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The Mainframe and Cloud: Embracing a Hybrid Approach
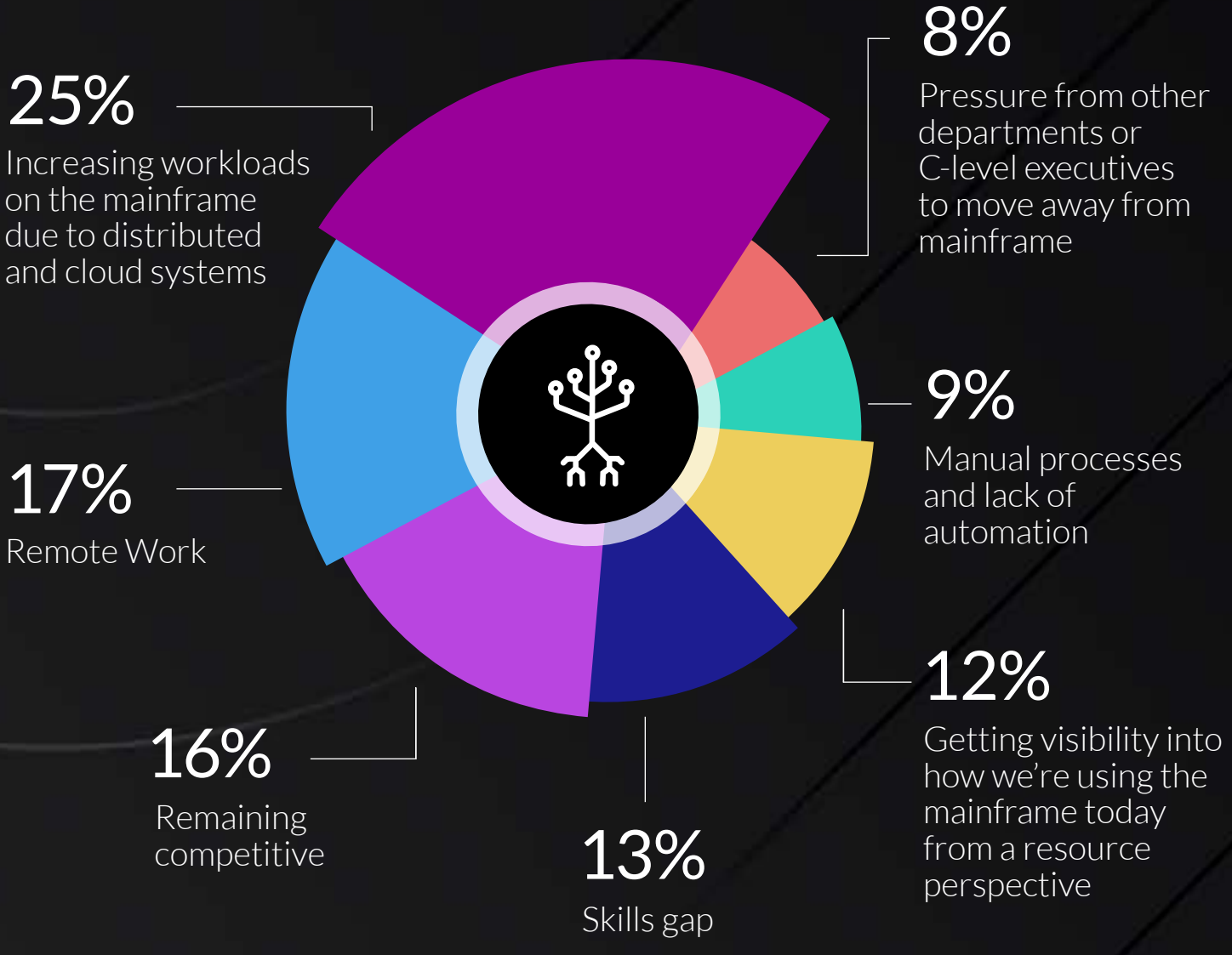
The mainframe continues to be an important part of IT infrastructure, with 67% of Fortune 100 companies relying on them. Rocket Software surveyed over 500 U.S. IT professionals in firms using mainframes to understand their priorities, challenges, and plans for leveraging their mainframes going forward.

The study uncovered that organizations are increasingly embracing a hybrid approach to their IT infrastructure. Leveraging the diversity of solutions available from cloud to mainframe and optimizing each layer to operate together will create the most effective, unified environment.

