

Government
Business
Council

Funding Federal Network Architecture Migration

Assessing TMF Awareness and Utility

Presented for

ciena

September 2022

Table of Contents

—

Overview / 3

—

Executive Summary / 4

—

Respondent Profile / 5

—

Research Findings / 8

Architecture Migration / 8

Network Architecture Migration Funding / 9

TMF Benefit Rankings / 10

TMF Prioritization / 11

—

Final Considerations / 12

—

About / 13

Introduction and Methodology

This report intends to reveal sentiments and perceptions among federal and DoD IT personnel regarding network architecture migration. More specifically, the purpose of this survey is three-fold: 1) to evaluate the need for federal network architecture migration, 2) to assess the perceived benefits and utility of the [Technology Modernization Fund \(TMF\)](#), and 3) to gauge how TMF funding might alter spending priorities. Ultimately, this study should reveal if federal departments intend to use TMF funding to migrate network architecture.

Between November and December 2021, GBC deployed a survey to a random sample of [Government Executive](#), [Nextgov](#), and [Defense One](#) readers in order to assess the perceptions, attitudes, and experiences of federal employees regarding network architecture migration and the utility of the TMF. Respondents were required to be involved in IT or at least familiar with IT programs and policies. The pool of 235 respondents consists of participants across agencies and departments in the federal government and the Defense Department.

For more information on respondents, please see the Respondent Profile section.

Executive Summary

—

Network architecture should be upgraded but priorities vary

Most respondents (82%) either agree or strongly agree that the federal government's network architecture needs an upgrade, yet responses varied when asked if government agencies are prioritizing network architecture migration. Less than half of respondents (42%) think government agencies are prioritizing network architecture migration and 21% disagreed with this sentiment.

—

Agencies are likely to use additional funding, but few are aware of the TMF

Over half of respondents (56%) think it's either extremely likely or very likely that agencies would use additional funding for network architecture migration. Another 25% think it's moderately likely, and only 3% of respondents say it's not at all likely. However, most respondents indicate that they are unfamiliar with the TMF. Just 16% of respondents are either extremely or very familiar with the TMF.

—

"Improved cybersecurity" and "modernizing high-priority systems" are the most valued TMF benefits

Of the options listed, nearly half of all respondents (45%) ranked "Improving cybersecurity" as the most beneficial TMF funding category. "Modernizing high-priority systems" is viewed by respondents as the second-most beneficial category.

