

# RESEARCH REPORT

March 2018

\$499

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# 2018 State of DevOps

As adoption of DevOps practices increases, organizations are focusing their efforts and expectations on releasing better-quality applications at a much faster rate and using specialized tools to do so.

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**InformationWeek** | **DARK**Reading

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**DevOps practices encourage closer collaboration** between developers and IT operations personnel. This approach relies heavily on automation to speed the development and deployment of applications, while improving overall efficiency, decreasing outages, and allowing organizations to recover from failures more quickly.

This second-annual survey asked 150 business technology decision makers about their use of DevOps and the impact those practices have had on their organizations. It revealed big changes between 2017 and 2018, including the following:

- DevOps is now widespread. A third of respondents said they have already implemented the approach (up from 18% last year), and another 35% plan to adopt the methodology before the year is up.
- Organizations need speed, with 53% reporting that the pressure to release applications more quickly was driving their DevOps adoption, up from 29% last year.
- Respondents are realizing increased speed as a key benefit of DevOps, with 69% saying DevOps has increased the speed and frequency of application deployment, compared to 39% last year.
- As a result of DevOps, 80% of respondents have seen either “significant” or “moderate” improvement in time spent fixing and maintaining applications.
- Of those surveyed, 76% said their developers were using agile methodologies.
- Docker, Slack, and GitHub are among the most popular tools used by DevOps teams.

## ABOUT US

### Interop ITX

Interop ITX is the industry's most trusted independent conference focused on Full Stack IT education for technology leaders. The event continues the 30 years Interop has dedicated to providing IT professionals with a trusted environment to learn, collaborate, and uncover new strategies and solutions they need to lead their businesses through constant change and disruption. Interop ITX offers both breadth and depth of content to a broad IT audience across core areas: Cloud, Data & Analytics, DevOps, Government, Infrastructure, Leadership & Professional Development, and Security. For more information, visit [InteropITX.com](http://InteropITX.com).

## RESEARCH REPORT

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# RESEARCH SYNOPSIS

**Survey Name:** Interop ITX and InformationWeek 2018 State of DevOps

**Survey Date:** February 2018

**Region:** North America

**Respondent base:** 150 technology professionals involved in purchasing technology for their employers. The margin of error for the total respondent base (N=150) is +/- 7.9 percentage points.

**Methodology:** Interop ITX and InformationWeek surveyed business technology decision makers at North American companies on DevOps-related topics. The survey was conducted online, and respondents were recruited via an email invitation containing an embedded link to the survey. The email invitation was sent to a select group of UBM's audience. More than four out of 10 of the resulting respondents (43%) work in an IT management role, and more than a third (34%) work in application development. Nearly half (49%) were from enterprises with more than 1,000 employees. UBM was responsible for all programming and data analysis. These procedures were carried out in strict accordance with standard market research practices.

## The Big Picture

One of the most important findings in this year's survey is that people now understand what DevOps is all about. This year, 84% of respondents indicated that they were familiar or very familiar with DevOps, compared to 60% who said the same thing last year. The "very familiar" category saw a particularly high spike, climbing from 18% to 47%.

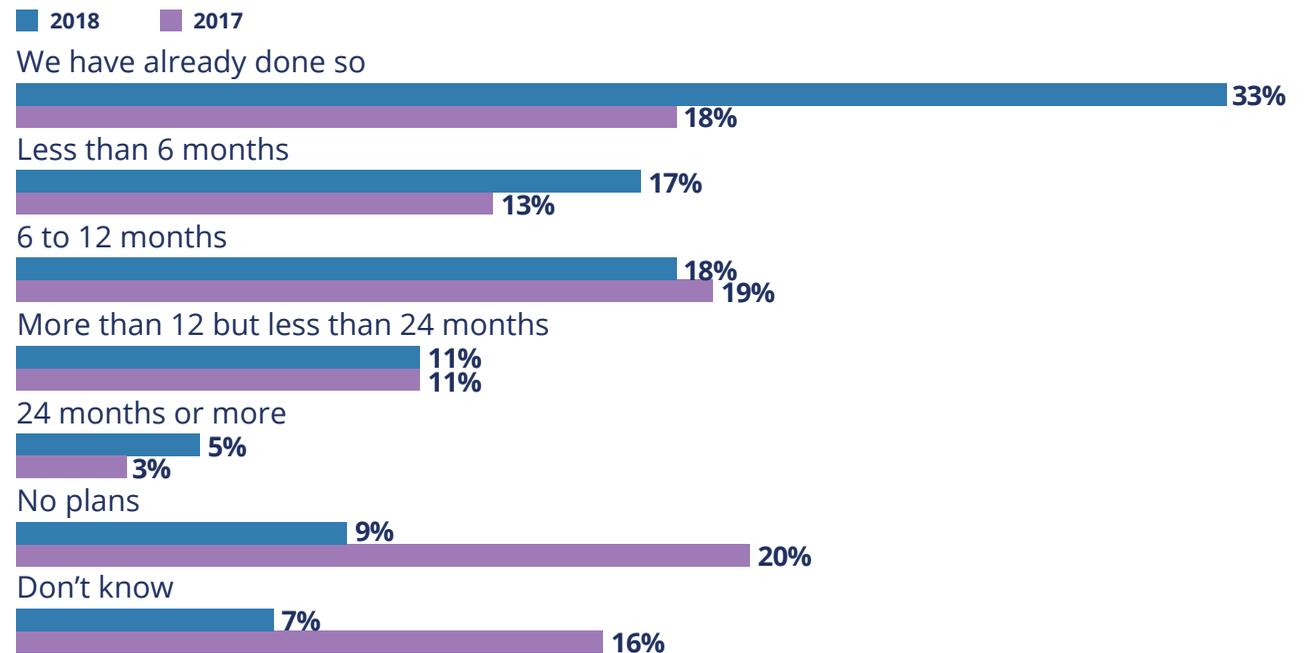
IT pros don't just know about DevOps — more are actually using the practices. A full third said they have already adopted the approach, compared with just 18% who said the same in 2017 (**Figure 1**). Two-thirds either have already implemented DevOps or plan to do so before the year is up, and only 9% have no DevOps plans.

As DevOps becomes more commonplace, the factors driving adoption have evolved. Last year, the No. 1 driver for the methodology was the need to improve quality and performance of applications (55%), followed by the need to improve the end customer experience (48%) and the need to reduce IT costs (35%) (**Figure 2**). This year, the desire for better applications seems to have intensified, with 73%

Figure 1

### Expected Timeline to Adopt DevOps

What is your expected timeline to adopt DevOps principles in your organization?



Base: 150 respondents in 2018 and 300 in 2017

Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of technology professionals, February 2018

of people citing this as a key driver for DevOps implementation. But the No. 2 driver, selected by 53% of respondents, was the pressure to release applications more quickly. Throughout the survey, this

need for speed appeared again and again. The challenges holding back adoption have also morphed a bit. Last year, security and compliance concerns topped the list, followed by a lack of alignment, a lack

of skills, and difficulty justifying return on investment (**Figure 3**). This year, organizational complexity was the top vote-getter, selected by more than a third of respondents. The lack of alignment and skills continued to be a problem.

Despite these challenges, more organizations are reporting benefits, but again, the types of benefits they are experiencing has changed. Last year, the top benefit was increased collaboration. Today, the top benefit, cited by 69% of respondents, is the increased frequency of deployment, a dramatic increase over the 39% who said the same last year (**Figure 4**). Another speed-related factor, time-to-market for software/services, came in fourth, selected by nearly half of respondents.

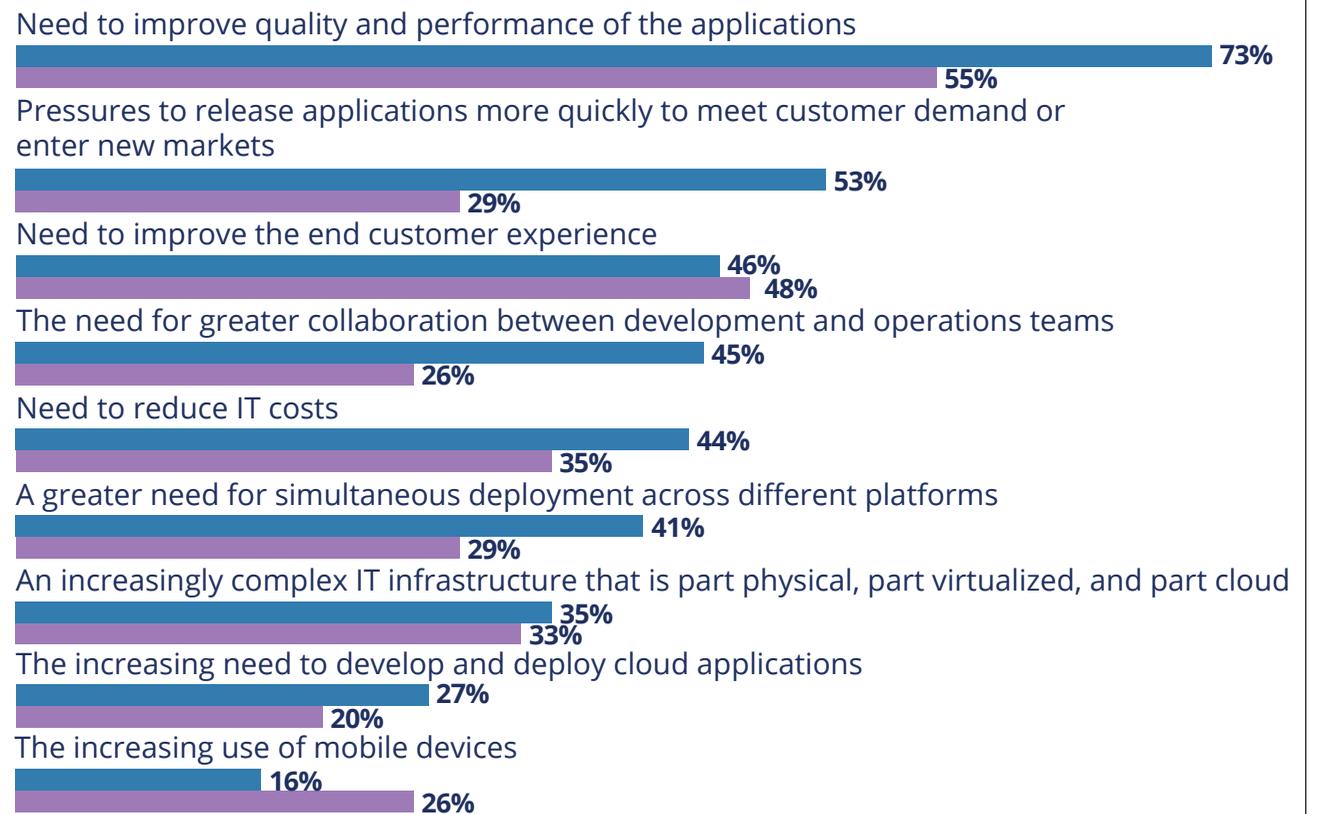
When asked to quantify how much improvement they had seen in various areas as a result of DevOps implementation, the benefit that had the highest number of people citing a “significant” improvement was the reduction in time spent fixing and maintaining applications (**Figure 5**). Deployment speed was also a very noteworthy change, as 39% called it a “significant”

Figure 2

## Driving the Need for DevOps

### What is driving the need for DevOps?

■ 2018 ■ 2017



Note: Multiple responses allowed

Base: 128 respondents in 2018 and 237 in 2017 who have adopted or plan to adopt DevOps principles

Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of technology professionals, February 2018

improvement, and 36% said it was a “moderate” improvement.

On the flip side, the areas where the highest number of organizations saw no improvement included cross-platform availability, revenue, and customer growth. The revenue and customer growth findings, in particular, might be concerning for some business managers, so IT leaders who are pushing for DevOps implementation in their organizations will need to set expectations carefully.

Currently, nearly half of organizations (49%) say they are judging the success of their DevOps initiatives on internal factors, rather than external factors (29%). But a sizable group (22%) aren’t sure how to measure success.

### Development

The vast majority (86%) of organizations surveyed have in-house developers. And those developers are increasingly adopting a DevOps approach — although the practice still appears restricted to smaller groups within the larger team. Among those surveyed, only 8% said that all their

Figure 3

## Major Challenges to Implementing DevOps

What have been the major challenges to implementing DevOps strategy in your organization?



Note: Maximum of three responses allowed  
 Base: 128 respondents in 2018 and 237 in 2017 who have adopted or plan to adopt DevOps principles  
 Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of technology professionals, February 2018

developers were utilizing DevOps, and only 14% said the majority of their developers were on board with the approach. But 58% said that up to half of their team had adopted DevOps. Only 20% said that none of their developers were using it, down from 35% last year.

As DevOps takes hold, more developers are using agile processes. For 2018, 76% said that at least some of their in-house team was using agile methodologies (**Figure 6**). However, respondents were allowed to select more than one answer, and that led to a situation where the number of organizations using waterfall processes, which are definitely not part of a DevOps approach, also increased.

