



**MAINSTREAM**  
TECHNOLOGIES

MANAGED SERVICES • CUSTOM SOFTWARE • HOSTING

Modernizing Technology  
via  
Iterative Development

“A Best Practice Primer”

# Why Modernize?

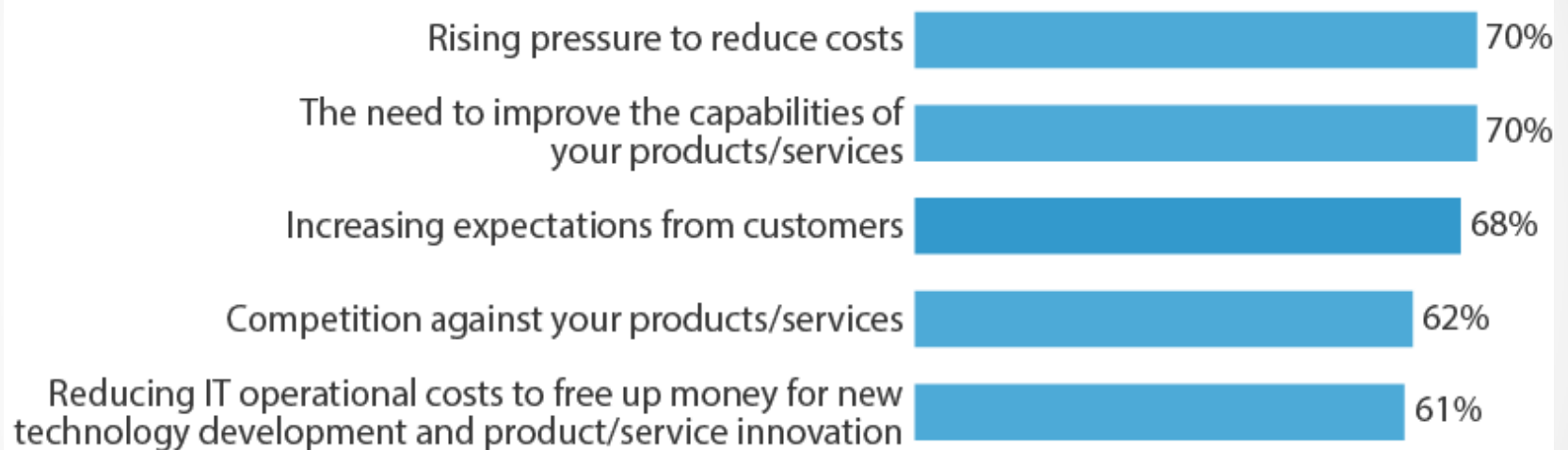
As legacy applications age, the cost of ownership grows and they become increasingly difficult to modify and support.

IT modernization is the effort of updating an existing application or applications with the goal of better meeting the needs of the organization. The goals are generally to;

- reduce ownership costs,
- take advantage of new capabilities and technologies, and
- respond to evolving business needs.

# What is driving the need for new features?

**“How concerned is your business with the following issues?”**  
(Percentage answering “very concerned” or “concerned”)



Base: 3,650 budget decision-makers  
(multiple responses accepted)

