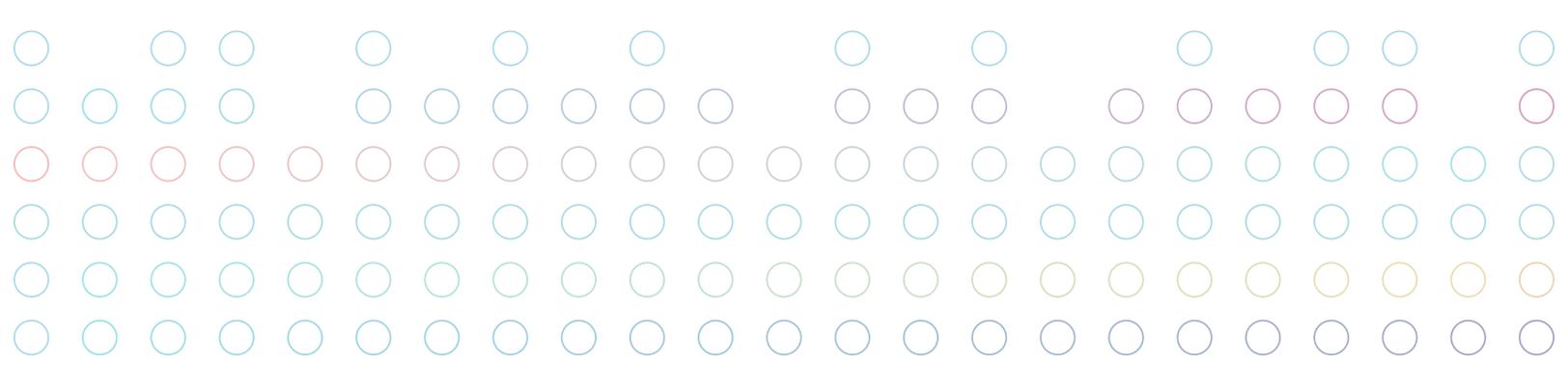


Virtualization: For Victory Over IT Complexity

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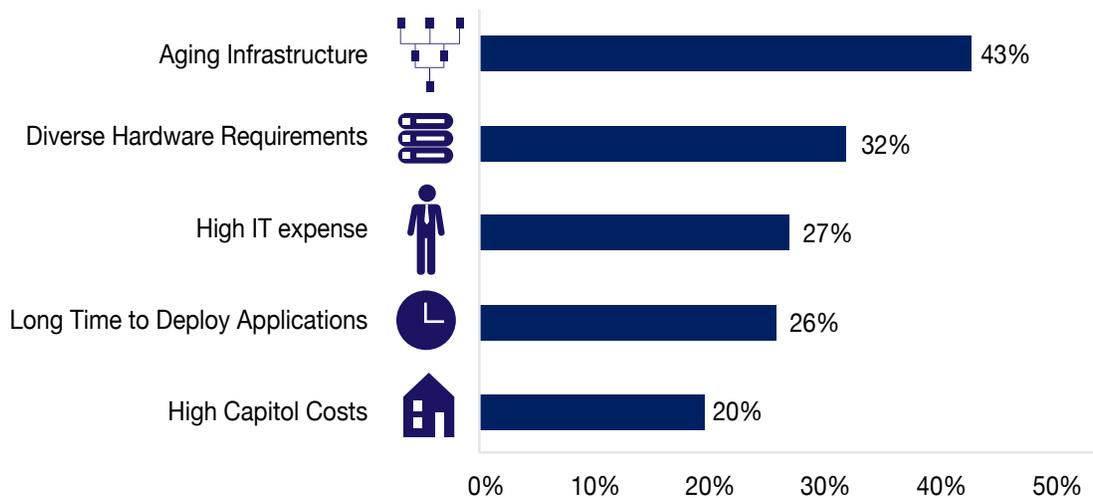
1

The IT Struggle Is Real

Struggle is a part of life. Every day, in both our personal and work lives, we struggle to do our best, to overcome problems, and to succeed. When it comes to providing and managing technology for a business, these struggles can be complex, costly, and time-consuming. IT departments everywhere struggle to keep their IT infrastructures from succumbing to poor performance, downtime, and failure to deliver value to the overall organization.