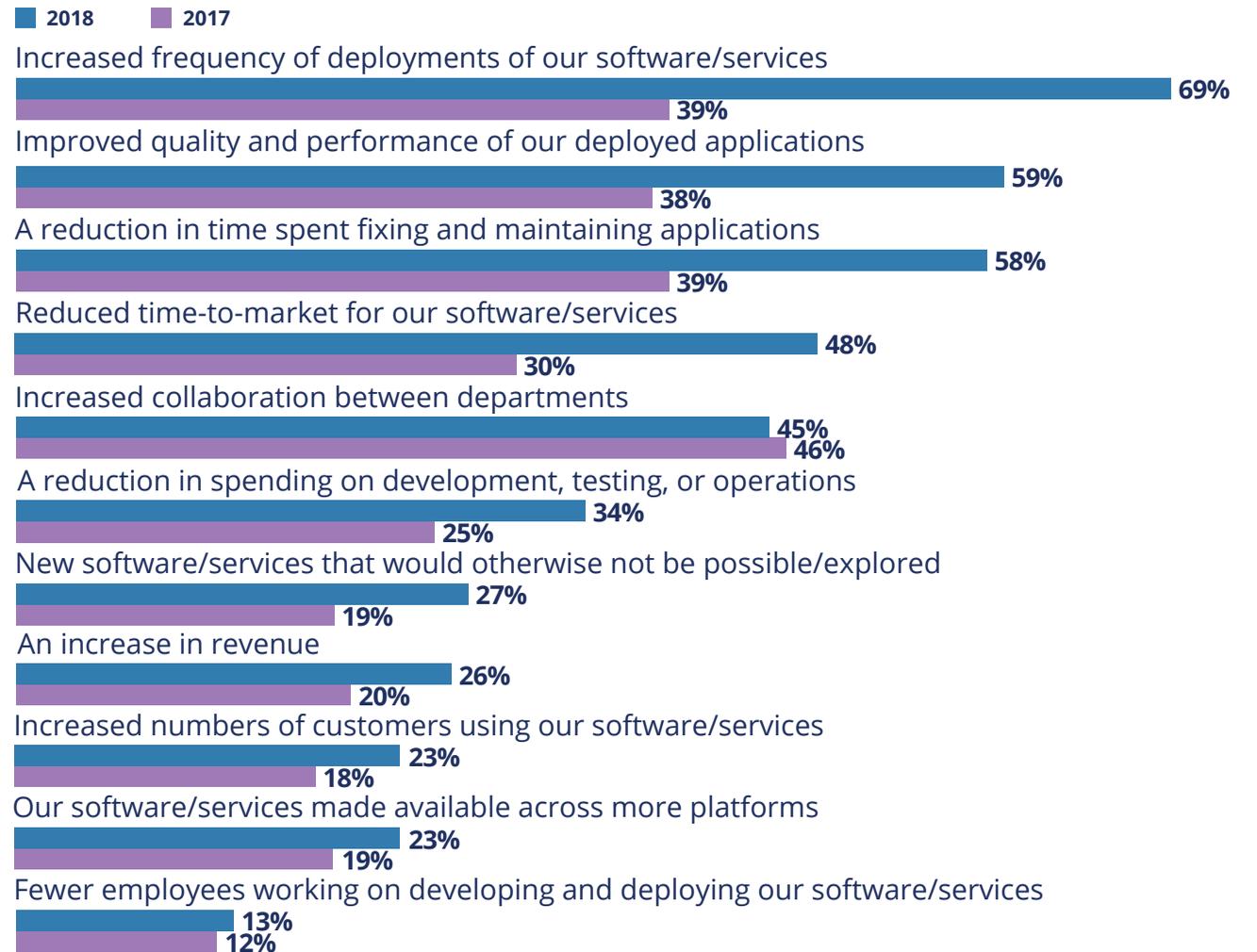
Despite the fact that not everyone is using agile, these methodologies appear to be helping developers work faster. In this year's survey, 55% of those surveyed said they had seen "significant improvement" in this area, up from 36% last year (**Figure 7**). And only 1% said they had seen no improvement in application development speed.

When development is complete, organizations are also taking less time to move

Figure 4

## Benefits of DevOps

What benefits have you seen or do you anticipate seeing from implementing DevOps in your organization?



Note: Multiple responses allowed  
 Base: 128 respondents in 2018 and 237 in 2017 who have adopted or plan to adopt DevOps principles  
 Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of technology professionals, February 2018

applications into production. Last year, only 7% could push out new apps to users in less than an hour, but now 15% have that capability (**Figure 8**). Nearly a third (32%) can complete deployment in a half-day or less, and 60% can deploy in less than a week.

All that speed is also allowing organizations to update their applications more frequently. Last year, nearly half of organizations (46%) said that they pushed out fewer than 10 upgrades for the entire year. This year, only 28% said the same thing, and 28% said they pushed out 60 or more updates for the year.

### Operations

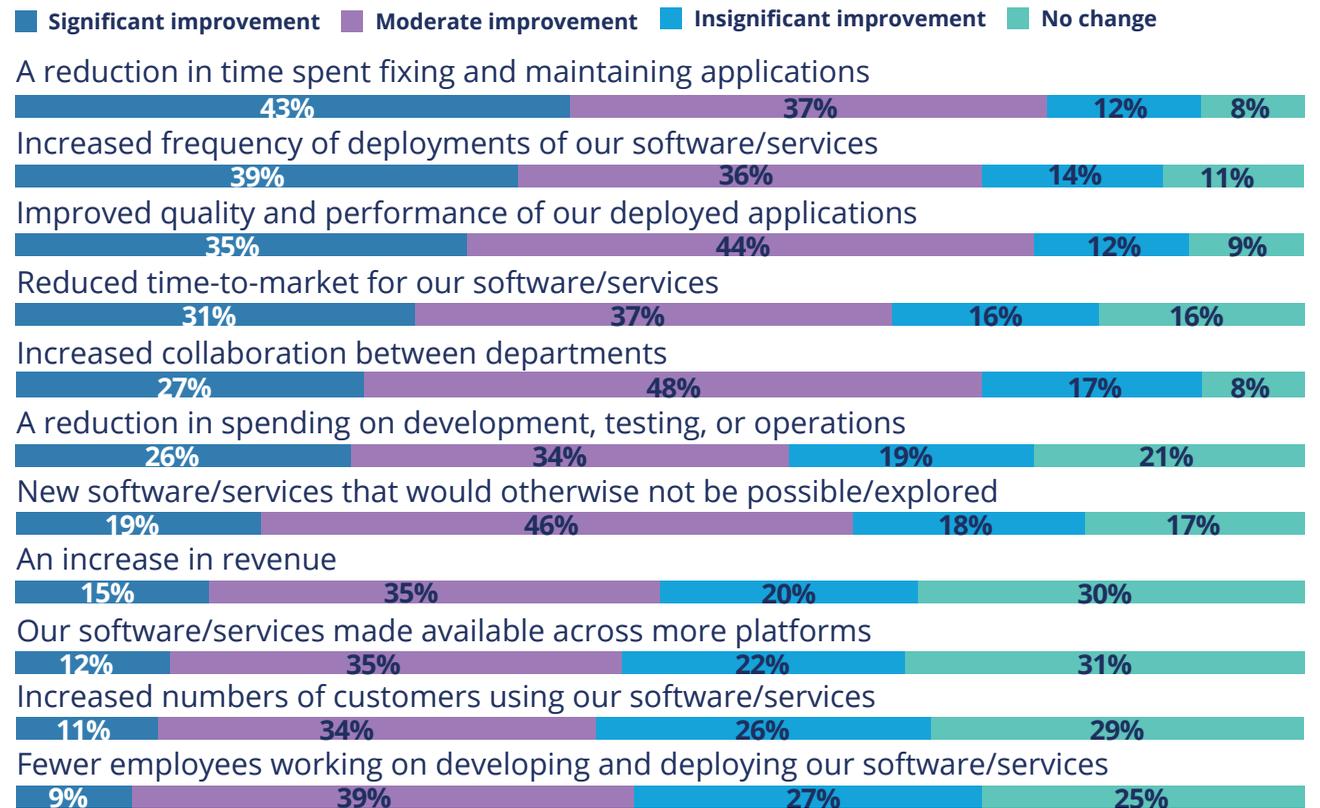
Overall, the number of applications managed by IT is on the rise. Last year, nearly four out of 10 survey respondents managed 10 or fewer applications, but this year, that number dropped to 29% (**Figure 9**). Now, nearly half of those surveyed (49%) are managing 20 or more applications, with nearly a quarter (23%) managing 60 or more.

In a sign of DevOps maturity, more organizations are relying on monitoring tools

Figure 5

## Improvements as a Result of DevOps

How would you quantify the change for each of the following as a result of your DevOps adoption?



Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of 150 technology professionals, February 2018

to let them know when downtime occurs rather than waiting to hear about problems from angry customers. In fact, nearly three-quarters (71%) now have such tools in place (**Figure 10**).

Unfortunately, however, DevOps hasn't yet let to a notable decrease in the number of outages or in the mean time to recover (MTTR) from those outages. The bulk of IT teams (61%) are still experiencing between one and five application outages per month. And the number of organizations that can recover from a failure in less than 10 minutes actually decreased from 12% to just 6% in 2018 (**Figure 11**). The good news is that a majority (53%) are reporting an MTTR of an hour or less

On the other hand, organizations are seeing improvements in infrastructure stability. For 2018, half of respondents said they had experienced a "significant improvement" in this area, compared to 31% who said the same thing last year.

## Tooling

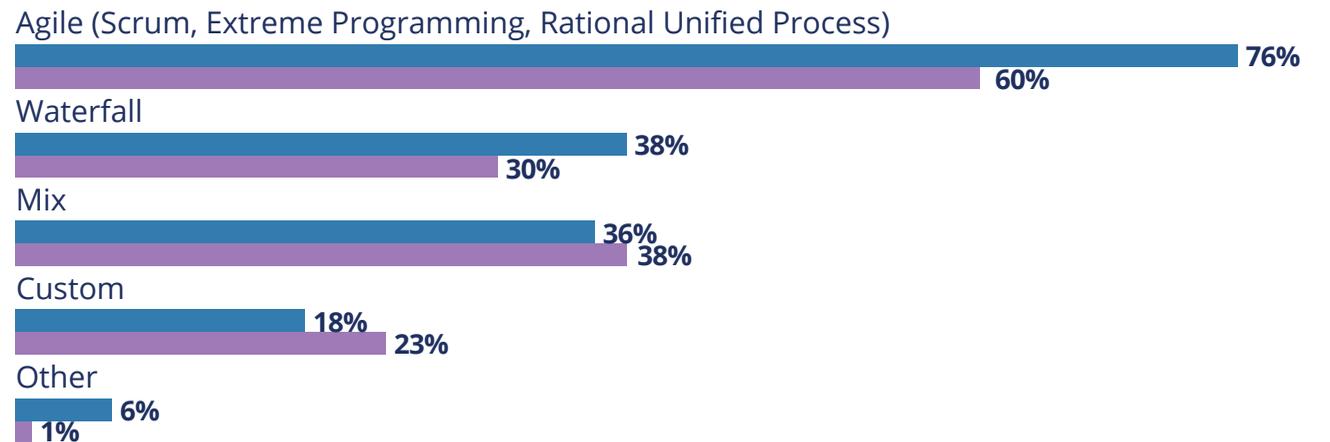
Organizations' perceptions of the importance of various types of tools has also un-

Figure 6

## Methodologies Used by In-House Developers

What methodologies do your in-house app developers use?

■ 2018 ■ 2017



Note: Multiple responses allowed

Base: 128 respondents in 2018 and 231 in 2017 at organizations with in-house app developers

Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of technology professionals, February 2018

dergone a shift. In 2018, nearly half (47%) called release automation tools critical, up from 25% last year (**Figure 12**). Application performance monitoring and functional testing are still near the top of the chart, while enterprise security and performance testing tools have dropped down.

When it comes to tools that help DevOps

teams manage and configure their infrastructure, Docker was the preferred favorite by a wide margin (**Figure 13**). Puppet, Ansible, and Kubernetes also scored highly, with more than a third of respondents using each.

For collaboration, Slack and GitHub are the preferred choices, with each used by

nearly half of the organizations surveyed (**Figure 14**). Confluence and Microsoft Teams were used by more than a third.

A majority of respondents were either already running applications in the cloud or planned to do so within six months, so it's not surprising that IT leaders perceive cloud technologies as very important to their DevOps plans. Like DevOps methodologies, cloud services enable greater speed and agility, so enterprises often deploy the two together to compound their benefits. A majority of respondents said that all the types of cloud services included in the survey are "very important" or "moderately important," and fewer than one in 10 said they weren't important at all (**Figure 15**).

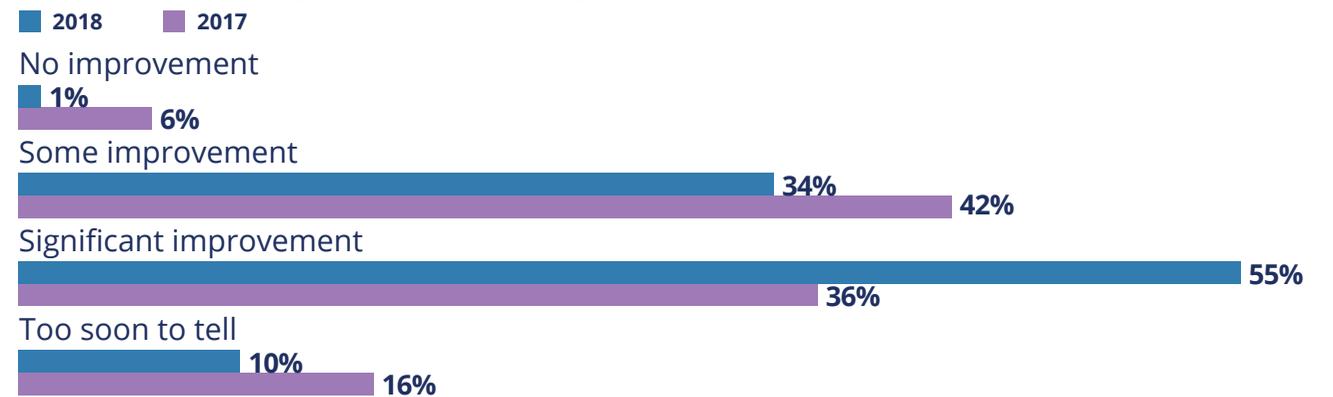
### Looking Ahead

As they plan for the future, organizations' priorities for DevOps investment have shifted somewhat. Training and redesigning processes are claiming more budget dollars, while hiring outside consultants and hiring new personnel familiar with the approach are becoming less commonplace (**Figure 16**).

Figure 7

## Improvement in Application Development Speed

What level of improvement in application deployment speed have you gained or do you expect to gain from adopting DevOps?



Base: 128 respondents in 2018 and 237 in 2017 who have adopted or plan to adopt DevOps principles  
Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of technology professionals, February 2018

Also, organizations have made a big change in the types of tools they are planning to purchase to support their DevOps projects. Last year, project management and issue-tracking tools topped the list. While these types of tools are very helpful, they aren't exclusive to DevOps. Tools specifically designed to support DevOps, like configuration management tools, release automation tools, and continuous integra-

tion tools, were closer to the bottom of the list last year.

