

Bridging the Gap

THE 2026 DIGITAL DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION REPORT



Contents

FOREWORD

A message from the CEO3

CHAPTER 1

An era of complexity4

CHAPTER 2

Breaking down the barriers8

CHAPTER 3

The CIO mandate13

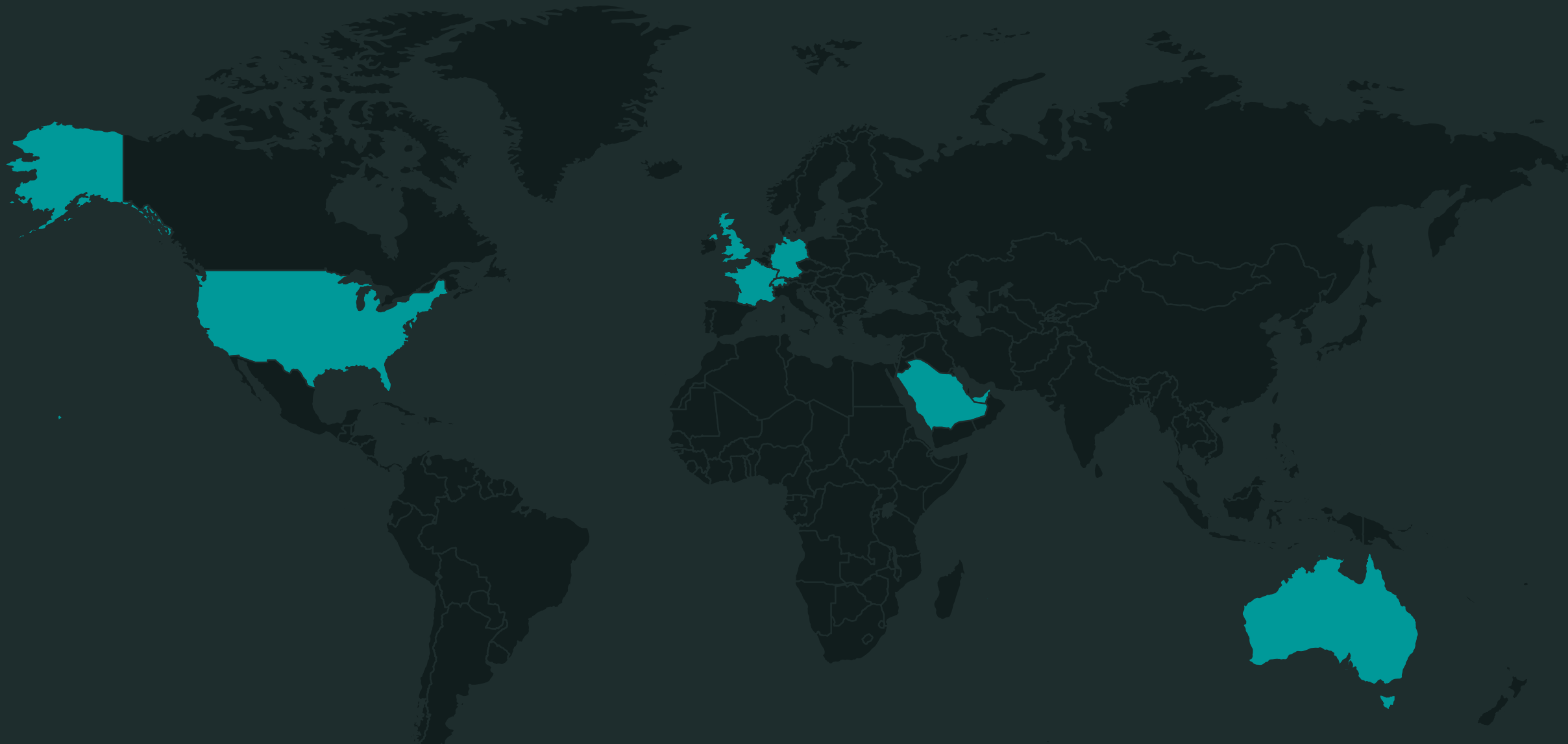
Methodology

For this report, we commissioned an independent survey through Censuswide of 2,006 Architecture, Engineering and Construction (AEC) professionals across eight markets (USA, UK, Switzerland, Germany, France, Australia, Saudi Arabia, UAE). The survey was conducted January - February 2026. Revizto was not named as the research partner.

The sample spans the full AEC ecosystem: architecture firms, engineering consultancies, general contractors, and specialty subcontractors. Respondents include leaders and practitioners working across BIM/VDC, Project Management, Architecture Technology and Design. 80% are in leadership roles. Four questions were targeted at CIOs only (n=600).

Company size is concentrated in the mid-to-large enterprise segment: 84% of respondents report annual turnover above \$100M USD (including 38% above \$500M USD and 5% above \$1B USD).

Survey results have been rounded to the nearest whole number for reporting purposes.



FOREWORD

A message from the CEO

The global construction economy is operating at a scale that was difficult to imagine just a decade ago.



We are seeing a convergence of urgent demands: the revitalization of critical infrastructure, the rapid expansion of data centers to support advances in AI, and the worldwide push for energy transition. The opportunity for our \$13 trillion industry is immense, projected to grow significantly over the coming decade, but so is the pressure.

Projects are becoming larger, timelines are tightening, and the margin for error is disappearing. Labor shortages are no longer a temporary fluctuation but a structural reality. Supply chains remain fragile, and geopolitical uncertainty adds a layer of additional complexity to every decision.

In our 2025 report, we highlighted the persistent challenges of cost overruns, fragmented communication, and the struggle to adopt digital tools effectively. As we look at the data for 2026, those pressures have not vanished, but the conversation has fundamentally matured. The challenge is no longer just "going digital": it's maintaining clarity at scale.

This year's findings reveal an emerging shift. While technology integration remains a top challenge, the "pain" is moving toward real-world execution. The sharp rise in Project Complexity and Coordination, against the backdrop of rising software costs, tells us that simply acquiring more technology is not the answer. Connecting it is.

Across infrastructure, healthcare, aviation, and commercial development, we see a bifurcation in the market. Organizations that simplify complexity, unify their data, and empower their teams to surface risk earlier are pulling ahead. Those that rely on fragmented systems and reactive processes are falling behind.

This report is more than a collection of statistics; it is a roadmap for the year ahead. It reflects our conviction that the next phase of digital transformation will not be driven by buying more technology, but by better connecting the tools we have to create a single, undeniable source of truth.

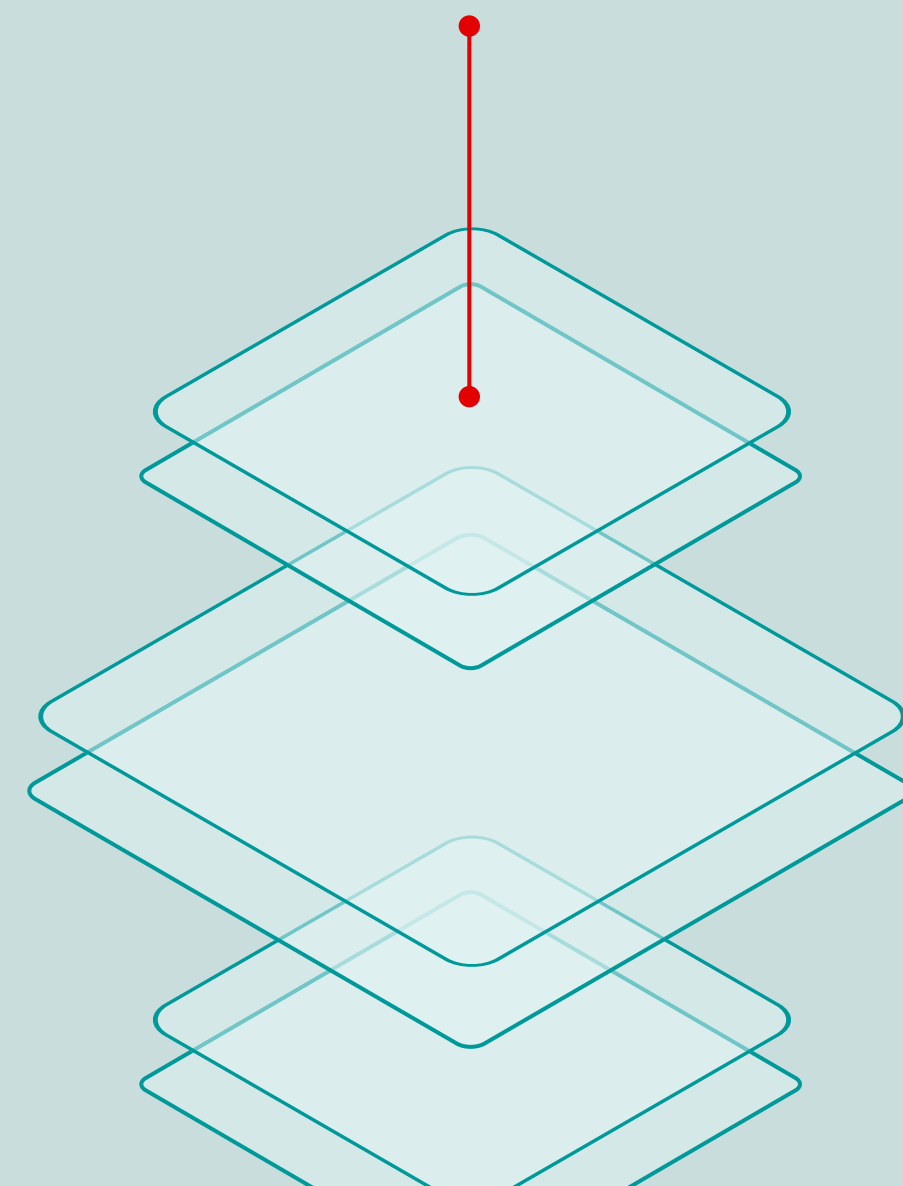


ARMAN GUKASYAN
FOUNDER & CEO
REVIZTO

An era of complexity

The AEC industry is navigating a volatile mix of internal and external forces. As projects increase in size, cost, and technical difficulty, the margin for error narrows. The search for clarity—knowing exactly what to build, when, and for how much—has never been more urgent.