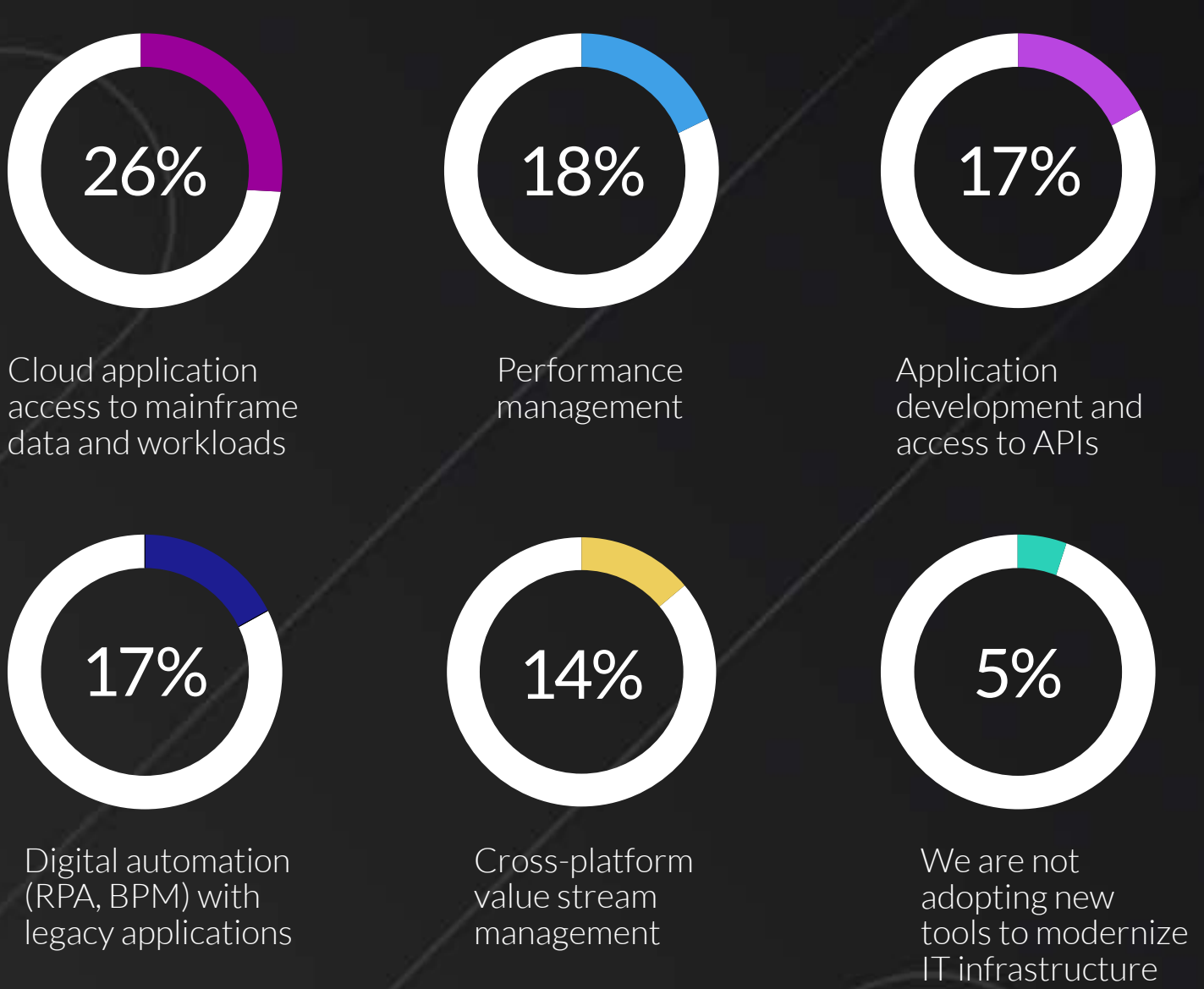## Overcoming mainframe challenges and rethinking workloads to embrace hybrid

Managing changes to IT environments inevitably comes with some challenges as teams work to restructure processes and adopt new best practices.

What is your greatest challenge with ongoing mainframe performance management?

25%
Increasing workloads on the mainframe due to distributed and cloud systems

8%
Pressure from other departments or C-level executives to move away from mainframe

9%
Manual processes and lack of automation

17%
Remote Work

12%
Getting visibility into how we're using the mainframe today from a resource perspective

