



Modernizing the Data Center and IT Infrastructure in 2026: Research Brief

Aberdeen recently completed a survey on IT modernization, looking at key issues driving infrastructure deployments and purchases across businesses of all sizes and sectors. Along with analyzing core issues around compute, cloud, storage and networking, this survey also provides valuable insights into the practical ways that organizations are successfully deploying AI and agentic AI and takes a look at the rising trend of digital sovereignty and how businesses across the globe (even in North America) are prioritizing investments to bring data and AI capabilities back on-prem. The survey captures insights from enterprise buyers and prospects on:

Drivers & Challenges: Top drivers pushing organizations to invest in modernization (such as AI, security and digital sovereignty) and the hurdles they face (cost, integration complexity, hardware requirements).



Strategic actions:

What steps are businesses taking to meet drivers and overcome challenges? This list includes improving network capabilities, increasing AI usage and replacing legacy systems.



Key technologies:

The top technologies that businesses are implementing as part of infrastructure modernization, which includes AI-ready servers, hybrid and private cloud and increased automation.



Real-world outcomes:

The key reported benefits that organizations are achieving through increased modernization like better management satisfaction, higher performance and mitigation of security- and compliance-related risks.

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