DXC DIGITAL FUTURE MONITOR 2026

RESULTS AT A GLANCE:

How Companies in the DACH Region View Competitive Pressure, Cybersecurity, and Autonomous AI Systems

300 professionals and executives with strategic responsibility for digitalizing operational technology, IT, software, or connected solutions from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland were surveyed in March 2026 as part of the DXC Digital Future Monitor 2026. The following overview summarizes the key findings.

At a Glance

Cost pressure, bureaucracy, and declining employee engagement are currently the three biggest challenges to competitiveness – ranking even higher than cyberattacks.

Cyber Security & Data Protection is the area where most companies plan to invest more over the next three years.

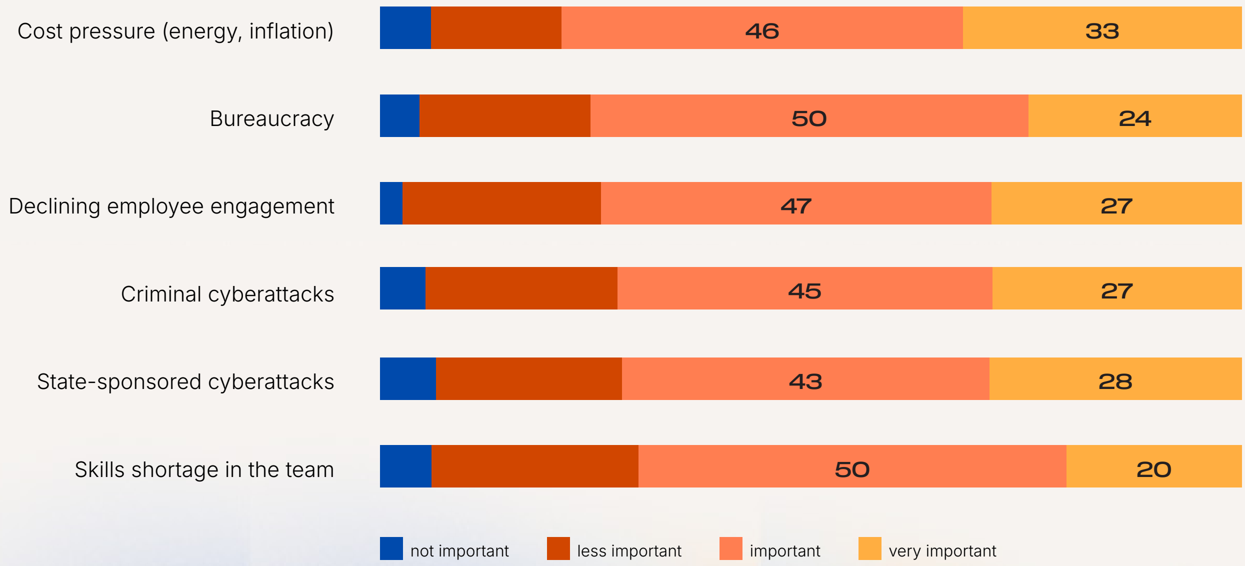
80 percent of companies want humans to always have the final say on new AI processes – yet 58 percent consider it likely that systems will soon make important business decisions on their own.

66 percent of companies already have new compliance tasks as a result of non-transparent AI decisions.

74 percent believe their IT architecture is prepared for highly advanced AI systems – a self-assessment that stands in contrast to other findings.

