

# AI is moving fast.

## Is your organization's IT built to keep up?



New data from the Flexential 2025 State of AI Infrastructure Report shows the demand AI places on IT infrastructure. Executives are pushing hard for returns, and expectations for performance, scale, and security are rising.

But growing momentum comes with growing strain. IT leaders are feeling overwhelmed, talent gaps are widening, and infrastructure shortfalls are beginning to show. As organizations move from early experimentation with AI to full-scale execution, the pressure is on to deliver — and to build a foundation that can actually support what's coming next.

To gain insight into how organizations are overcoming these challenges, Flexential surveyed more than 350 IT leaders at organizations with over \$100 million in annual revenue, including 100 respondents at organizations with over \$2 billion in annual revenue.

### INSIGHT 01

Top executives have taken the reins on AI — and they're not waiting long for payoff

**81%** say their organization's push toward AI is coming directly from the C-suite.

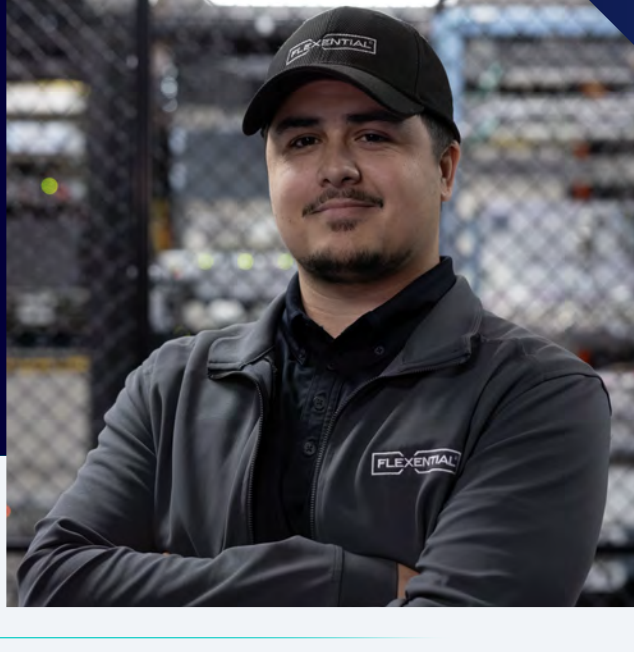
**58%** measure the ROI of their AI initiatives by revenue growth or increased market share.

**70%** are allocating more than 10% of their total IT budget to AI initiatives.

**51%** expect to generate measurable financial benefits from its AI investments within the next year.

### POLL

Which of the following groups or individuals are the driving force behind your organization's decision to adopt AI-driven applications?

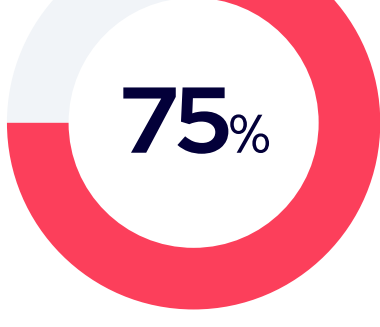


	2024	2025
C-suite	53%	81%
Board	46%	46%
Myself (IT leaders)	19%	34%
Competitors (i.e., we need to keep up with our industry)	41%	33%
Our customers	36%	26%
Our employees	26%	19%
The general public	23%	13%

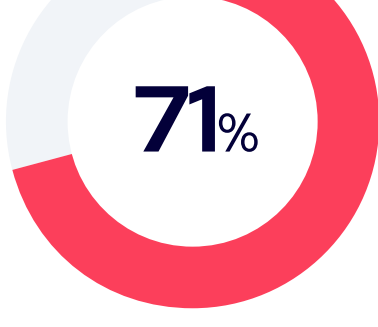
**27% of respondents are willing to pay 20% more to ensure their data centers or cloud providers use renewable energy or buy carbon offsets, and another 51% would pay 11-20% more.**

### INSIGHT 02

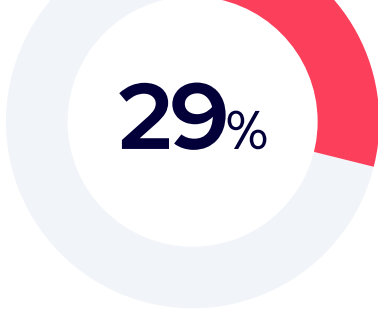
Optimism runs high on AI even as concern and uncertainty begin to set in



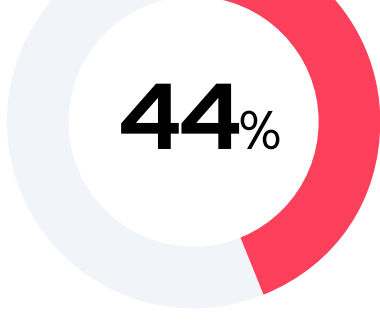
of IT leaders are excited by their organization's use of AI.



are extremely confident their organization can execute its AI roadmap.



are feeling overwhelmed by AI's implementation — more than doubling the 12% from a year ago.



of respondents name IT infrastructure constraints as the greatest barrier to their organization expanding its AI initiatives.

### INSIGHT 03

Demand for AI is rising, but the talent just isn't there yet

**86%** say their organization doesn't have the right people to meet its AI goals.

**63%** are implementing AI tools with built-in support to help upskill employees

### POLL

In the past year, has your organization encountered skills or staffing gaps in any of the following areas related to AI?

	2024	2025
Management of specialized computing infrastructure (e.g., high-density computing)	53%	61%
Data science or data engineering	39%	53%
Management of advanced networking technologies (e.g., SDN, NFV)	47%	47%
Cybersecurity	33%	47%
N/A — Our team has not encountered skills or staffing gaps in the past year	9%	5%

### INSIGHT 04

Organizations are planning ahead, but AI is already pushing today's infrastructure to its limits

**IT teams are showing foresight and maturity**  
62% are planning their AI infrastructure needs one to three years ahead.

**Even that isn't enough to avoid performance**  
In the past year, 59% have encountered bandwidth shortages and 53% have struggled with latency as AI workloads exceed what many environments can handle.

**As data volumes grow, so do security concerns**  
41% more organizations than last year say storing sensitive AI data has increased their cyber risk.

### POLL

How has increasing your organization's investment in AI increased its vulnerability to cyberthreats?

	2024	2025
We're storing and processing more sensitive data than before	39%	55%
We're storing sensitive data in a different place than before (e.g., closer to the edge of the network)	51%	51%
The complexity of AI applications creates a larger attack surface, which is inherently more vulnerable	54%	51%
Our cybersecurity team doesn't understand how to protect AI applications and workloads	40%	46%
There are more employees involved with managing our AI applications, leading to more weak spots	23%	25%
N/A - my organization's investment in AI has not increased its vulnerability to cyberthreats	5%	2%

### CONCLUSION

## AI is reshaping IT infrastructure — and IT leaders are reimagining everything

As organizations of all sizes continue to adopt AI into their workflows, IT leaders face mounting pressure to rethink their infrastructure planning strategies with scalability, speed, security, and sustainability in mind. Meeting these demands takes a smart, future-focused approach.

You don't have to tackle it alone. The right data center partner brings the expertise, capacity, and technologies needed to power AI while keeping your operations connected and efficient.

For deeper insights, dig into the complete [2025 State of AI Infrastructure Report](#)

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Discover how Flexential powers secure, scalable data center infrastructure.

Schedule a Consultation