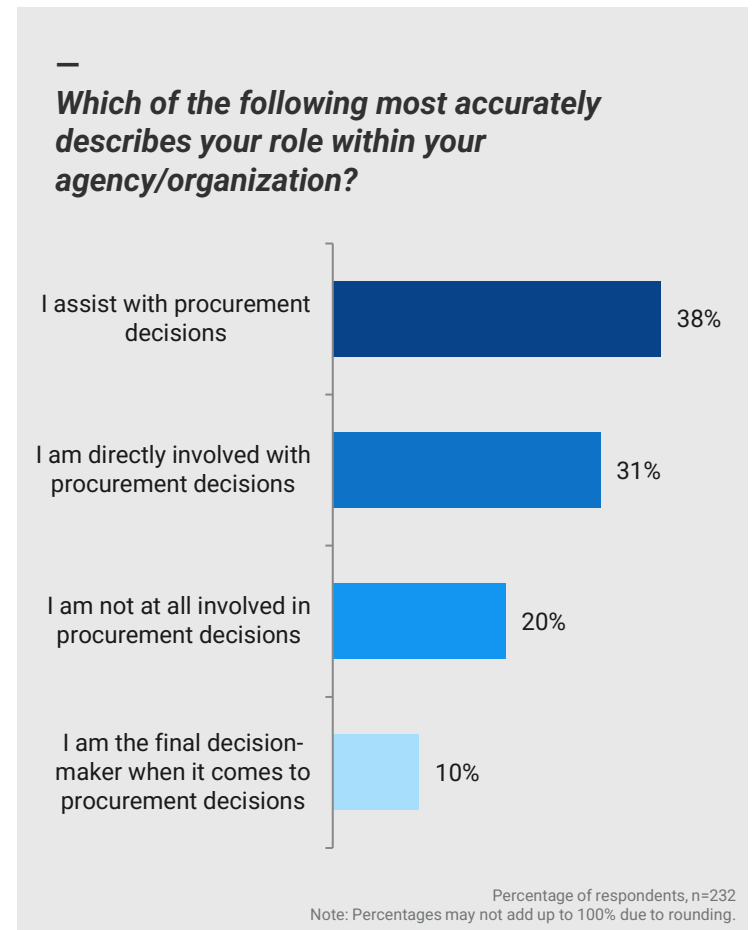
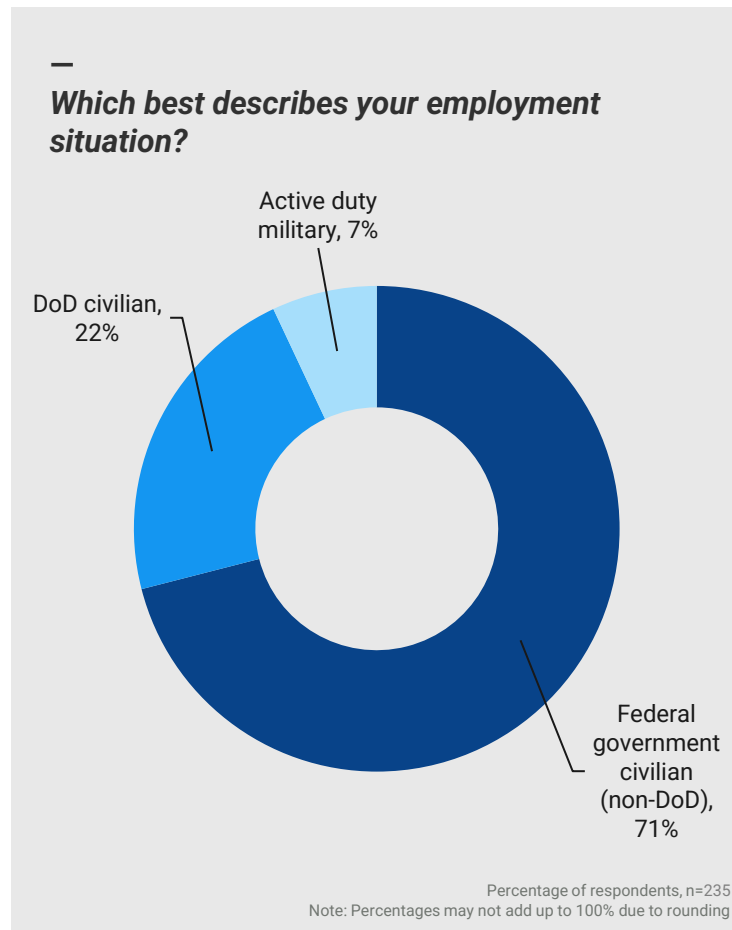
—

The TMF is changing how government agencies prioritize network upgrades

Nearly half (48%) of respondents either agree or strongly agree that the TMF will change how government agencies prioritize network upgrades. In contrast, just 17% either disagreed or strongly disagreed with this sentiment. Additionally, most respondents (70%) either agree or strongly agree that government agencies are more likely to submit a proposal for funding now that the TMF has additional funding.

Respondent Profile

Respondents are predominately federal employees involved with procurement decisions

