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Seventy-Four Percent of Government IT Pros Say Their Agency Holds onto Outdated Data Centers Longer Than They Should

And seventy-six say their agency overvalues data centers

Alexandria, Va., October 28, 2019 – [MeriTalk](#), a public-private partnership focused on improving the outcomes of government IT, today announced the results of its new report, “Infrastructure Psychology – Overvaluing Outdated Data Centers.” The study, in partnership with [Amazon Web Services](#), Alfresco, Hitachi Vantara Federal, and ThunderCat Technology, surveyed 215 government and industry IT decision makers registered for the AWS Public Sector Summit this past June. The report examines how respondents assess data center value and why some find it hard to let go.

Some Feds are having trouble taking a step forward. Government IT professionals estimate 81 percent of their systems still run on-premise. Despite agency reliance on on-premise, a majority (74 percent) agree their agency holds onto outdated data centers longer than they should. Decision makers hope agencies will take steps to part ways with data centers, more than half (62 percent) think their agency needs to make more effective data center migration decisions.

Despite the sentiment that data centers are overvalued in the public sector, only 32 percent of agencies have formally assessed the value of their data centers in the last year (versus 49 percent of industry respondents). Old habits die hard – the most common excuses for keeping outdated data centers open include: “it will be too expensive” (51 percent), “we need to keep essential data/processes under our control” (46 percent), and “it will take too long to migrate” (41 percent).

When weighing the pros and cons of sticking with data centers, certain considerations drive decision making. Key factors that come into play when assessing data center value include: amount of mission-critical data/systems contained (72 percent), cost of data storage equipment (65 percent), and server utilization rates (56 percent). However, cloud-based infrastructure costs (68 percent) is the leading factor when deciding to migrate followed by time needed to migrate (59 percent) and labor costs (54 percent).

Despite hesitation, there is progress towards cloud migration. Nearly all IT decision makers (93 percent) say they are taking steps towards data center modernization, and the proof is in the

numbers – more than half (57 percent) have moved an application to the cloud and 44 percent have closed at least one data center.

The study is underwritten by AWS, Alfresco, Hitachi Vantara Federal, and ThunderCat Technology. To view the full report, please visit: <https://www.meritalk.com/study/outdated-data-centers/>

About MeriTalk

The voice of tomorrow's government today, MeriTalk is a public-private partnership focused on improving the outcomes of government IT. Our award-winning editorial team and world-class events and research staff produces unmatched news, analysis, and insight. The goal: more efficient, responsive, and citizen-centric government. MeriTalk connects with an audience of 151,000 Federal community contacts. For more information, visit www.MeriTalk.com or follow us on Twitter, @MeriTalk. MeriTalk is a 300Brand organization.