

# THE 4 CORNERSTONES OF THE CHANGING ENTERPRISE

## COLLABORATE 16 FUTURE TRENDS AND TECHNOLOGY SURVEY

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### Executive Summary

Are enterprise application and data managers ready for the “new IT”? Yes, but the prevailing approach is to proceed cautiously, without disrupting existing investments in enterprise systems and data environments.

This is a key takeaway from a survey of IT executives and professionals, including respondents from the Quest International Users Group, Oracle Applications User Group (OAUG), and Independent Oracle User Group (IOUG). The survey, conducted by Unisphere Research, a division of Information Today, Inc., covered trends and attitudes across four key areas: enterprise cloud, enterprise mobility, enterprise big data and IoT, and enterprise security.

The survey, fielded in February and March 2016, was conducted among the entire IOUG, OAUG and Quest member databases via an emailing that directed respondents to an online survey instrument. A total of 690 usable responses were returned.

Following are the key findings within the four technology areas explored in the survey:

### Enterprise Cloud

Overall, cloud is gaining a foothold as a purveyor of business services, but adoption of cloud-based ERP, enterprise applications or databases remains tepid.

For executives and professionals on the front lines of the cloud revolution, simply trying to keep up with new developments is the most challenging part of the equation. On-premises still dominates with ERP and core enterprise

suites, but it's costly and requires advanced skills to operate today's on-premises ERP and enterprise systems (**Figure 1**).

To meet this need, enterprise application suites are gaining a foothold in the cloud. Oracle dominates cloud-based ERP and enterprise application choices. Cloud database adoption is light and uneven. There is a substantial portion of enterprises now subscribing to cloud-based business services for functions beyond ERP and database services. Data is not completely shared between cloud-based business services and ERP and database systems.

### Enterprise Big Data and IoT

Despite the attention it has been receiving in recent years, big data is still in its early days. A majority of enterprises have yet to take advantage of the big data wave that is sweeping through organizations. Any movement toward big data is not yet boosting efforts to adopt data from the sensors, devices and remote applications that form the Internet of Things (IoT).

Cost and integration concerns are holding back big data and IoT implementations within ERP, core application and database shops.

### Enterprise Mobility

Most executives and professionals see mobile as the gateway to opening up applications and data to employees (**Figure 2**) — however, mobility is still an elusive goal for many enterprises.

Web browsers, not mobile apps, are the gateways to enterprise applications or data.

Full enterprise mobility is elusive, but there is a lot of mobile work underway. Mobile access to ERP, enterprise applications or databases may be limited for some time to come, as executives and managers overwhelmingly have a range of concerns.

Cloud could help close the mobile-to-enterprise gap.

Wearables are not on the table—at least for now.

### Enterprise Security

Security is a great concern that has yet to be tackled head-on within enterprises (Figure 3). Hackers scare IT managers and professionals the most, but the security awareness and posturing of vendors can also be just as scary. A majority of managers and executives are approaching the security problem with the establishment of well-defined security policies.

