

2018 Strategic Trends: Data Table

Trends

This data table is provided as a summary of the data collected on 39 strategic trends as part of the EDUCAUSE 2018 IT Issues survey. Trends are external factors that influence institutional and IT strategy and often shape the adoption of technologies. The 2018 IT Issues survey (in which these strategic trends were included) was distributed to 11,797 EDUCAUSE members in the summer of 2017, with three reminders sent; 438 (4%) completed the survey. Where multiple representatives from a single institution completed the survey, we selected the response from the representative in the highest-ranking position. As a result, the number of respondents rating individual trends ranged from 293 to 299.

The full survey instrument may be consulted here:

<https://library.educause.edu/~media/files/library/2017/8/2018top10itissuestechnologiesurvey.pdf>

Definitions of these strategic trends may be consulted here:

<https://www.educause.edu/research-and-publications/research/top-10-it-issues-technologies-and-trends/trends-survey-glossary>

For more information about this study, including the associated research report(s), slide deck(s), and infographic(s), visit the research hub at

<https://library.educause.edu/resources/2018/1/higher-educations-top-10-strategic-technologies-and-trends-for-2018>.

Trend	Don't know (unfamiliar with this trend)	Not at all influential	Tracking, but no influence yet	A minor influence	A major influence	Already incorporated
Adaptive learning	6%	13%	33%	28%	16%	3%
Agile approaches to change	3%	11%	22%	35%	27%	3%
Applications and implications of artificial intelligence to higher education	5%	29%	42%	18%	5%	0%
Bimodal IT	25%	22%	20%	19%	12%	2%
Blending of roles and blurring of boundaries between IT and academic/administrative areas	3%	11%	11%	35%	33%	6%
Business process redesign	2%	4%	9%	32%	45%	7%
Campus safety	3%	6%	7%	34%	36%	14%
Changing enterprise system architectures, integrations, and workflows	3%	5%	14%	29%	46%	4%
Changing faculty roles	4%	21%	21%	38%	14%	0%
Climate change	5%	46%	23%	18%	6%	2%
Complexity of security threats	3%	1%	5%	16%	61%	14%
Compliance environment	4%	2%	7%	33%	42%	11%
Concerns about institutional sustainability or survival	2%	22%	14%	30%	28%	5%
Contributions of IT to institutional operational excellence	2%	3%	10%	22%	50%	13%
Cross-institutional and international scholarly and research collaborations	6%	28%	16%	26%	17%	5%
Cross-institutional partnerships and consortia	4%	10%	11%	36%	25%	13%
Data-driven decision making	1%	2%	9%	22%	56%	10%
DevOps movement	11%	20%	29%	29%	9%	2%
Digital enterprise strategy	8%	10%	18%	34%	28%	3%
Digitization of scholarly and research data	5%	22%	21%	27%	20%	6%
Diversity, equity, and inclusion	3%	8%	7%	32%	38%	11%
Evaluation of technology-based instructional innovations	4%	7%	20%	32%	33%	4%
Incorporating open standards into enterprise IT architecture	4%	15%	22%	37%	17%	5%
Incorporating risk-management approaches into IT strategy and service delivery	2%	4%	10%	36%	37%	11%
Increasing complexity of technology, architecture, and data	3%	2%	8%	24%	57%	6%
Institution-wide data management and integrations	3%	3%	9%	24%	49%	11%
Internet of Things	3%	20%	28%	34%	14%	1%
IT as an agent of institutional transformation and innovation	1%	5%	9%	33%	44%	8%
Managing mobility (of people, data, institutional resources)	2%	8%	15%	32%	39%	3%
National and global political uncertainty	4%	24%	28%	32%	11%	0%
Reduced reliance on service desk as the primary model for support	4%	33%	24%	25%	12%	2%
Service management (ITSM, ITIL)	2%	12%	11%	30%	29%	16%
Shared services	4%	7%	16%	31%	32%	10%
Strategic relationships with vendors	2%	4%	9%	34%	35%	15%
Student success focus/imperatives	1%	3%	8%	14%	55%	19%
Ubiquitous digital sources and streams	9%	19%	23%	28%	20%	1%
Use of algorithms to influence institutional and individual choices	9%	34%	27%	20%	9%	0%
User-centered design	5%	10%	19%	33%	28%	6%
Vendor relationships that bypass IT	3%	12%	14%	40%	27%	4%