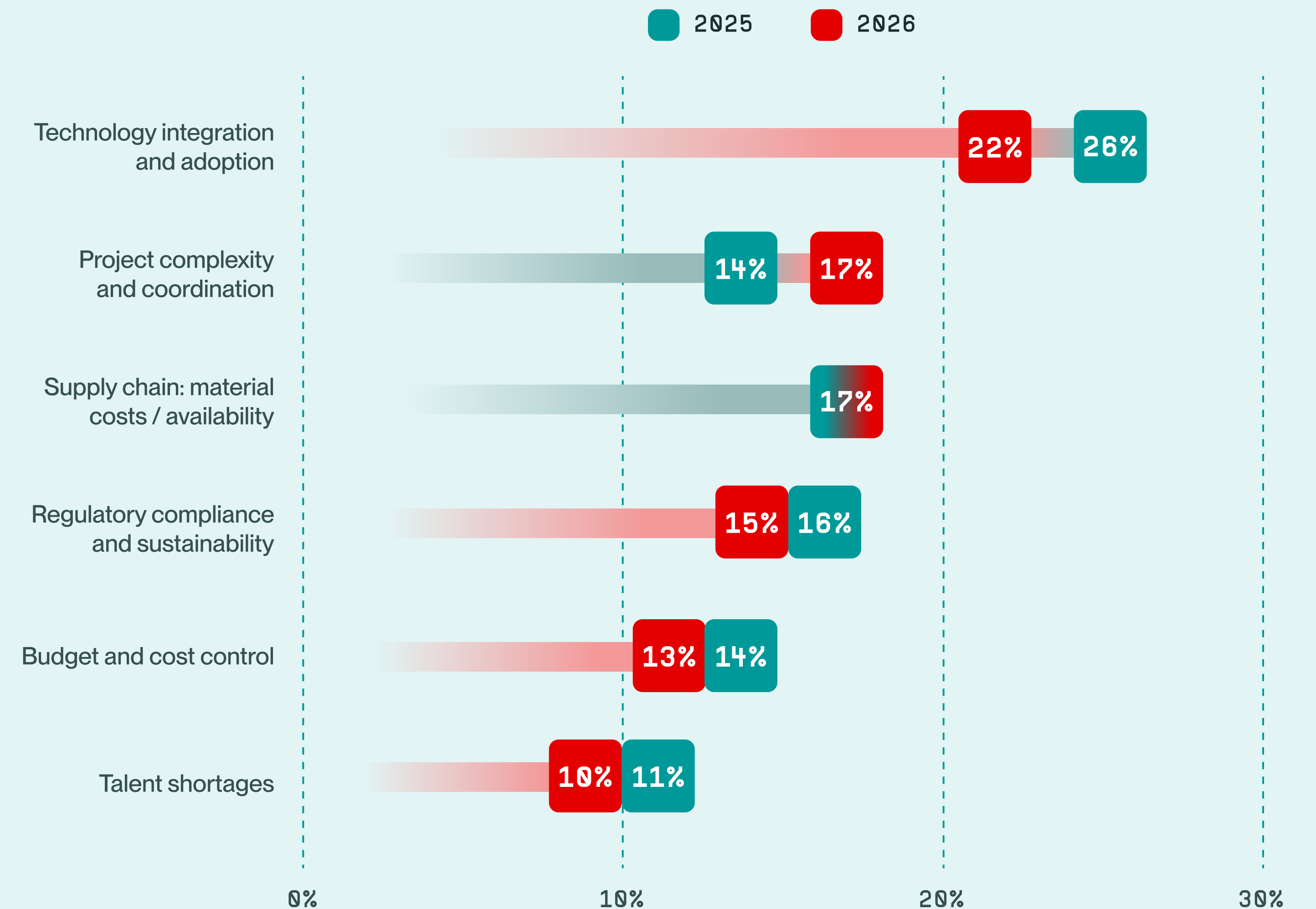
To gauge the reality of today's construction environment, we analyzed insights from 2,006 AEC professionals across the USA, UK, Switzerland, Germany, France, Australia, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. The results provide a clear-eyed look at an industry in transition.



Understanding the challenges

When we asked industry leaders to identify the single biggest challenge their business faces, the answers revealed shifting priorities.

Figure 1: What is the biggest challenge your business faces?



Technology Integration: For the second consecutive year, Technology Integration and Adoption remains the single biggest challenge, cited by 22% of respondents. Crucially, this digital hurdle now outranks the industry's traditional physical constraints—including Budget & Cost Control, Talent Shortages, and Supply Chain Volatility. While the top-line figure has softened slightly from 26% in 2025, its continued dominance confirms that the primary struggle is no longer just buying tools, but connecting them. As technology stacks expand, fitting new solutions into existing workflows remains the primary friction point for nearly a quarter of all firms.

Complexity: The defining story of 2026 is the surge in Project Complexity & Coordination. Climbing to 17%, it is now tied for the second most critical issue—a significant jump from 2025 where it ranked notably lower in fifth place. This data indicates that the sheer logistical and technical difficulty of delivering modern projects is now weighing as heavily on teams as supply chain volatility (17%) and regulatory pressures (15%).



The rise of complexity suggests that "standard" projects are becoming rare. Firms must treat coordination as a continuous, high-priority discipline that persists through every stage of the lifecycle—from early design to final handover.



Regional pressure points

While the global themes are consistent, the data reveals that specific pressures are accentuated by local market conditions:

- Switzerland is laser-focused on the bottom line, over-indexing the most on Budget & Cost Control compared to global peers.
- The UK, Germany and UAE report heightened pressure regarding Regulatory Compliance and Sustainability, potentially reflecting the stringent environmental standards in these markets.
- Technology integration pressure is most acute in the US and France (25%+ vs 22% globally), suggesting larger or more complex tool stacks and higher integration friction in these mature markets.



The cost of reality

Cost certainty is the holy grail of construction, yet in the era of complexity, it remains elusive. With global construction demand growing, we asked AEC leaders how much their project costs typically increase over the original estimate. The responses indicate that overruns are not the exception. They are the default.

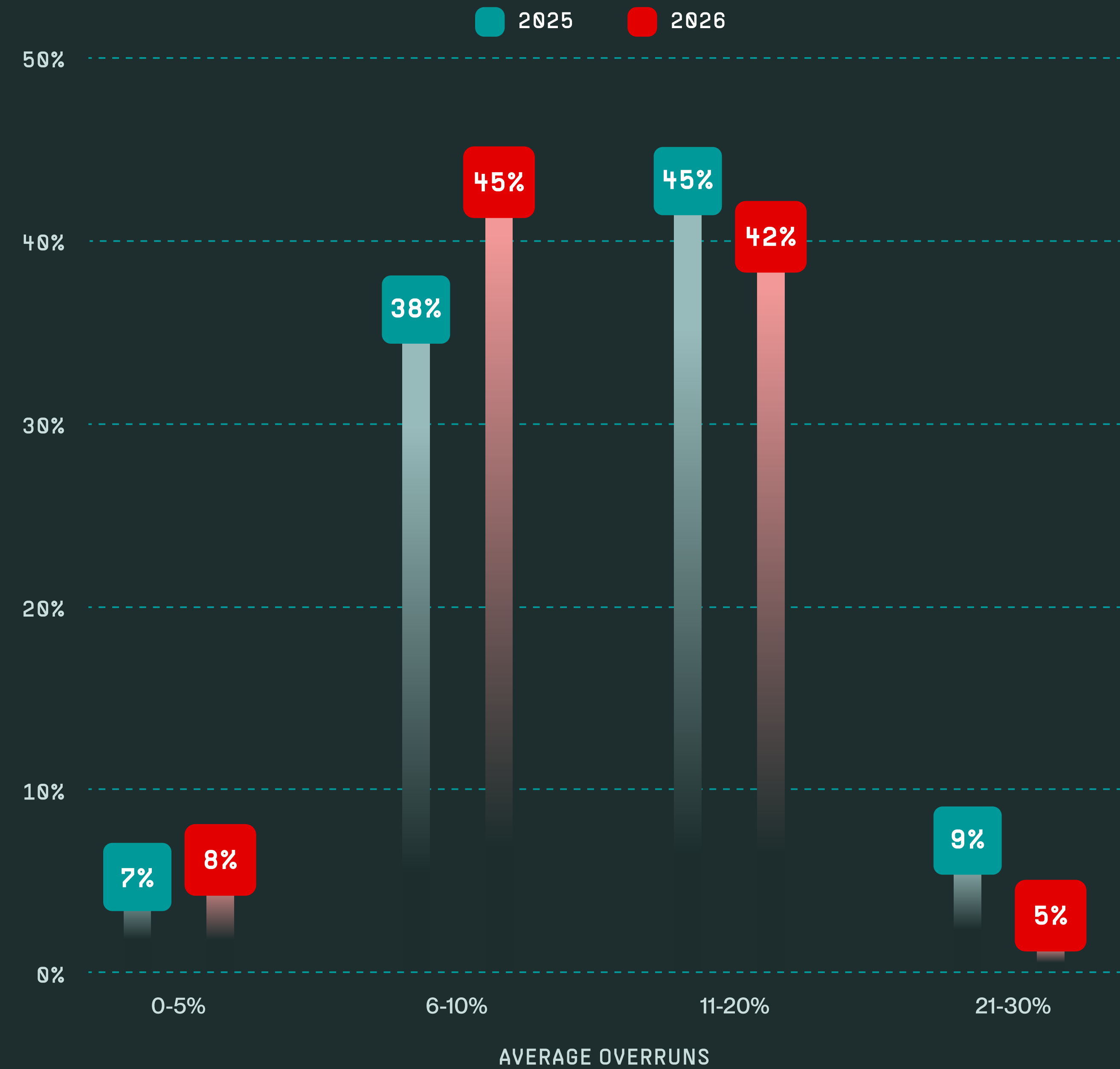
- 92% of respondents report budget overruns of 6% or more.
- The most common overrun band is 6–10%, reported by 45% of respondents.
- This is followed closely by the 11–20% band, cited by 42% of respondents.

This "compression" into the mid-range suggests that while projects are avoiding catastrophic failures more often, the industry has baked in a "tolerance" for missing the mark by roughly 10%. In a trillion-dollar industry, that represents billions in lost value.

Not all costs are felt equally

- Australia appears to have the tightest control, reporting the highest share of low overruns (0-5%).
- France sits at the other end of the spectrum, showing the highest average overruns.
- Subcontractors skew toward higher overrun bands than the overall average, highlighting the cascading financial pressure felt at the trade level.

Figure 2: On average, how much do budgets overrun from the original estimate?