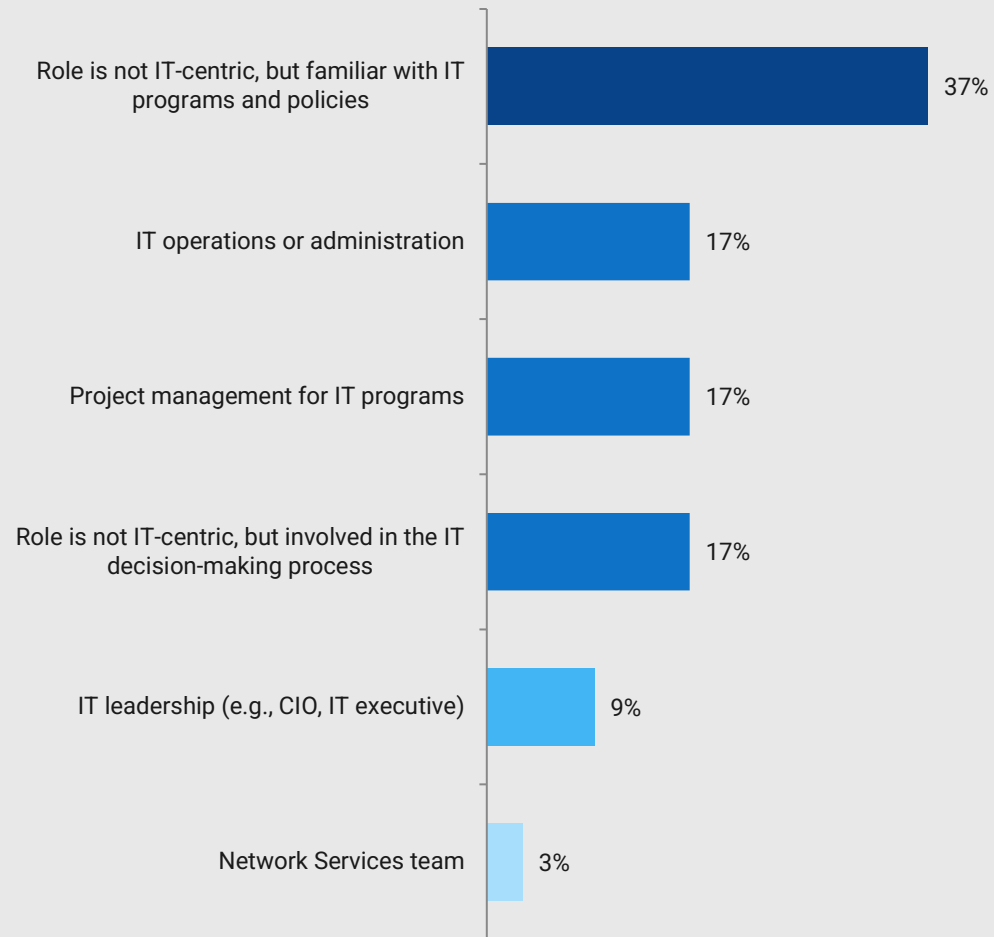


80%

The majority of respondents (80%) are involved with procurement decisions in some capacity.

All respondents are involved with their organization's IT in some capacity / Respondent Profile

Which of the following best describes your involvement with your organization's IT?



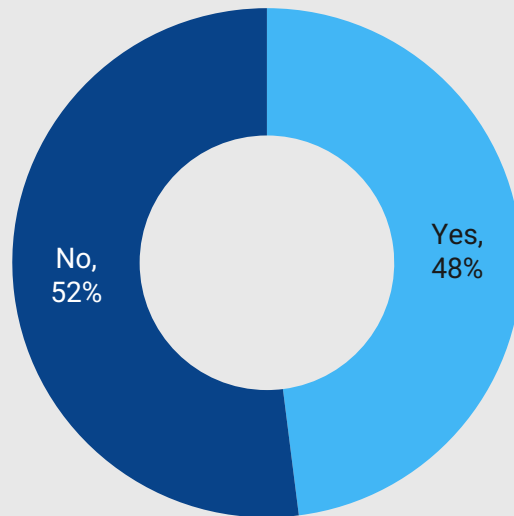
100%

Respondents were required to be at least familiar with IT programs and policies to complete this survey.

Percentage of respondents, n=235
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Most respondents are familiar with the process of migrating network architecture / Respondent Profile

—
Are you involved with the procurement of network equipment or network services for your organization?



Percentage of respondents, n=231
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

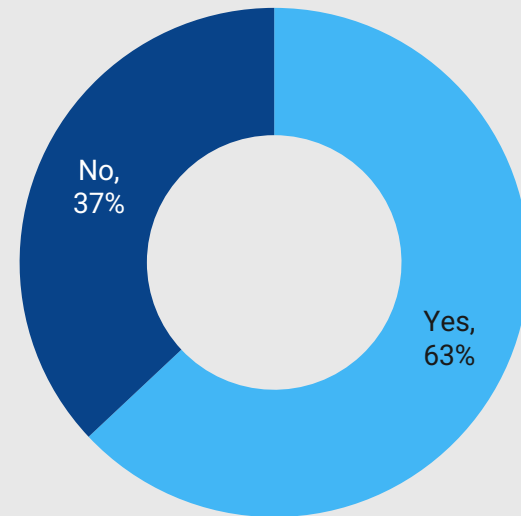
48%

Nearly half of respondents (48%) are involved with the procurement of network equipment or network services for their organization.

