# CITO RESEARCH

# 2017
# EXECUTIVE CLOUD SURVEY

## What IT Leaders Are Worried About

**COMMVAULT®**

> **The number one barrier to moving to the cloud is staff. That is what I hear from everyone. It's the culture of moving to the cloud.**
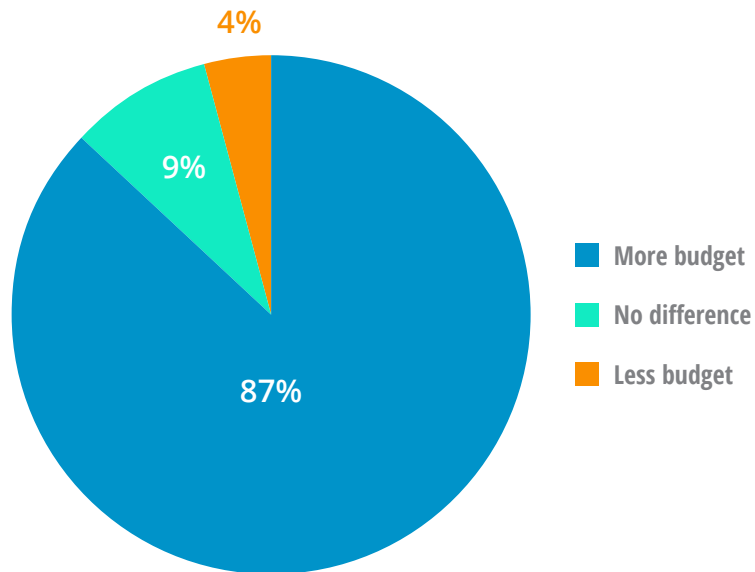>
> CTO PANEL PARTICIPANT

> " For large companies, I find convincing leadership is the biggest challenge. You don't see this with the leadership at small companies – they just want to go the cloud immediately. "

CTO PANEL PARTICIPANT

# Cloud spending will continue to rise

**HOW DO YOU SEE YOUR IT BUDGET FOR CLOUD CHANGING FOR THE NEXT BUDGET YEAR?**

4%

9%

87%

- ■ More budget
- ■ No difference
- ■ Less budget

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Despite these fears and the challenges companies face with the cloud, their determination to use it and recognition of its importance is unwavering. 87% of respondents said they plan to increase their cloud budget in the year, compared to just 4% who plan to spend less.

What's important is how companies make and protect those cloud investments.

**87% of respondents plan to increase their cloud budget in the next year, while only 4% plan to spend less.**

> **Companies need to realize that moving to the cloud might be budget neutral for them – and it probably should be. It's not reducing your data and IT budget, you're just applying that budget elsewhere.**
>
> **If you do get cost savings, you can then apply them to artificial intelligence or data analytics because you can do more with the cloud.**

CTO PANEL PARTICIPANT

# Cloud impact

Given how positively leaders view cloud, it's not a surprise that organizations see it impacting a range of projects. Managing data is a broad concern.

Apart from data storage (an important but straightforward use of the cloud), respondents cited the concept of protecting and recovering data. After all, the whole point of backing up data is so that it can be effectively recovered, a process that should be tested to ensure it works as expected. More than two-thirds of IT leaders cited the impact of projects related to data protection and backup, the backup and recovery (and uptime) of SaaS applications, and disaster recovery.

Cloud can play a big role in modernizing disaster recovery plans. Compared to traditional disaster recovery targets, cloud has more flexibility and speed in times of emergency, whether it's a natural disaster or business issue causing a service interruption. 67% of respondents saw cloud as impactful on their disaster recovery plans.

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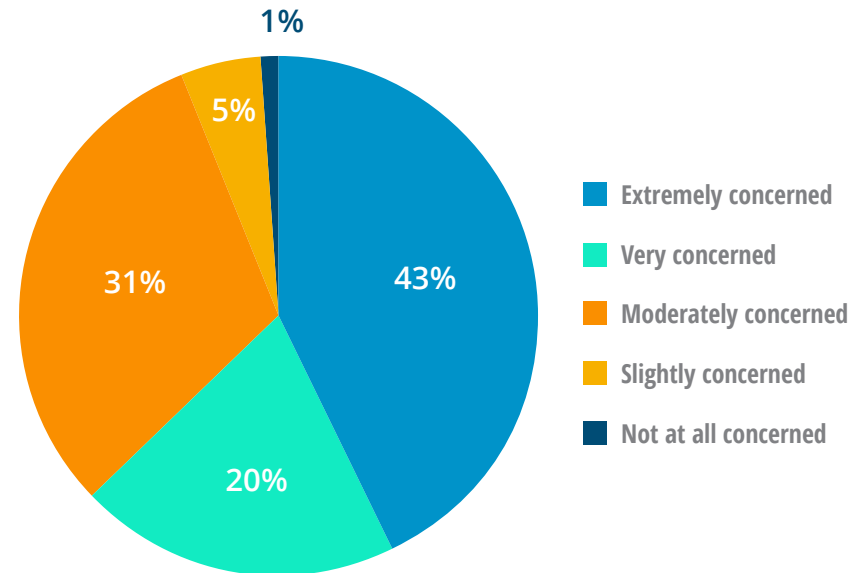
## WHAT CLOUD PROJECTS DO YOU SEE AS MOST IMPACTFUL ON YOUR BUSINESS?