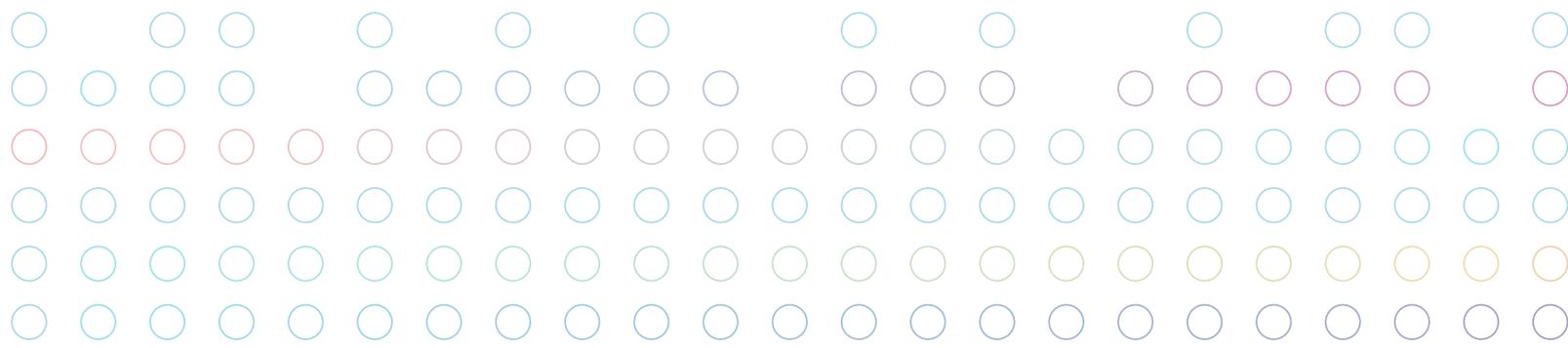
Businesses today face demands that didn't exist even a few years ago. Modern users expect mobile and high-speed access to everything, and have a very low tolerance for out-of-date tools and systems. Emerging technologies such as Big Data and mobile video streaming and conferencing are stressing IT infrastructures, forcing organizations to reevaluate their IT strategies and look for ways to utilize these technologies in order to stay competitive. And the complexities and infrastructure demands that come with meeting these requirements are pushing many IT departments outside of their comfort and expertise zones.

Top IT Pressures and Headaches



n=97

Aberdeen Group, December 2015



2

Virtualization Conquers Complexity

Businesses today can build a successful IT infrastructure

that lets them beat complexity, achieve their goals, and boost their business.

By embracing server virtualization, along with private cloud deployments that ease the management of virtual servers and improve application provisioning, leading businesses can boost their infrastructure performance, increase user satisfaction, and reduce costs.

Virtualization technology can be especially valuable to small and mid-sized businesses. These organizations are often looking for the best ways to get the most of their server infrastructure and improve their ability to deploy reliable applications and services to end-users. When the Aberdeen Group surveyed small and mid-sized businesses about the strategies they are taking to improve their IT infrastructure, the number one choice was to deploy server virtualization.