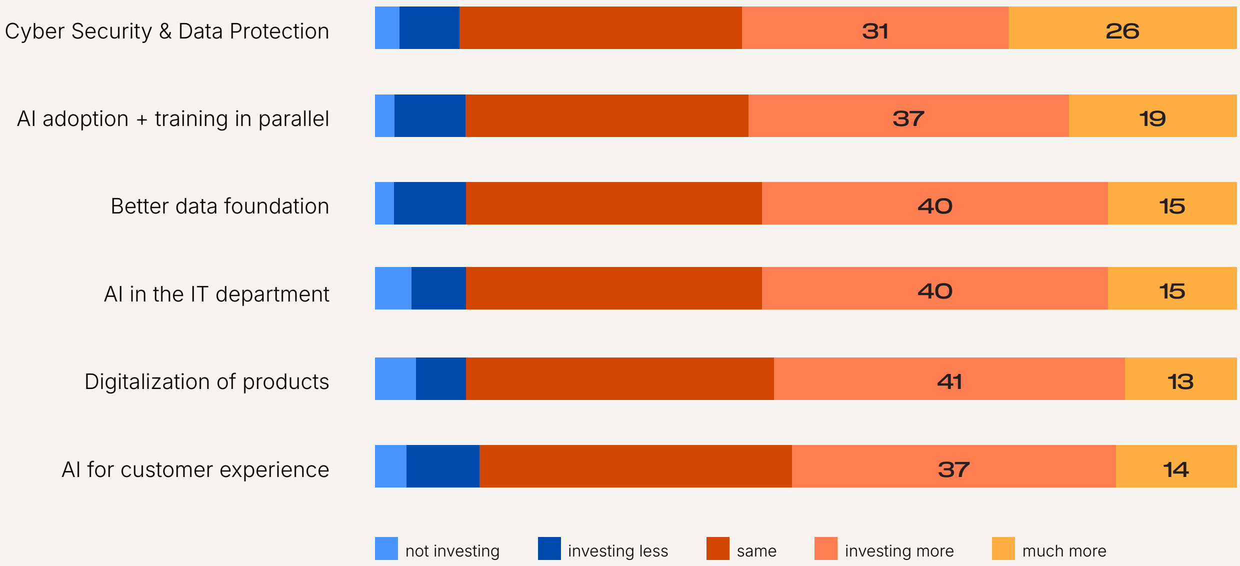
1 Competitiveness: What companies are most concerned about right now

Cost pressure remains the dominant concern: 78.7 percent of companies rate energy costs and inflation as an important or very important challenge. Bureaucracy (74.7 percent) and declining workforce engagement (74.3 percent) follow closely behind. Cyberattacks – whether criminal or state-sponsored – sit at a similarly high level of around 72 percent, on par with the shortage of skilled talent.



2 Investment: Where budgets are heading over the next three years

Cyber Security & Data Protection leads the investment ranking: 57 percent of companies plan to invest more or significantly more here. Close behind is the combination of AI adoption and workforce training (56.7 percent), followed by improving the data foundation (55 percent). Pure cost savings through automation, by contrast, ranks only in the middle of the investment field.



3 AI Strategy: Humans should decide – Will that hold?

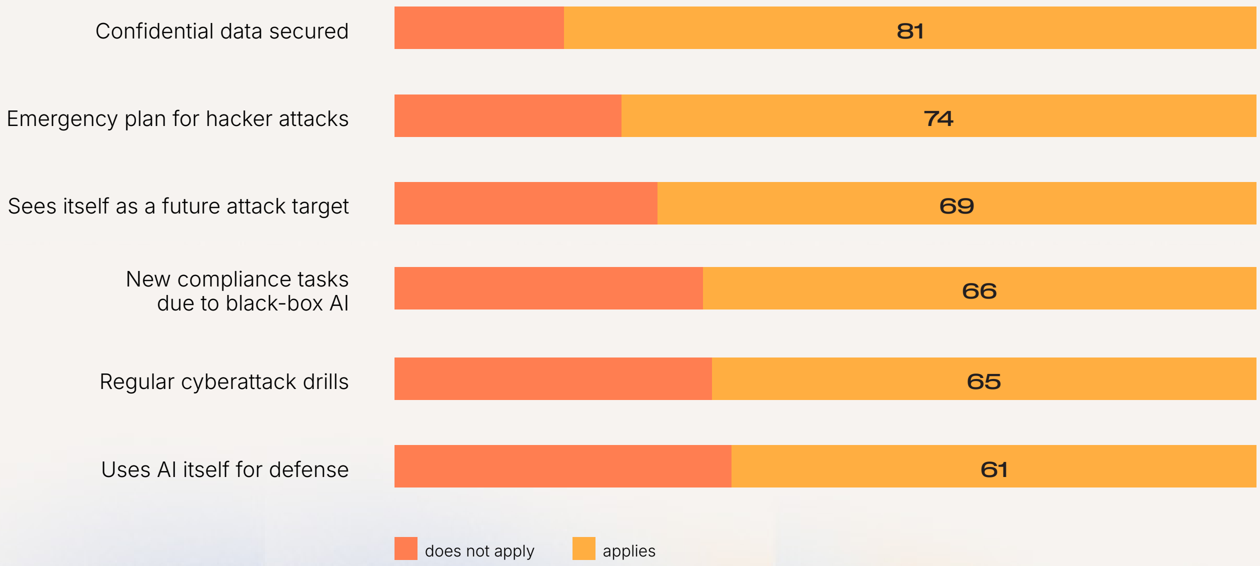
80.3 percent of companies say that when it comes to new AI processes, humans should always have the final say – the highest level of agreement in the entire AI strategy block. At the same time, 71.3 percent say AI success must be measurable in concrete business results, and 60.7 percent work with external partners specifically for this purpose. Only 55.7 percent still use AI exclusively in pilot projects – the majority has moved beyond the pilot phase.