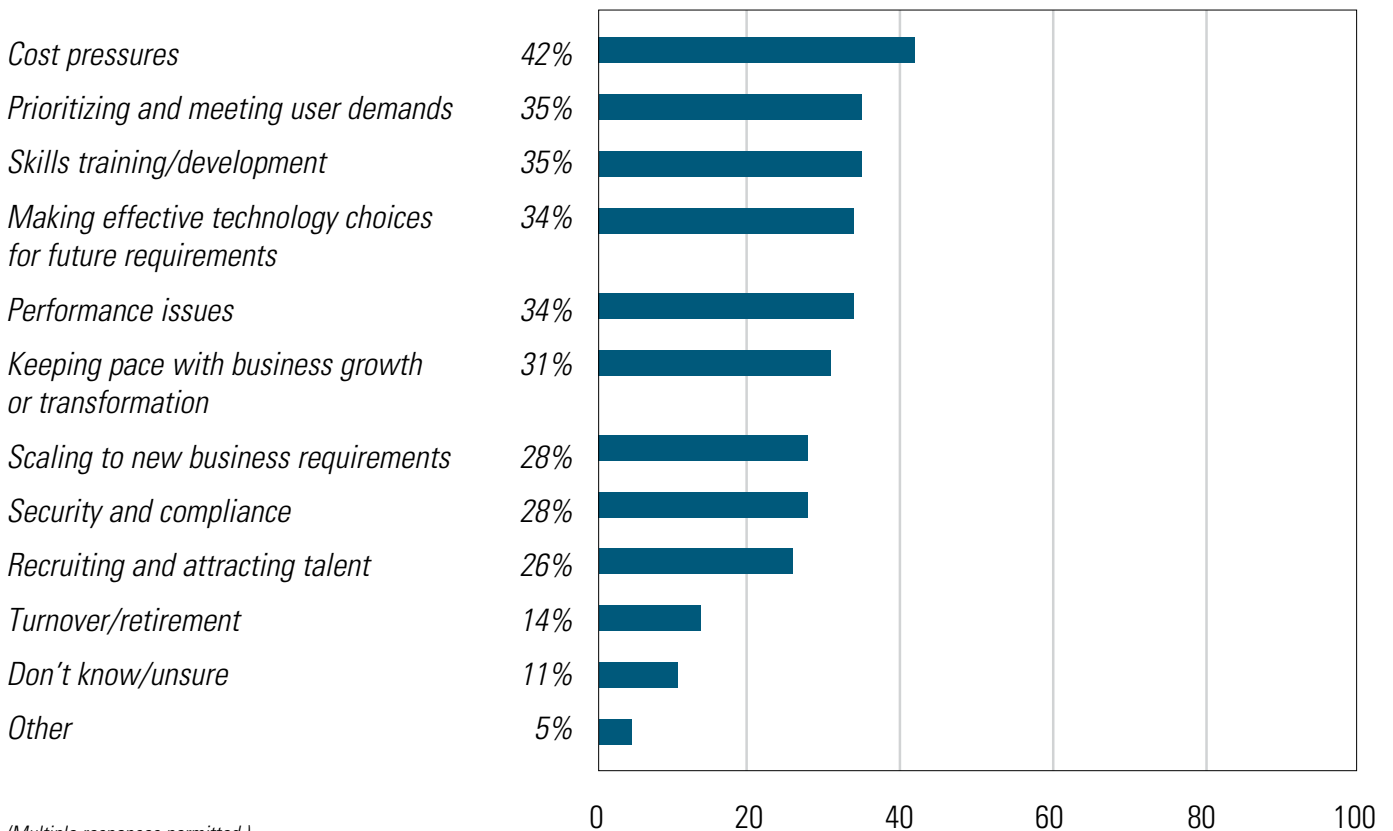
### Actionable Steps

The following are steps that IT and data managers and professionals can take to promote the advancement

of their enterprises across all four of these key technology cornerstones:

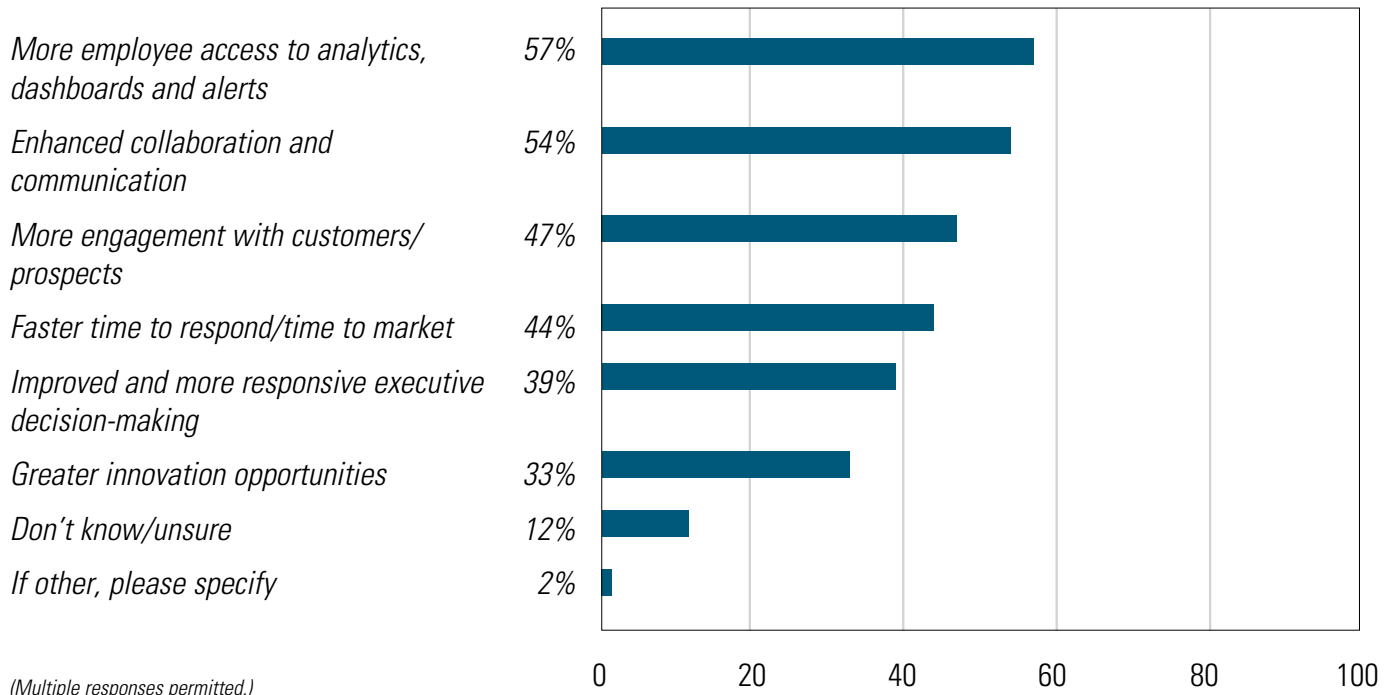
- **Education, education, education.** The best tool for moving forward with the four cornerstones of the new IT described here—cloud, big data, mobility and security—is providing education at all levels of the organization. Business leaders need to be educated on how these technology cornerstones will deliver results in a hyper-competitive global economy. Staff and line employees need to have skills refreshes and awareness of how these new tools and platforms will enrich their jobs and elevate their roles within their enterprises. Technology managers and staff need to stay aware of the latest developments in tools and platforms that will deliver greater efficiencies to their enterprises.
- **Watch the skills gap.** The ability to compete on analytics, as well as to employ cloud and mobility strategies in the drive to digital business, depends on the skills and expertise of people. Skills issues were cited throughout the survey as a deficiency that needs to be addressed to move forward