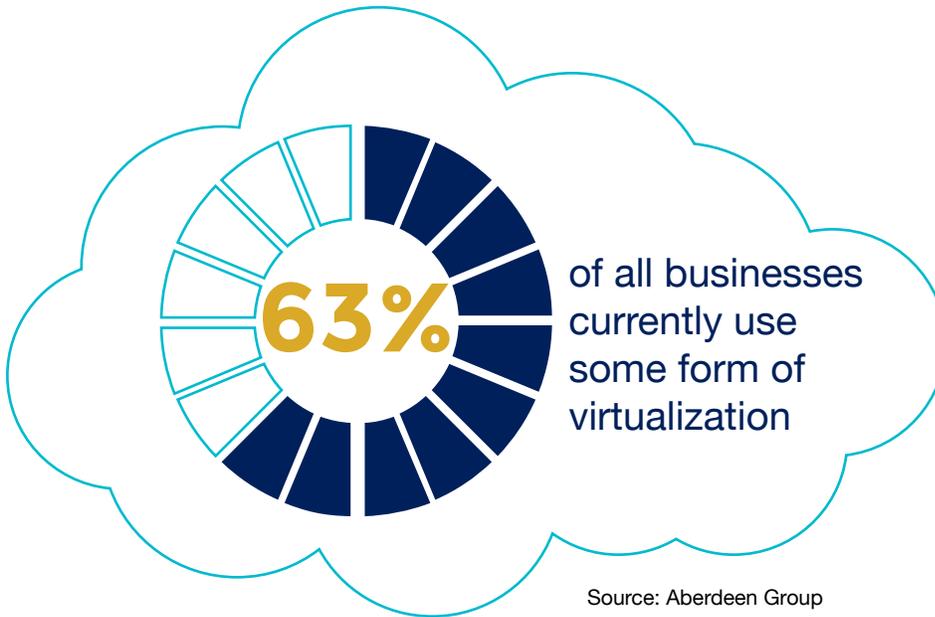
Of course, no technology is perfect by itself. But we've seen that Best-in-Class organizations utilize the right strategies to avoid issues and get the most out of their virtualization efforts.

In the rest of this ebook, we'll look into how these leading businesses effectively deploy virtualization, and offer steps on how organizations can follow in their path and create their own high-performance infrastructures.



3

Quick and Easy: Getting Virtualization Wrong

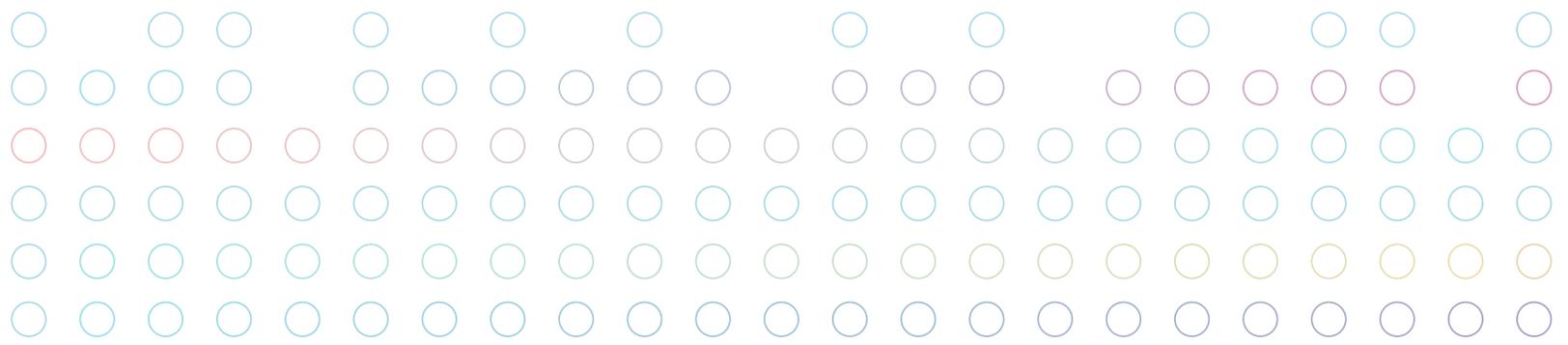


When considering the state of virtualization today, it is apparent that many organizations could use some guidance.

As you can see, virtualization has been adopted, in one form or another, by the majority of businesses. However, very few of them have achieved the infrastructure efficiencies associated with the Best-in-Class (the top 20% of companies).

