

2026 Technology Adoption Roadmap for Midsize Enterprises

How are midsize enterprises (MSEs) benchmarking their tech investments? We asked over 400 CIOs and technology leaders to evaluate 50 technologies by enterprise value, deployment risk and adoption timelines. Use these insights to benchmark your technology adoption plans against peers and review key trends that emerge.

Enterprise value
The value factor is based on the analysis of key ROI drivers, including increased cost-efficiency, improved speed and agility, enabled resilience, enhanced employee productivity and delivery of superior capabilities to consumers.

Deployment risk
The risk factor awarded to each technology is based on the analysis of potential risks posed, including talent unavailability, high or unpredictable costs, cybersecurity, technical incompatibility or architecture complexity, and vendor lock-in.

Adoption phase
The adoption phase is determined by current deployment plans for a majority of organizations. Technologies on the cusp of moving into the next deployment phase are placed on borders between phases.

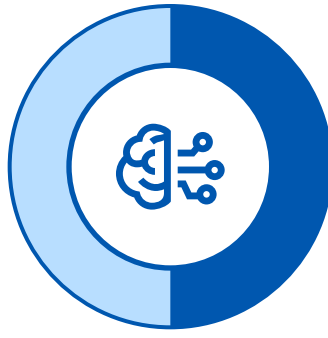
○ Low ○ Medium ○ High

● Low ● Medium ● High



Key take-aways from the 2026 roadmap

1 AI risk awareness is high, but preparedness is low.



Nearly half of MSEs report being unprepared to manage AI-related cyber risks.

2 Hybrid infrastructure gives MSEs more agility, flexibility and easier workload portability.

Hybrid infrastructures for midsize enterprises



Hybrid cloud storage



Edge computing



Distributed hybrid infrastructure

3 MSEs push to enhance self-service capabilities to meet evolving user needs.

MSEs are adopting digital workplace tools like digital adoption platform (DAP) or self-service analytics to empower independent problem solving and insight generation among employees.



Other considerations

2026 key technology trends



CIOs balance vendor offerings with strategic needs in LLM adoption.



AI elevates D&A value across organizational maturity levels.



CIOs prioritize cloud-native investments to drive business agility.



Integrated digital workplace platforms are preferred.

Actionable, objective insights

Position your organization for success. Explore these additional complimentary resources and tools for midsize enterprise leaders:

Insights 2026 CIO Agenda

Explore how CIOs boost AI ROI and revamp vendor strategies for value.

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Insights Essential Resources for Midsize Enterprise CIOs

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