16%
Remaining competitive

13%
Skills gap

Respondents' greatest challenge is increasing workloads on the mainframe due to distributed and cloud systems (25%), indicating that an uptick in customer and/or business-user activity with systems of engagement has a direct impact on core systems of record like the mainframe and the applications and data running there. As mainframe workloads grow and are required to support a more complex hybrid infrastructure, there's a greater need to manage these workloads with modern processes and tools.
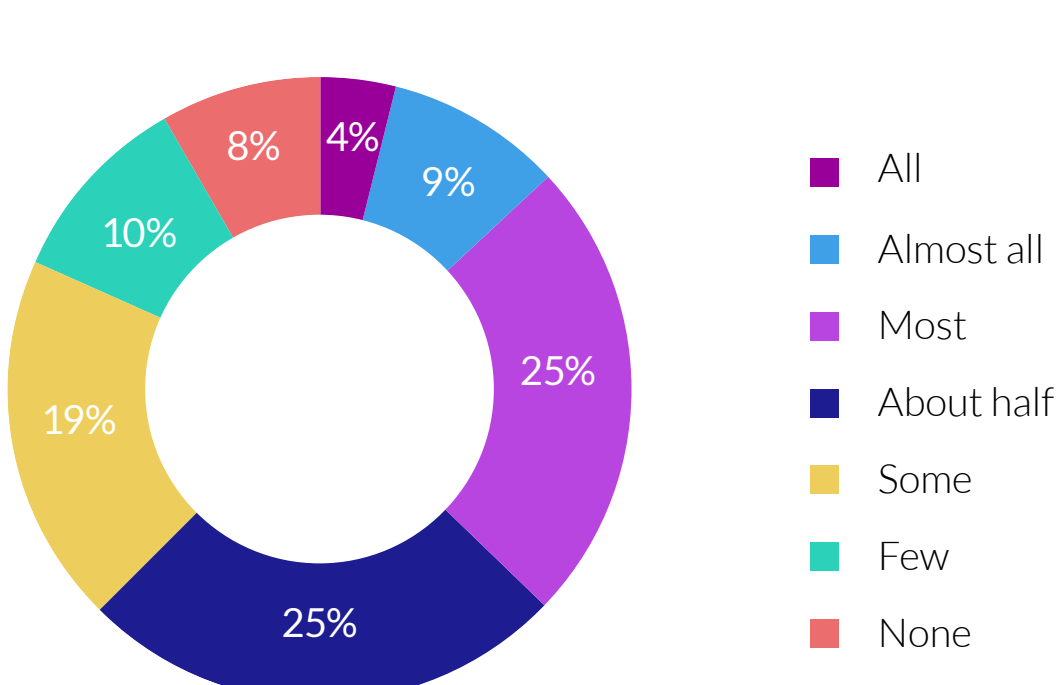
What is your greatest need for tools to help modernize your mainframe IT infrastructure?

26%
Cloud application access to mainframe data and workloads

18%
Performance management

17%
Application development and access to APIs

17%
Digital automation (RPA, BPM) with legacy applications

14%
Cross-platform value stream management

5%
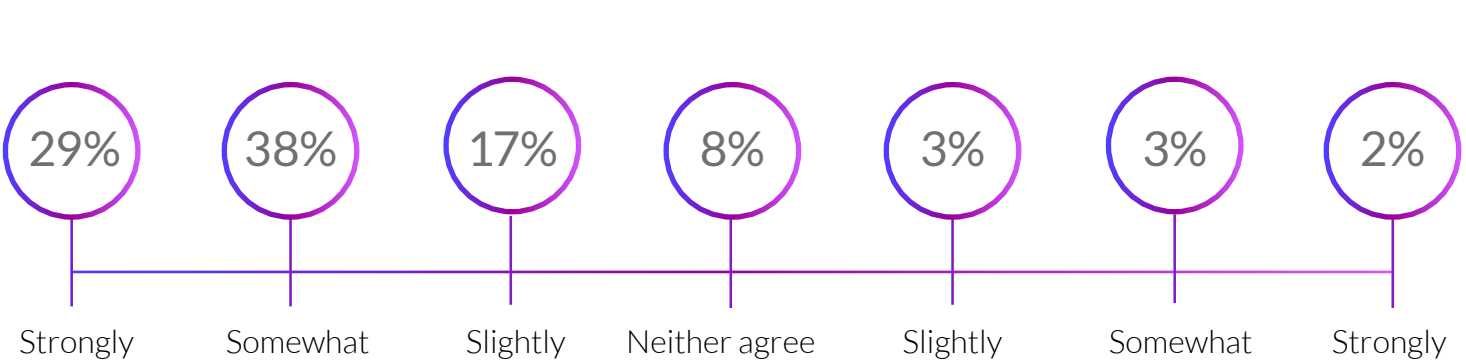We are not adopting new tools to modernize IT infrastructure

Cloud and the mainframe: a hybrid approach

82% of respondents are migrating at least some of their workloads and operations from the mainframe to the cloud. This trend toward hybrid environments emphasizes the need for integration and optimization.

What percentage of your workloads and applications do you plan to migrate from your mainframe to the cloud?

- 4% All
- 9% Almost all
- 25% Most
- 25% About half
- 19% Some
- 10% Few
- 8% None

Legend:
- All
- Almost all
- Most
- About half
- Some
- Few
- None

To what extent do you agree with the sentence,
"Our CIO or leadership team believes we need to embrace a hybrid infrastructure model that spans from mainframe to cloud."

29%	38%	17%	8%	3%	3%	2%
Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Slightly agree	Neither agree or disagree	Slightly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree

No matter where you are in your modernization journey, Rocket Software has the right expertise and solutions to get you to where you want to be. And if you're not sure where to begin, talk to one of our modernization experts to help get you moving in the right direction.

Read the survey report

Talk to an expert

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