Rework: A self-inflicted wound

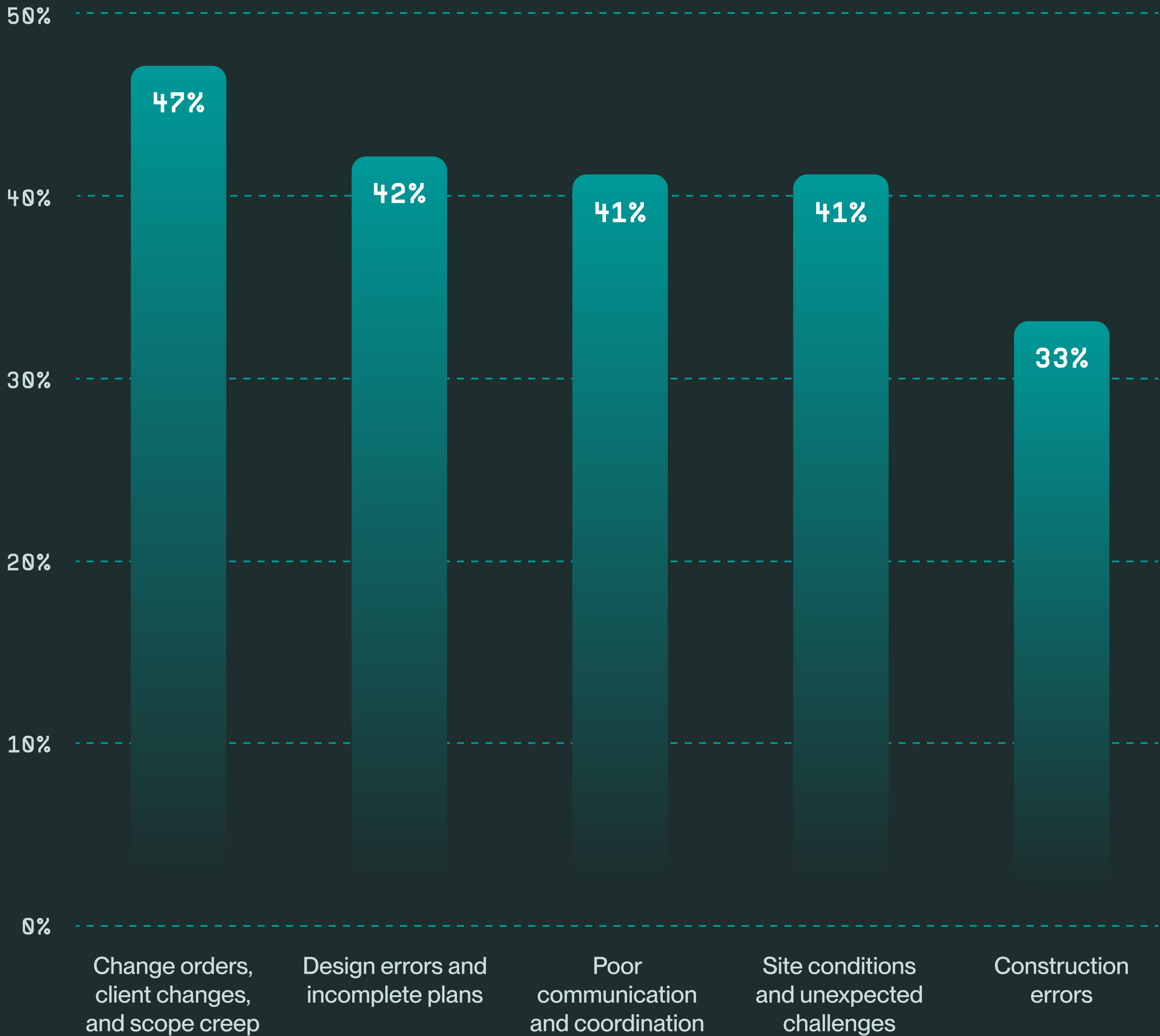
Why do overruns happen? Ideally, any rework is caused by external factors we cannot control, like site conditions or weather. But the 2026 data suggests that excuse is fading: Site Conditions have dropped sharply from 53% in 2025 to 41% today. When we asked leaders for the top three reasons for rework on their projects, the trend is clear:

- Change Orders, Client Changes, and Scope Creep (47%)
- Design Errors and Incomplete Plans (42%)
- Poor Communication and Coordination (41%)
- Site Conditions (41%, softening as a factor compared to 53% in 2025)
- Construction Errors (33%)



External drivers are softening relative to internal process failures. When design errors and poor coordination account for nearly half of rework drivers, it signals that rework is largely a self-inflicted wound. It also means it is controllable. The industry is realizing that better coordination isn't just a "nice to have." It is the primary lever for protecting the budget.

Figure 3: What are the top reasons for rework on projects? (Select up to 3)



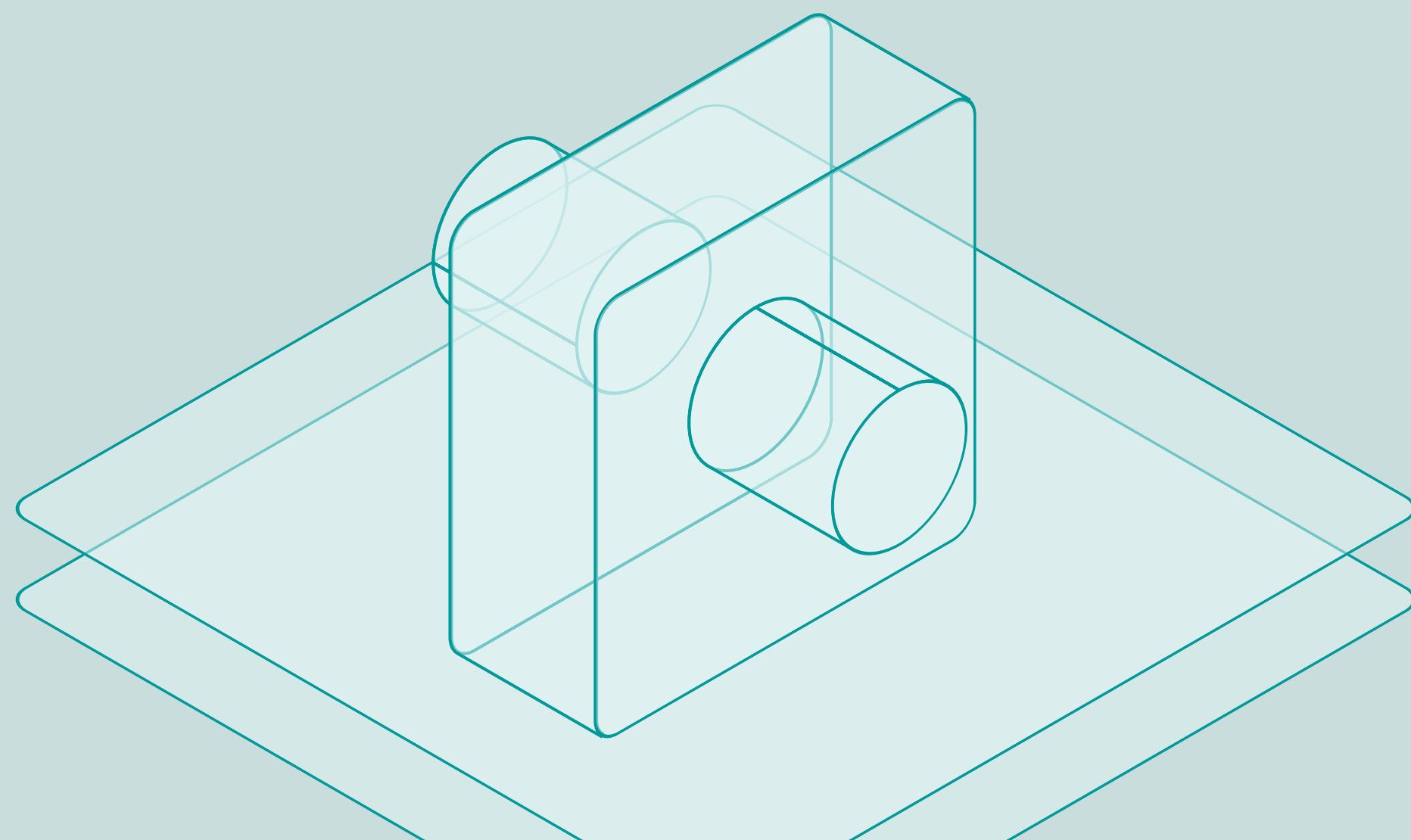
This year's survey makes one thing clear: integration, coordination and digital capability are inseparable. Technology integration remains the top challenge, rework is increasingly driven by workflow failures, and for architecture firms the number one barrier to gaining value from AI is limited digital skills. The issue is not tool availability, it is workflow design, tech stack structure and organizational readiness.



ALLISTER LEWIS
FOUNDER AND CEO
AUTOMATED DATA DRIVEN DESIGN
[ADDD]

Breaking down the barriers

If rework and overruns are a real problem, then the critical question becomes: why hasn't technology solved this already? The 2026 findings provide an answer. The problem isn't a lack of tools—it's the friction of adopting them, the complexity of connecting them and the reality that much of the industry still executes in 2D. This chapter examines the barriers that keep digital ambition from translating into delivery performance.



