The business is reliant on IT to achieve its goals. 98% of IT leaders believe their IT environment is fully optimized. However, 22% of respondents said IT optimization challenges still loom. But, some year-over-year progress has been made. 56% of the respondents rate the challenge of funding and supporting innovative/business advancing projects as extremely challenging. Yet, budget allocations do not currently reflect it. 50% of the budget goes toward keeping the lights on. 66% goes toward innovation. Funding for innovation is expected to increase to 34% in the next two years. Top challenges when deciding best-fit cloud platforms for workloads: Determining security requirements, Defining data storage requirements, Building a strategy across multiple locations, Determining data access requirements, Assessing growth requirements, Determining compliance requirements. Top four reasons for moving workloads away from the public cloud to an on-premise platform: Level of control over resources or data, Meeting compliance requirements, Reliability/performance issues, Security concerns or events. Three quarters of IT organizations report being more cautious versus one year ago. Top reasons for increased caution include: Security requirements, Changing threat landscape. IT leaders plan to leverage third parties to assess workloads in three key areas: Determining compliance requirements, Assessing growth/scalability requirements, Performing application interdependency analysis.