HashiCorp

2024 STATE OF CLOUD STRATEGY SURVEY:
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Connecting cloud maturity to business success



To be truly cloud-mature, organisations in Australia, New Zealand, and around the globe must scale key infrastructure and security practices across their entire estate.

The fourth annual HashiCorp State of Cloud Strategy Survey tackles the critical importance of cloud maturity, how it relies on the ability to scale key infrastructure and security practices across an organisation, and the business impact of doing so. For 2024, we commissioned Forrester Consulting to perform the survey and collaborate with us to refine our cloud maturity model to focus on the impact of adopting, standardising, and scaling key practices across the entire organisation.

(Note: This paper shares **key 2024 survey results for Australia and New Zealand**. Visit the global survey website to read the full results and methodology — as well all three previous surveys — and access the full Forrester Consulting study.)

This year's results demonstrate that achieving true cloud maturity is difficult but more than worth the effort. Only 8% of the 64 survey respondents in Australia and New Zealand (out of almost 1,200 global respondents) qualified as highly mature.

In this "haves" vs. "have nots" world, a few trailblazers are already enjoying the fruits of cloud maturity while many others continue to struggle. Highly cloud-mature organisations are making **more and bigger cloud investments, waste less** of that spending, and **get a better return while speeding development and improving security**.

Why? High-maturity organisations cope better with common cloud challenges:

- When faced with the ongoing **shortages of skilled technical staff**, they're scaling platform teams and enabling automation to maximise the impact of staff expertise
- While others struggle with cloud security, they're using **cloud operating principles to strengthen their security posture**
- They're leading the way toward experimenting with **generative AI** to automate cloud infrastructure and security

8%

of Australia and New Zealander respondents qualify as highly cloud-mature

For 2024, we refined our cloud maturity model to focus on the prevalence of 21 key practices in cloud infrastructure and security. To be considered highly mature, most of an organisation's teams had to be using all the adopting (basic) and standardising (intermediate) best practices across both Infrastructure and Security Lifecycle Management, and the org had to be at least starting to use scaling (advanced) practices. Just 8% of respondents from Australia and New Zealand met these standards, matching the 8% global number and very close to the 9% of respondents from the Asia-Pacific region. Organisations that had not spread their use of even basic best practices were considered low maturity (37% of Australia and New Zealand respondents), while everyone in between (56% of Australia and New Zealand respondents) was categorised as medium maturity. The results demonstrated cloud maturity is highly elusive but extremely valuable.

42%

of respondents in Australia and New Zealand have standardised on platform teams

While almost all Australia and New Zealand organisations are realising the importance of centralising and standardising key functions and processes in the form of a platform team, many are still early in this journey. An overwhelming 96% of respondents in Australia and New Zealand say they have at least started the process of establishing a platform team, but less than half (42%) say they rely on their platform teams to fully standardise cloud operations throughout the organisation. That matches the global results (42%), but more than half (51%) of Asia-Pacific respondents say they're standardised on platform teams.

62%

of organisations in Australia and New Zealand are getting stronger security in the cloud

Although cloud security is complex — it's seen as both a barrier and a benefit to cloud strategy — an improved security posture was cited as a key benefit of a successful cloud strategy for almost two-thirds of Australia and New Zealand respondents (compared to 73% globally and 68% in the Asia-Pacific region). One-third (35%) have been experiencing these benefits for more than a year, matching the overall Asia-Pacific figure but trailing the global percentage (41%). Another 20% of Australia and New Zealand respondents expect to see improved security in the next year.

63%

of Australia and New Zealander respondents increased cloud infrastructure spending

Almost two-thirds of respondents from Australia and New Zealand say they've boosted their cloud investments in the last year, matching the Asia-Pacific region as a whole and just behind the 66% of global respondents. A fifth (20%) of respondents in Australia and New Zealand held cloud spending steady (compared to 18% both globally and 19% in the Asia-Pacific region), and 16% cut spending (compared to 14% globally and 15% in the Asia-Pacific region). Notably, highly mature organisations were much more likely to have boosted cloud spending than low-maturity organisations.

90%

of respondents in Australia and New Zealand have or are planning multi-cloud deployments

Almost three-quarters (73%) of respondents in Australia and New Zealand have already implemented multi-cloud (significantly more than the 63% globally and 61% in the Asia-Pacific region), with another 17% planning to do so in the next year. These findings solidify multi-cloud deployments as the most pervasive cloud infrastructure approach, even as many organisations continue to maintain on-premises datacentres and private cloud options.

66%

of Australian and New Zealander respondents are finding business success in the cloud

Two-thirds of respondents in Australia and New Zealand say their organisation's cloud infrastructure strategy helped it achieve its overall business goals, matching the percentage in the Asia-Pacific region and coming very close to the 68% global figure. Another 22% of respondents in Australia and New Zealand expect their cloud efforts to pay off in the next year. Though the numbers noting high cloud maturity were small, those organisations were much more likely to find cloud success.

92%

of respondents in Australia and New Zealand are wasting money in the cloud

Even as most organisations in Australia and New Zealand increase their cloud investments and get positive returns on those investments, they remain extremely likely to be wasting some of that spending. In fact, Australian and New Zealander respondents were just about as likely (92%) to report cloud waste as global (91%) or Asia-Pacific (92%) respondents. What's behind the cloud waste? The three most commonly cited contributors were lack of needed skills, overprovisioning of resources, and idle or underused resources — the same trio of issues that topped the list in 2023.

56%

of Australia and New Zealander respondents are experiencing a shortage of skilled staff

Previous State of Cloud Strategy Surveys highlighted the ongoing shortage of skilled cloud staffers that has dogged enterprises for years, and the problem shows no signs of letting up. This year, more than half of respondents in Australia and New Zealand said they don't have all the staff expertise they need to support their cloud infrastructure strategy — but that's significantly less than the global (64%) and Asia-Pacific (60%) results. Almost a quarter (23%) of Australian and New Zealander respondents called the shortage of staff expertise "significant" but that's less than the 28% reported globally and 27% in the Asia-Pacific region. Another 33% of respondents in Australia and New Zealand say they had a "slight" staffing shortage, a bit more than the 32% global and 30% Asia-Pacific figures. And while the problem is worse for low-maturity organisations in Australia and New Zealand, it also affects many highly mature enterprises.

81%

of respondents in Australia and New Zealand are using (or are planning to use) AI to support cloud infrastructure

With all the hype around generative AI, it should be no surprise that four out of five (81%) of respondents in Australia and New Zealand are at least interested in using it to support cloud infrastructure and security. But respondents in Australia and New Zealand are ahead of the pack — more than half (55%) have actually implemented at least rudimentary versions of the technology, compared to 40% globally and 41% in the Asia-Pacific region. Another 36% plan to implement AI in the next year, while 9% are interested in genAI but don't yet have plans to implement it. The most common AI use cases in Australia and New Zealand centre on automating operational tasks and generating code (each cited by 41% of respondents), while detecting cyber threats generated less interest. As in other areas, the small number of highly mature firms are taking a more aggressive approach to implementing genAI compared to low-maturity respondents.

For more details and worldwide results from this year's survey and to download the Forrester Consulting study, visit **www.hashicorp.com/state-of-the-cloud**

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