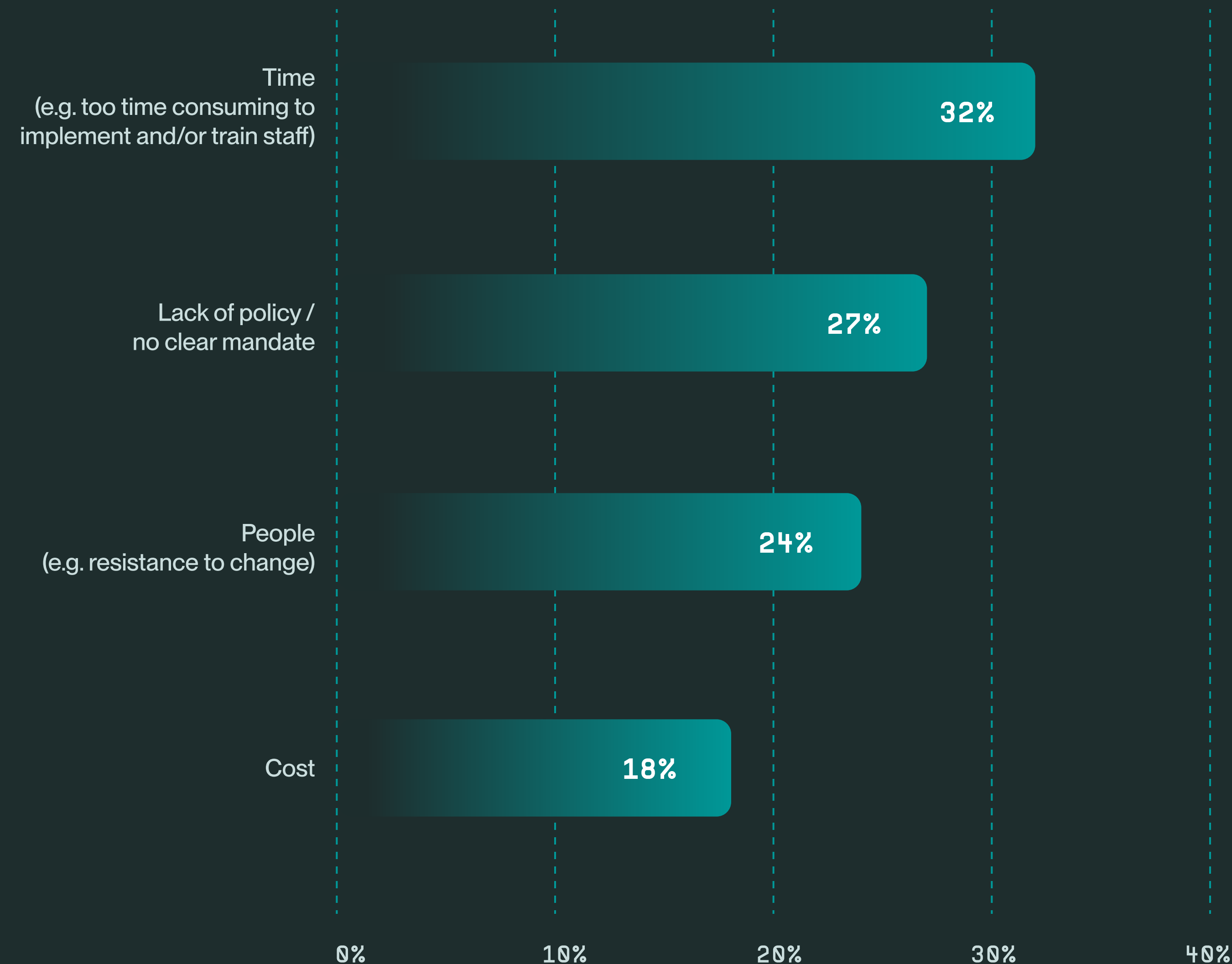
Time, not money

The construction technology market continues to expand, but buying software is easy; getting teams to use it is hard. We asked respondents what has been the biggest barrier to adopting new technology. For the second year running, the industry has sent a clear message: time is the enemy.

- Time (Implementation & Training) is the #1 barrier, cited by 32% of respondents.
- Lack of Policy or Mandate is the second biggest hurdle at 27%.
- People (Resistance to Change) follows at 24%.
- The Cost Myth: Cost is the fourth-ranked barrier, cited by only 18% of respondents (down from 21% in 2025).

Adoption fails on disruption, not price. Teams are overwhelmed. In a high-complexity environment, they do not have the bandwidth to pause execution to learn complex new tools. The "Lack of Policy" finding is equally telling—it suggests that without a clear top-down strategy or government mandate, digitization is simply not being prioritized. In the absence of a compulsion to change, many firms are choosing to maintain the status quo.

Figure 4: What has been the biggest barrier to adopting new technology?



Technology integration often gets blamed, but in my experience the real challenge is people integration. Rework, budget overruns, and coordination failures usually come down to alignment between designers, trades, and owners. When those groups collaborate early through approaches like design-assist or design-build, the technology works, the budget reflects the value, and projects move forward with far less friction.



SAL D'AMBROSIA
DIRECTOR OF CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY,
WM. BLANCHARD CO.

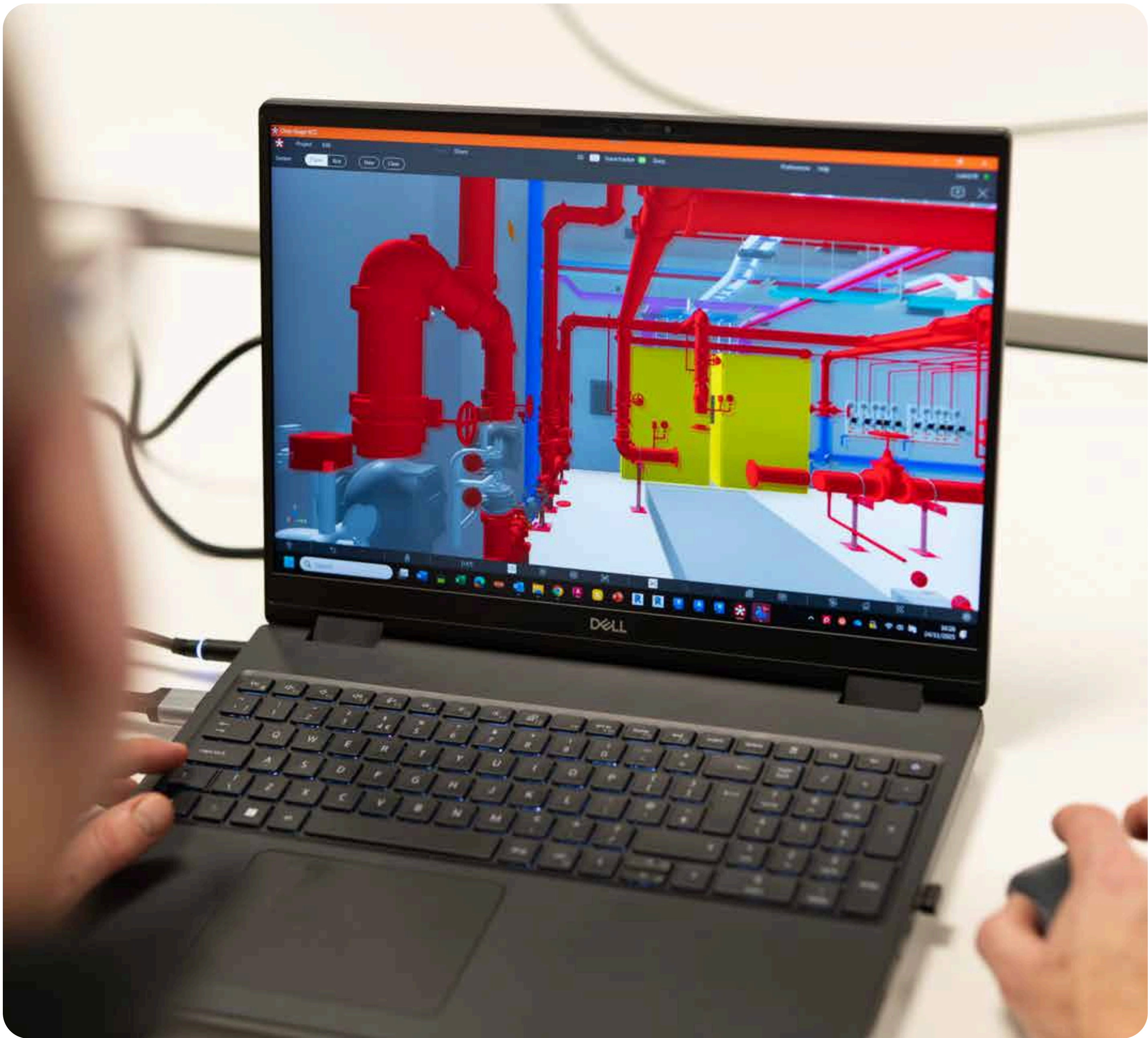
Democratizing skills

The industry is also facing a structural labor shortage. How are firms closing the gap? Not by hiring more bodies, but by making the existing ones more efficient. When asked how they are addressing the digital skills gap:

- Simplifying tools and workflows was the top response at 47%.
- Upskilling existing staff followed at 44%.
- Exploring AI tools to augment capacity stood at 42%.
- Using automation to reduce reliance on manual tasks was chosen by 40%.
- Hiring more digitally skilled staff ranked lower at 36%.



The industry has realized it cannot hire its way out of the efficiency crisis. The winning strategy is to deploy tools that lower the barrier to entry and train existing staff on how to leverage these new digital workflows.



revizto **ACADEMY**

Recognizing that cost and accessibility should never be barriers to expertise, Revizto is taking a bold step to support this industry-wide upskilling effort. **Revizto Academy** is completely free. This means that AECO professionals, students, and anyone eager to level up their skills can now complete courses and gain certification at no cost. By making these certifications free, Revizto is not just incentivizing learning; it is helping firms standardize coordination practices without eating into the project budget.

Beyond professional development, Revizto is also working with universities to develop next-generation curriculum, ensuring students enter the field with high-demand digital coordination skills.



At Cal Poly's Construction Management program, we address the digital skills and talent gap by embedding innovative technologies like Revizto early in the curriculum so they understand how these tools enhance traditional construction workflows.