By neglecting to implement virtualization on high performance systems or to use established best practices and the appropriate management tools, these organizations fail to get the most out of their virtualization initiatives. What's more, they actually create new problems – VM sprawl, orphaned applications, over-stressed servers – due to their inability to manage their virtual servers.

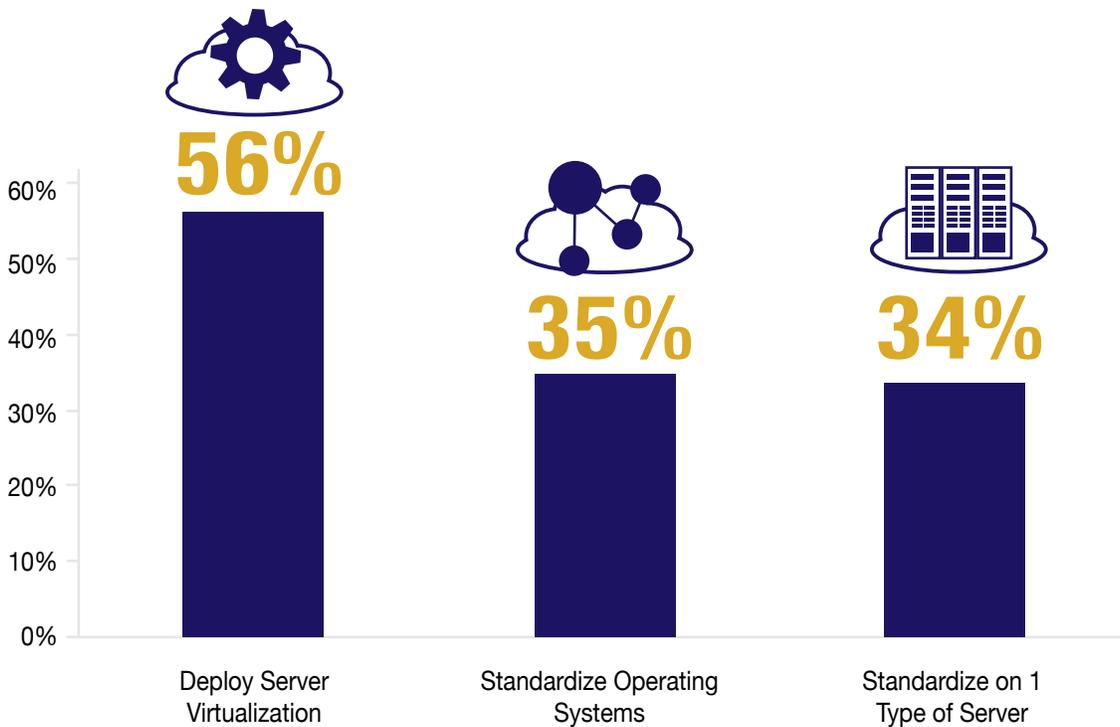
These businesses recognized the value and power of virtualization, but didn't put in the work and preparation needed to succeed. By just grabbing some virtualization software and throwing it on a spare server, they took the quick and easy path, which is never the right path to success.



