

# Overcoming Data Barriers

A Candid Flash Poll on Data Management in the Federal Government

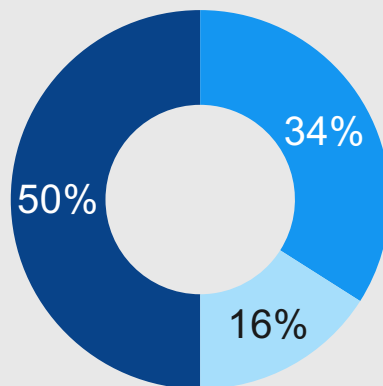
## Introduction

As the amount of data that federal agencies collect continues to grow, the pressure to preserve and manage it effectively strains existing storage practices. To learn more about how and whether agencies are overcoming these challenges, Government Business Council (GBC) polled a random sample of 145 federal employees.

## Half of respondents say seamless data sharing remains out of reach

*Which of the following presents the greatest challenge to your organization's data management?*

- Sharing data among/ across applications
- Volume of data we are required to retain
- Speed of accessing stored data



Percentage of respondents, n=145  
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

- **1 in 2** respondents says the capability to share data across applications presents the greatest challenge to their data management.
- **34%** indicate the surge in data volume has strained their organization's capacity to manage it effectively.

### *Did you know...*

According to a 2018 GAO report, managers whose programs were subject to data-driven reviews reported statistically significantly greater use of performance information to make decisions.<sup>1</sup>

## Brocade, a Broadcom Inc. Company's Perspective

GBC's findings indicate an interesting paradox: while the majority of respondents noted their agency is on the road toward modernization, they also continue to have concerns regarding the ability to scale and share data across applications. Brocade believes modernization, if done correctly, can meet the needs for both scaling data volumes and sharing that data across target applications.

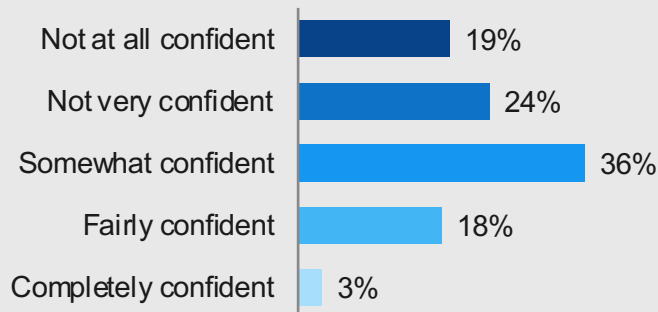
Sharing of data requires a scalable and independent storage network which is secure, reliable, and purpose-built for storage. Fibre Channel storage networks have been the chosen solution for critical data access, offering:

- **Optimization for flash and NVMe**, enabling seamless transition to a modernized all-flash data center
- **Incredible scale**, with enhanced monitoring and analytics capabilities improving network visibility and reliability
- **Automation**, which simplifies network management and improves IT staff efficiency

Including Fibre Channel storage networks as a part of an agency's modernization strategy enables agencies to meet the requirements to both scale and share data, supporting a data-driven services model.

## Current data storage infrastructures inspire minimal confidence

*How confident are you that your organization's data storage infrastructure can address the challenges created by escalating volumes of data?*



Percentage of respondents, n=145  
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

- **43%** are not very or not at all confident that their organization's data storage infrastructure can manage the rising volume of data.

**News flash:**

Informed by the President's Management Agenda, over the next year the Office of Management and Budget will accept input from government and industry stakeholders in developing a government-wide data strategy to aid agency collection and management of federal data.<sup>2</sup>

## A majority are actively modernizing, but 30% cite no progress

- **A majority (52%)** of respondents indicate their organization is 'actively modernizing' its data storage infrastructure.
- **However, nearly half (47%)** say their organization is either not modernizing or are unable to indicate where things stand.

*Which statement best captures your organization's progress when it comes to modernizing its data storage infrastructure?*



- Not modernizing: there is major room for improvement
- Actively modernizing: there is some room for improvement
- Highly modernized: there is little room for improvement
- Don't know

Percentage of respondents, n=145  
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

**Methodology**

GBC deployed a 3-question poll on data management and data storage to a random sample of 145 federal civilian employees. The poll was fielded in October 2018.

**Sources**

1. GAO-18-609SP: "Managing For Results." <https://www.gao.gov/assets/700/694268.pdf>
2. PMA: "Leveraging Data as a Strategic Asset." September 2018. [https://www.performance.gov/CAP/action\\_plans/FY2018\\_Q3\\_Data\\_Accountability\\_Transparency.pdf](https://www.performance.gov/CAP/action_plans/FY2018_Q3_Data_Accountability_Transparency.pdf)

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