This year, project management tools dropped farther down in the stack. Conversely, DevOps tools like configuration management, collaboration, continuous integration, and automated test tools saw significant increases in usage and purchase plans. And as for which tools organizations want to buy, Microsoft and Puppet ranked

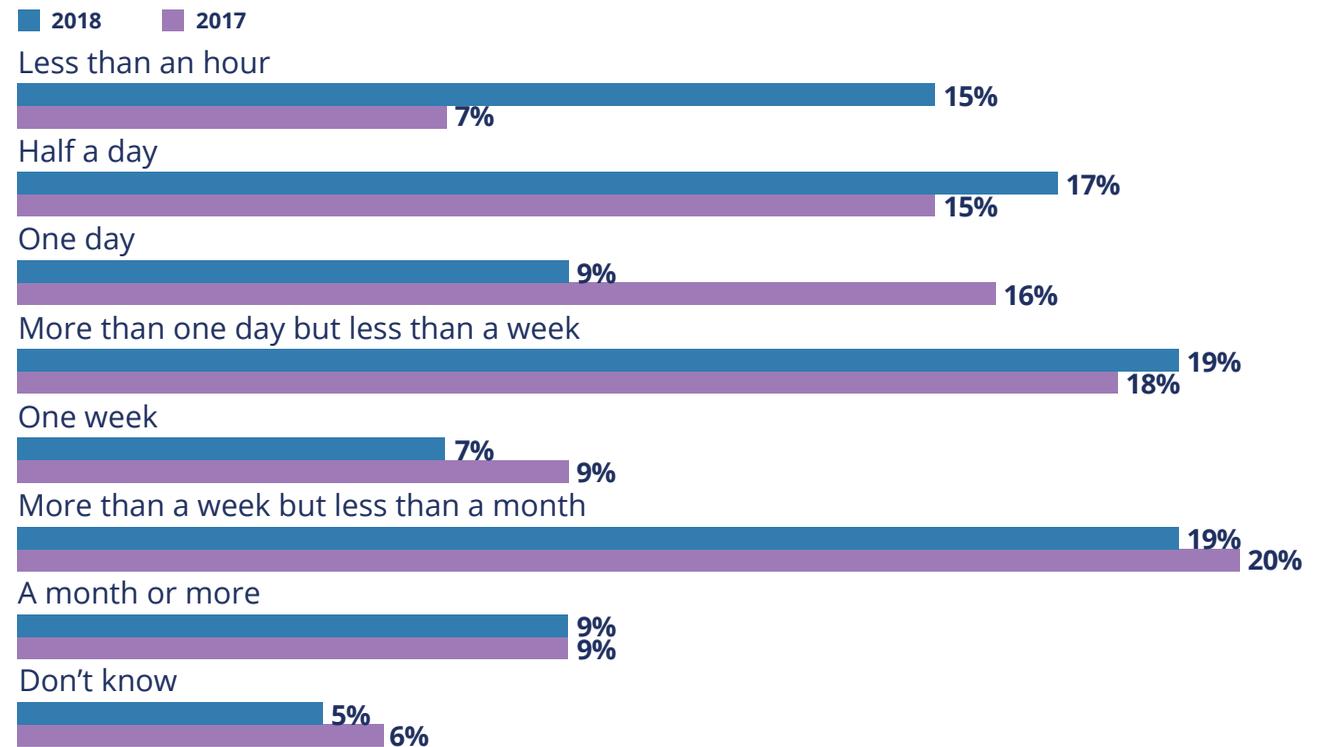
among the most popular vendors.

As DevOps continues to mature and variants like DevSecOps become more commonplace, look for organizations to continue shifting their DevOps dollars. Also, trends like cloud computing, mobility, containerization, and the push toward digital transformation seem likely to accelerate the DevOps movement, and that could result in even bigger changes for next year's survey (Figure 17).

Figure 8

### Average Time to Move Application into Production

Once an application completes the development process, how long does it take on average to move into production?



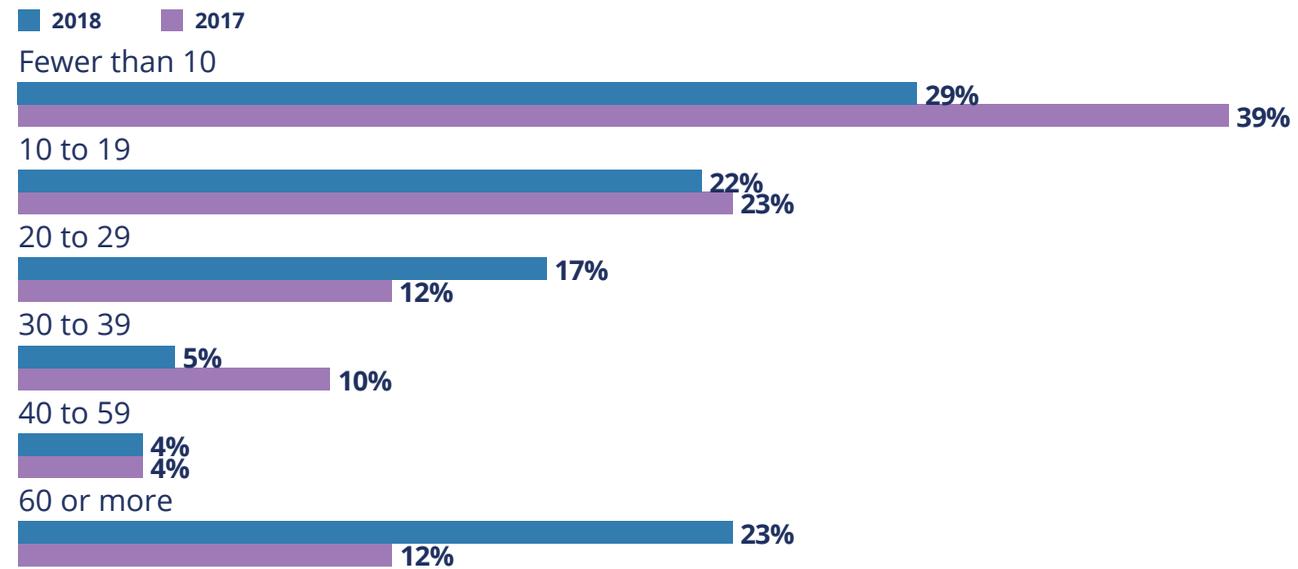
Base: 150 respondents in 2018 and 300 in 2017  
 Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of technology professionals, February 2018

# APPENDIX

Figure 9

## Applications Managed by IT Team

How many applications does your IT team manage?

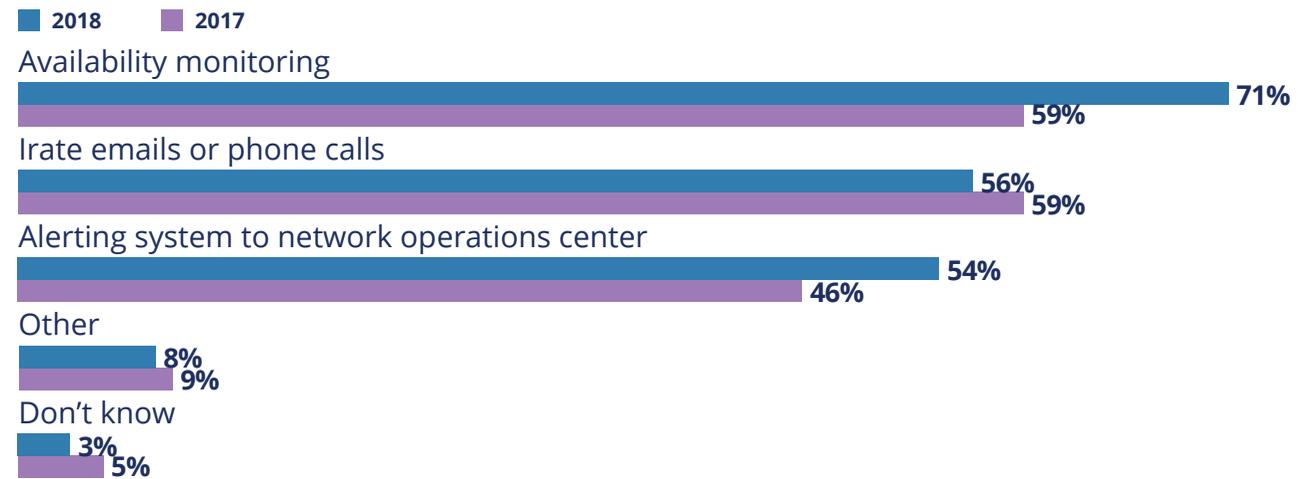


Base: 150 respondents in 2018 and 300 in 2017  
Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of technology professionals, February 2018

Figure 10

## Alerting IT to Application Failures

How is IT alerted to application failures?



Note: Multiple responses allowed

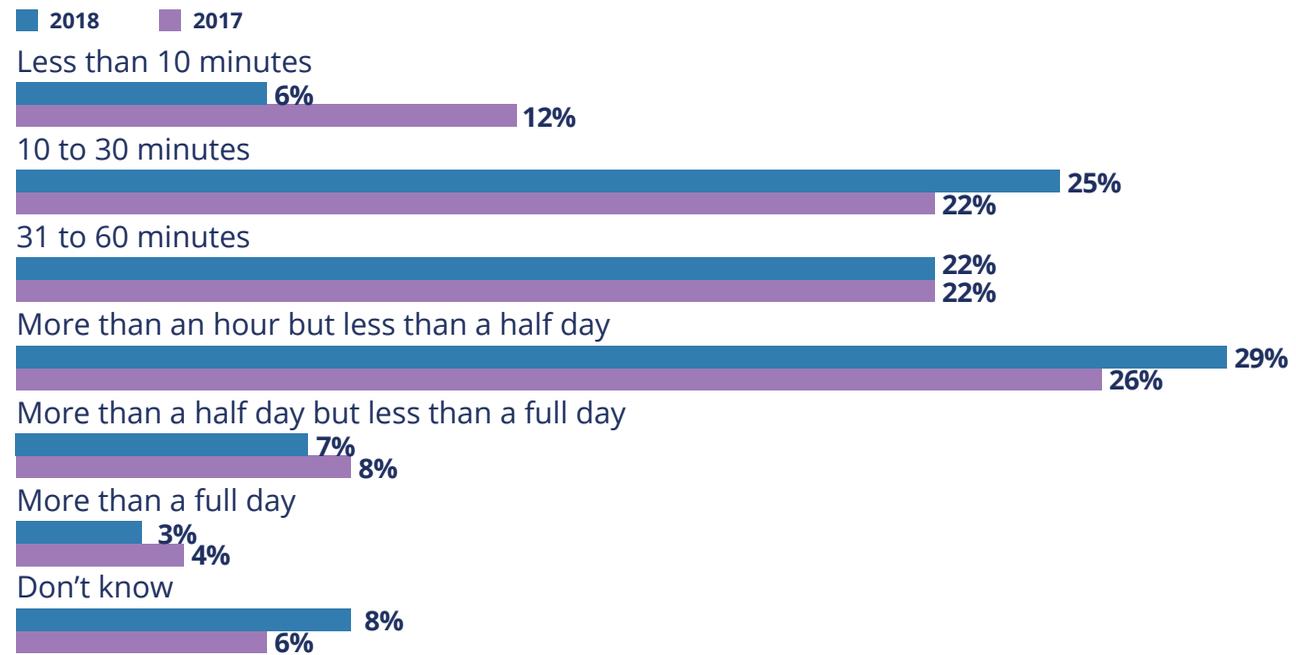
Base: 150 respondents in 2018 and 300 in 2017

Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of technology professionals, February 2018

Figure 11

## Recovery Time

On average, how long does recovery take when an application fails?

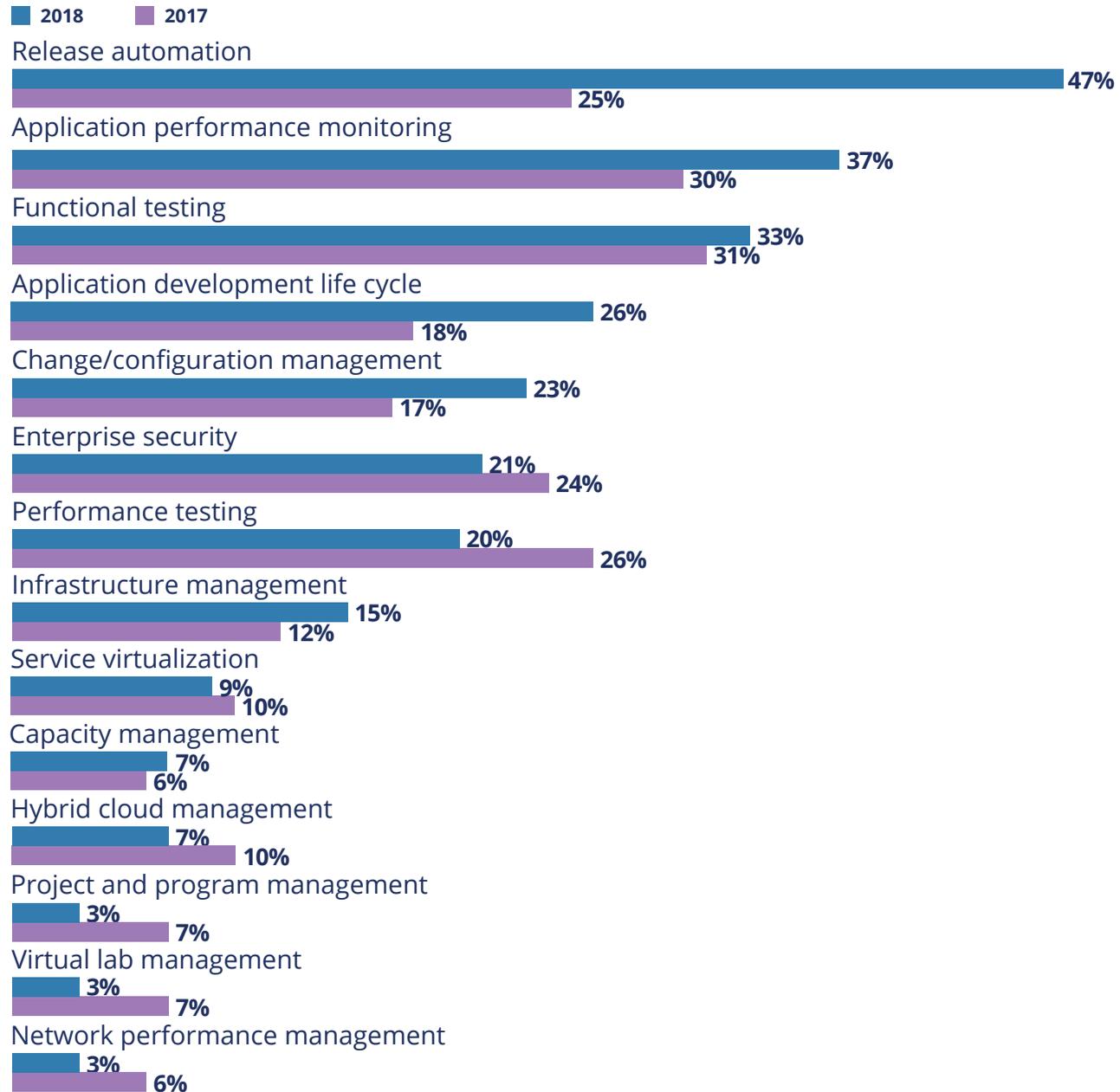


Base: 150 respondents in 2018 and 300 in 2017  
Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of technology professionals, February 2018

Figure 12

## Critical Tools to Enable DevOps

Which tools do you consider to be the most critical for enabling DevOps?



