

Forbes
INSIGHTS

Looking Forward: The CIO Of 2025

Asia-Pacific

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

vmware[®] **intel**[®]



Multicloud Is A Must-Have

Important as the cloud already is, next-generation cloud and multicloud are expected to play even more important roles in the global, digital economy. In fact, 64% of CIOs believe that multicloud infrastructure will help accelerate innovation in their companies in the next few years.

In a survey of more than 600 CIOs conducted by Forbes Insights on behalf of VMware, executives around the globe were asked to identify their priorities between now and 2025, their concerns looking forward and how their role is changing.

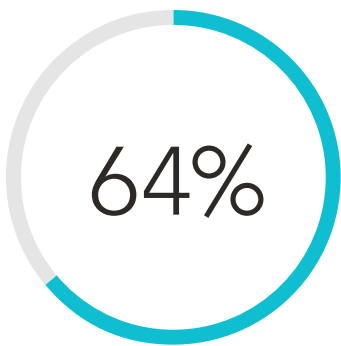
We learned that nearly all CIOs already have a multicloud strategy in place and that 52% are already using more than one cloud provider. This number is expected to jump to 90% in five years. This doesn't surprise Sumit Dhawan, president of VMware. "There is a world of amazing innovations and services out there for anyone who's on this path of digitization," he says, "and that's all available in the cloud."

The great majority of CIOs in Asia-Pacific markets (81%) reported that they are deployed across more than one cloud platform and one in five (22%) have between four and 10 public cloud engagements.

According to Dhawan, there's no question that—despite some additional complexity—multicloud is the best path forward. In fact, he cautions, "There are certain cases where dependency and reliance on a certain single public cloud provider is potentially a business risk."

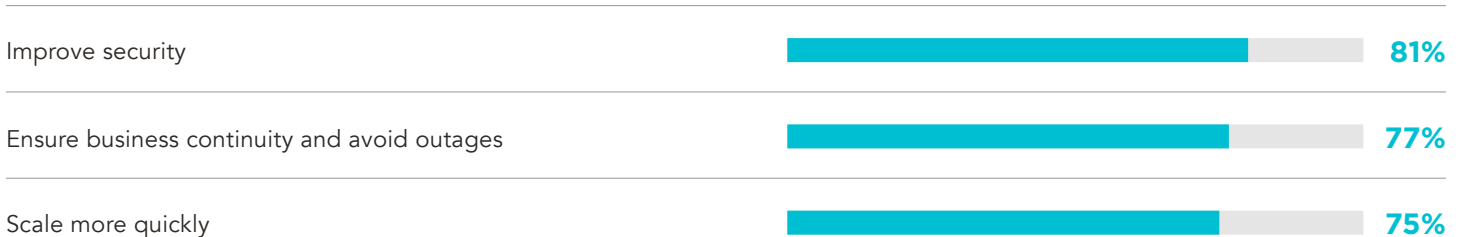
For starters, your ability to innovate is tethered to this single provider and their capacity for innovation. And, in some markets, there may also be local issues over the safe handling of data. Indeed, multicloud is already important to 75% of CIOs who must meet regional regulatory requirements.

Many CIOs are already leveraging multicloud for conventional IT functions, but Dhawan notes that it's capable of much more. "Multiple experiences, tailored to customer engagement needs, running and operating on a consistent platform that caters to the need of developers to leverage the velocity and flexibility provided by multicloud: That platform is what we, as VMware, are committed to providing," he says.



believe that multicloud infrastructure will help accelerate innovation.

Top reasons CIOs are using multicloud



Start Modernizing Your App Pipeline Today

Applications can be built in two ways, according to Dhawan: the old way or the right way. Traditional app pipelines were built to meet specific business needs as they arose, he explains. This “line of business” approach puts IT on reactive footing: Please build X to solve Y problem.

Modern pipelines, on the other hand, are designed to create a “holistic customer experience,” breaking down barriers that have traditionally kept CIOs at arm’s length from strategic business decisions. According to our survey, multicloud technology is at the center of this shift.