63%

The majority of respondents (63%) are familiar with the process of migrating network architecture.

—
Are you familiar with the process of migrating network architecture?



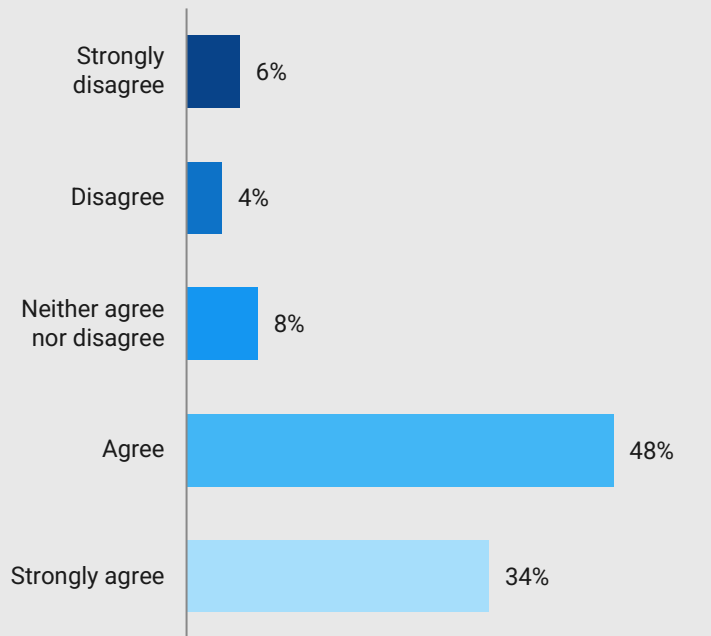
Percentage of respondents, n=144
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Research Findings

Responses indicate federal network architecture is in need of an upgrade but may not be a priority
/ Architecture Migration

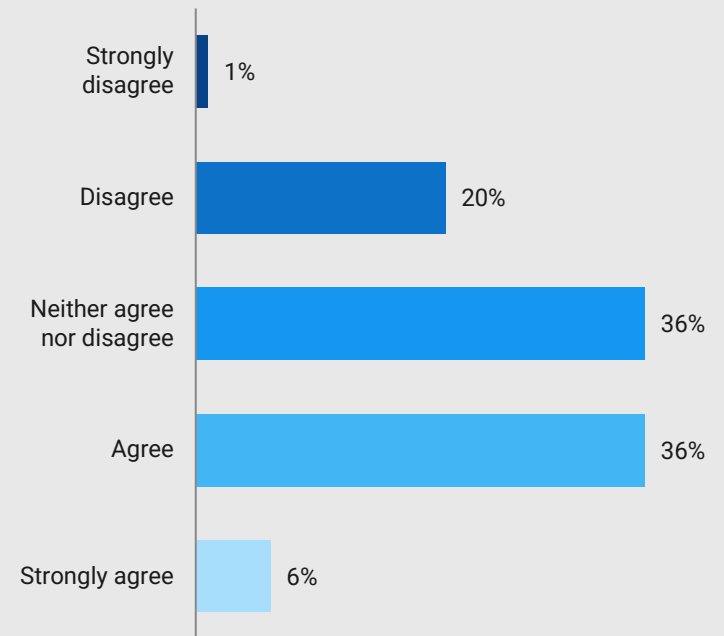
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

"The federal government's network architecture is in need of an upgrade."



Percentage of respondents, n=143
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

"Government agencies are prioritizing network architecture migration."