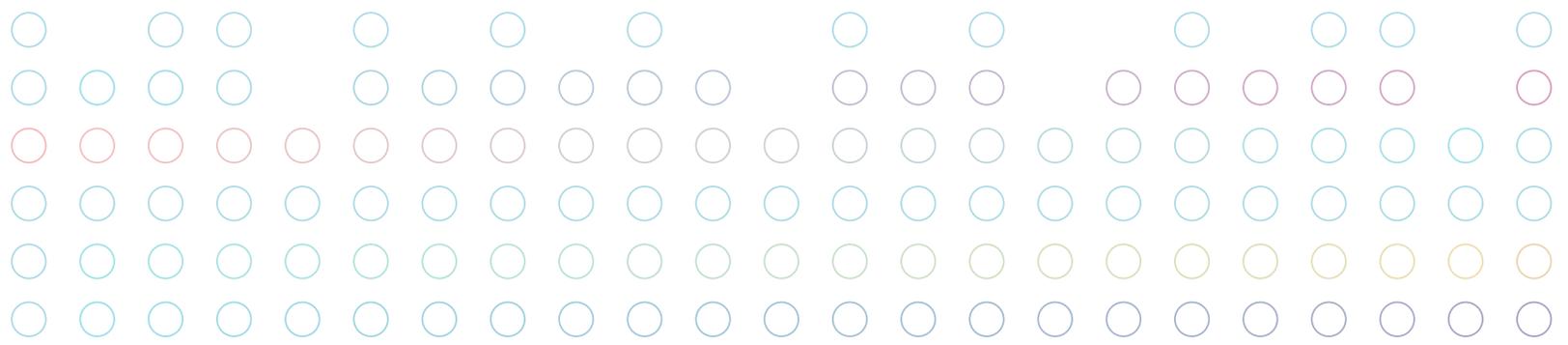
4 The Best-in-Class Approach

Aberdeen research on [Best-in-Class IT infrastructure](#) shows that leading businesses take a more effective path towards virtualization. They utilize private cloud solutions to improve management of virtualized applications. Their virtual infrastructure is based on powerful servers and hardware platforms designed for high-availability, vital for avoiding costly downtime that can bring any business to its knees. And by implementing dynamic workloads, they ensure that the right resources are delivered when needed.

Top IT Strategies Used During Virtualization



n=108
Aberdeen Group, April 2015



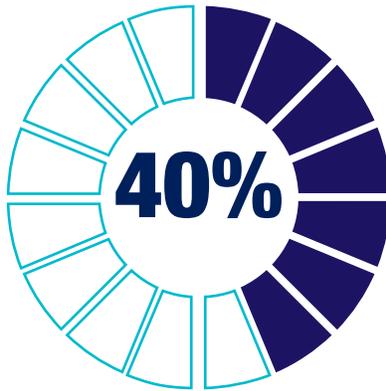
5 | The Right Approach Benefits All

With these capabilities in place, Best-in-Class organizations not only get the most out of their virtualized infrastructure implementation – they boost all of their IT operations.

The Best-in-Class Have




more likelihood to see faster application upgrades and installations

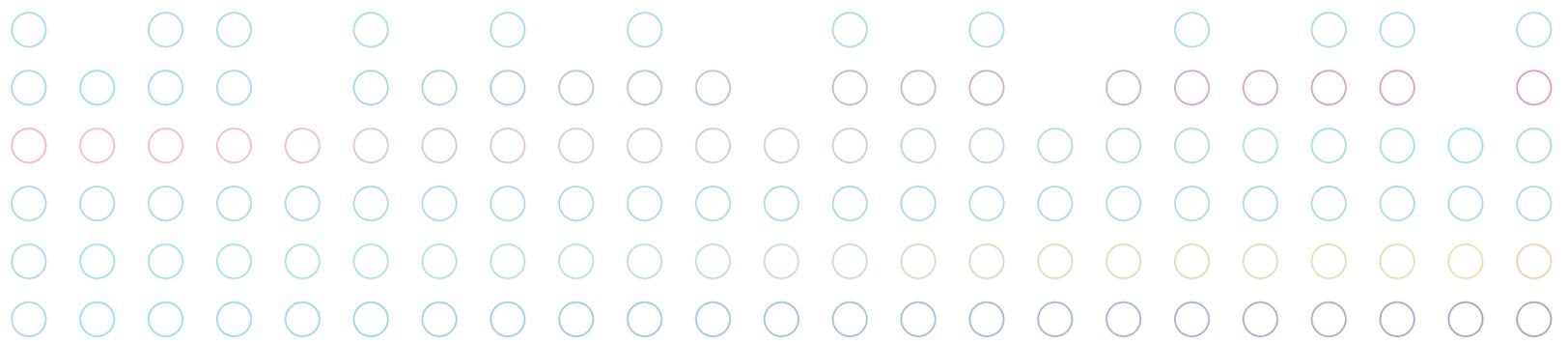



more likelihood to have high end-user satisfaction




greater savings on IT costs

Leaders in IT infrastructure management understand that, when done right, virtualization has benefits that extend across the IT organization.



