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Tech Decision Makers Double Down on Cloud Adoption, According to Insight's Intelligent Technology Index

IT leaders are looking to manage for today and transform for tomorrow with security and the cloud as the top two areas for budget growth

TEMPE, Ariz., May 23, 2017 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- The large majority of technology decision makers (84 percent) say their organizations invested in cloud services in 2016. The adoption of cloud services in 2016 is a mirror image of the planned cloud investments expressed in last year's report.

According to **Insight's _2017 Intelligent Technology Index_** report, "As IT leaders make decisions and arrangements to straddle the needs of today and tomorrow, cloud services are becoming increasingly popular."

The survey finds that Software as a Service (57 percent) and Security as a Service (51 percent) continue to be the leading cloud computing models that companies are adopting. Infrastructure as a Service and Disaster Recovery as a Service lag behind, with a 39 and 34 percent adoption rate, respectively.

While only 15 percent have fully migrated their corporate application workloads to public clouds, 47 percent are more than halfway implemented in the cloud, with large and medium companies leading the way.

Type of Company	More than 50% implemented in the cloud
Large	63%
Medium	62%
Small	33%

Companies that did invest in cloud services saw tangible benefits, including:

- A more flexible and collaborative IT environment (61 percent)
- Safer data environment (59 percent)—this is increasingly important as 68 percent of respondents say data privacy is their top concern
- Better remote access (55 percent)
- Improved support from providers (48 percent)
- Faster speed to market (36 percent)
- Reduction in capital expenditure fees (35 percent)

"While an on-premise strategy makes sense for many business workloads, cloud computing continues to gain market share. Cloud-based infrastructure allows companies to be extremely nimble and lean, shifting the bulk of operational responsibility to the service provider," said Mike Gaumond, SVP services at Insight. "However, some companies employ workloads and applications that work better in an on-premise environment, which is why the hybrid cloud model is gaining traction and providing organizations with an integrated approach."

2017 budget allocations show cloud adoption is a priority

Technology influencers identify security (55 percent) and the cloud (44 percent) as the top two areas in which their IT budgets need to grow. Companies that say they are increasing their 2017 IT budgets as well as companies that are more than halfway implemented in the cloud are significantly more likely to feel that security and the cloud need additional investment.

Marketing (33 percent), sales (33 percent), and mobile (30 percent) comprise the second tier for desired budget growth.

IT infrastructure receives an above average grade

IT professionals give their current IT infrastructure an average grade of "B," which is a modest uptick from a "B minus" in 2016. However, they still face challenges when it comes to optimization, with upgrading existing hardware and software as the biggest pain point (53 percent), followed by:

- Integration of applications without threatening the core architecture (38 percent)
- Integration of mobile / hybrid devices without threatening the core architecture (34 percent)
- Better visibility into traffic patterns and data management (32 percent)

"IT leaders may be showing improved optimism around their ability to manage their IT infrastructures today, but are also equally as apprehensive about the future," said Steve Dodenhoff, President of Insight U.S. "In the rapidly changing technology and business landscape, their concerns are valid. They not only need to operate to meet today's business needs, but they also need to navigate emergent technologies, applications and complex data environments in order to provide a rich and flexible technology ecosystem that enables their organizations to keep pace and drive transformation."

Survey Methodology

The Intelligent Technology Index, first released in 2016, is a survey conducted on behalf of Insight among a random sample of 401 IT professionals with decision-making responsibilities. Fieldwork was conducted by Market Insights Group between November 28, 2016 and December 7, 2016. The margin of error associated with the sample size of 401 is +/- 4.9% at a 95% confidence level. For this research, small companies are defined as having less than 100 employees; medium companies having 100 to 999 employees; and large companies having 1,000 or more employees.

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