Percentage of respondents, n=143
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

82%

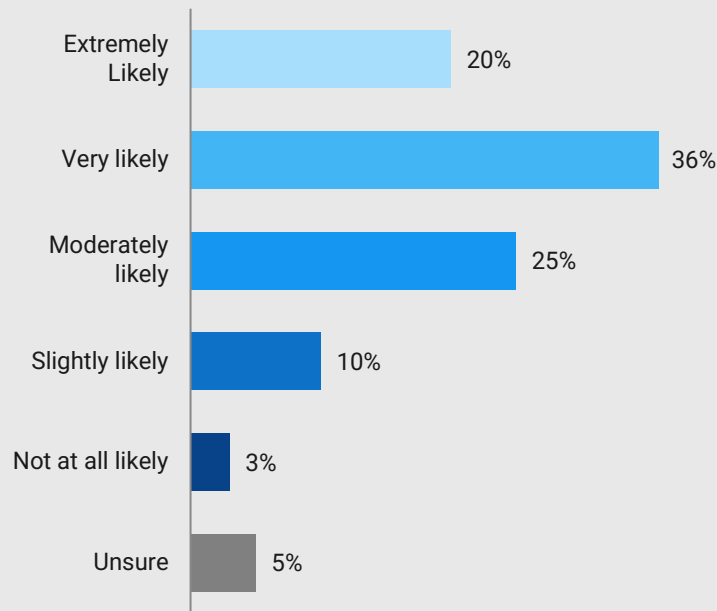
Most respondents (82%) either agree or strongly agree that the federal government's network architecture is in need of an upgrade.

42%

A combined 42% of respondents think government agencies are prioritizing network architecture migration. In contrast, a combined 21% disagree.

Federal agencies would likely use additional funding for network architecture migration but familiarity with the TMF is low / Network Architecture Migration Funding

How likely do you think it is that federal agencies would use additional funding for network architecture migration if provided some?



Percentage of respondents, n=143
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

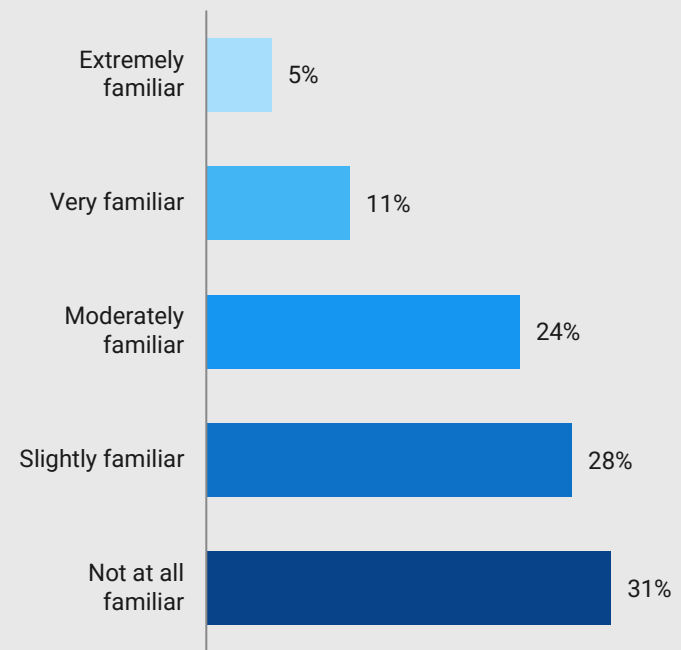
56%

Over half or respondents (56%) think it's either extremely or very likely that agencies would use additional funding for network architecture migration.

31%

Many respondents (31%) are not at all familiar with the TMF. Just 16% are either extremely or very familiar with the TMF.

How familiar are you with the Technology Modernization Fund?