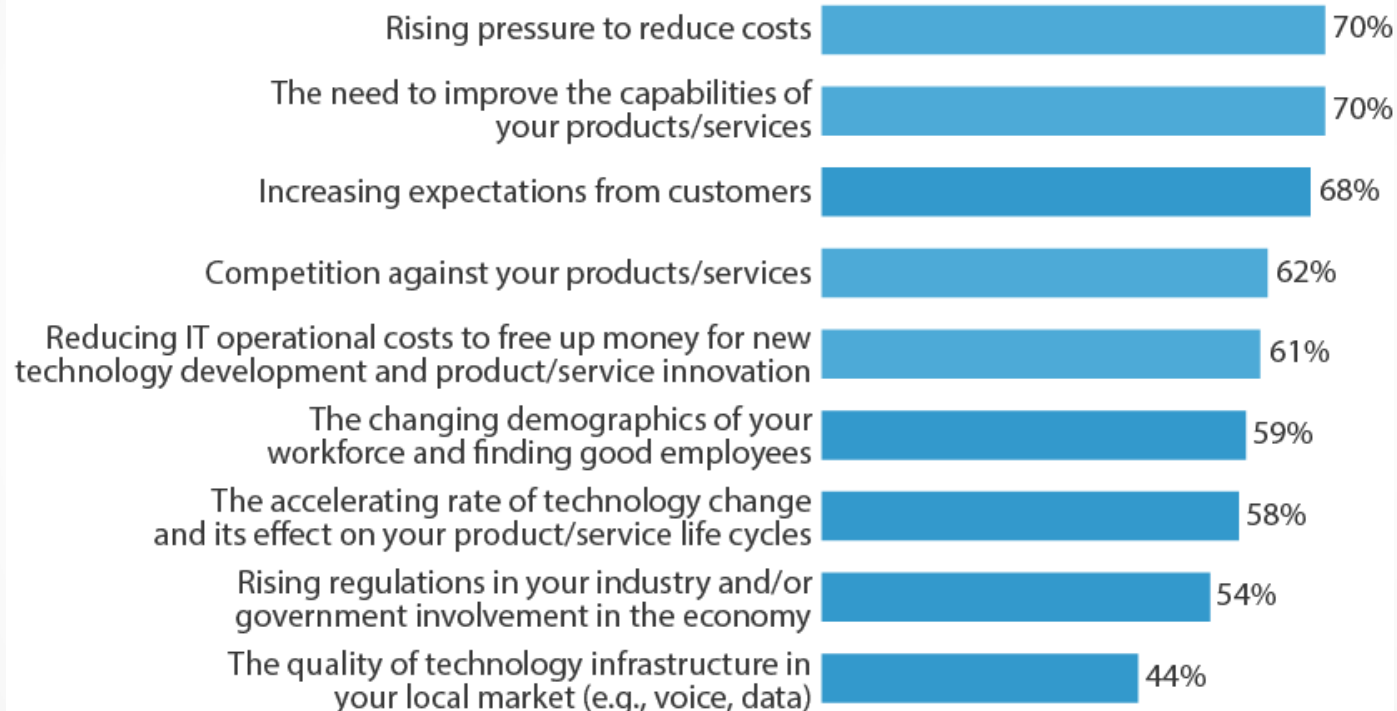
Source: Forrsights Budgets And Priorities Tracker Survey, Q2, 2012

