

Explore how 2018's IT trends will affect you

Map your route through the digital business landscape

The forces that will set the agenda next year

In the coming year, Dimension Data predicts the widespread emergence of trends that will create new opportunities for innovative businesses around the world. Explore our experts' guide to the forces which are changing the digital business landscape to work out which trends will affect you and offer you exciting opportunities.

Your compass for exploring the digital business landscape



Discover the five digital business trends that will affect your enterprise in 2018

One

Artificial intelligence, machine learning, robotics, and virtual and augmented reality will deliver compelling and complementary outcomes

In 2018, we will finally see these currently disparate technologies come together for useful business applications.



75% of executives say AI will be "actively implemented" in the next two years¹



20% of business content will be authored by machines²



1.3 million industrial robots to enter service in 2018³

Two

Lack of programmability is hindering business's ability to deliver on the potential of hybrid IT

Hybrid IT has long been positioned as a solution for firms wanting to hold sensitive data on-premises, while innovating with the cloud. However, the cost implications of this approach will continue to hold hybrid models back - don't expect the problem to be solved next year.



13 - number of potential cost centres generated by the hybrid cloud model⁴



85% of enterprises have a multi-cloud strategy⁵



#1 - Hybrid cloud remains the preferred enterprise strategy⁶

Three

Decentralised transaction models are breathing new life into the Internet of Things (IoT) and cybersecurity

Each year, the number of major cybersecurity breaches continues to rise. In 2018, we predict businesses will finally begin to adopt new technologies like blockchain to re-engineer cybersecurity, protecting the data companies collect.



58% of companies in the consumer products and manufacturing sector deploying blockchain solutions⁷



30% blockchain's potential for cutting bank infrastructure costs⁸



\$4.5 billion funding poured into blockchain companies in 2017⁹

Four

Surge in interest in software-defined wide area networks (WANs) with wireless set to boom

IT leaders are increasingly coming to terms with the fact that WAN just aren't appropriate for the era of hybrid IT and the cloud. Software-defined WAN technology will offer the solution. At the same time, we'll see a leap in wireless technologies, networks and wireless-enabled processes.



40% of businesses across the globe will start to deploy SD-WAN - up from just **2%** in 2016



49% of US households are reported to be wireless-only¹⁰



2018 advancements in: 5G, Gbps, Wi-Fi, virtual beacons and long-distance radio frequency

Five

Only organisations with the correct architectures and data structures will achieve digital supremacy

Businesses that are proactive at transforming their business will succeed. At the same time, they will expect to have very different consulting and advisory relationships with their service providers, where the focus will be less on specific technology and more on steps to achieve a digital business goal.



\$331.76 BN - expected value of systems integration market in 2018¹¹



Two thirds of organisations say they need support from external partners¹²



60% of organisations don't have a comprehensive digital workplace strategy¹³

Our digital business experts

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For more information read the digital business trends analysis

www.dimensiondata.com/2018ITtrends

¹ www.eiuperspectives.economist.com/sites/default/files/Artificial_intelligence_in_the_real_world_1.pdf • ² www.gartner.com/newsroom/id/3143718 • ³ ifr.org/news/survey-13-million-industrial-robots-to-enter-service-by-2018/ • ⁴ www.dummies.com/programming/cloud-computing/hybrid-cloud/evaluating-costs-of-a-hybrid-cloud-environment/ • ⁵ Ibid • ⁶ assets.rightscale.com/uploads/pdf/RightScale-2017-State-of-the-Cloud-Report.pdf • ⁷ uk.businessinsider.com/the-blockchain-in-the-iot-report-2017-6?US&IR= • ⁸ news.slashdot.org/story/17/01/17/2053209/blockchain-technology-could-save-banks-22-billion-a-year?utm_source=feedly • ⁹ dimanilinkanonidatum_mediumfeed • ¹⁰ www.forbes.com/sites/jonathanponciano/2017/09/22/blockchain-tops-4-5-billion-in-private-funding-this-year-but-deal-growth-stalls/#1ac972124c6 • ¹¹ www.cta.org/industry-data/wireless-quick-facts • ¹² www.thedcggroup.com/news-events/109-systems-integration-market-past-present-and-future • ¹³ www2.dimensiondata.com/microsites/digital-workplace-report • ¹⁴ Ibid