PROFESSOR JEONG WOO,
DEPARTMENT HEAD AND PROFESSOR,
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT,
CAL POLY

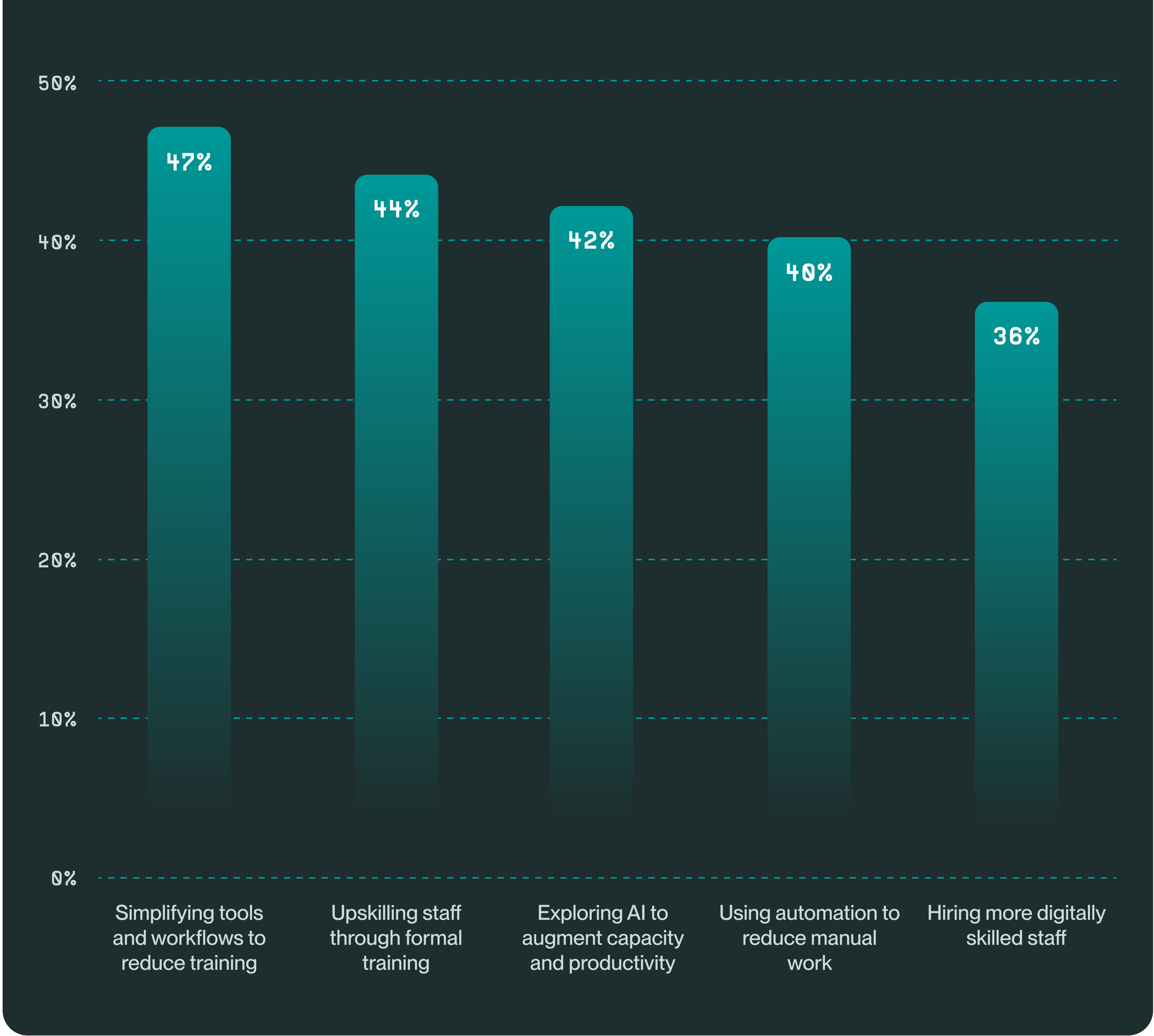


Shifting people's mindset is often the most challenging part of implementing new technology, which may explain why so many companies are reluctant to adopt tools that could genuinely streamline and improve project management. Bringing a coordination platform into the project early in the design stage would improve overall design development and ultimately lead to a smoother construction phase.



FRANCESCA LOFIEGO
DIGITAL LEAD
STRUCTURE TONE UK

Figure 5: What actions is your company taking to address the digital skills and talent gap?

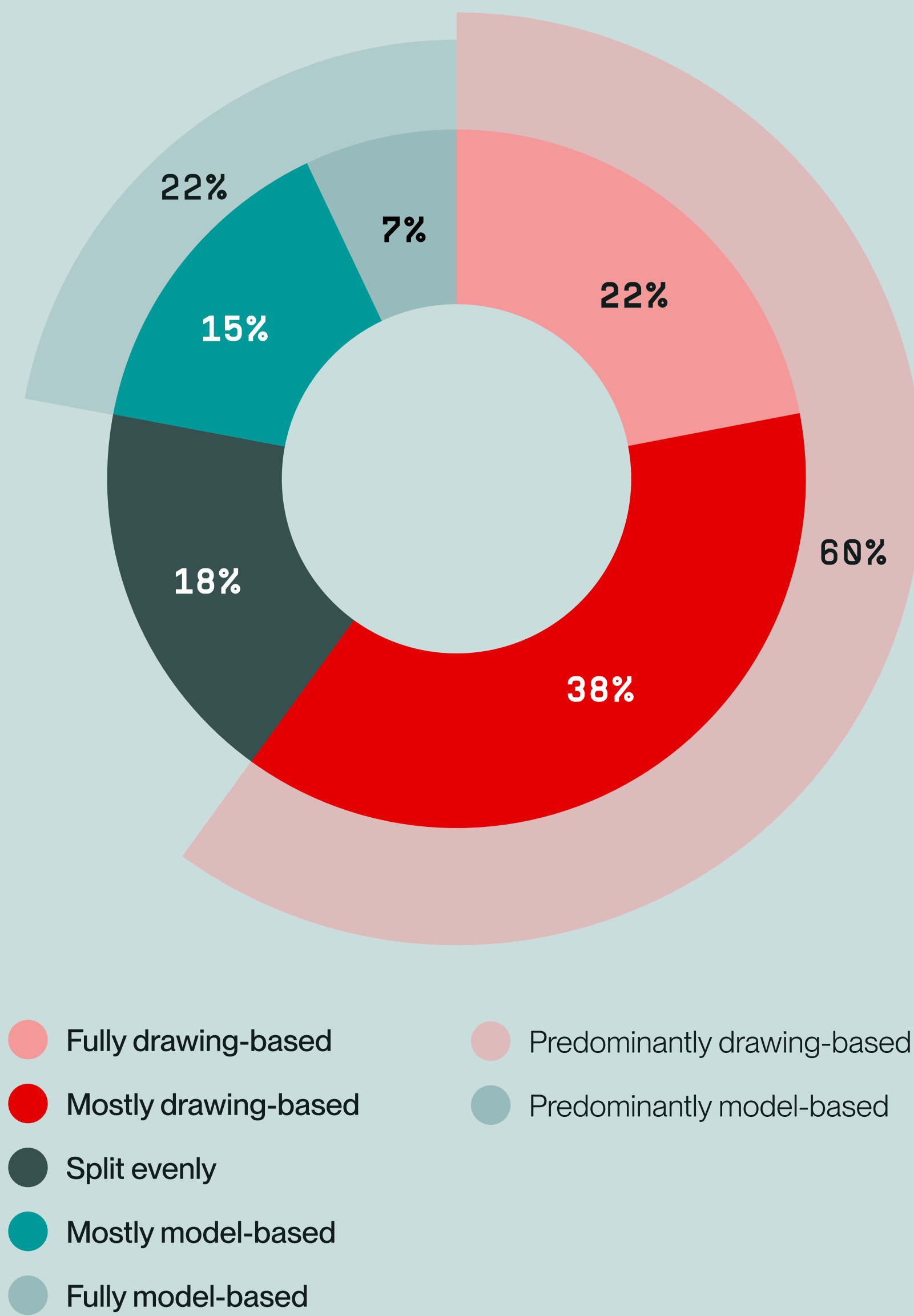


The digital tension: 2D habits in a 3D trending world

Even with better training, a critical disconnect remains in the workflow itself. Firms are desperate to "simplify workflows" to save time, yet the fundamental format of their work remains divided. We asked the industry about their primary design workflows, and the results confirm a fundamental truth about the construction sector: despite the rise of BIM, the industry runs on drawings.

- 60% of firms are still primarily reliant on 2D drawings or a mix where 2D dominates (22% Fully, 38% Mostly).
- Only 22% identify as Mostly or Fully Model-Based (3D).
- 18% report a split-even mix.
- The US has the highest share of fully drawing-based workflows.
- Saudi Arabia and Australia lead the world in model-based usage, driven in the former by the sheer scale of giga-projects and in Australia by broader industry digital maturity and more collaborative delivery models that demand seamless coordination.

Figure 6: How would you describe your firm's current reliance on drawing-based workflows vs. model-based workflows?



This reliance on 2D is not surprising; it is contractual. For the foreseeable future, the "signed-off" legal deliverable for most projects will remain the 2D drawing. However, while 2D is the legal language of construction, it is not the intuitive language of building.

- **The Interpretation Error:** 2D drawings require stakeholders to mentally reconstruct a complex 3D asset from flat lines. This interpretation is where human error thrives.
- **The Rework Connection:** This directly correlates with the finding in Chapter 1 that "Design Errors" and "Poor Communication" are top drivers of rework. When architects, engineers, and trades are forced to interpret complex spatial problems via flat PDF sets, clarity is lost, and mistakes are made.



A high-quality model creates the basis for future-oriented processes from planning and construction to operation. With 2D, we often reach the limits of technology. The model-based approach expands our possibilities, and by strengthening our skills in model-based project execution, we are gradually tapping into this potential.