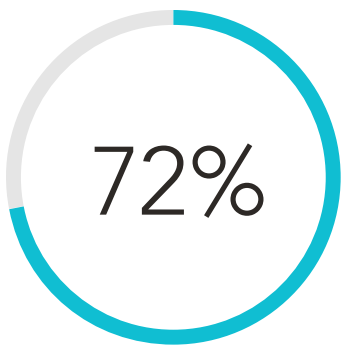
CIOs say that modern applications are considered critical to remain price-competitive (53%); stay ahead of the competition (52%); and maintain more efficient, lower-cost supply chains (51%). Seventy percent say their companies would benefit from greater simplicity across their many platforms, and 68% want a more seamless developer experience.

Moreover, 72% think that CIOs should take “a bold leap forward” in developing their application strategies. Already, one in five CIOs is managing between 11 and 20 modern applications; by 2025, that number is expected to nearly double (38%).

When asked which technologies accelerate innovation and adoption of other technologies, 37% of CIOs in Asia-Pacific markets cited modern applications. The majority of CIOs in APAC had security top of mind: 58% were concerned with maintaining cybersecurity defenses.

Dhawan recommends a three-pronged approach to improving cybersecurity without compromising innovation. First, consolidate your cloud engagements. “If you’re going to have a private data center, and you’re going to have multicloud, and you’re going to build a bunch of applications, you’ve increased the surface area,” he says. In this scenario, security should be centralized on a multicloud platform provider, not distributed across each service.

Second, make sure your security is baked in, not added on. “Security that’s intrinsic to the infrastructure and the platform gives you the ability to create checks at the technology level,” Dhawan says.



think that CIOs should take “a bold leap forward” in developing their application strategies.



Finally, add security measures and dynamic capabilities into the app pipeline itself. "When you're building the applications, you're creating an assumption that attacks will happen," Dhawan points out.

By using multicloud to create their pipelines, CIOs can build, run and manage cloud-native apps at scale. This increases reliability and efficiency while reducing cost and time to market.

Hybrid Workplaces Are No Longer Optional

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, many executives were forced to transition to remote or partially remote workforces. Going forward, many industries must find ways to create hybrid employee experiences if they expect to attract and keep top talent.

According to our survey, empowering a hybrid workforce is a top priority for CIOs, with CIOs working in APAC reporting that IT is actively working to unlock the power of hybrid work environments. In fact, CIOs in the Asia-Pacific market are bullish on IT's role throughout the organization: to inspire, create a defensible competitive advantage and help exceed customer expectations.

What's keeping CIOs from delivering high-quality work-from-anywhere capabilities right now? For 59%: insufficient multicloud resources and capabilities. Across sectors, this reality is prompting executives and other business leaders to reassess their workplace architectures. "CIOs have to step in and lead that," Dhawan says. "They can actually drive the agenda within the company."

Our survey shows that CIOs are answering this call: 60% are more involved in corporate strategy and development, and 64% say technology issues are more important at board and executive staff meetings. Most CIOs (59%) have already seen an increase in their shares of revenue-generating responsibilities.

In APAC, 60% of CIOs already sit on their boards, which may explain why 76% of APAC's CIOs are also more likely to report an increased importance for technology-related matters in board and executive staff meetings: Their input is more highly valued.

Dhawan is optimistic for this CIO-driven, hybrid-work future. The ultimate goal, he says, is empowering employees. "No digitization or business model transition or even growth is going to happen without a productive, happy workforce," he says. "This is where VMware helps our customers to create equitable Anywhere Workspace solutions so that every worker can get the best experience."

"Security that's intrinsic to the infrastructure and the platform gives you the ability to create checks at the technology level."

SUMIT DHAWAN
President, VMware



Forbes Insights is the strategic research and thought leadership practice of Forbes Media, a global media, branding and technology company whose combined platforms reach nearly 94 million business decision makers worldwide on a monthly basis.

By leveraging proprietary databases of senior-level executives in the Forbes community, Forbes Insights conducts research on a wide range of topics to position brands as thought leaders and drive stakeholder engagement. Research findings are delivered through a variety of digital, print and live executions, and amplified across Forbes' social and media platforms.