4 Human-AI Collaboration: What will change over the next three years

80.3 percent expect people to be relieved of routine tasks through AI. 78.3 percent expect AI training to become mandatory for all employees. Notably, 73.7 percent consider fixed teams of humans and AI agents necessary, and 71.3 percent expect a sharp rise in virtual AI agents in the workplace – considerably more than is already the case today.

5 Data Security: High Awareness, Uneven Preparedness

81 percent of companies secure confidential data, and 74 percent have an emergency plan for hacker attacks. At the same time, 68.7 percent see themselves as a future target of cyberattacks – yet only 65.3 percent regularly practice for a real incident, and only 61.3 percent use AI themselves for defense. 65.7 percent already report new compliance tasks resulting from non-transparent AI decisions.



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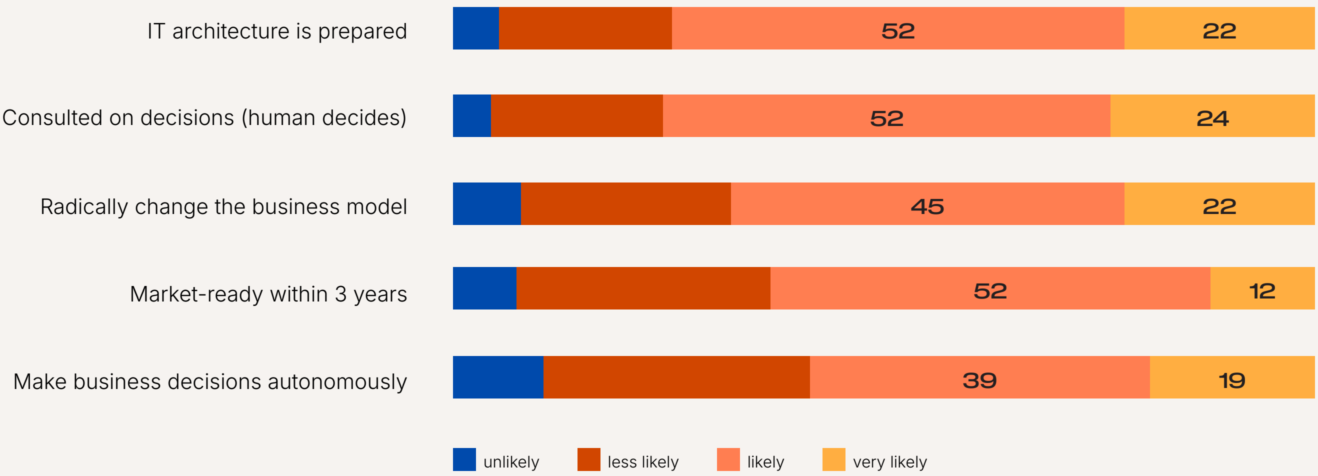
Looking Ahead: Autonomous Systems

74 percent of companies believe their IT architecture is prepared for highly advanced AI systems, and 75.3 percent expect systems to at least be consulted on important decisions. 58 percent consider it likely that systems will soon make important business decisions entirely on their own – only marginally less than the share that already believes it is technically prepared. In DXC's view, this combination of high expectations and high self-confidence is one of the central governance questions of the coming years.



Methodology

In March 2026, DXC Technology surveyed a total of 300 professionals and executives with strategic responsibility for digitalizing operational technology, IT, software, or connected solutions in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland – from companies of all sizes. The survey is part of the DXC Digital Future Monitor 2026 and was conducted online by the market research institute Toluna based on expert panels.