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Businesses rely on managed services providers to move to Azure

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While Microsoft's Azure cloud service is gaining popularity with businesses, many of them are relying on a managed services provider (MSP) to implement it successfully.

According to a new survey by cloud and IT services company [NetEnrich](#), 67 percent are 'very likely' to engage an MSP in the next year to migrate to Azure or to manage their cloud and/or on-premises environment.

The survey also underlines Azure's popularity with 46 percent of respondents running at least half of their IT infrastructure and workloads on the service.


The top benefit of working with a MSP to

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manage Azure is seen as security, backups, disaster recovery planning and protection (72 percent). Second is discovery and inventory of IT resources (65 percent), followed by assessment of cost and ROI and to develop a cloud roadmap (59 percent).



"Microsoft Azure is clearly growing its position in the public cloud market as companies of all sizes look to modernize infrastructure, deploy new services quickly and reduce costs," says Justin Crotty, Senior VP and GM for Channel Sales and Marketing at NetEnrich. "We're hearing this from our channel partners all the time. Their customers are moving aggressively to public cloud and they need support from partners to migrate and manage workloads and applications. We're able to help distributors, resellers and MSPs by getting them trained on best practices for setting up, monitoring and managing Azure instances."

Among other findings are that 62 percent of respondents operate a multi-cloud environment including Azure. 30 percent say the greatest challenge with Azure adoption is data security and privacy concerns, the second biggest challenge (28 percent) is budgetary constraints.

A majority (64 percent) say they plan to purchase tools in the next year to help with Azure migration and management. In addition, 57 percent say they plan to purchase cloud analysis and optimization tools and 56 percent will buy cloud monitoring tools.

The ability to interconnect Azure with other Microsoft products such as Office 365 and Enterprise Mobility Suite is extremely important for 79 percent of respondents.

You can see more of the results in the infographic below.

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Despite hefty competition in the public cloud infrastructure space MICROSOFT AZURE IS GROWING FAST

According to some estimates, Azure compute usage is more than doubling year over year.

NetEnrich, which is a Microsoft Technology Partner for Azure, has completed a survey on Azure adoption. The survey ran online in January and was taken by 80+ IT professionals in large and midmarket companies.

A key takeaway was that Azure Use is High

46%

are running at least half of their IT infrastructure and workloads on Microsoft's cloud service

And companies are relying on channel providers to help them achieve various business and technical benefits.



Many survey respondents cited Channel providers are key to companies' use of and success with Microsoft Azure

67%

said they were "very likely" to engage a Managed Services Provider (MSP) in the next year to migrate to Azure or to manage their cloud and/or on-premises environment.



63%

of respondents prefer to work with small, nimble service providers or individual consultants.

Top benefits of working with a MSP to manage Azure

Security, backups, disaster recovery planning and protection

72%



65%

Discovery and inventory of IT resources

Assessment of cost and ROI and to develop a cloud roadmap

59%



Usage

What are the most important uses of Azure in the next year?



37%

Support development and test environments



35%

Support data center or database modernization

Challenges

What are the greatest challenges with Azure adoption?



30%

Data security and privacy concerns



28%

Budgetary constraints

Planned Azure Purchases

35%

of respondents said they plan to purchase tools in the next year to help with Azure migration and management



35%

Cloud analysis and optimization tools



28%

Cloud monitoring tools

Other Key Findings



62%

of respondents operate a multi-cloud environment including Azure



47%

said top expected benefits of using Azure are reduction in TCO, on-demand availability, business continuity and geo replication



35%

said the greatest benefit of using Azure 1-2 years from now is cost savings, so IT can dedicate more time to business projects



72%

said that third-party tools and services either had "already paid off" or will occur in terms of achieving a fast ROI on Azure



79%

said the interconnect of Azure with other Microsoft products such as Office 365 and Enterprise Mobility Suite is "extremely important"