Note: Maximum of three responses allowed  
Base: 150 respondents in 2018 and 300 in 2017  
Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of technology professionals, February 2018

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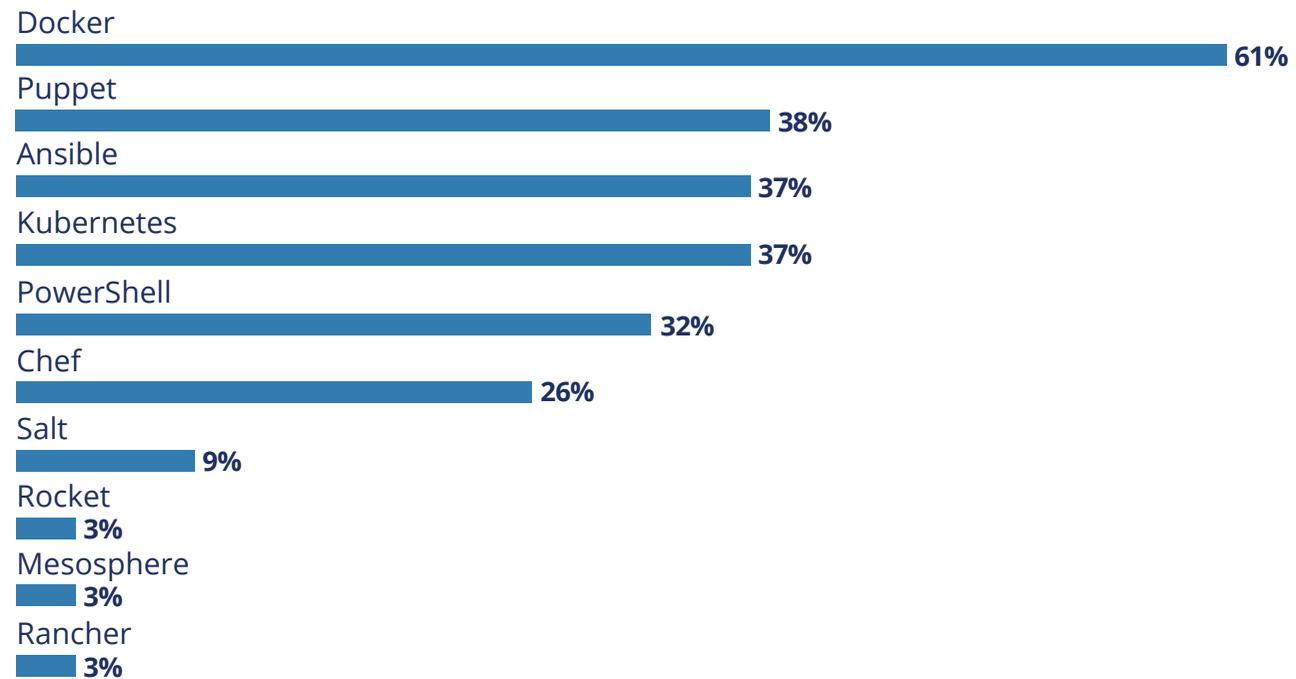
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Figure 13

## Implementing Configuration Management Tools

Which of the following configuration management tools are you currently using or planning to implement in the next 12 months?



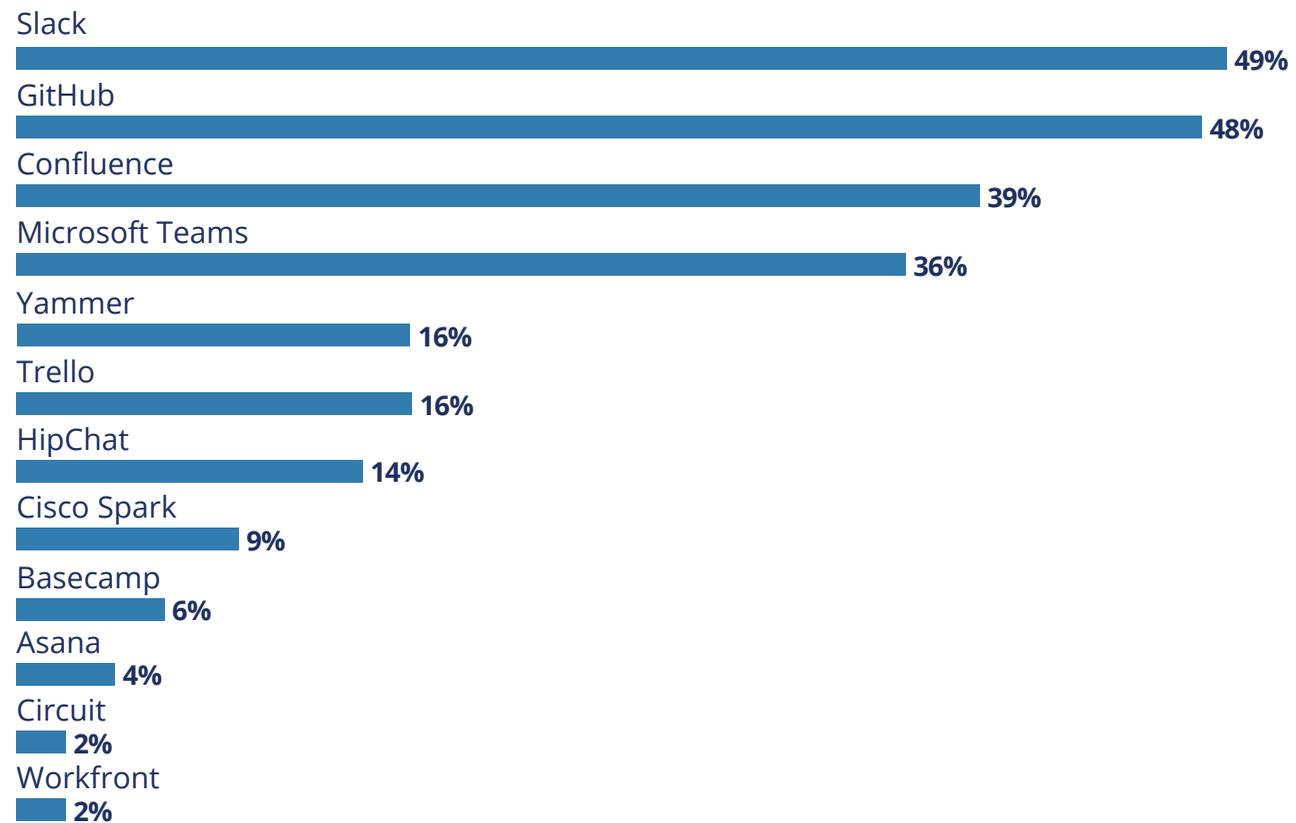
Note: Multiple responses allowed

Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of 150 technology professionals, February 2018

Figure 14

## Implementing Collaboration Tools

Which of the following collaboration tools are you currently using or planning to implement in the next 12 months?



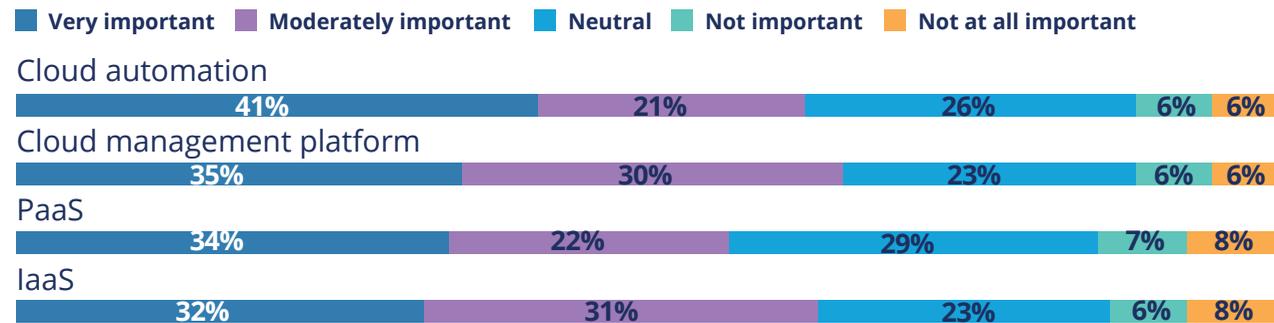
Note: Multiple responses allowed

Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of 150 technology professionals, February 2018

Figure 15

### Importance of Cloud Technologies

How important are the following cloud technologies to your DevOps initiative?

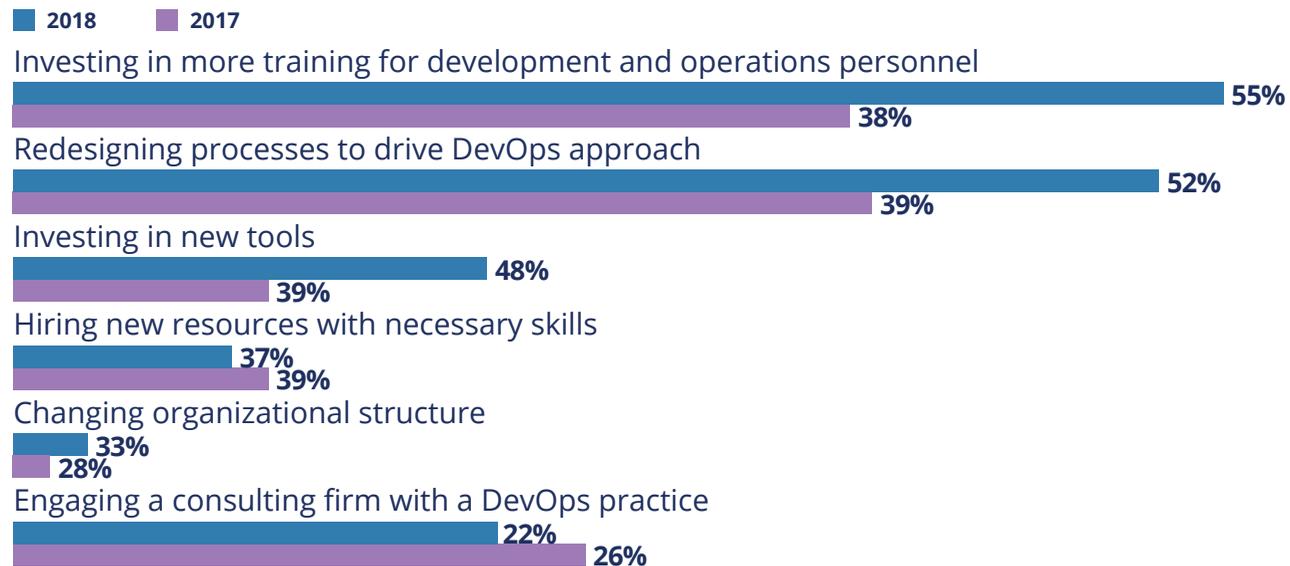


Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of 150 technology professionals, February 2018

Figure 16

### Investments for DevOps Implementation

Which of the following is your organization likely to invest in over the next year as part of your implementation of a DevOps methodology?