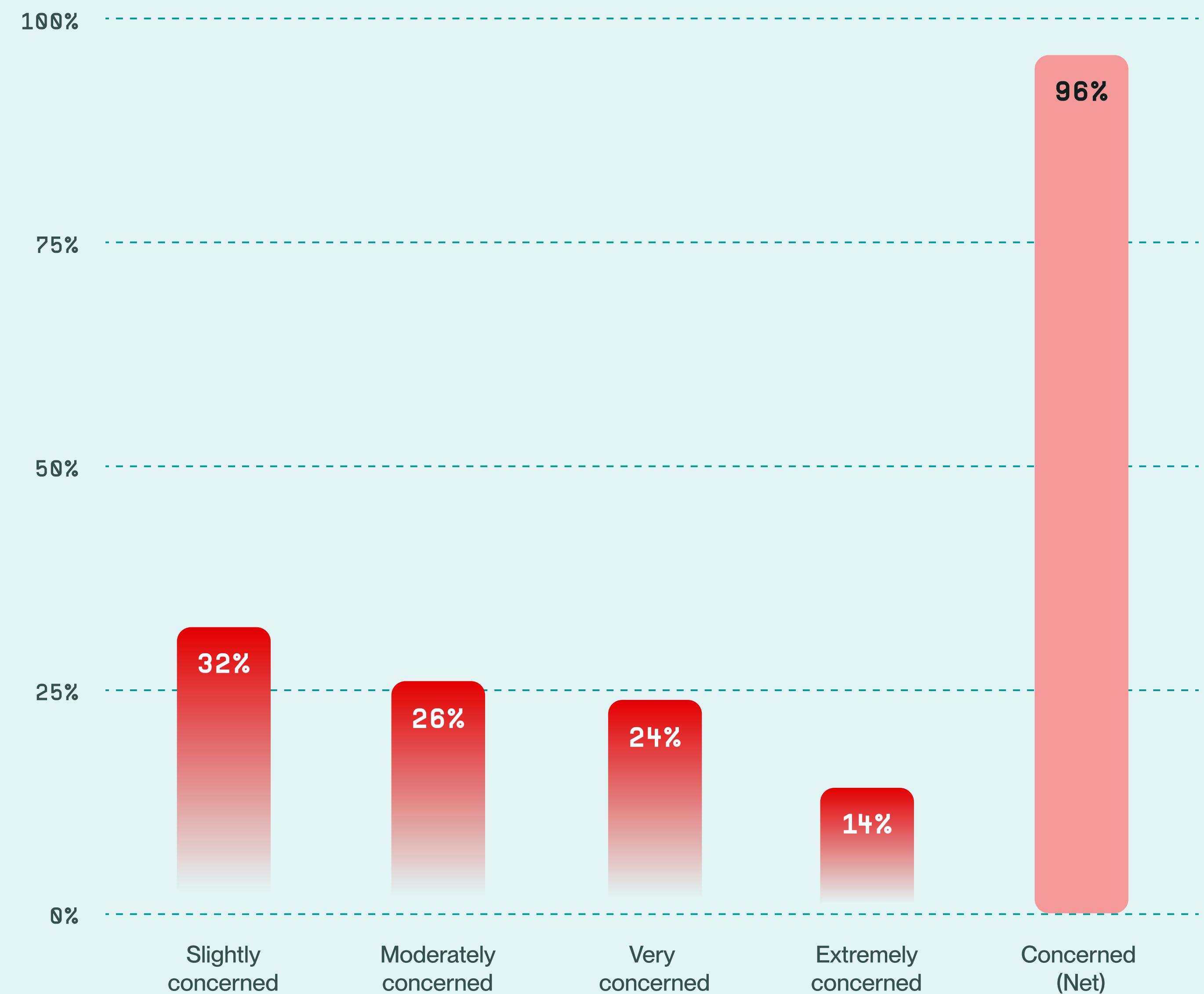
MARCEL WYSS
HEAD OF DIGITAL CONSTRUCTION
HÄLG GROUP

The CIO mandate

When time is the biggest barrier, complexity becomes a governance problem as much as a project problem. That shifts the center of gravity to the enterprise. Chief Information Officers (CIOs) are now accountable not just for systems, but for risk, cost control, data ownership, and measurable ROI — while preparing the organization for AI without destabilizing delivery. Drawing on four questions answered exclusively by AEC CIOs, Chapter 3 explores how this mandate is reshaping digital strategy.



Figure 7: How concerned is your firm about data ownership and control when selecting technology vendors?



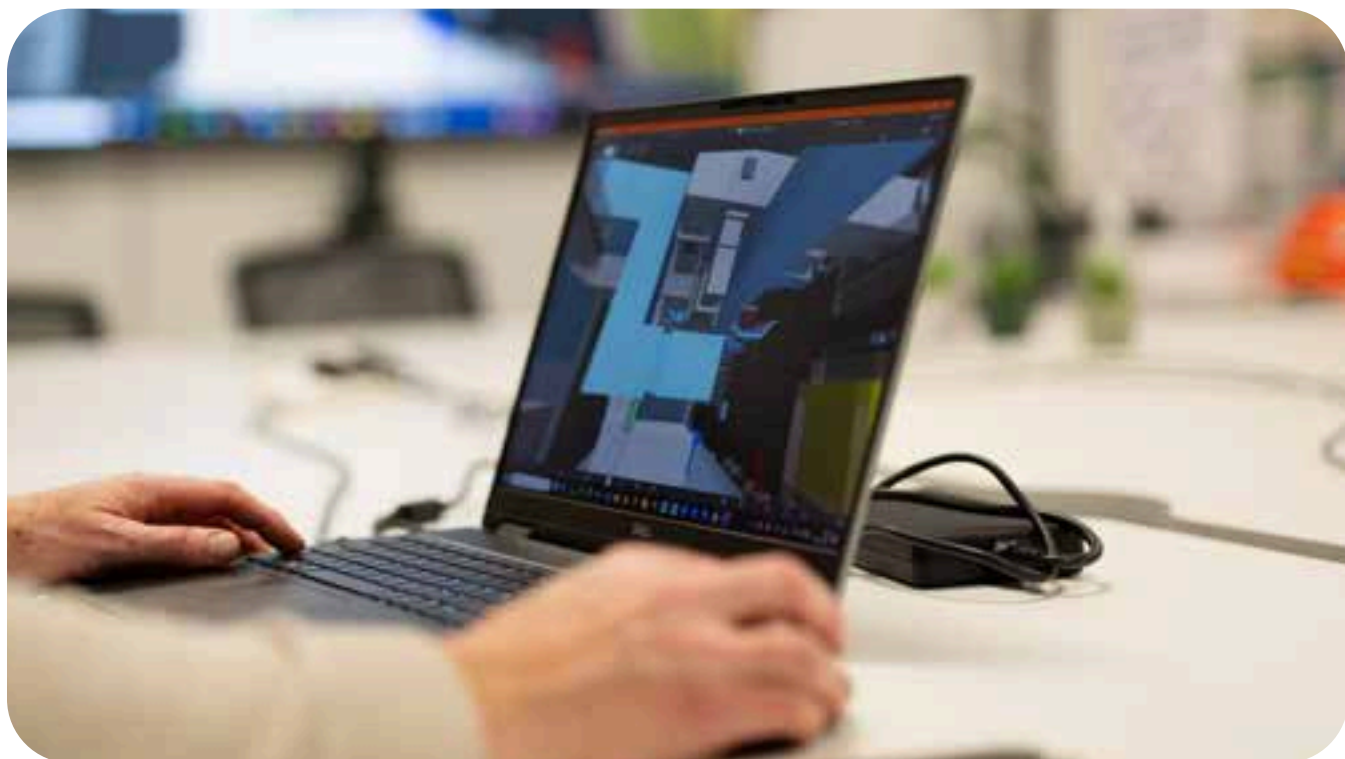
Data ownership is a top boardroom issue

The era of blind trust in vendors is over. As projects generate terabytes of valuable data, concern over who controls that data has gone mainstream.

- 96% of CIOs report being concerned about data ownership and control when selecting technology vendors.
- 38% describe themselves as "Very" or "Extremely" concerned.



High concern is strongest in Australia and Germany. This reflects growing anxiety around vendor lock-in and the long-term accessibility of project data in these more tightly regulated markets. CIOs are no longer just buying functionality; they are buying sovereignty over their own project intelligence.

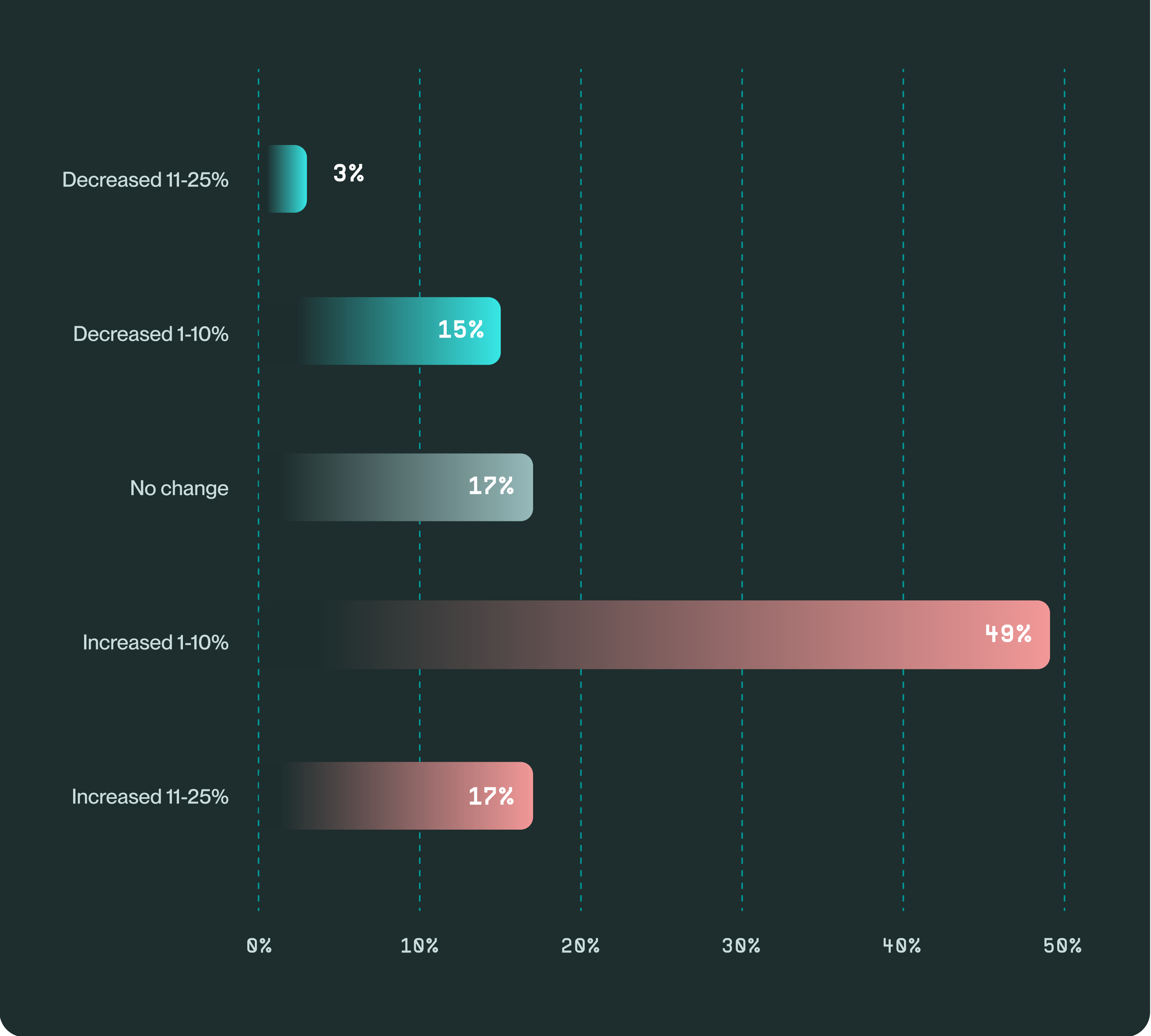


The stack strategy: expansion vs. consolidation

How are CIOs responding to rising software costs and complexity? The 2026 data shows a sector under financial pressure.