**Figure 1: What do you see as the most pronounced obstacle(s) to managing an on-premises ERP, core enterprise application suite or database in today’s environment?**

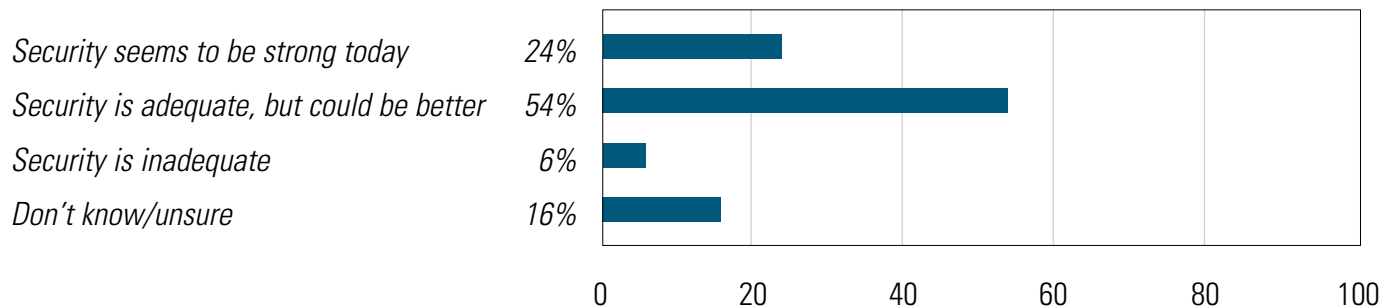


(Multiple responses permitted.)

**Figure 2: How do you see enterprise mobility impacting your business?**



**Figure 3: To what degree are these enterprise security issues being managed or addressed?**



with the key technology cornerstones explored in the survey. Employee training, as well as proactive recruiting, is no longer a luxury—it's a necessity to compete. This can be addressed in many ways, including encouraging active participation in user groups, which provide training and networking opportunities to share knowledge.

- **Hold vendors accountable and partner closely with them.** The advance to becoming a digital enterprise will depend on the level of support gained from vendor relationships.

Leading vendors, especially Oracle, have been in the forefront of the digital economy. However, with any vendor, it's key to be aware of any possible limitations, as well as the terms set forth in contracts and service-level agreements. Collaborate with other users to keep tabs on what's going on—and hold their feet to the fire when necessary.

- **Prepare for leadership roles in your organizations.** Enterprises want and need to compete on data—this is the key to success in the digital era now upon us. IT and

data managers and professionals hold the key to achieving this success. Increasingly, the roles of these managers and professionals are being elevated—from caretakers or coders to that of consultants and advisors to the business. Increasingly, IT and data management is evolving into business management, with an important seat at the executive table. ♦

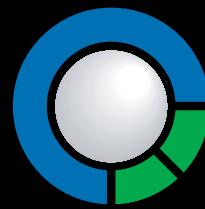
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