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THE majority of Malaysian companies view cloud computing as an enabler to support a more mobile and flexible workforce, according to a survey by VMware Inc, a virtualisation and cloud infrastructure company.



Businesses and governments need to support an increasingly mobile workforce...

— VMWARE ASEAN GENERAL MANAGER ED LENTA

More than 80% of the 158 Malaysian companies surveyed see smartphones and Tablet devices becoming essential tools at work.

"Therefore businesses and governments need to support an increasingly mobile workforce," said Ed Lenta, VMware general manager for Asean.

Local companies geared towards Cloud

"This has also led them to view cloud computing as a strategic investment that will allow them to achieve business agility and efficiency, while leveraging existing investment and preparing for future growth," he explained.

The *Cloud Computing in Asia Pacific: The Annual Cloud Maturity Index* survey was conducted in October by Asia Pacific-based Forrester Consulting. It surveyed 6,141 organisations in total in eight Asia Pacific countries, namely Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. It interviewed senior business and

IT decision makers in the organisations.

The survey also revealed that 64% of Malaysian companies are either currently using or actively planning cloud initiatives. Insurance firms (67%) and telecommunications companies (57%) led in terms of companies that have already implemented cloud initiatives while the education sector (69%) and retail companies (50%) led by the way of planned deployments.

Most companies in Malaysia are in favour of using or considering a combination of public and private clouds (43%) while 30% choose private clouds. The exclusive use of

public clouds was the least popular (4%) due to concerns over the security of corporate data and applications.

The companies surveyed are from the technology, telecoms, government, manufacturing, insurance, financial services, healthcare, transport/logistics, education and retail industries. The study included small and medium businesses with less than 100 employees each, and multinationals with more than 10,000 staff members.

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