| Project | % |
|---|---|
| Data protection and backup | 75% |
| Data storage | 73% |
| SaaS apps: uptime, backup and recovery | 68% |
| Disaster recovery | 67% |
| Application databases moving to the cloud | 41% |

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# Is SaaS data really protected?

Increasing reliance on SaaS applications led us to question how much thought goes into protecting the data in those applications, or even integrating it for purposes such as BI. One member of our CTO panel put it this way: "I was surprised more CIOs didn't say that software as a service was the main way the cloud can change their business in the future. It has huge potential." But as SaaS usage increases, one concern is that additional silos of data are being created that can't easily be recovered or integrated.

Respondents were asked whether they believe they have data protection for their SaaS or cloud-based applications and 91% said yes. The question is, how extensive is this protection and where is the data stored? Are there unknown holes in application data backup? If their own IT team has not validated the backup and recovery procedures related to such data, are the company's data policies properly applied?

But IT leaders may not be certain about their data protection. 94% of leaders are moderately to extremely concerned about their ability to recover data quickly from the cloud if a disaster were to occur. This includes 63% who are extremely or very concerned.

## HOW CONCERNED ARE YOU ABOUT BEING ABLE TO QUICKLY RECOVER DATA FROM THE CLOUD?



- Extremely concerned
- Very concerned
- Moderately concerned
- Slightly concerned
- Not at all concerned

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Given the recent headlines around ransomware, and the potential for cloud outages, natural disasters and geopolitical issues affecting a business, disaster recovery should be a prominent IT conversation. If companies are sure of their data protection, why are they so concerned about data recovery?

> **I don't know anybody who thinks about backing up their data if they have a SaaS application. But they should. If the SaaS company evaporates with your data, it's not just their problem; it's yours.**

CTO PANEL PARTICIPANT

> " I think there's a misunderstanding about data recovery and the cloud in general and I think it falls into two camps.
>
> One camp is people who think that it's in the cloud so the data is automatically recoverable. Then the second camp is people who think it's in the cloud, but they need to make a copy.
>
> What people need to understand wherever they're storing their data is the restore procedure – what does it mean? Is there a standby server? And if so, is it a hot standby or a warm standby? I think many CIOs need better explanations of that recovery process than they currently have. "

CTO PANEL PARTICIPANT

# Conclusion

Cloud is changing the essential elements of the way we do business, and changing it for the better.

**As cloud advancements continue, keeping up with those developments is important. But it's equally important to pay attention to fundamentals.**
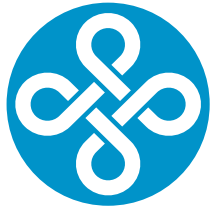
Organizations with existing on-premises applications, which are still in the majority, are likely to have a hybrid data footprint that blends on-premises and cloud. Organizations need to ensure that their data protection policies can be tested and applied across their entire data landscape.

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# Acknowledgments

### ABOUT CITO RESEARCH

CITO Research is a source of news, analysis, research and knowledge for CIOs, CTOs, IT and business professionals. CITO Research engages in a dialogue with its audience to capture technology trends that are harvested, analyzed and communicated in a sophisticated way to help practitioners solve difficult business problems.

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### ABOUT COMMVAULT

Commvault is a leading provider of cloud data management solutions, helping companies worldwide activate their data to drive more value and business insight out of their data. With solutions and services delivered directly and through a worldwide network of partners and service providers, Commvault solutions comprise one of the industry's leading portfolios in data protection and recovery, cloud, virtualization, archive, file sync and share. Commvault employs more than 2,700 highly skilled individuals across markets worldwide, is publicly traded on NASDAQ (CVLT), and is headquartered in Tinton Falls, New Jersey in the United States.

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