- 66% of CIOs reported increased software and cloud licensing costs over the last 12 months.
- Multi-disciplinary Engineering firms were the most likely to report double-digit increases.

Figure 8: How have your software and cloud licensing costs changed over the last 12 months?

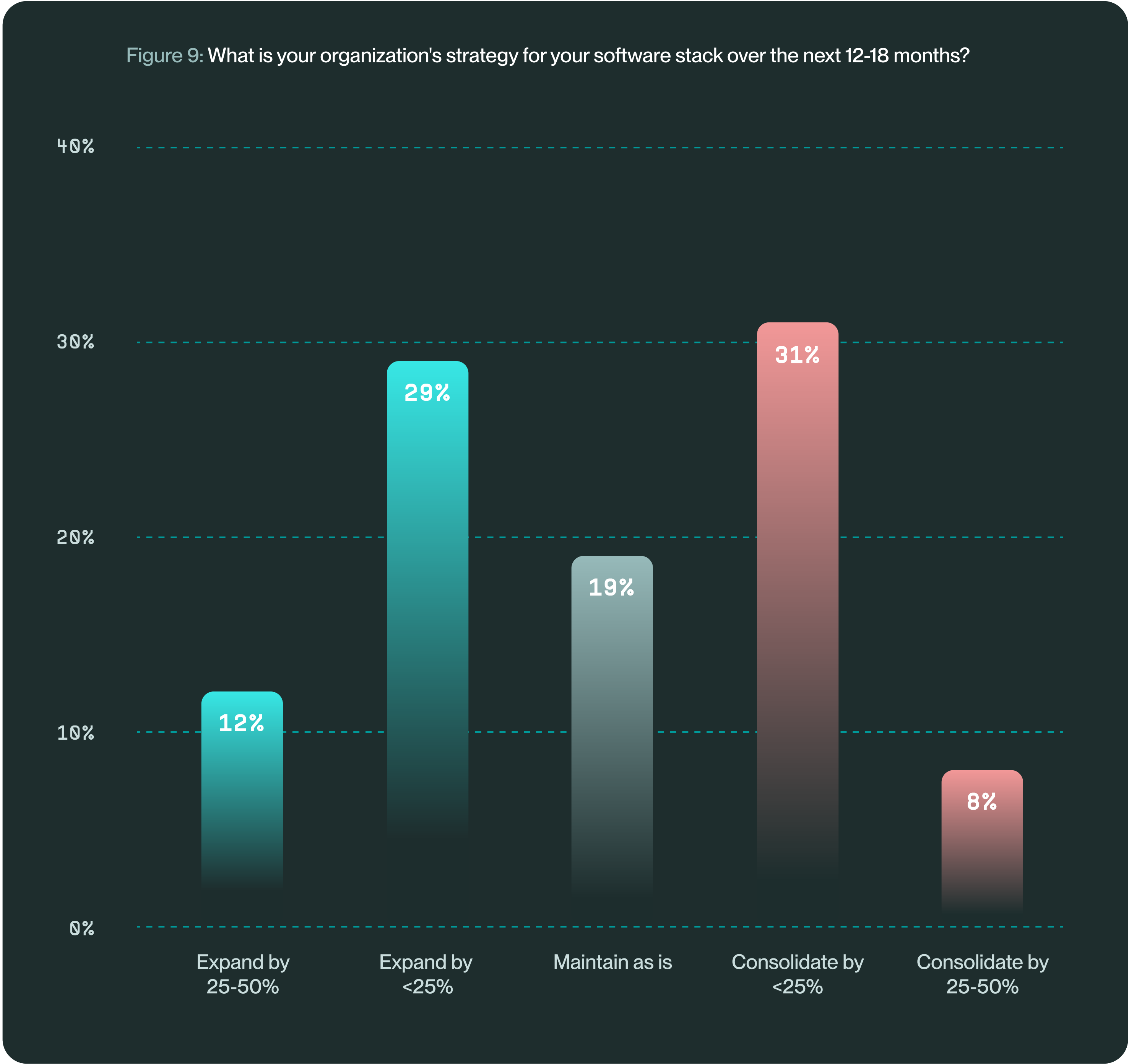




Despite there being a priority to rein in tech sprawl, the survey data reveals a tug-of-war between needing new capabilities and needing to simplify operations.

- 41% of CIOs plan to Expand their stack in the next 12-18 months.
- 39% plan to Consolidate

The single most common move is “consolidating by up to 25%”, cited by 31% of CIOs. This signals an industry-wide push toward tighter, smarter stacks. Leaders are looking to cut bloat and focus on platforms that deliver multifunctional value, reducing the "Time Barrier" discussed in Chapter 2 by giving staff fewer, better tools to master.



AI readiness: foundations first

Artificial Intelligence dominates the global business conversation, but is it delivering value in construction? The barriers cited by the CIOs we surveyed suggest a 'readiness gap.'

- Regulatory Concerns (24%) and Limited Digital Skills (23%) are the top barriers to gaining value from AI.
- Poor Data Foundations and Lack of Integrations combined represent 32% of the responses.



The most successful AI implementations that we're seeing right now are ones that are hyper focused, as opposed to those trying to boil the ocean and have AI sit over the top of everything like it's this magic button. That's where you start to build credibility: at the task level.



DAVID FELKER
CIO
TRILON GROUP

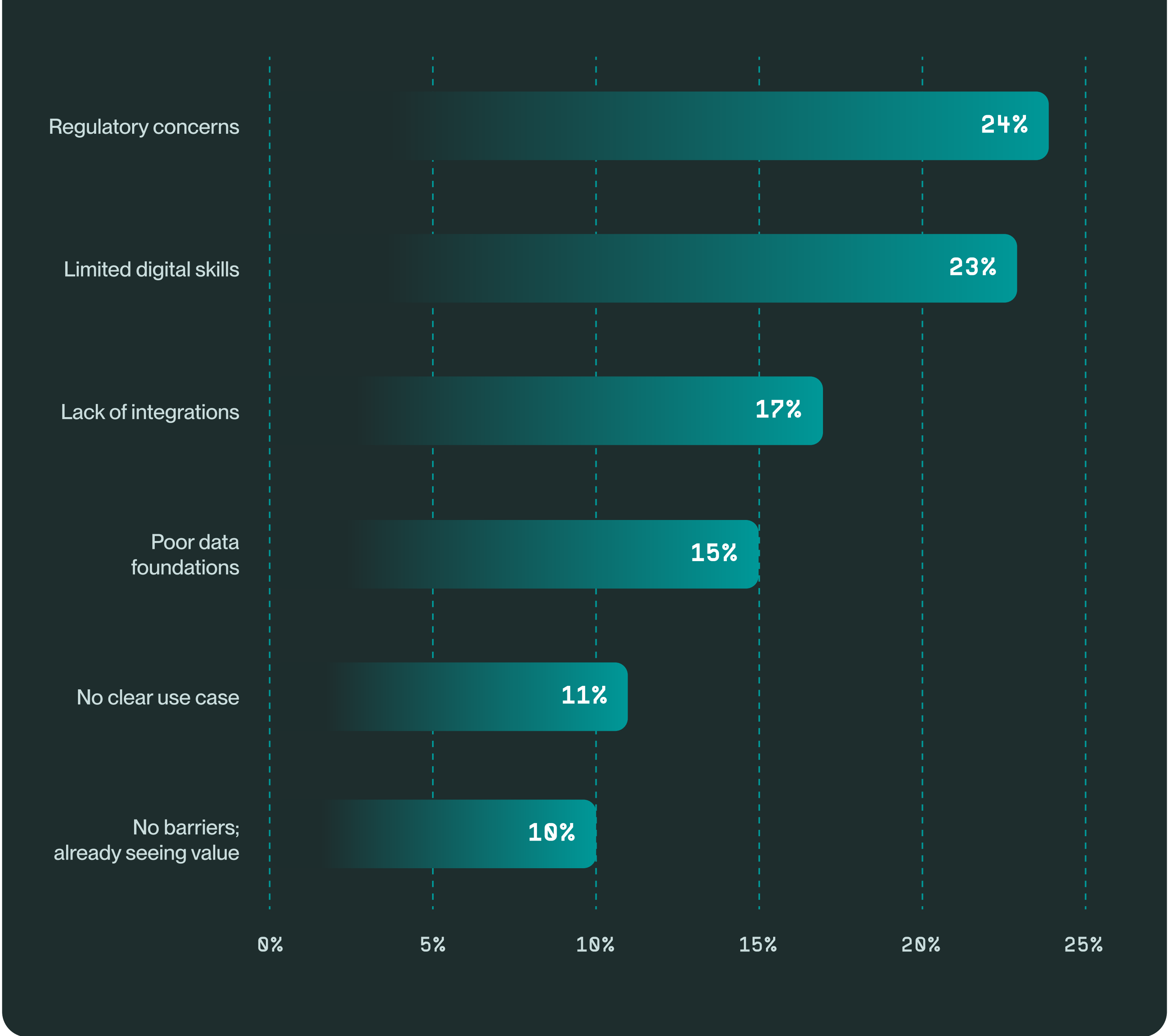


Regulatory concern and skills gaps are top in this survey for good reason. But I'd argue both become more manageable when AI is embedded inside the tools teams already use rather than bolted on as a separate layer. What I see is that the skills barrier shrinks when people can just ask questions about their model without switching context. Similarly, governance gets simpler when AI operates through defined tools with controlled permissions rather than as an open-ended black box.



JAIME ALONSO CANDAU
DIRECTOR
NONICA.IO

Figure 10: What is the biggest barrier preventing your firm from gaining value from AI?



