

91% OF IT DIRECTORS ADMIT INSUFFICIENT NETWORK BANDWIDTH COULD DERAIL THEIR CLOUD ASPIRATIONS

The majority of IT directors believe the cloud is overhyped, but at the same time see it as a key element of their future mobile working strategy

Horsham, UK – 29 June 2011 – Research released today by enterprise ICT solutions and services provider, Damovo UK, has revealed that 91% of IT directors are concerned that insufficient network bandwidth could hinder the effectiveness of some cloud services. This could pose a number of problems for those organisations who are looking to rely on cloud services to support their mobile working strategies. Indeed, nearly three quarters (74%) of the IT directors surveyed said they saw cloud services as a key element of their future mobile working strategy.

“Undoubtedly, cloud services can deliver greater flexibility and reduced operating costs, yet these benefits can start to be negated if organisations have insufficient bandwidth to support them properly. This in turn can lead to reliability and latency problems,” said Glyn Owen, portfolio manager at Damovo UK. “If businesses are looking to receive ‘vanilla’ services from the public cloud, reliable internet connectivity is essential both in the office and at home. Equally, if they go down the managed or hosted private cloud route, it is vital that they have a robust private network and associated service level agreements to ensure the successful delivery of applications and services to the business.”

Despite many organisations now looking to embrace cloud services in some way or form, the research did reveal that the majority of IT directors (78%) feel that the term ‘cloud’ was becoming overused. In fact, in many cases they felt it was simply a repackaging exercise by product vendors and service providers. When asked what an organisation’s biggest drivers for using cloud-based services were, unsurprisingly cost reduction (44%) and flexibility (33%) came out on top. Skills outsourcing (13%) and speed of implementation (10%) scored much lower, which indicates that many organisations are still looking to keep the management of their mission-critical and specialist applications in-house.

This assumption is further supported when organisations were asked about what applications they would be most comfortable putting in the cloud. Over three-quarters of IT directors surveyed said that they would be comfortable putting email (41%) and basic office applications such as Microsoft Office or Google Apps (28%) in the cloud. In addition, the research also indicated that organisations are starting to have greater confidence in hosted telephony with 20% saying they would be comfortable receiving voice services this way. However, the research still did indicate a reluctance to put certain business applications such as Enterprise Resource Planning (7%) and Payroll (4%) in the cloud, highlighting that organisations still have some data security concerns.

“There is a growing movement towards organisations taking services from the cloud, whether it be public, private or a mixture of the two (hybrid), therefore it is important that they work out what is the best option for them. While public cloud services such as Google Apps and Salesforce may be suitable for some organisations, they don’t necessarily offer the potential for customisation and integration that other enterprises require. It is here, for example, where managed hosted services from a data centre may be a better alternative as they can deliver the cost and flexibility benefits, alongside greater customisation and improved security. Only by taking a strategic approach and seeing past vendor hype, can organisations start to reap the real rewards of the cloud and hosted services,” added Glyn Owen.

The survey of 100 IT directors at UK organisations, with more than 1,000 employees, was commissioned by Damovo and conducted by independent research company Vanson Bourne.

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About Damovo UK (www.damovo.co.uk)

Damovo is an established ICT provider and integrator with over 35 years' experience. Whether at the desktop, application or network level, Damovo offers solutions for the office, mobile or home worker that can dramatically reduce costs, increase manageability and enhance productivity. Our priority is to help our clients secure the very best return on their ICT investment – not just financially but in operational, organisational and environmental terms as well.

Damovo partners with over 100 technology specialists, holding the highest levels of accreditation with Microsoft, Aastra, Cisco Systems, Extreme and Mitel.

As part of the Damovo Group Limited, which has operations in ten countries, Damovo UK has more than 600 clients spanning 5,000 sites. Clients include Mersey Care NHS Trust, University of Birmingham, Manchester United, Transport for London, National Grid Transco, Bank of England, Bird and Bird, North Ayrshire Council and University of St Andrews.

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