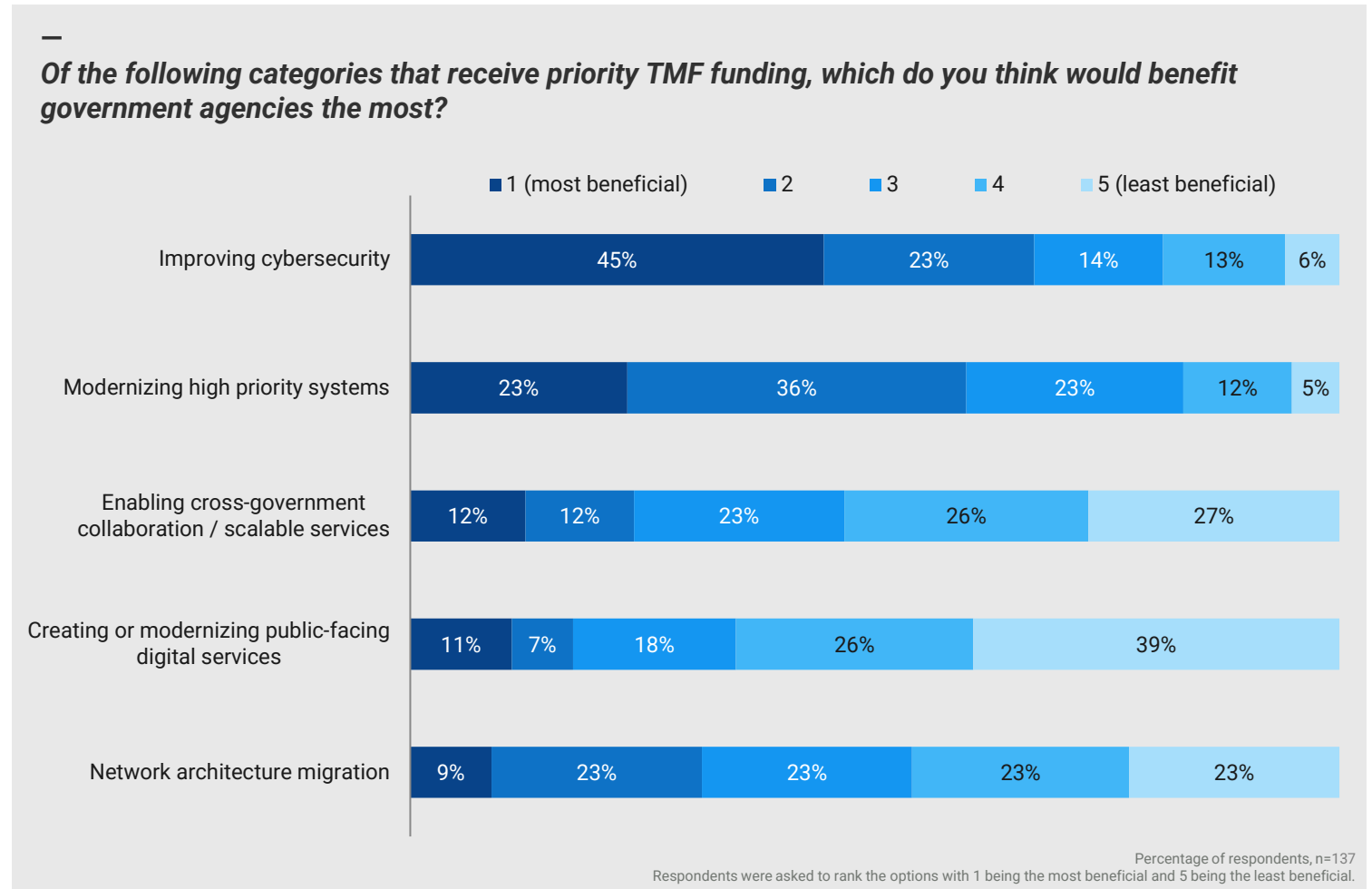


Percentage of respondents, n=143
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Improving cybersecurity is viewed as the most beneficial TMF funding category

/ TMF Benefit Rankings

The purpose of the [Technology Modernization Fund](#) is to fund projects for technology-related activities that will improve information technology and enhance cybersecurity across the federal government.



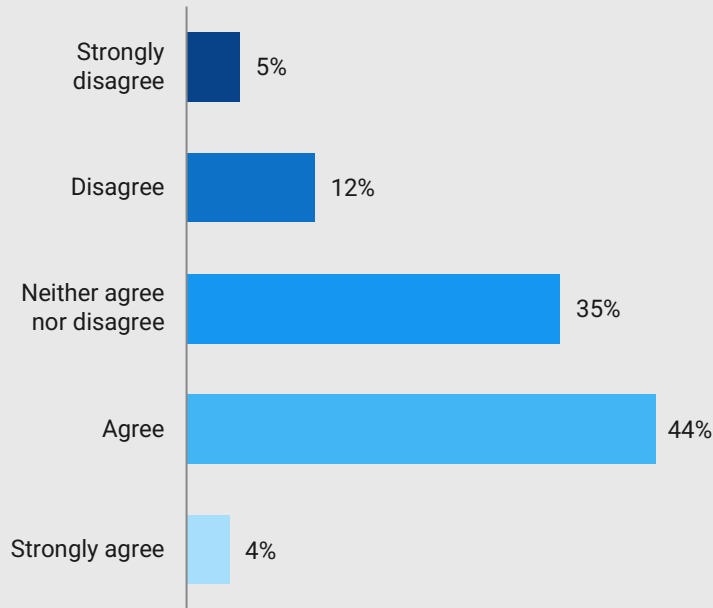
45%

Nearly half of all respondents (45%) ranked “Improving cybersecurity” as the most beneficial TMF funding category. “Modernizing high-priority systems” is viewed by respondents as the second-most beneficial category.