Our industry response: The Revizto CIO Program

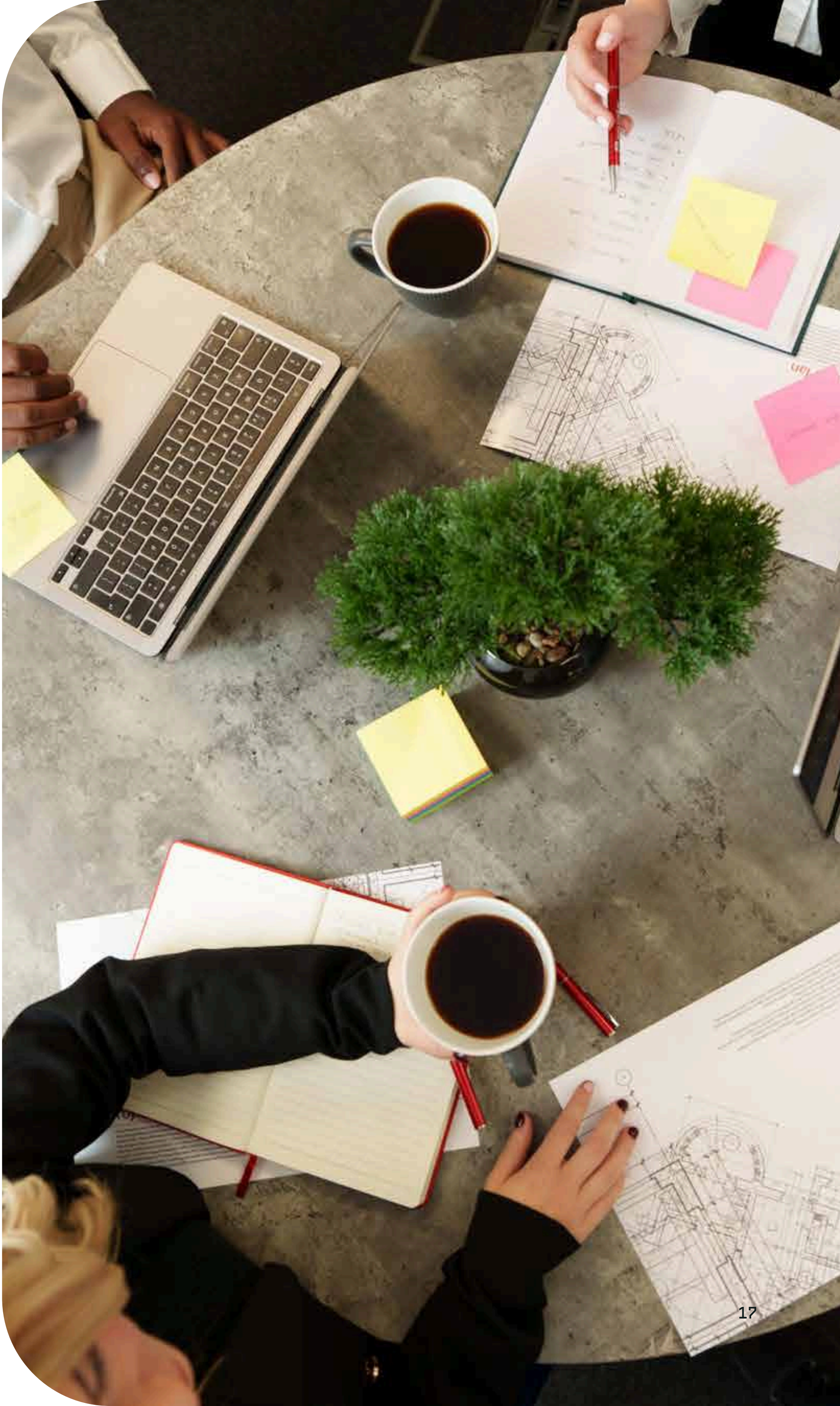
Recognizing that these challenges cannot be solved in isolation, Revizto has united over 75 senior AECO executives from around the world to form the Revizto CIO Program. This strategic coalition pressure-tests industry trends against the reality of enterprise execution. By engaging directly with these leaders, Revizto ensures its development roadmap is not driven by software trends, but by the critical pain points of the C-Suite.



Insights from the Frontline

Recent Revizto CIO roundtables in New York, London, Sydney and Singapore have highlighted a convergence of pressures defining the 2026 agenda:

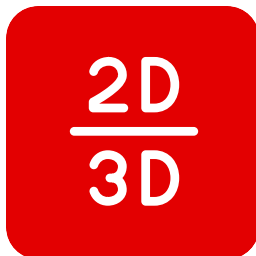
- **Data Sovereignty:** The fight to retain control of project data against vendor lock-in.
- **Cybersecurity & Supply Chain Risk:** Managing exposure as third-party ecosystems expand.
- **The Skills Gap:** The struggle to find talent capable of managing modern digital workflows.
- **Cost Inflation:** Navigating double-digit software price increases while trying to innovate.





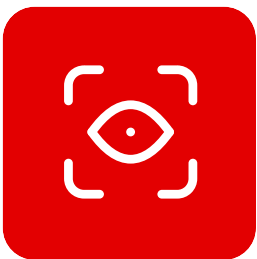
Bringing efficiency to the entire project lifecycle

The findings of this report reinforce the mission that has driven Revizto since our founding: to help teams deliver on time and on budget, without risk or waste. Complexity is rising while time remains the industry's scarcest resource. To navigate this tension, the entire project team—from the boardroom to the jobsite—needs tools that offer clarity, not just more data.



Mitigating risk with real-time context

Revizto resolves the drawing-model-disconnect by providing a Unified 2D/3D Environment that connects contractual drawings with the model. This provides the real-time project context needed to accelerate decisions. Whether you are an Owner validating design intent or a Field Supervisor ensuring "right-first-time" installation, this shared reality builds trust and secures project timelines.



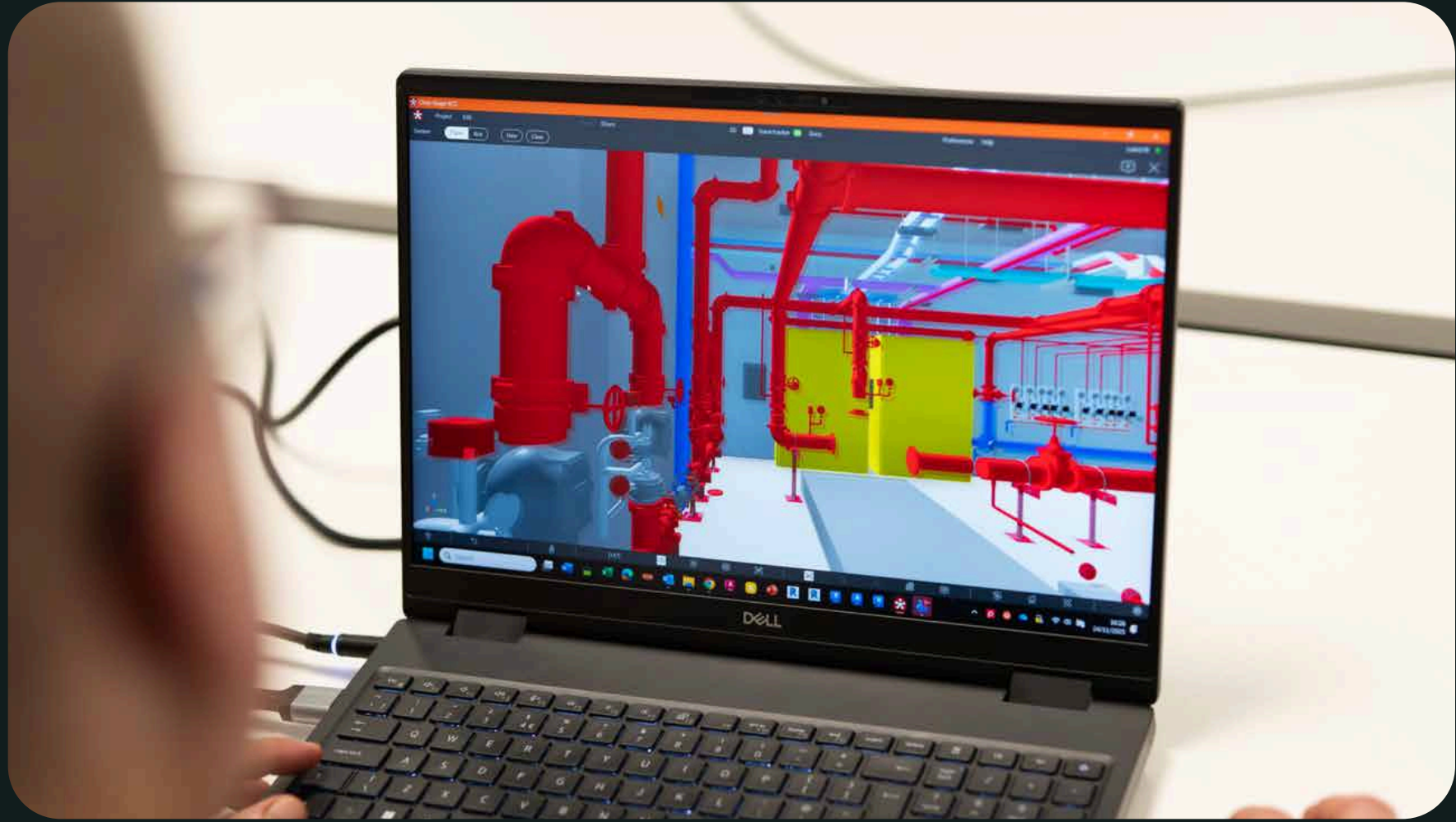
Protecting margins and reducing liability

In an era of tight margins, the cost of ambiguity is too high. Revizto acts as a project safeguard, providing a defensible record of all coordination decisions and model changes. This creates a robust audit trail that protects against scope disputes and validates change orders. By catching constructability issues early, teams can prevent the costly rework, protecting margins for General Contractors and Trades alike.



Maximizing resources and asset value

We know teams are stretched thin. Revizto allows organizations to scale their BIM expertise, enabling teams to manage multiple complex projects with fewer resources. This efficiency extends through to handover, where the model becomes a tool for long-term asset optimization, ensuring the facilities management and operations phase can be just as efficient as the design and build phases.



About Revizto

Revizto enables the people behind the world's most important structures to do their best work. We connect architects, engineers, contractors and owners to deliver projects on time and on budget. By uniting teams in one shared 2D/3D space across the entire building lifecycle, we drive maximum collaboration and results. From airports to hospitals to data centers, Revizto empowers clients to deliver critical infrastructure without risk or waste, for a world that's built to last. Backed by Summit Partners, Revizto is headquartered in Switzerland, where it has been recognized by Deloitte among Switzerland's Best Managed Companies in 2024 and 2025. Revizto was named on the FT1000: Europe's Fastest-Growing Companies 2025.

For more information:



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