Hello mainframe, our old friend

2020 Mainframe Market Pulse Survey

Is the mainframe on its way out? After years of focusing on rapidly advancing capabilities and migration strategies, a cloud-centric marketplace has taken hold. But what are US-based IT leaders facing right now? What role does the mainframe play in future IT strategies? What are the biggest business challenges organizations face when it comes to modernization, total cost of ownership, talent, and security? How are they planning to approach legacy transformation projects and hybrid in the future? In this landmark survey, we asked them.

The results underscored that mainframes aren’t on the way out—if anything, interest and investment appears to be on the rise, as IT leaders across industries validate its enduring role in their hybrid strategies.

Here to stay

74% of respondents say they, “believe the mainframe has long-term viability as a strategic platform for [their] organizations.”

Expanding footprints

91% of respondents identified expanding their mainframe footprints as a moderate or critical priority in the next 12 months.

Mission critical

Survey results pointed to an expected increase in the amount of data and applications on the mainframe, as well as transaction volume over the next two years.

12% increase in mainframe applications

9% increase in data residing on the mainframe

Invigorating IT environments

72% of respondents are planning upgrades to their mainframes in the next three years. Why? To address expected increases in usage across three key areas.

Security | Storage | Software
--- | --- | ---
69% | 62% | 61%

Talent gaps

71% of respondents say their mainframe team is understaffed. 93% say it’s “moderately” to “extremely challenging” to acquire the right mainframe resources and skills.

Help needed

More than half of respondents plan to use outside resources to accomplish their mainframe goals over the next three years.

I would say mainframe is one of our highest priorities—mainly because most of our business-critical applications or mission-critical infrastructure runs in the mainframe. And I’m not talking about it for a specific country, but the entire organization globally.

— VP of Security Engineering and Risk at a global financial services organization
The best of both worlds

The mainframe is a strategic component of any IT strategy—and is, in fact, a linchpin to hybrid cloud models. Plus, it’s rapidly evolving to meet the demands of today’s complex technology and business environments. But in order to get the most out of their mainframe investments, survey respondents need to address pressing business issues.

Survey respondents are grappling with familiar challenges

Like any significant component of the IT infrastructure, mainframes are complex and present a number of challenges. Here’s what leaders are most focused on today:

- **79%** Acquiring the right mainframe resources and skills
- **75%** Reducing mainframe operating costs
- **72%** Navigating the complexity of the mainframe
- **66%** Keeping mainframe technology current
- **60%** Maintaining mainframe security

Deloitte can help

We understand the complexities that come with maintaining, managing, and migrating a mainframe-based environment:

- **We have the resources and experience to help address skills gaps**—with a network of nearly 1,000 mainframe-focused professionals across the globe.
- **We understand total cost of ownership**—and we can help organizations reduce cost across infrastructure, software, security, talent, and more, to make the most of their investments.
- **Our tools, accelerators, and resources** help make sense of existing code, applications, and infrastructure to see a more complete view of the IT landscape.
- **We’re innovating** and building mainframe-based solutions to speed up code modernization efforts.
- **We bake security into everything we do.** It’s not the mainframe that’s insecure; it’s the data in flight from other systems and external environments that puts organizations at risk. With pervasive encryption and other next-gen passport capabilities, we can help protect and preserve what matters most.

“If you understand mainframes from a scale of economy and you do your work on how you want to configure it, they can actually be less expensive if you have the opportunity to use the flexibility of the platform to reconfigure it.”

— Chief Mainframe Operations Leader at a US federal government agency

Respondents at a glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDUSTRIES</th>
<th>Healthcare</th>
<th>Energy, utilities, and/or waste management</th>
<th>Government</th>
<th>Transportation and logistics</th>
<th>Financial services and/or insurance</th>
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<tr>
<th>COMPANY SIZE</th>
<th>$1B to $5B</th>
<th>$1B to $10B</th>
<th>&gt;$10B</th>
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<tr>
<td>68%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<th>RESPONDENT LEVEL</th>
<th>Manager</th>
<th>Director or agency head</th>
<th>Vice president or undersecretary</th>
<th>C-level executive</th>
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<tr>
<td>42%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<tr>
<th>GOVERNMENT TYPE</th>
<th>Federal government</th>
<th>State or local commonwealth government</th>
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<tr>
<td>57%</td>
<td>43%</td>
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The Deloitte and IBM ecosystem

Drawing on a relationship that has spanned more than 20 years, Deloitte and IBM combine technology leadership, hands-on business experience, and industry knowledge. Together, we’ve created an engine that drives transformation, spurs innovation, reshapes business, and paves a pathway to digital dominance.

Get in touch with Mark to learn more about the findings—and how we can help.

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Base: 261 business and IT decision makers with authority or influence over mainframe decisions  
Source: A commissioned study conducted by Forrester Consulting on behalf of Deloitte Consulting LLP, June 2020