Responses indicate the TMF is changing how agencies are prioritizing network upgrades
/ TMF Prioritization

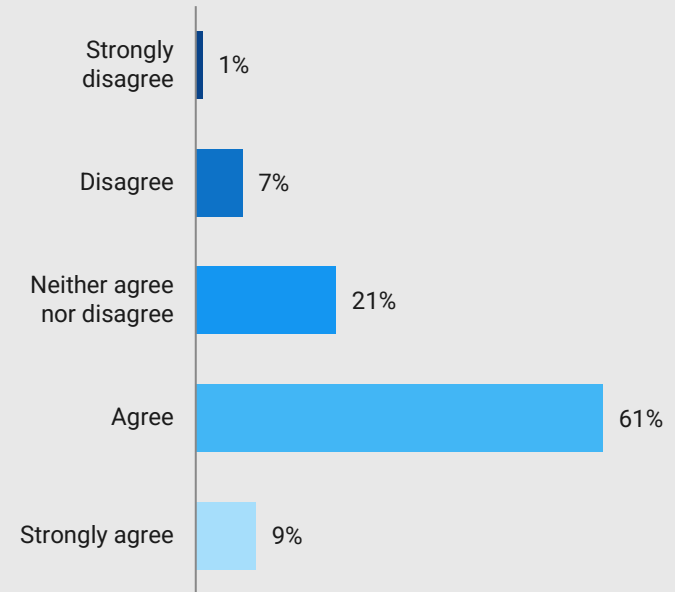
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

"The Technology Modernization Fund will change how government agencies prioritize network upgrades"



Percentage of respondents, n=137
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding

"Government agencies are more likely to submit a proposal for funding now that the TMF has received additional funding."



Percentage of respondents, n=137
Note: Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

48%

While 35% of respondents are indifferent to the question, nearly half (48%) either agree or strongly agree that the TMF will change how government agencies prioritize network upgrades.

70%

Most respondents (70%) either agree or strongly agree that government agencies are more likely to submit a proposal for funding now that the TMF has additional funding.

Final Considerations

—

The TMF offers necessary funding but is largely unknown

Overall, the results of this survey indicated that federal agencies and departments are likely to use additional funding for network architecture migrations and that the TMF will change how the government prioritizes network upgrades. However, respondents are largely unfamiliar with the TMF program and suggest that the perceived level of priority given to network architecture migration varies. This data reveals that increased familiarization with the TMF and a shift in priorities is needed to leverage funding available for network architecture migration.

—

TMF provides pathway to necessary network modernization

Most respondents agree that there is a need for network architecture migration in federal agencies. The TMF provides funding to federal agencies and departments for a variety of purposes, including improvements to cybersecurity, modernizing high priority systems, enabling cross-government collaboration and scalable services, creating or modernizing public-facing digital services, and network architecture migrations. Moreover, the TMF received an additional \$1 billion in funding through the American Rescue Plan in March 2021.

About

**Government
Business
Council**

Government Business Council

Government Business Council (GBC), the research arm of GovExec, is dedicated to advancing the business of government through analysis and insight. GBC partners with industry to share best practices with top government decision makers, understanding the deep value inherent in industry's experience engaging and supporting federal agencies

Report Author: David Hutchins

Contact

Jonathan Sanders
Senior Director of Insights and Content
Government Business Council, GovExec
Email: srose@govexec.com

govexec.com/insights
[@GovExecInsights](https://twitter.com/GovExecInsights)

ciena[®]

Ciena

Ciena is a networking systems, services, and software company. We help our clients build more adaptive networks in response to the constantly changing demands of their users—businesses and consumers alike. We do this by delivering best-in-class networking technology through high-touch consultative relationships, backed by 26 years of experience in building the world's most complex networks.

Learn more at <https://www.ciena.com/about>