Note: Multiple responses allowed

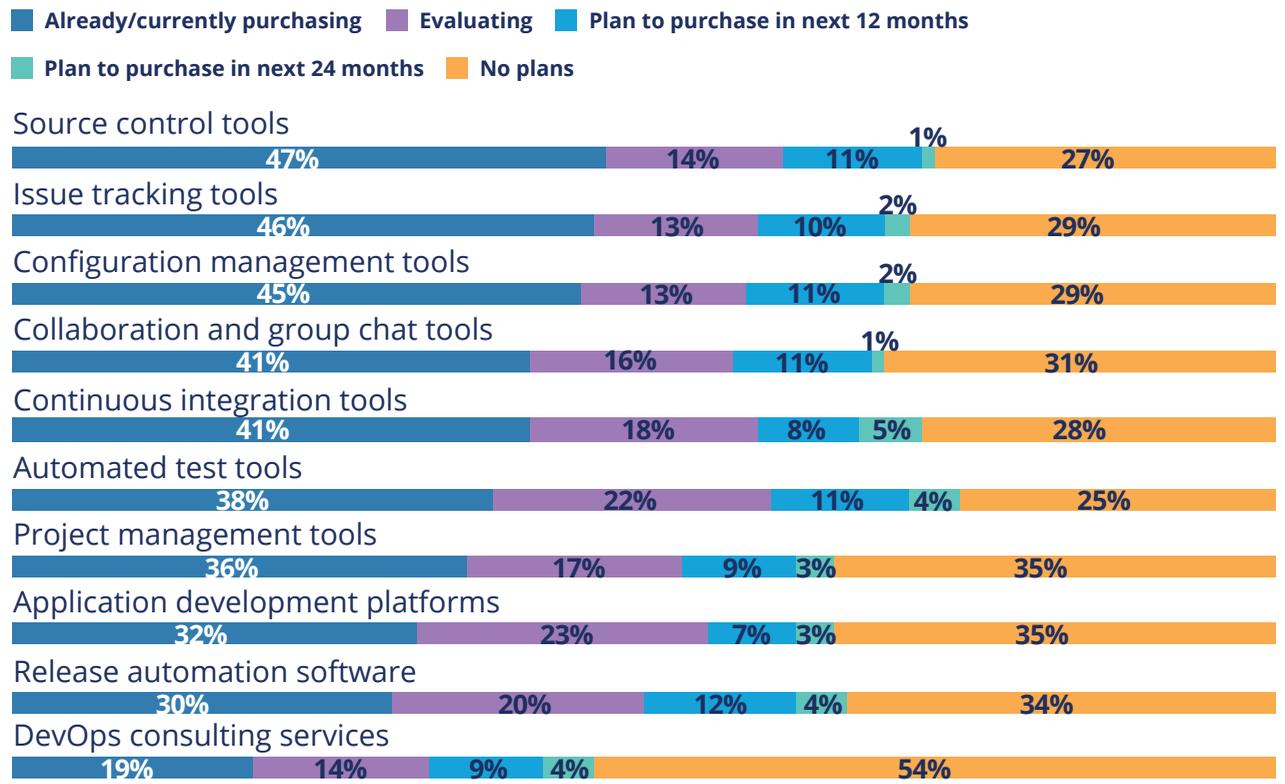
Base: 128 respondents in 2018 and 237 in 2017 who have adopted or plan to adopt DevOps principles

Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of technology professionals, February 2018

Figure 17

## Purchase Plans for DevOps Technologies and Tools

What are your purchasing plans for the following DevOps technologies and tools?



Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of 150 technology professionals, February 2018

Figure 18

## Familiarity with DevOps Concept

How familiar are you with the DevOps concept?

■ 2018 ■ 2017

Very familiar; I understand the details



Familiar; I understand the basics



Somewhat familiar; I have a general idea of what it's about



Not at all familiar



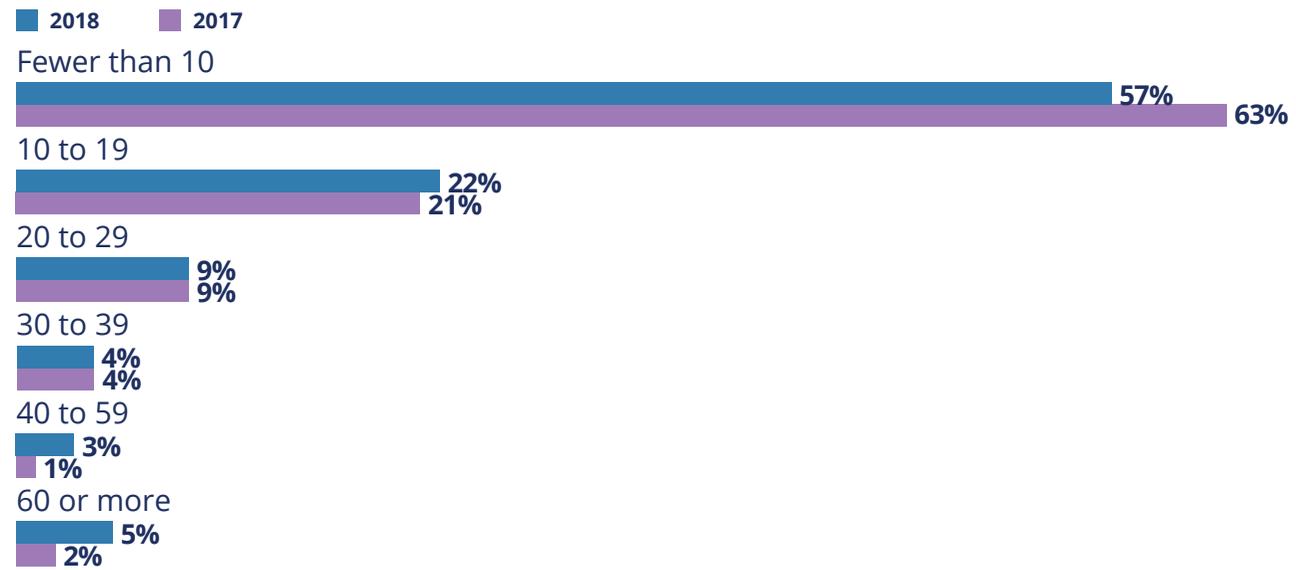
Base: 150 respondents in 2018 and 300 in 2017

Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of technology professionals, February 2018

Figure 19

## New Applications Moved into Production

How many new applications are moved into production in a typical year?



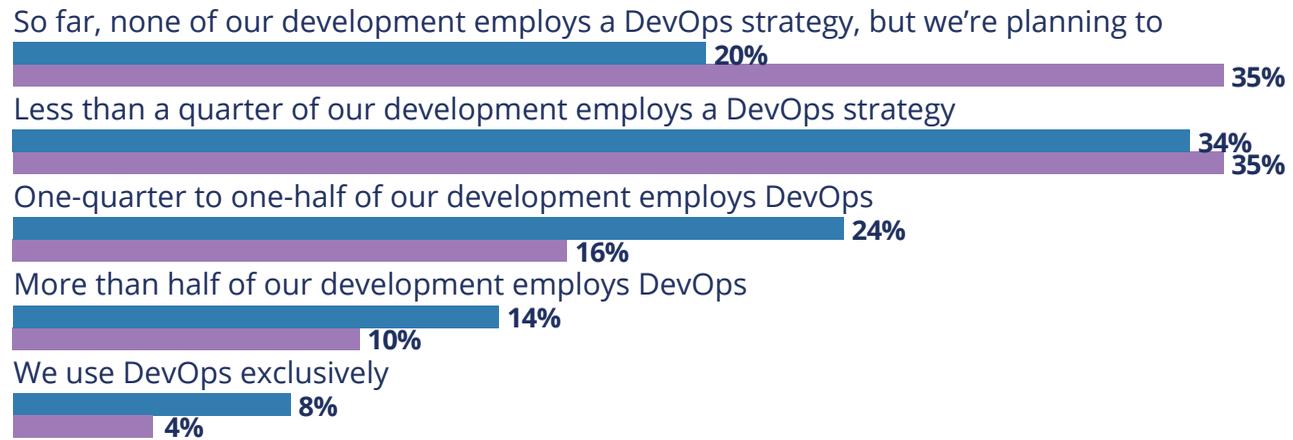
Base: 150 respondents in 2018 and 300 in 2017  
Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of technology professionals, February 2018

Figure 20

## DevOps Approach to Software Development

How would you characterize your company's adoption of a DevOps approach to software development?

■ 2018 ■ 2017

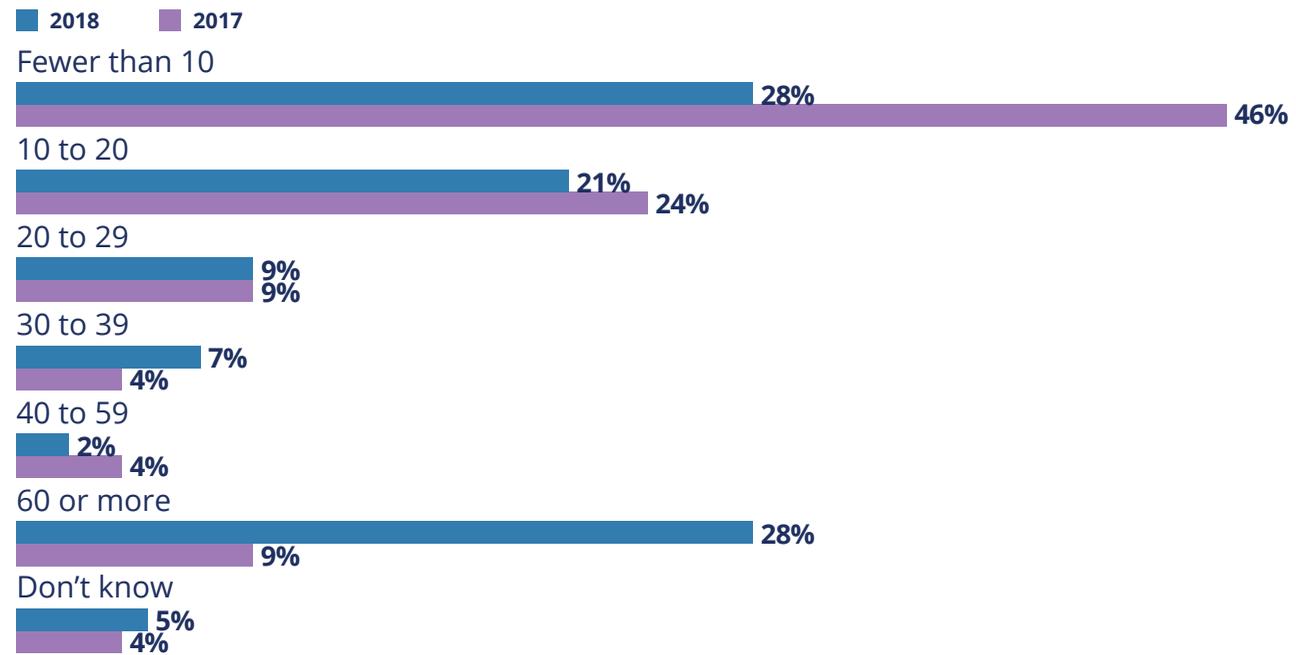


Base: 128 respondents in 2018 and 237 in 2017 who have adopted or plan to adopt DevOps principles  
Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of technology professionals, February 2018

Figure 21

## Application Upgrades Moved into Production

How many application upgrades are moved into production in a typical year?

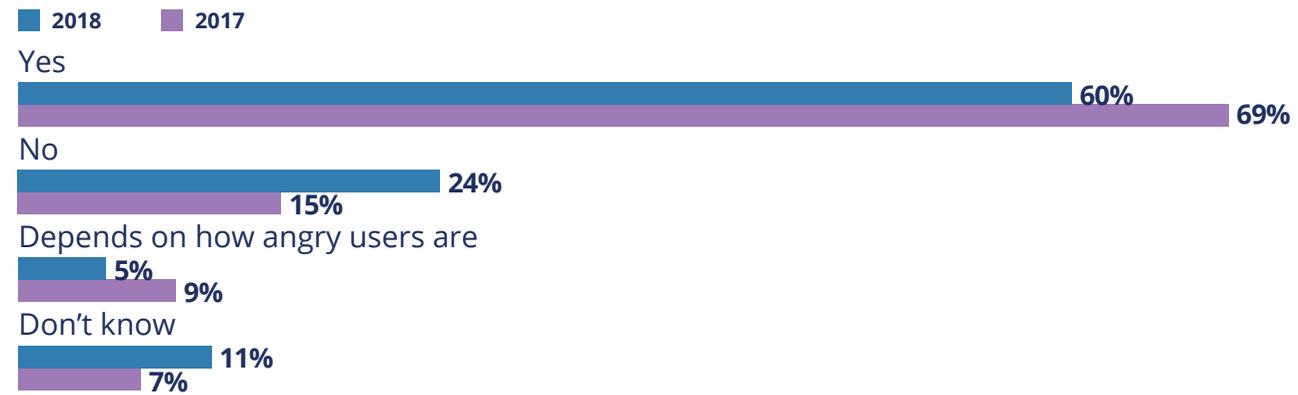


Base: 150 respondents in 2018 and 300 in 2017  
Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of technology professionals, February 2018

Figure 22

## Testing Recovery Processes

Are recovery processes tested before being pushed live?

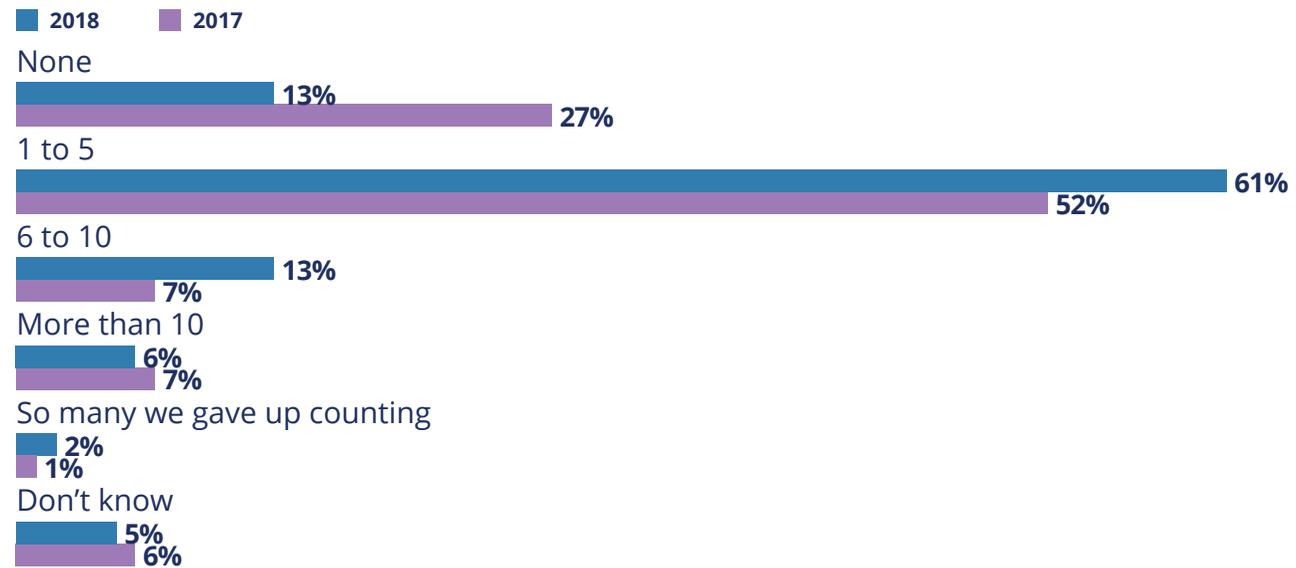


Base: 150 respondents in 2018 and 300 in 2017  
Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of technology professionals, February 2018

Figure 23

## Application Failures

How many application failures (resulting in an outage, disruption, or downtime) do you have in a typical month?