6

Be Like the Best-in-Class

Those of us in IT often find ourselves in a tough situation when deploying and leveraging key new technologies. We think we understand a new technology, rush into deploying it, end up not reaching our desired goals and, worse, face some entirely new and unexpected issue.

But these problems aren't insurmountable. Leading businesses prepare, learn from their mistakes, and follow the best strategies to get things done.

Steps for a Best-in-Class Virtualization Infrastructure



Understand that you may be relying on hardware designed for a pre-cloud and pre-virtualization era. Leading businesses look to standardize on server hardware platforms that meet their needs today and tomorrow.



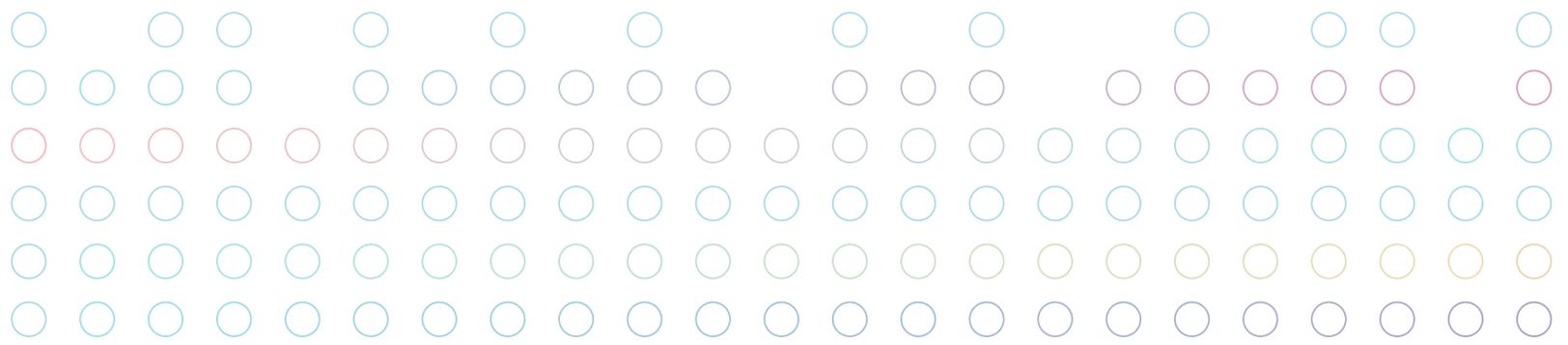
Prepare and research how to best utilize and manage virtualization before diving headfirst into the technology. Top-performing companies make sure that their servers are optimized to handle the loads of server virtualization and private cloud.



Don't tolerate downtime or poor performance. This can have serious costs for a business. Implement hardware with high-availability capabilities and maintain a business continuity focus.



Put the right management tools and processes in place. With tools that have real-time and extensive insight into the performance of servers, applications, and virtualized services, smart businesses can ensure that their infrastructure is running well and can handle anything that's thrown at it.



7

Virtualization for Victory Over IT Complexity

Virtualization is one of the most important technologies of the last 15 years. By enabling businesses to easily spin up custom servers and applications, virtualization has made the cloud possible, created the world of dynamic and software-defined IT infrastructures, and allowed businesses to run more efficiently and effectively.

By being prepared and implementing the right systems, software, and processes, organizations can get the most out of their virtualized systems, improve performance and reliability, and save money.

