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IBM Enhances DS8000 Enterprise Storage in Its 10th Generation

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Overview

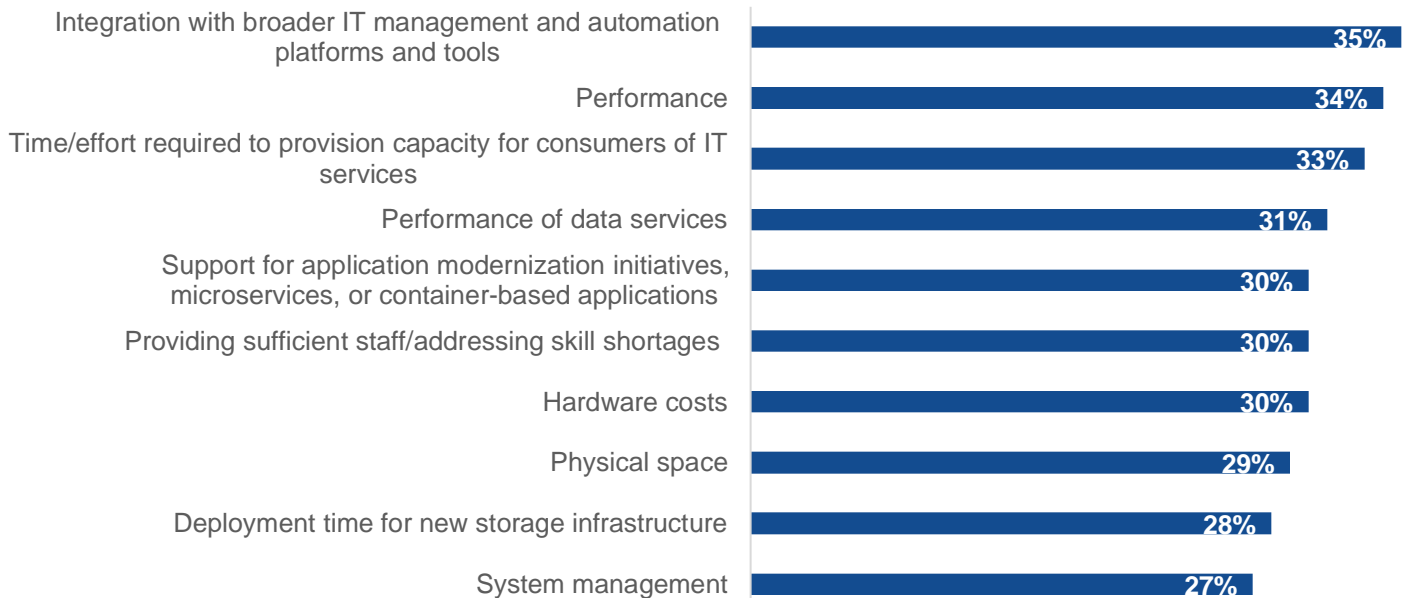
This month, IBM announced the 10th generation of its DS8000 enterprise storage solution, designed to deliver mission-critical resilience and high performance to support mainframe environments and provide enterprise-level application consolidation. In this latest generation, IBM integrates multiple enhancements, including upgrades of the internal architecture with NVME technology and PCIe Gen4.

On-premises Modernization Climbs the Enterprise Priority List

Businesses increasingly understand the critical role that on-premises modernization plays in their digital initiatives. According to research by TechTarget’s Enterprise Strategy Group, 91% of organizations agree that data center modernization creates a strategic competitive advantage.¹ In addition, 76% agree that they view on-premises application deployments more favorably today than they did five years ago.²

Figure 1. Top 10 Challenges for Block Storage

Which of the following, if any, are your organization’s system-related challenges with on-premises data center-based storage for block environments? (Percent of respondents, N=375, multiple responses accepted)



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

¹ Source: Enterprise Strategy Group Complete Survey Results, [Navigating the Cloud and AI Revolution: The State of Enterprise Storage and HCI](#), February 2024. All data in this brief is from this study unless stated otherwise.

² Source: Complete Survey Results, [Enterprise Strategy Group Research Report: Understanding Workload, App, and Data Deployment and Migration Decision-making](#), July 2024.

Pressures to control costs, secure data, and reduce risk—in addition to new initiatives such as artificial intelligence—have all helped lead to the prioritization of on-premises data center investment. When defining on-premises infrastructure modernization initiatives, performance, cyber-resilience, consolidation, and simplification should be among the top objectives.

For example, as Figure 1 shows, organizations managing enterprise SAN storage environments continue to struggle with optimizing performance (cited by 34%). They also face challenges tied to time to provision (33%) and time to deploy (28%), along with the overall cost of infrastructure (30%).

The ability to consolidate through modernization can be transformational; 85% of organizations agree that their storage modernization efforts have allowed their organization to consolidate their on-premises storage environment, which likely delivers follow-on benefits related to simplification and operational efficiency. Given the importance of mission-critical and mainframe application environments to the business, high performance and consistent low-latency at scale is essential for enterprise storage. In addition, organizations must prioritize cyber-resilience—the ability to secure and protect the environment.

Conclusion

With this release, IBM continues in its role as a leader in both mainframe technology and enterprise storage. The integration between IBM Z and the IBM DS8000 series continues to be a differentiator for IBM, and it should entice organizations to prioritize the DS8000 for IBM Z environments. While the performance and efficiency advances in Gen 10 (such as the integration of NVMe and PCIe Gen4) will provide added value for application consolidation, it is IBM's zHyperLink technology and its ability to accelerate data to IBM Z mainframe environments that will provide the greatest performance benefit to mainframe application environments.

IBM complements the performance of the DS8000 with enhanced protection and cyber-resilience, claiming to offer 99.999999% (eight nines) data availability along with features such as multisite replication and immutable Safeguarded Copies for protection against ransomware.

The end takeaway is this: If your organization leverages IBM Z mainframe technology, you should already be considering the DS8000. If not, the increased efficiency combined with the impressive cyber-resilience, should place the IBM DS8000 on the short list for consideration as well.

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