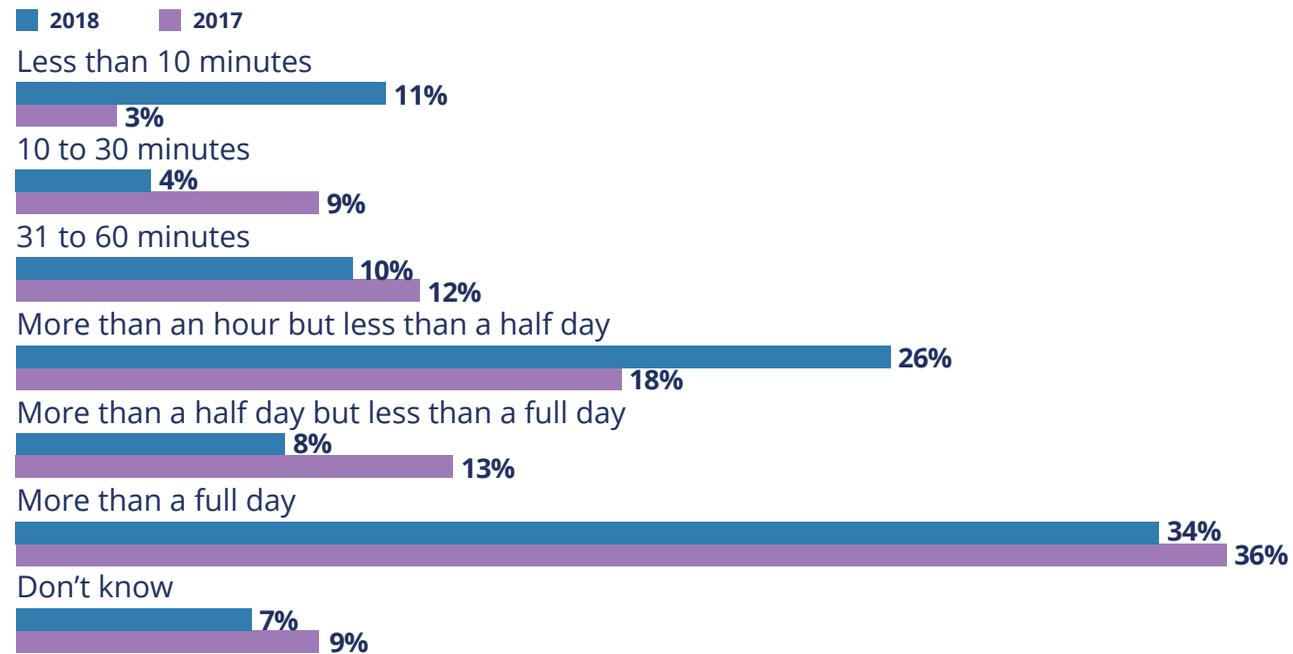


Base: 150 respondents in 2018 and 300 in 2017  
Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of technology professionals, February 2018

Figure 24

### Time Taken for Infrastructure Change

How long does a typical infrastructure change take from request to implementation?



Base: 150 respondents in 2018 and 300 in 2017  
Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of technology professionals, February 2018

Figure 25

## In-House Developers

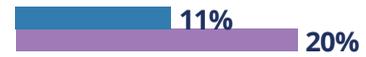
Does your organization have in-house app developers?

■ 2018   ■ 2017

Yes



No



Don't know



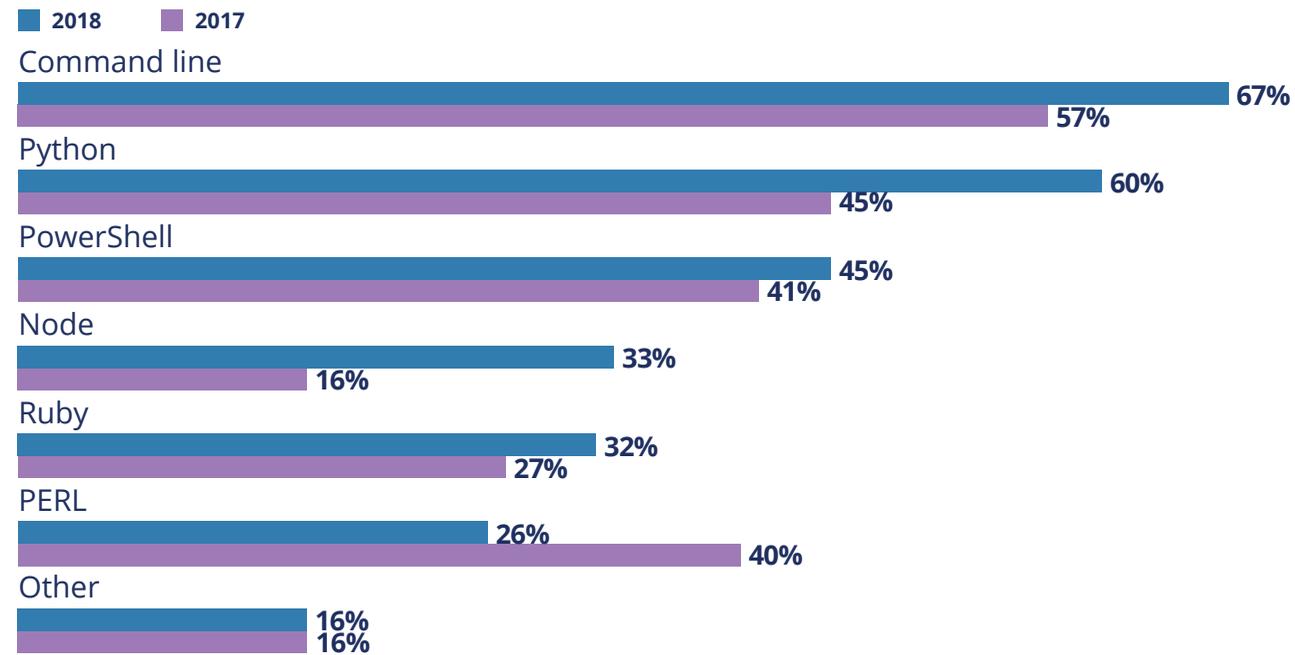
Base: 150 respondents in 2018 and 300 in 2017

Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of technology professionals, February 2018

Figure 26

### Scripting Languages Used

What scripting languages do your in-house developers use?

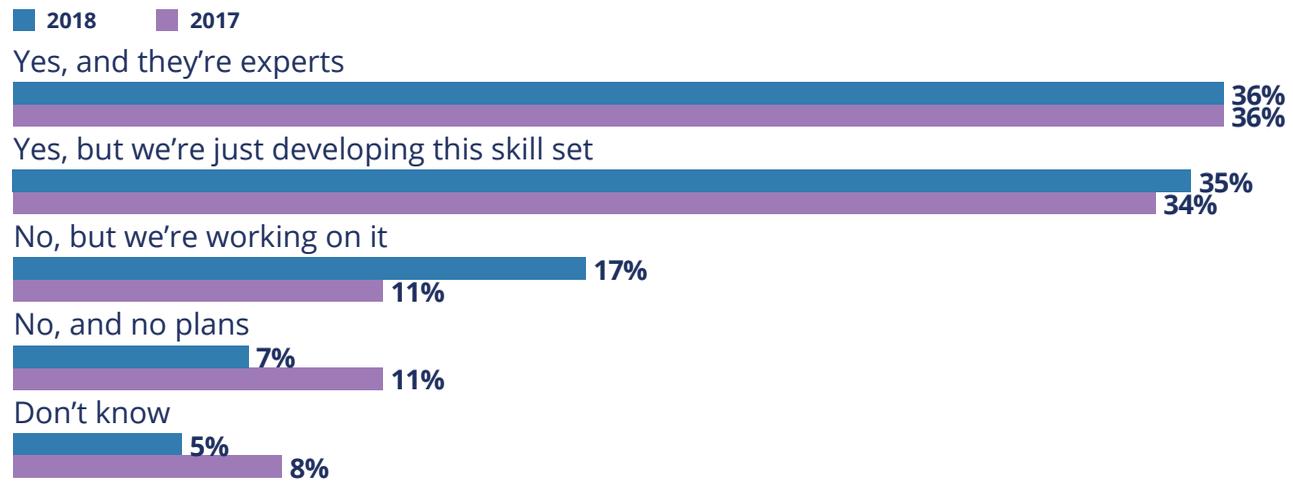


Note: Multiple responses allowed  
Base: 128 respondents in 2018 and 231 in 2017 at organizations with in-house app developers  
Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of technology professionals, February 2018

Figure 27

### Enabling Integration with APIs

Does your IT operations team have personnel who can write and maintain scripts that enable integration with the APIs used to automate deployments?

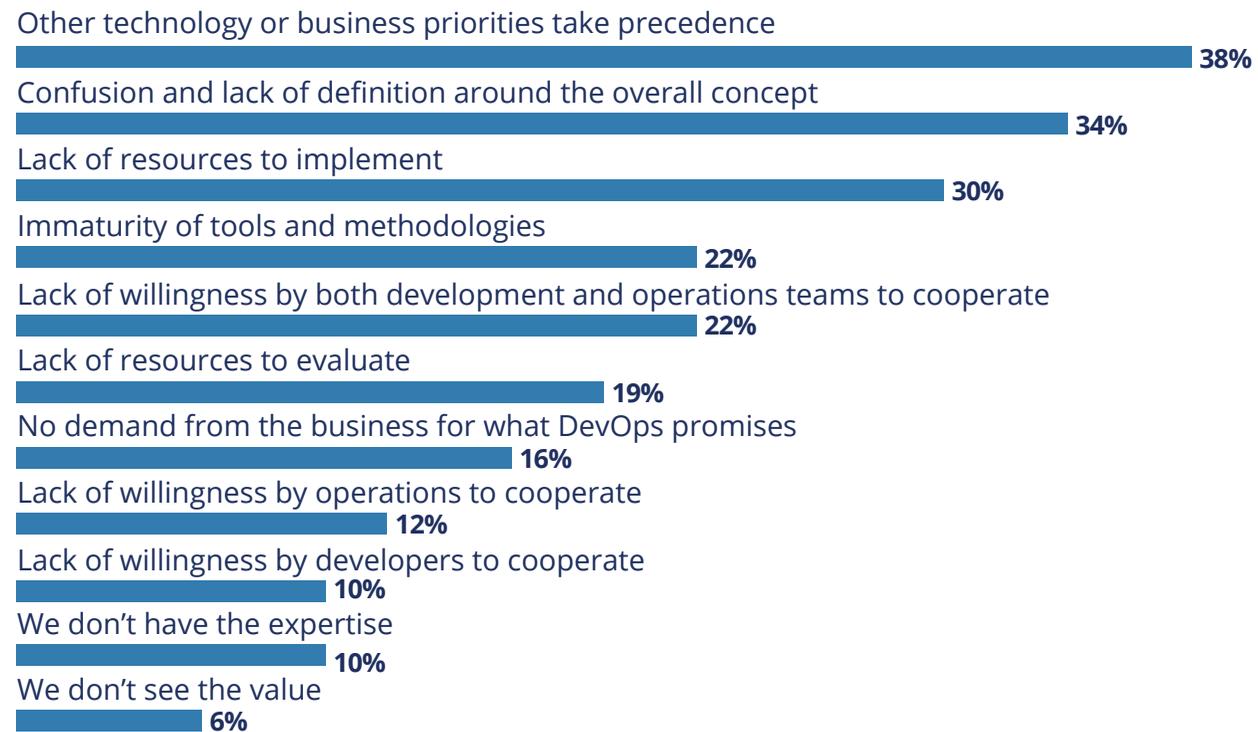


Base: 150 respondents in 2018 and 300 in 2017  
Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of technology professionals, February 2018

Figure 28

## Top Reasons for Not Adopting DevOps Methodology

What are the top reasons your organization won't adopt a DevOps methodology or tools?



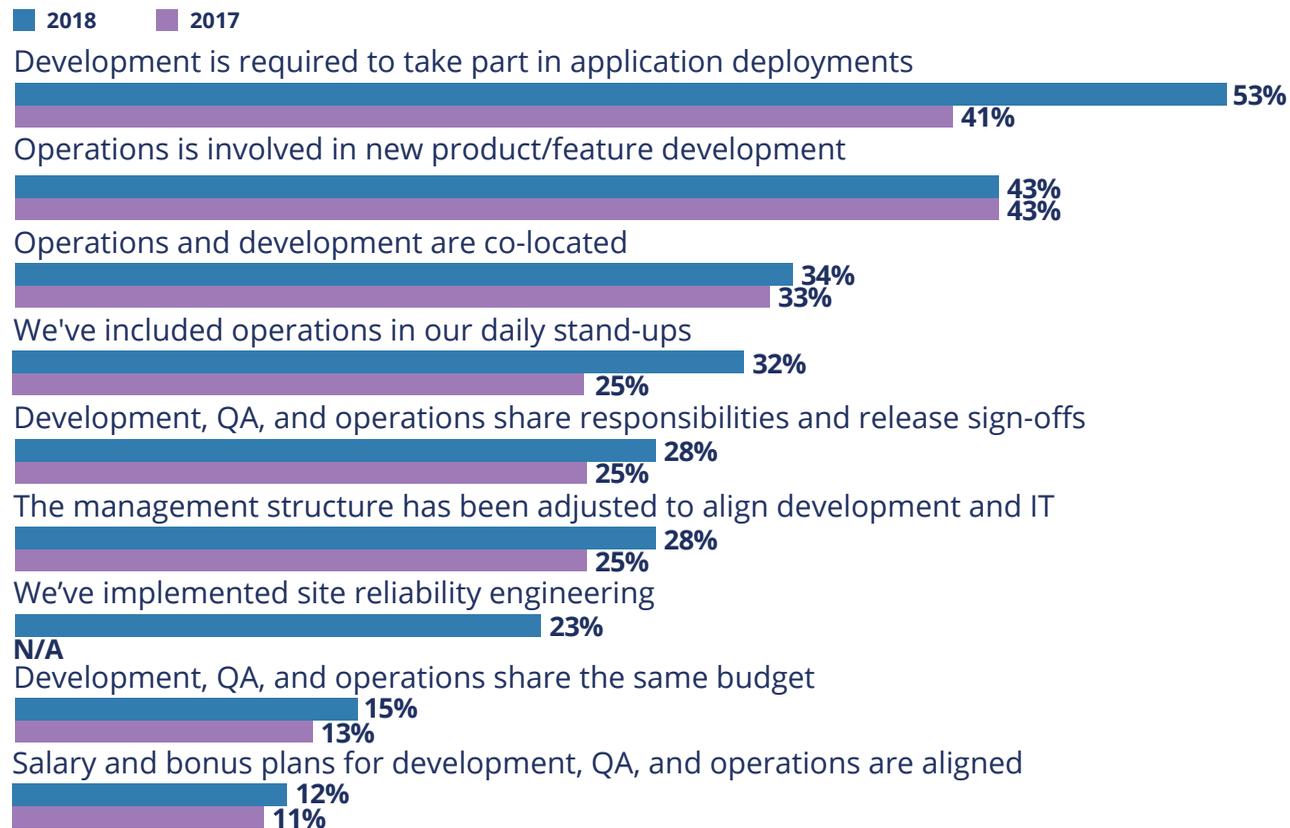
Note: Maximum of three responses allowed

Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of 150 technology professionals, February 2018

Figure 29

## Cultural Changes as a Result of DevOps

What cultural changes has DevOps and its collaboration required in your organization?



