

Data Centers in Flux: The IT Optimization Challenge



A recent survey by IDG Research shows that IT leaders are struggling with data center optimization.

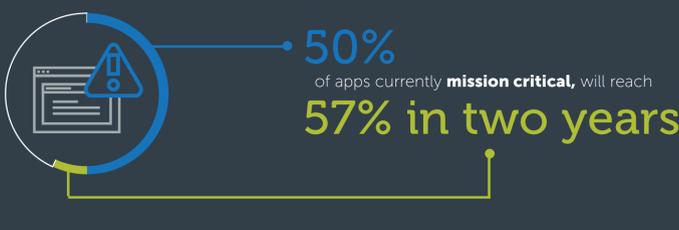
Optimization overwhelms IT:



A growing application ecosystem adds to IT's burden:



More mission-critical apps raise the stakes:



Top challenges hindering optimization progress:



Balancing day-to-day operations with time needed for innovation/business initiatives



Assessing new technology choices (cloud, flash, converged, hyperconverged, etc.)



Ensuring that internal **IT skill sets match management needs**

Companies wrestle with dividing workloads between on premises and off premises platforms:

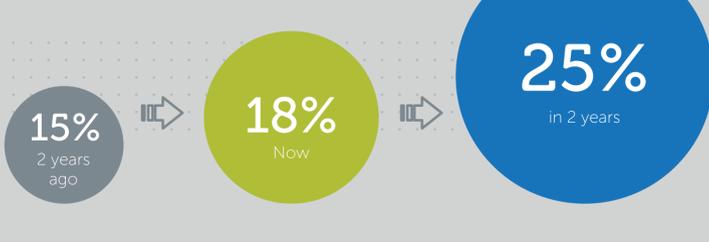


Workloads in corporate data centers **will shrink**

from 59% to 47%

in 2 years, with much of the difference **shifting to public cloud**.

IT is increasing its reliance on outsourced service providers:



But 65% still rely on in-house staff to handle management tasks.



There isn't one single factor for deciding whether to use internal or external resources, but top considerations include:



Cloud is the No. 1 initiative for optimizing IT operations, but determining which applications are best served in the public cloud remains a stumbling block.



48% say expanding cloud initiatives is their **No. 1 strategy for optimizing IT operations** over the next 1-to-2 years

Top strategies for optimizing operations:



Public cloud will grow from **28%** to **32%** of IT infrastructure and application workload in the next 2 years.

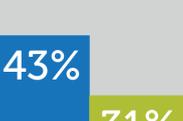


But nearly 40% of those with public cloud experience **pulled workloads out**, primarily due to security and cost concerns.

Companies invest time and resources to guide next-gen platform selections, but their analysis is often flawed.



Have conducted **app inventories**



Have conducted **workload assessments** to help make these decisions



Only 20% have assessed application interdependencies – a requirement to ensure operational optimization.



Enterprises that have completed all three analyses are more likely to report success with IT optimization, validating the importance of comprehensive IT evaluation.