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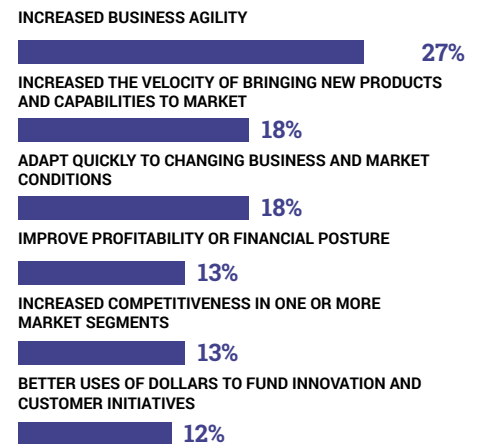
# Platform Engineering, App Modernization and Cloud Migration

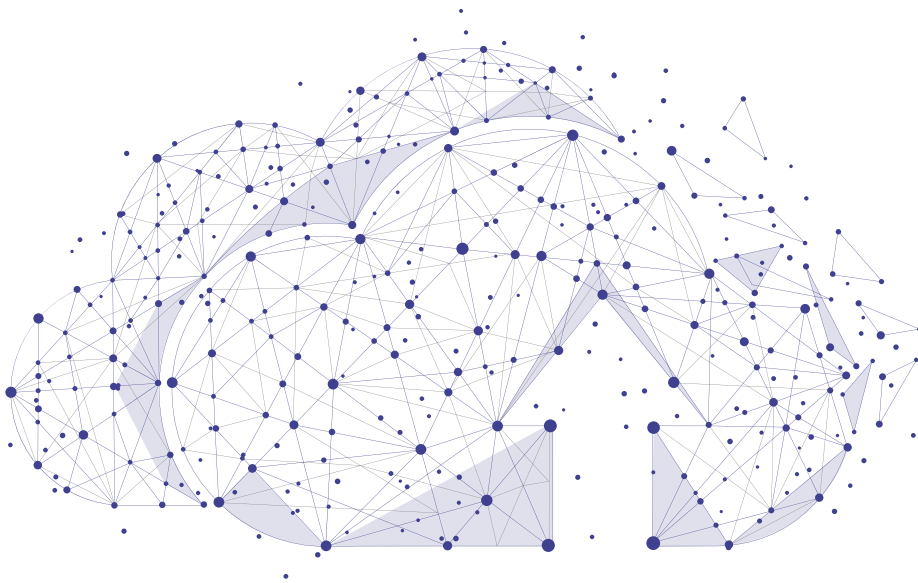
**MIGRATING TO THE CLOUD** as part of modernization efforts typically does not occur in a well-sequenced, planned, or consistent fashion. Various applications, knowledge levels and cloud approaches usually result in efforts carving their unique paths, often resulting in an unorganized patchwork of implementations and variances of configurations, security posture, unmanaged costs, untenable complexity, decreased developer productivity, compliance challenges and more. These all quickly become impediments to achieving the intended business outcomes (such as increased business agility, competitiveness and financial efficiencies) for which the business' cloud migration and modernization initiatives were undertaken.

Platform engineering has quickly risen as a discipline that brings consistency across operating environments (dev/test/prod), platforms, tools and configurations that support multiple modernization efforts. This also improves developer productivity in the toolsets utilized, quickly spinning up environments and removing and reducing the introduction of security vulnerabilities. It also aids in increasing the overall security posture, visibility into compliance, and improved cost management and optimization.

## What are the intended business outcomes of your cloud modernization and migration projects?

The outcomes organizations seek with cloud modernization and migration projects include increased productivity for business agility (27%), an associated boost in velocity in bringing new products and capabilities to market (18%), and the ability to adapt quickly, scaling down or adding features to meet market conditions (18%).





### Have you experienced the following as part of your cloud migration and modernization?

Fragmentation of cloud migration and modernization (19%) and significant variances in configurations between different approaches (15%) are the top concerns as organizations typically struggle to apply platform engineering processes when making the shift.

**FRAGMENTATION OF APPROACHES UTILIZED ACROSS PROJECTS AND TEAMS**



**SIGNIFICANT VARIANCES IN CONFIGURATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATIONS**



**HIGH, INCREASING OR UNMANAGEABLE COSTS**



**MORE SECURITY VULNERABILITIES**



**POOR OR INCONSISTENT GOVERNANCE**



**DECREASED OR UNKNOWN OVERALL SECURITY POSTURE**



**DECREASED DEVELOPER PRODUCTIVITY**



**NONE OF THE ABOVE**



### Is platform engineering currently integral to your cloud migration and modernization initiatives?

Most organizations now rely on platform engineering to achieve their cloud-net migration modernization goals (36%) or plan to adopt the process during the next six to 12 months (26%).



In 2024, Techstrong Research polled our community of app modernization, cloud and DevOps readers, and viewers to understand their perspectives on app modernization and platform engineering. We examined topics such as overcoming fragmented approaches, costs, and complexity, and how platform engineering has played a beneficial role in overcoming these challenges. Of the respondents surveyed, 36% indicated platform engineering is integral to their modernization efforts, with another 26% indicating platform engineering is in their near future.

### TECHSTRONG RESEARCH ANALYST VIEW

The shift to the cloud has proven to be the preferred path to modernization for application deployments and management. However, modernization efforts happen as the organizations fund and prioritize projects, resulting in an uneven and often less organized approach than desired. Technical and design decision-making by individual teams and projects results in a patchwork of technology choices and variances in platforms and configurations. Centralizing these decisions in teams without the resources or skills to implement those decisions often results in delays and frustration by project teams, product and business owners.

**KEY TAKEAWAYS:**

- 1. Fragmented Migration Efforts:** Cloud migration often leads to a disorganized patchwork due to varied applications, knowledge, and approaches, causing inconsistencies and inefficiencies.
- 2. Platform Engineering Benefits:** Platform engineering ensures consistency, boosts developer productivity, enhances security, and improves cost management.
- 3. Survey Findings:** A Techstrong Research poll found fragmentation and configuration variances are top concerns, with platform engineering helping to overcome these issues.
- 4. Business Outcomes:** Cloud modernization aims for increased agility, faster product development, and quick market adaptation.

These are challenges that platform engineering, often referred to as just “platforms,” is well-positioned to address. Implementations of platform engineering vary and often include standardized environments and configurations for dev/test/prod, developer tools, DevOps tools including CI/CD pipeline management, self-serve developer portals, cost efficiencies and security, including aspects of software supply chain security. Depending upon the emphasis in each organization, platform engineering can be focused on the areas in greatest need of improvement to gain efficiencies, increase productivity and reduce complexity, all of which improve the odds of success for application modernization and cloud migration efforts.

We strongly recommend that organizations invest in platform engineering today or in the near future, aligning platform efforts with cloud, modernization, migration and other top business priorities.

**Which business outcomes are you seeing progress towards achieving as a result of your cloud migration and modernization efforts?**

The business outcomes correlate with what the cloud is supposed to do: increase business agility (23%), adapt to market conditions (20%), and increase compatibility in one or more market segments (15%), representing the top three results of cloud migration.

