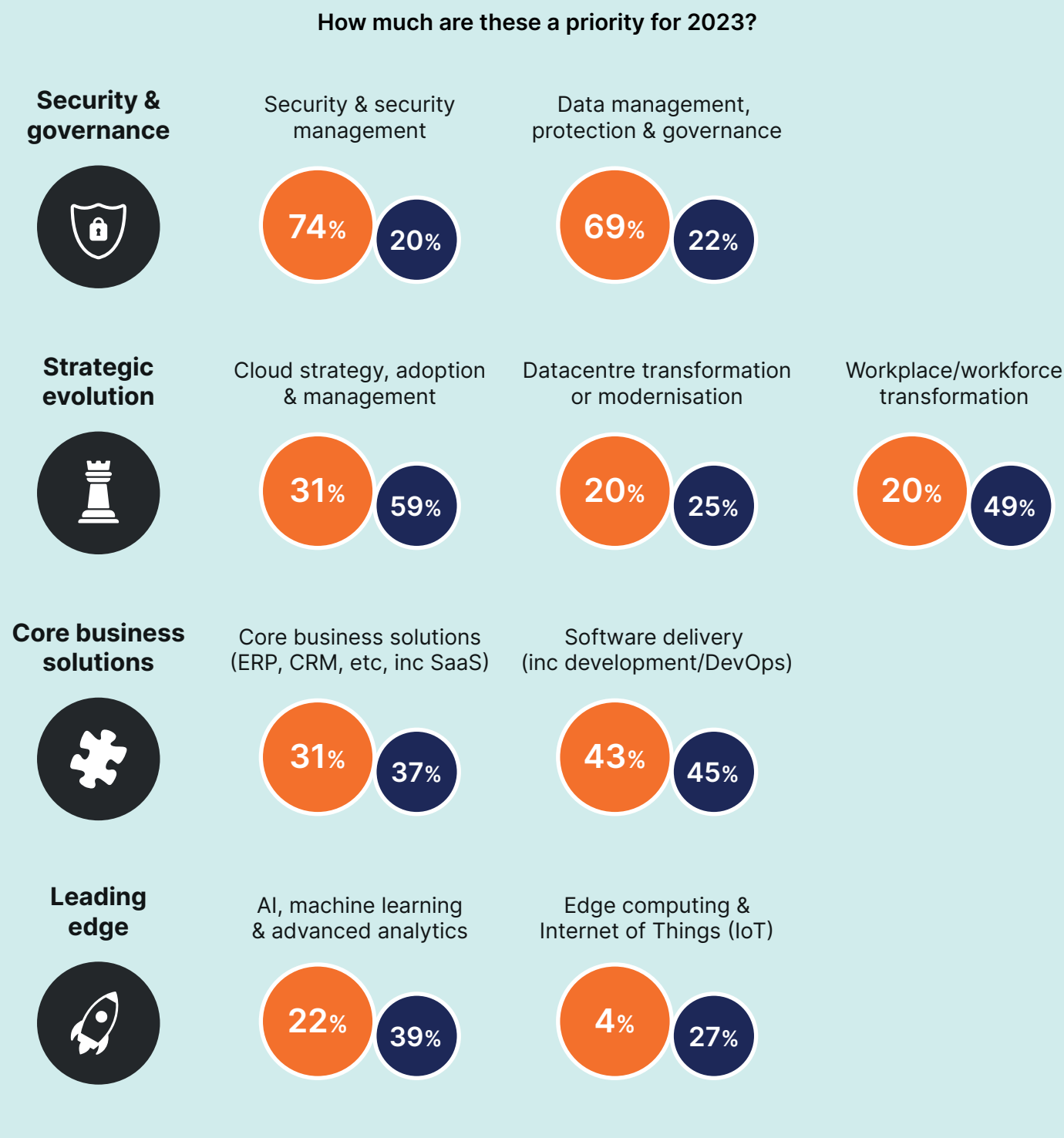
How do you see your 2023 plans and activities being impacted by the macro-economic challenges many are experiencing?



Drill down on 2023 priorities

Our survey data aligns with feedback from the face-to-face event. Digital transformation aside, security and data management dominate the agenda, with cloud and software delivery representing second order agenda items.

How much are these a priority for 2023?



Takeaways for IT suppliers

Past experiences, present priorities and future objectives shape the opportunity landscape. Bearing this in mind, here are some final thoughts.

- Much of what we see in this data is CIOs coming to terms with continued uncertainty and disruption as a result of external factors beyond their control, not least the ongoing geopolitical conflicts.
- Against this background, many CIOs are reporting fluidity in their plans, with the need to juggle investment priorities, though security and data management continue to be key imperatives.
- The good news for suppliers is that agility and change-readiness have become business critical, which is likely to lead to even more modernisation and transformation related investments.

This infographic is provided with the compliments of Freeform Dynamics and the CIO WaterCooler as part of the Trusted Partner Programme. The data comes from a survey of UK based IT leaders along with input gathered during a live CIO WaterCooler event that took place in Q1 of 2023. This document is for your internal use only.

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