# Challenges to Traditional Software Development

## THE NEED FOR FASTER DELIVERY OF HIGH-QUALITY APPLICATIONS

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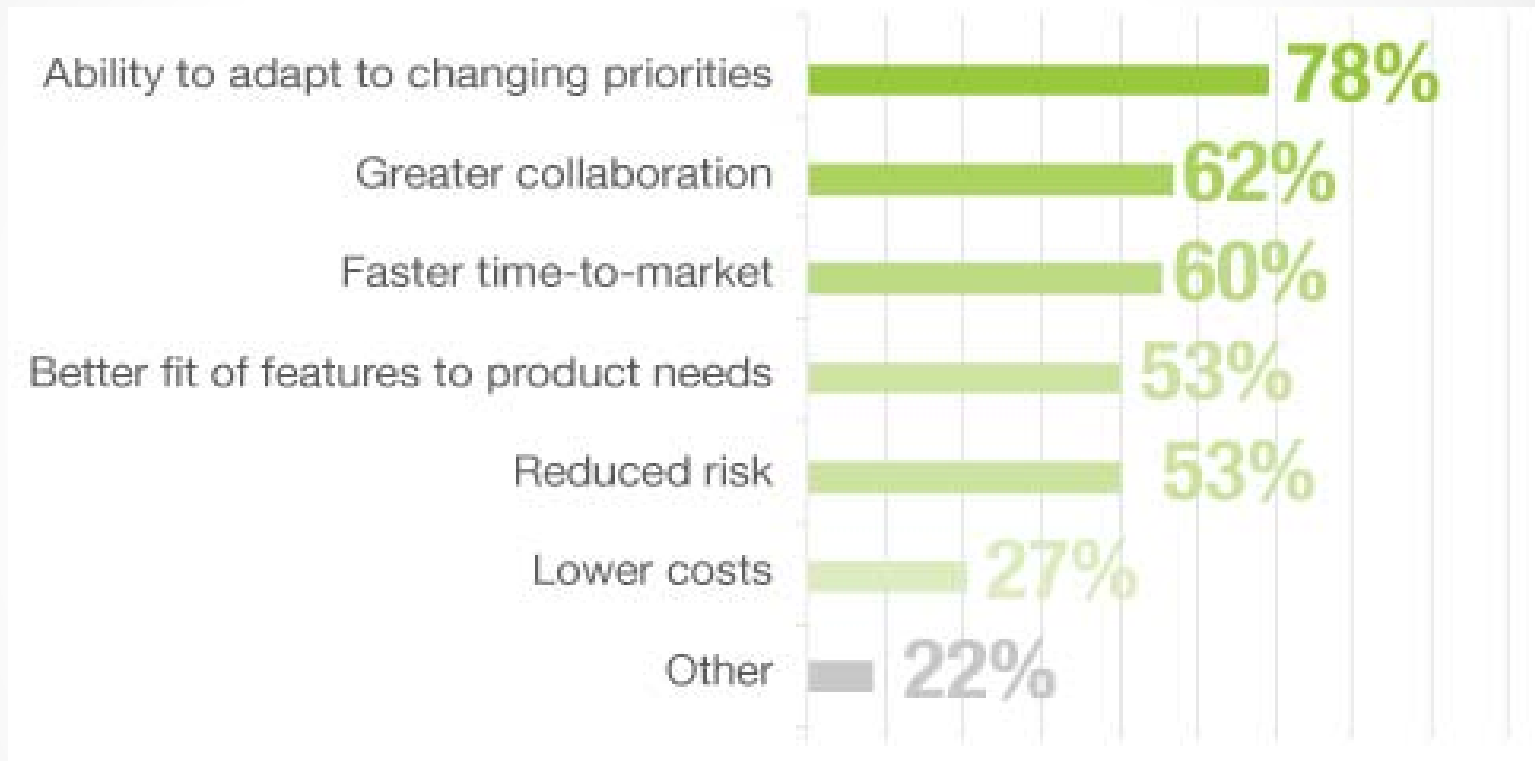
# What is Iterative Development?

Iterative Development is the framework that is used to structure, plan and control the process of developing a new application

Its key objectives are to:

- Reduce the risk of building a new system by breaking it down into small batches of work (features)
- Quickly develop and deliver these features on a regular basis
- Involve users heavily throughout the development process
- Focus the effort on meeting the most important user needs first
- Identify as early as possible 'gaps in understanding' between the development team and users

# Why Iterative Development?



*\*Percentage of respondents who agreed that these Agile benefits are of importance to their firm*

Base: 3,650 budget decision-makers  
(multiple responses accepted)

Source: ForSights Budgets And Priorities Tracker Survey, Q2, 2012

# Iterative Development leverages The Rapid Feedback Cycle



Large projects are divided into small batches of work

- Features delivered faster
- Collaboration is encouraged between the development team and users
- Shortens the gap between feedback and *implementation*
- Minimizes rework
- Demonstrates progress on a regular basis

# Summary

Iterative Development	Traditional Development
You don't have to know everything in the beginning	Development specifications must be finalized in the beginning
Users are integral to the development process	Users aren't included until the system is delivered for testing
It's relatively easy to accommodate change.	The development process is rigid
Increased collaboration improves the odds of discovering unforeseen user needs <u>during</u> the development cycle	Unforeseen requirements are most likely discovered <u>after</u> the development cycle
Subtle usability features are identified/integrated earlier in the process	Additional features must be postponed until after the original design is delivered
Stakeholders have visibility into project progress throughout the development cycle	Project progress is measured by periodic milestones
Working software features and their benefits are delivered regularly	An extended development cycle means that the solution is delivered for testing at one time
At the conclusion of the project, the solution has been tested thoroughly	Extensive testing/bug fixes are required at the conclusion of the development phase.