Note: Multiple responses allowed

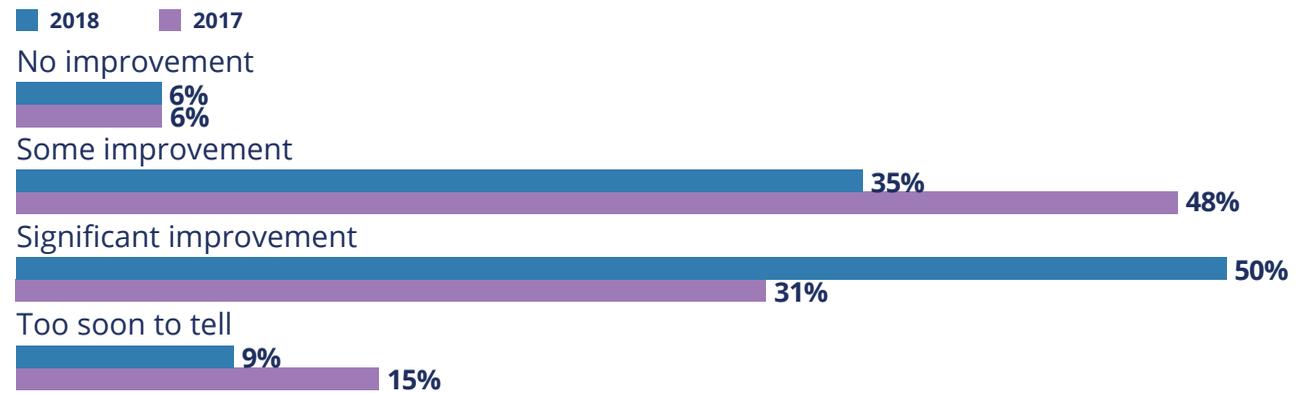
Base: 128 respondents in 2018 and 237 in 2017 who have adopted or plan to adopt DevOps principles

Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of technology professionals, February 2018

Figure 30

### Improvement in IT Infrastructure Stability

What level of improvement in IT infrastructure stability have you gained or do you expect to gain from adopting DevOps?

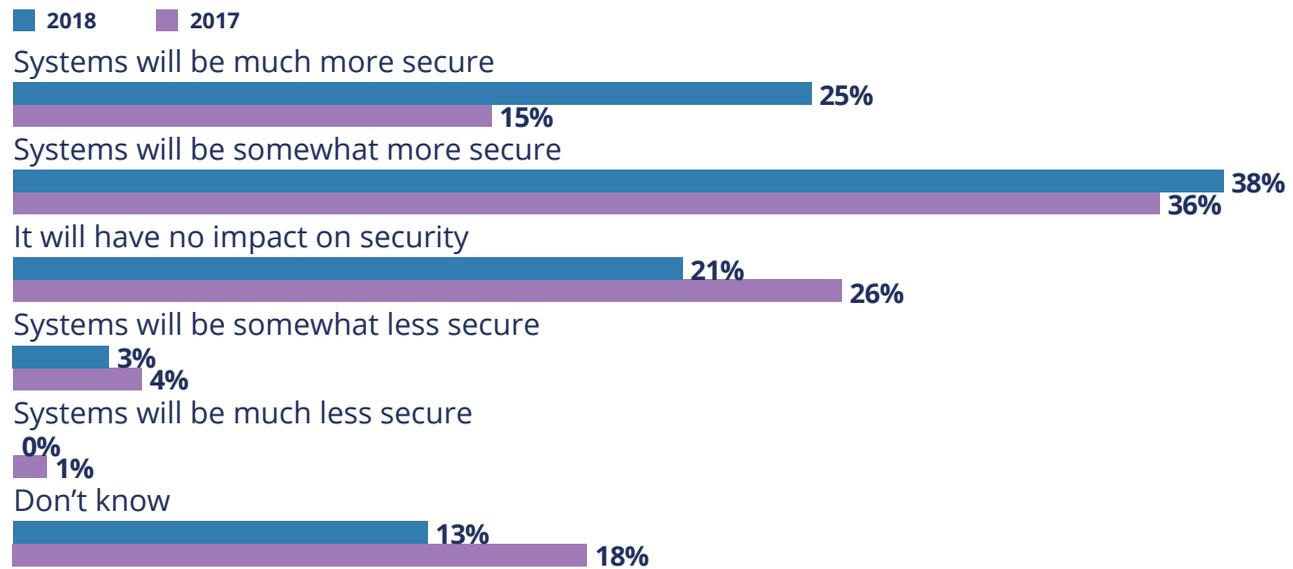


Base: 128 respondents in 2018 and 237 in 2017 who have adopted or plan to adopt DevOps principles  
Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of technology professionals, February 2018

Figure 31

### Impact on Security of Production Systems

What impact will DevOps have on the security of production systems?

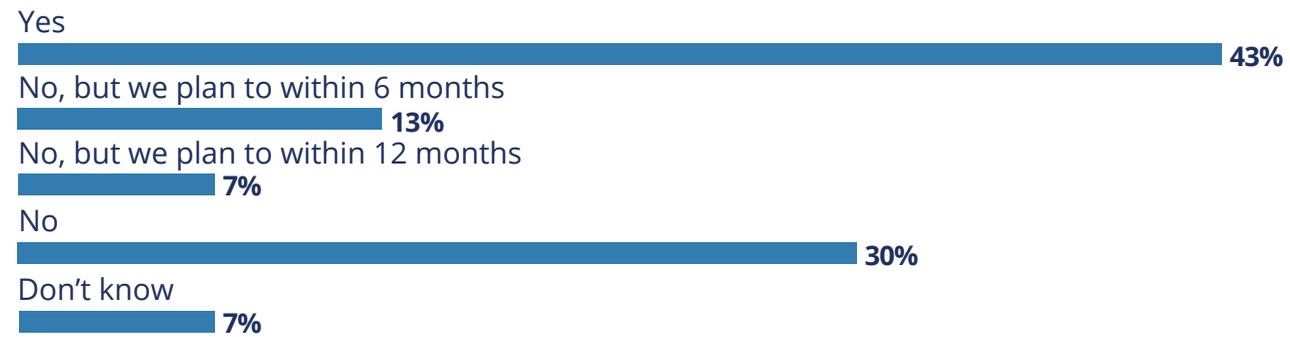


Base: 128 respondents in 2018 and 237 in 2017 who have adopted or plan to adopt DevOps principles  
Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of technology professionals, February 2018

Figure 32

## Running Production Systems in the Cloud

Does your organization run any production systems on a public PaaS/IaaS service?

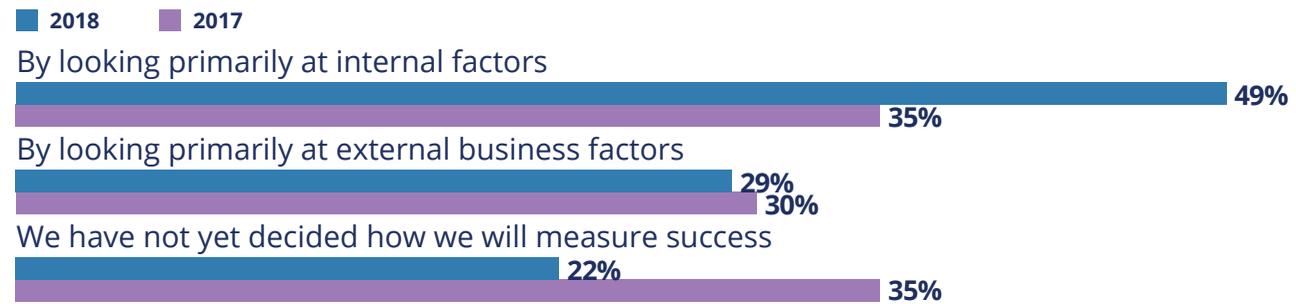


Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of 150 technology professionals, February 2018

Figure 33

## Measuring Success of DevOps Initiatives

How do you plan to measure the success of your DevOps initiatives?

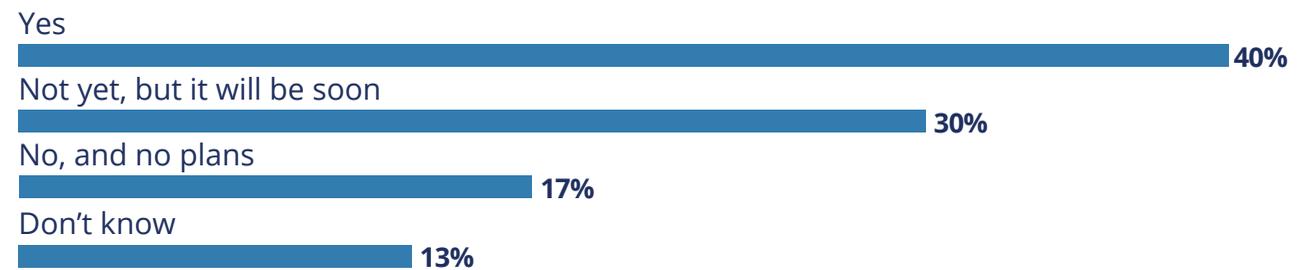


Base: 128 respondents in 2018 and 237 in 2017 who have adopted or plan to adopt DevOps principles  
Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of technology professionals, February 2018

Figure 34

### DevOps Expertise for New Hires

Is DevOps expertise on your list of must-haves for new hires in development and admin roles?

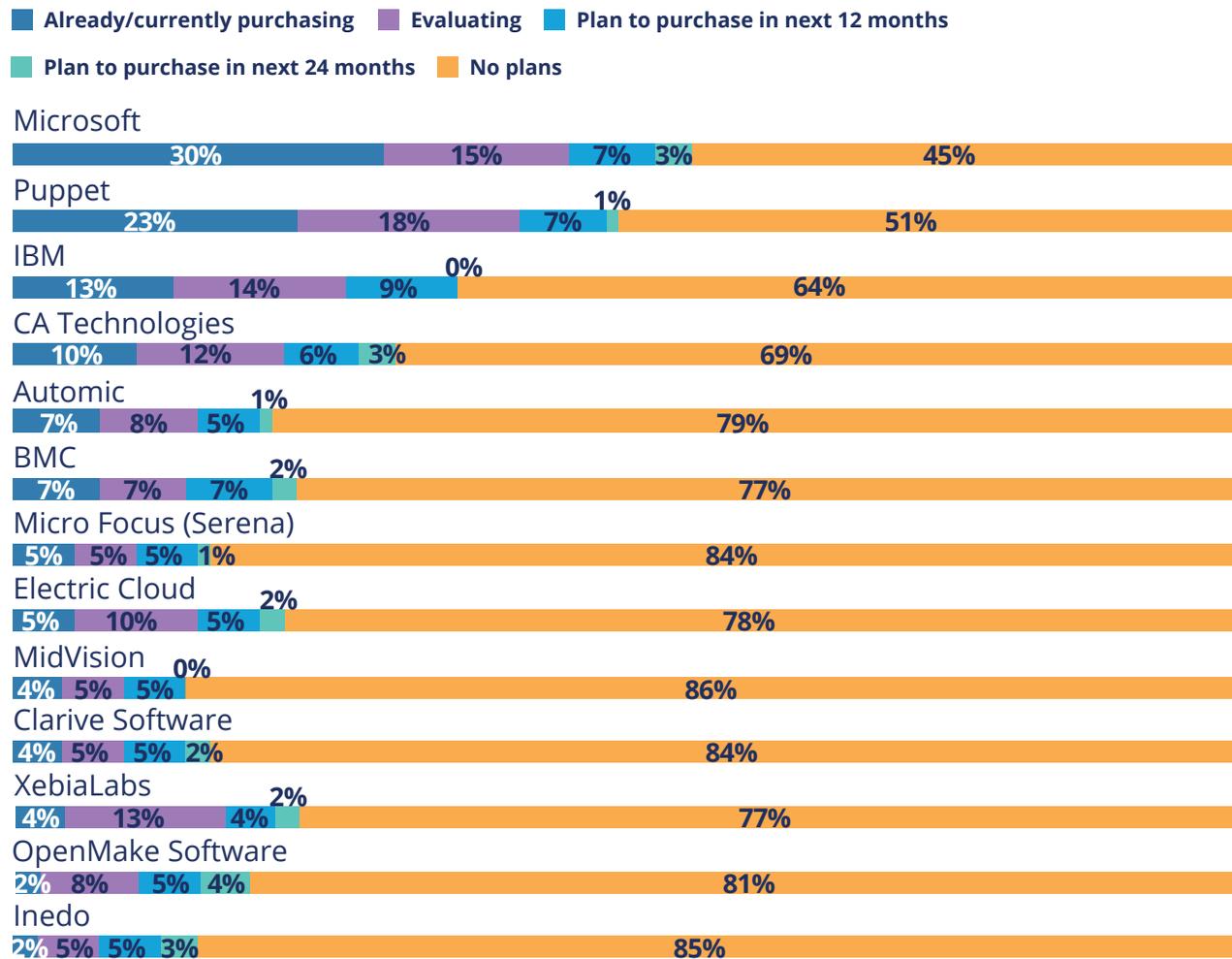


Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of 150 technology professionals, February 2018

Figure 35

## Purchase Plans for Release Automation Frameworks

What are your purchasing plans for the following vendors' application release automation frameworks?



