While the vast majority of companies use cloud computing, more organisations are becoming increasingly "refined and savvy in the technology they chose," the CompTIA Trends in Computing study reveals.

According to the study, while over 90% of the 500 companies surveyed on July 2016 claim to use some form of cloud computing, more companies place themselves in the non-critical use category (38% in 2016, up from 27% in 2014) rather than full production stage (33% vs 42%). The majority has been using the cloud for between 1 to 5 years, with just 6% claiming to have been using cloud solutions for over 5 years. Another 23% has used the cloud for less than a year.

“A quick glance at this data could lead to the conclusion that companies are walking backward,” the organisation says. “The reality is that the cloud market is undergoing refinement as users gain greater appreciation and understanding of what cloud computing entails.”

SaaS is the most used service model (74% of survey respondents), followed by IaaS (42%). PaaS comes 3rd (33%), but CompTIA remarks the category will grow as company development approaches become more sophisticated. Meanwhile data on application usage shows a "dramatic drop" in companies using a cloud solution, with corresponding jumps in the use of on premises systems, as well as companies unsure of the way a given application is implemented.

“This rebalancing doesn’t mean that the overall cloud market is in decline,” the organisation explains. “Cloud is a robust part of the larger IT landscape and a greater part of total IT spend

will shift to cloud technology. Cloud offerings will also expand budgets as they expand the limits of what a business is able to accomplish."

As for cloud benefits, cost cutting remains top priority, with large companies (500 or more employees) driving such sentiment. On the other hand medium-size (100-499 employees) and small (less than 100 employees) firms are more interested in reducing capital expenditure.

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