

Additionally, the vast majority of respondents (95%) believe shadow IT is a major cause of complexity. Roughly one third say leaving lines of business to manage their IT spend independently results in increased security concerns, making funding more difficult to manage, and diluting the company's control of its IT.

Johan Doruiter, senior vice president of Systems, Oracle EMEA, said: "The issues companies face with their cloud resources are less to do with the technology itself and more to do with a lack of synchronisation across lines of business. Decision-makers in each department are increasingly making cloud purchasing decisions without involving the CIO due to the ease of procurement. However, without one IT point-person to unify their cloud investment strategy companies will continue to struggle with individual departments tugging time and resource in opposing directions."

CIO as cloud navigator

Oracle's research reveals that in many companies there is no single person with a view across all technology investments. This makes it difficult for organisations to develop and follow a unified cloud strategy. The CIO cannot continue to be side-tracked and must be an integral player in leading the business as it transitions to an enterprise cloud model. With integration and data management still critical to organisations, alarmingly, CIOs control less than half the IT budget in 66% of businesses.

Doruiter added: "Companies are having their expectations met by the cloud in many respects, but their approach to IT investment remains stuck in the past. The cloud is about seamlessly joining up data and workloads across the organisation and yet we continue to see individual lines of business implement IT systems in siloes. This breeds added complexity and leads to integration issues that could easily be avoided with a more integrated approach.

"CIOs must work more closely with line of business leaders to ensure IT is supporting innovation. They must serve as 'cloud navigator', collaborating with each department to manage cloud procurement issues, cost and risk and ensuring that all lines of business are working towards a common cloud strategy. The CIO should also be the voice of change in the boardroom, calling on the CEO and CFO to mandate a unified approach to cloud across the business."

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