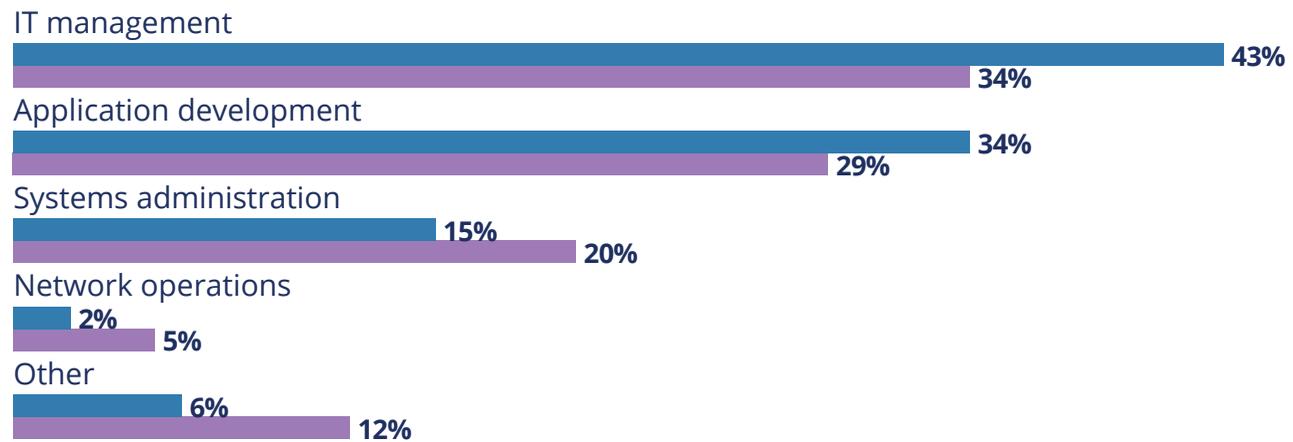
Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of 150 technology professionals, February 2018

Figure 36

## Primary Background Area

What is your primary background area?

■ 2018 ■ 2017



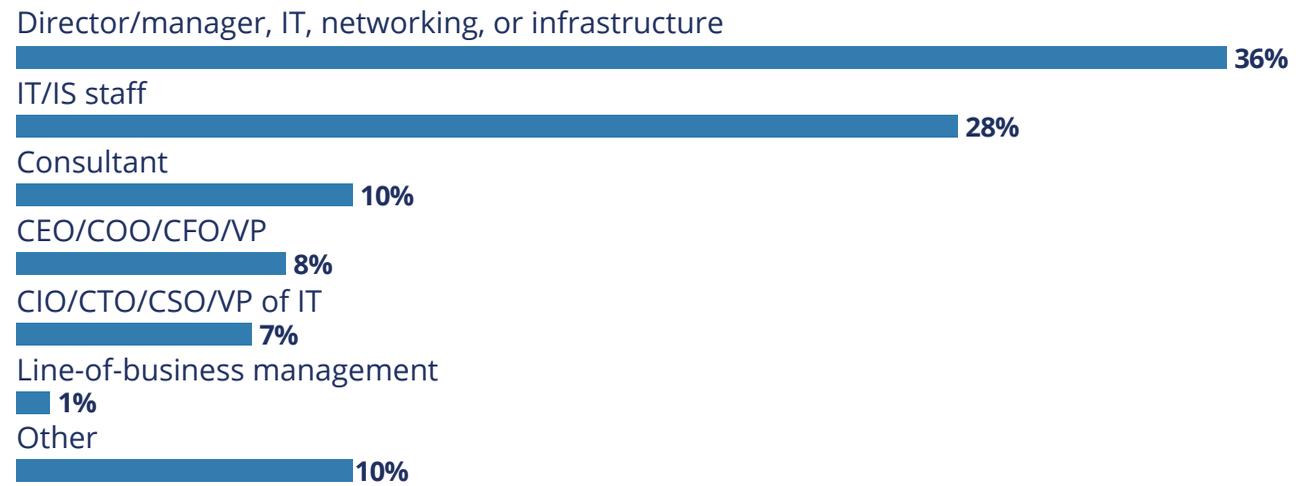
Base: 150 respondents in 2018 and 300 in 2017

Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of technology professionals, February 2018

Figure 37

## Respondent Job Title

Which of the following best describes your job title?

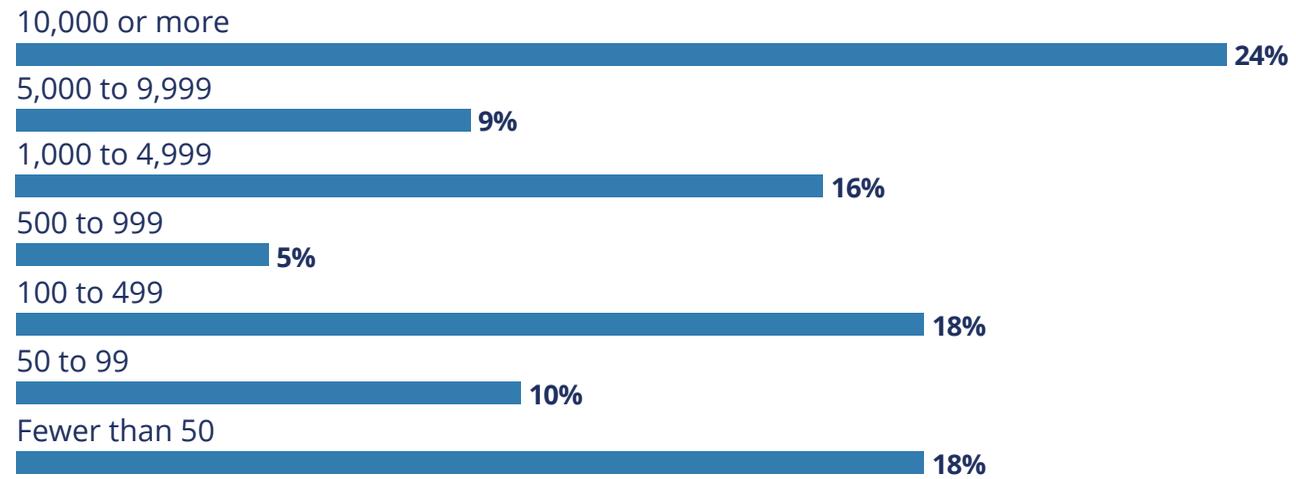


Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of 150 technology professionals, February 2018

Figure 38

### Respondent Company Size

How many employees are in your organization in total?

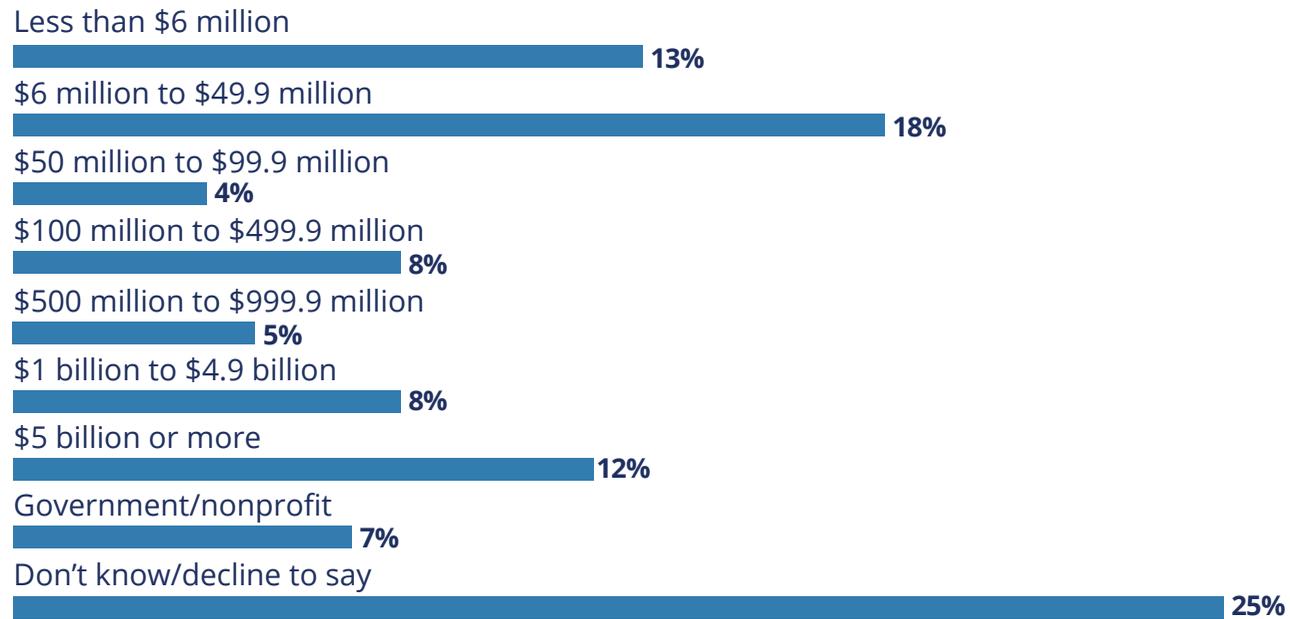


Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of 150 technology professionals, February 2018

Figure 39

## Respondent Company Revenue

Which of the following dollar ranges includes the annual revenue of your entire organization?

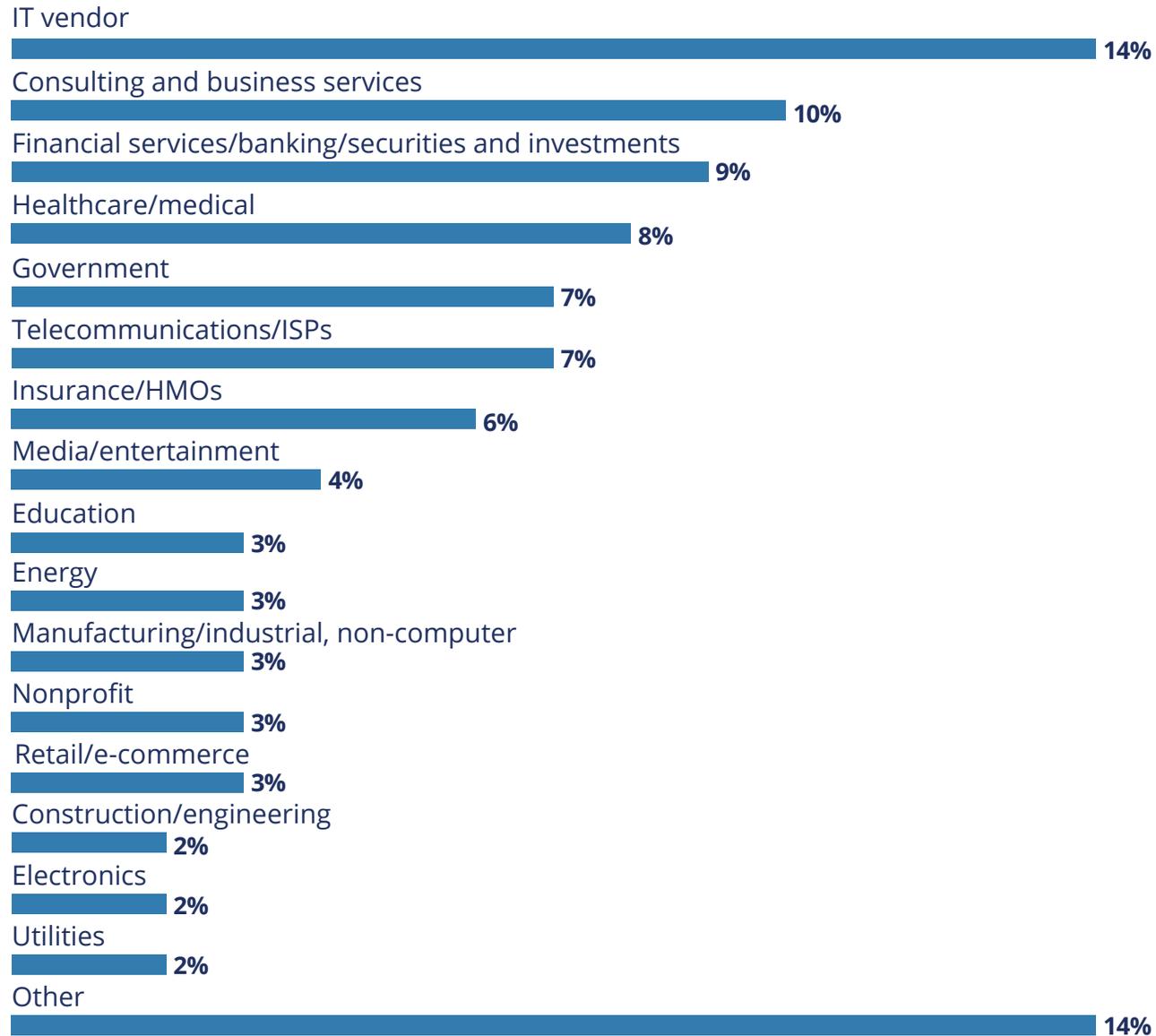


Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of 150 technology professionals, February 2018

Figure 40

## Respondent Industry

What is your organization's primary industry?



Data: Interop ITX DevOps survey of 150 technology professionals, February 2018