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WEKApod Accelerates Time to Value for Artificial Intelligence

Scott Sinclair, Practice Director

Overview

Earlier this year, WEKA, a provider of high-performance data storage platforms, introduced WEKApod™, a clustered storage appliance for the WEKA® Data Platform software. WEKApod offers an integrated, high-performance storage solution scalable to hundreds of nodes. It is optimized for data-intensive workloads such as artificial intelligence (AI) and is certified for the NVIDIA DGX SuperPOD™.

The Right Data Performance Delivers Positive Returns With AI

AI is quickly rising up the priority list among enterprise organizations. Enticed by the potential of improved insights, increased productivity, and greater revenue opportunity, adoption of AI initiatives is fueling both cloud and on-premises infrastructure investments. According to research from TechTarget's Enterprise Strategy Group, 78% of organizations agreed that their organizations prefer to keep AI applications on premises.[1]

In a separate study of data and IT professionals involved with evaluating and/or managing infrastructure specifically for AI initiatives, respondents identified their top considerations when evaluating infrastructure for AI initiatives (see Figure 1).[2]
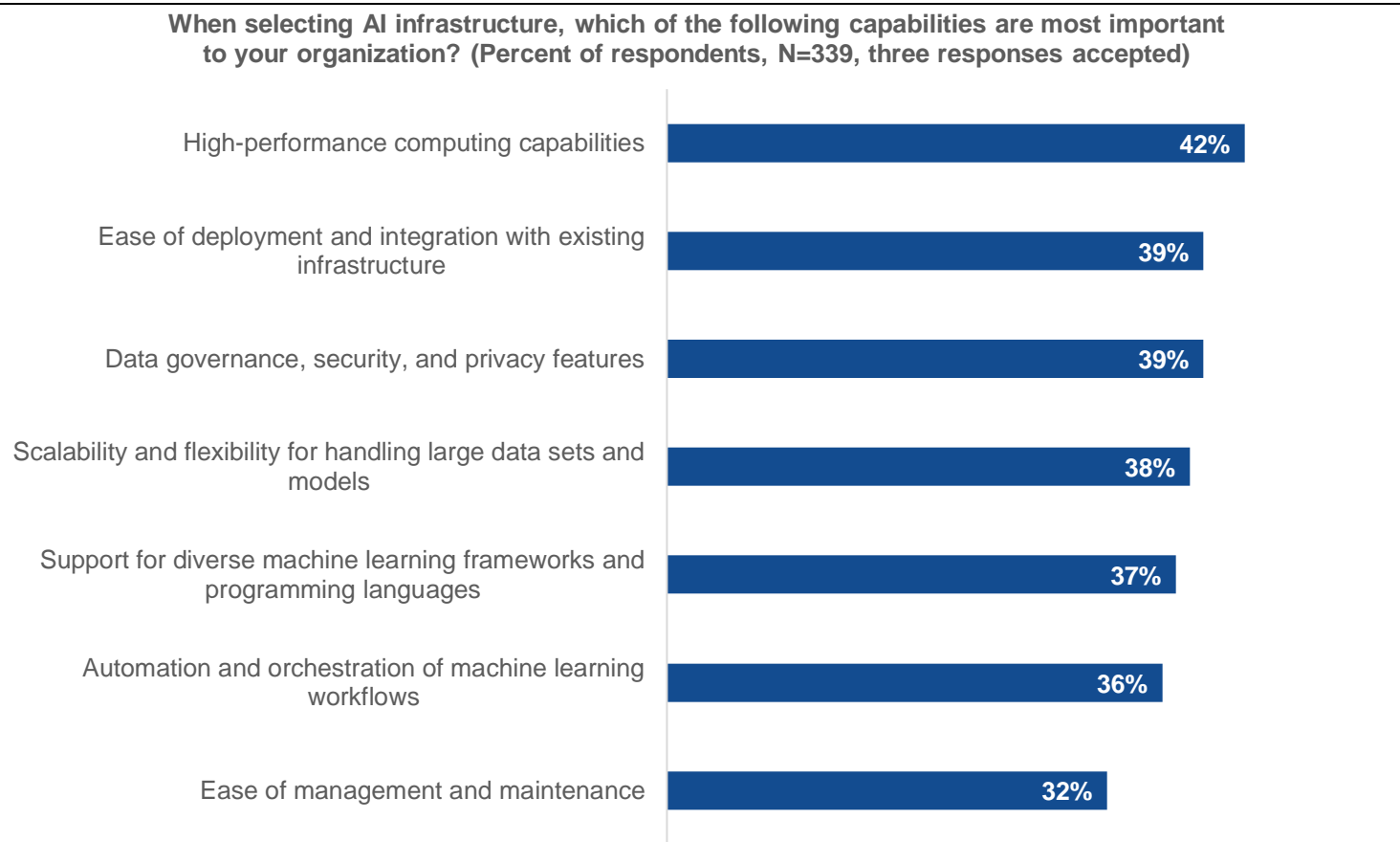
Several of the most common considerations, such as high-performance compute (42%), ease of deployment (39%), scalability for large data sets (38%), and ease of management and maintenance (32%) all directly align with the benefits WEKA seeks to provide with the WEKApod announcement. While selecting the right infrastructure environment is critical for any workload, with AI the right infrastructure can often make or break whether the project delivers the right experience, whether it's considered successful, and even whether the return on the investment (ROI) is positive or negative.

In other words, the right infrastructure matters more for AI workloads.

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[1] Source: Enterprise Strategy Group Complete Survey Results, *Enterprise Strategy Group Research Report: Understanding Workload, App, and Data Deployment and Migration Decision-making,* July 2024.
[2] Source: Enterprise Strategy Group Research Report, *Navigating the Evolving AI Infrastructure Landscape,* September 2023.

Figure 1. Most Important Capabilities When Selecting AI Infrastructure

When selecting AI infrastructure, which of the following capabilities are most important to your organization? (Percent of respondents, N=339, three responses accepted)

High-performance computing capabilities	42%
Ease of deployment and integration with existing infrastructure	39%
Data governance, security, and privacy features	39%
Scalability and flexibility for handling large data sets and models	38%
Support for diverse machine learning frameworks and programming languages	37%
Automation and orchestration of machine learning workflows	36%
Ease of management and maintenance	32%

Source: Enterprise Strategy Group, a division of TechTarget, Inc.

Conclusion

WEKA has been a leader in data storage for AI initiatives going back to the company's inception. The WEKA data platform offers a highly scalable, high-performance storage offering that can be deployed across a variety of hardware options on premises, in the cloud, and across hybrid environments.

The introduction of WEKApod offers an integrated and pre-validated appliance option to WEKA's portfolio. It's a smart move for WEKA. Many organizations desire hardware flexibility. But the effort involved in tailoring an infrastructure to the specific needs of a solution, along with managing the multiple unknowns that typically arise when deploying a new, data-intensive workload, can add time to architecture design and deployment.

With WEKApod, WEKA can now offer the best of both worlds—a scalable, infrastructure-independent data platform and/or a scalable, integrated, high-performance storage cluster—depending on the organization's needs. In addition, the inclusion of NVIDIA DGX SuperPOD certification provides confidence that the environment can fully utilize an organization's GPU investment, further improving the ROI of the solution. As enterprises prioritize accelerating time to value with AI, WEKApod is poised to deliver considerable value to those organizations.

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contact@esg-global.com
www.esg-global.com