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TWO-THIRDS OF FEDS SAY DEVOPS WILL PUT THEM IN THE FAST LANE TO THE CLOUD

Report Finds Just One in 10 IT Teams are Highly Collaborative; Seventy Percent Say Increasing Cloud Adoption Will Drive IT Innovation

Alexandria, Va., May 11, 2015 – [MeriTalk](#), a public-private partnership focused on improving the outcomes of government IT, today announced the results of its new report, *“The Agile Advantage: Can DevOps Move Cloud to the Fast Lane?”* The study, underwritten by [Accenture Federal Services](#), reveals that approximately two-thirds of Feds say DevOps will help agencies shift into the cloud fast lane – improving IT collaboration and migration speed. But help is needed, with 66 percent saying that their agency needs to move IT services to the cloud faster to meet mission and constituent needs.

The study examines the cultural and structural barriers to cloud adoption, and potential DevOps impact. DevOps is a software development and IT management method that brings software engineering, quality assurance, and IT operations together as an integrated team to collaboratively manage the full application lifecycle.

Feds see real potential in DevOps – 57 percent believe DevOps can help agencies succeed in the cloud. Sixty-three percent say DevOps will speed application delivery and migration. Further, 68 percent see DevOps as a viable path to improve collaboration between IT development, security, and operations teams. Feds also anticipate faster application testing (62 percent) with a DevOps approach.

The online survey of over 150 U.S. Federal IT managers also found that they believe increasing their cloud adoption pace will boost innovation (70 percent); refresh existing applications and deploy new ones faster (69 percent); and provide more available, reliable, and secure operations

(62 percent). However, a September 2014 report by the U.S. General Accounting Office, ([Cloud Computing: Additional Opportunities and Savings Need to Be Pursued](#)) notes that agencies have only increased cloud spending by one percent in the past two years. Why the flat tire?

While security and budget concerns remain top of mind, structural and cultural issues continue to slow the race toward Federal cloud adoption. Forty-two percent of Feds cite infrastructure complexity as a top challenge to adopting cloud, followed by fear of change (40 percent), inflexible practices (40 percent), and lack of clear strategy (35 percent).

Some agencies are gaining momentum, but many are having trouble getting in gear – since the introduction of cloud, fewer than half of Federal agencies (44 percent) have made process or policy changes, 30 percent cultural changes, and 28 percent organizational changes. Federal agencies aren't properly equipped – only 12 percent of Feds say their IT department has all of the tools they need to transition to the cloud. Four out of five IT managers (78 percent) believe their IT department needs to improve collaboration to enable a more streamlined move to the cloud. But, only one in 10 Federal IT managers say developers and administrators are highly collaborative.

“A DevOps model brings software engineering, quality assurance, and IT operations together as an integrated team,” stated Tim Hoechst, Accenture Federal Services' chief technology officer (CTO). “Federal agencies can start up new projects more quickly, improve resource utilization, and reduce downtime – ultimately driving the innovation needed for real change.”

Of Feds familiar with DevOps, just five percent say their agency has fully deployed the DevOps model. However, 60 percent can see DevOps in their agency's future. In fact, approximately one-third (32 percent) of Feds familiar with DevOps had already adopted the model or planned to do so within the year.

“We've heard a lot about cloud barriers, and we've all seen the lackluster GAO cloud spending data,” says Steve O'Keeffe, founder, MeriTalk. “This study highlights a viable path forward. DevOps can help agencies change lanes and shift from inefficient silos to a dynamic, collaborative environment. It's about people and how they work together, as well as the technology they use.”

To fully implement a model like DevOps, Feds say agencies should train current personnel (55 percent); establish a new vision for the future (41 percent); and incentivize a change in culture (40 percent).

About the Report Methodology

MeriTalk's "*The Agile Advantage: Can DevOps Move Cloud to the Fast Lane?*" report is based on an online survey of 152 Federal IT managers familiar with their agency's cloud adoption in February and March 2015. The report has a margin of error of +/- 7.92 percent at a 95 percent confidence level. To download the full study, please visit: <http://meritalk.com/agile-advantage>.

About MeriTalk

The voice of tomorrow's government today, MeriTalk is a public-private partnership focused on improving the outcomes of government IT. Focusing on government's hot-button issues, MeriTalk hosts [Big Data Exchange](#), [Cloud Computing Exchange](#), [Cyber Security Exchange](#), and [Data Center Exchange](#) – platforms dedicated to supporting public-private dialogue and collaboration. MeriTalk connects with an audience of 85,000 government community contacts. For more information, visit www.meritalk.com or follow us on Twitter, @meritalk. MeriTalk is a [300Brand organization](#).