The Register

The Register Barometer

10 month review

4,840 respondents from Oct 2005
(compared with 5,772 from Dec 2004)

Little change in attitudes over the last 10 months, reflecting stability and inward focus of most IT shops to work on efficiency of their existing environment rather than looking to innovate

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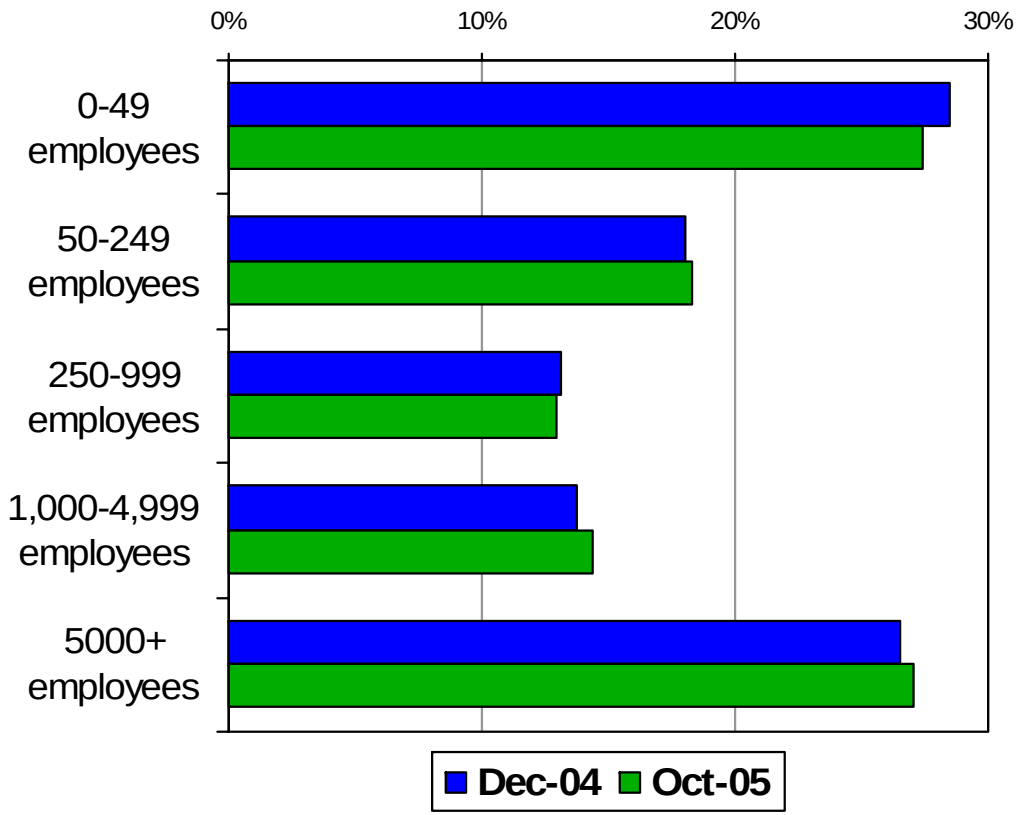
Methodology in Brief

- Opinions gathered from readers of The Register (www.theregister.com) during December 2004 via an online questionnaire (5,772 respondents)
- The same set of questions were asked again in October 2005 to see how readers views have changed (4,840 respondents)
- Study and questionnaire design along with all data processing and results analysis conducted independently by Quocirca Ltd (www.quocirca.com)
- Please email info@quocirca.com with any questions or comments relating to the contents of this document
- A second report will look at some of the variations between business of different sizes, those from different geographies and how the public and private sectors differ

Profile of respondents

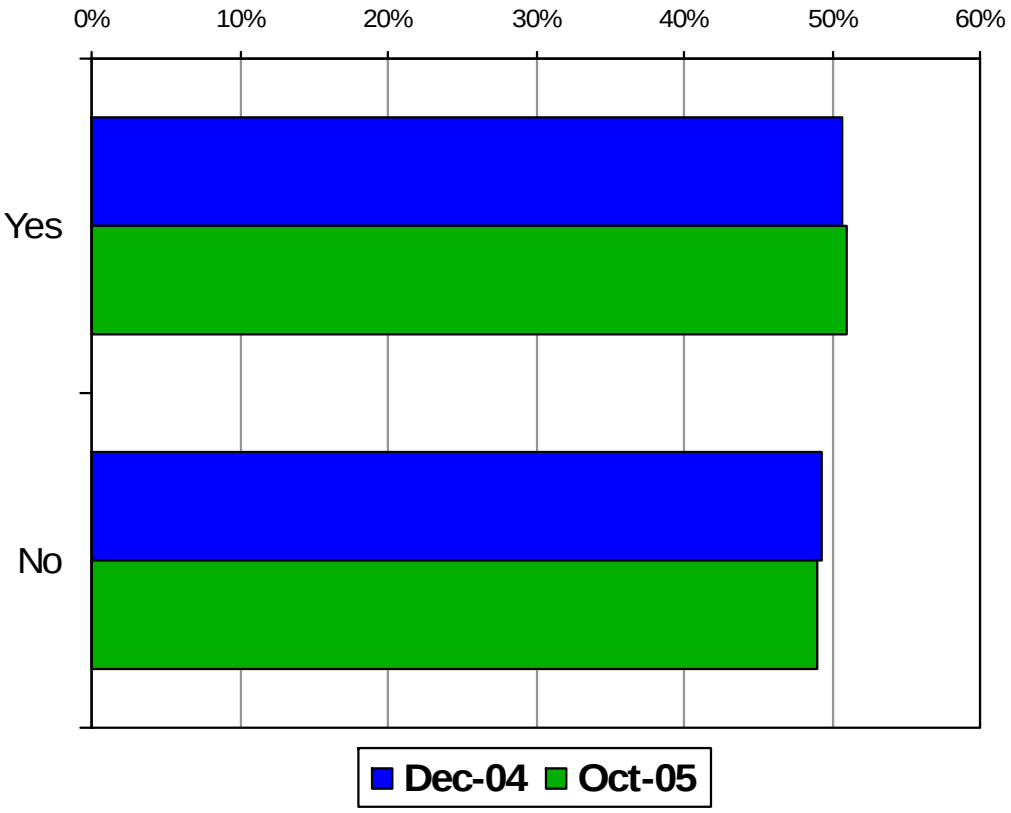
Size of organisation



The profile of the Reg reader panel has remained consistent

The Register reader panel is pretty consistent in its make up, there is little variation in the size range of companies respondents work for between the Dec-04 and Oct-05 barometer readings

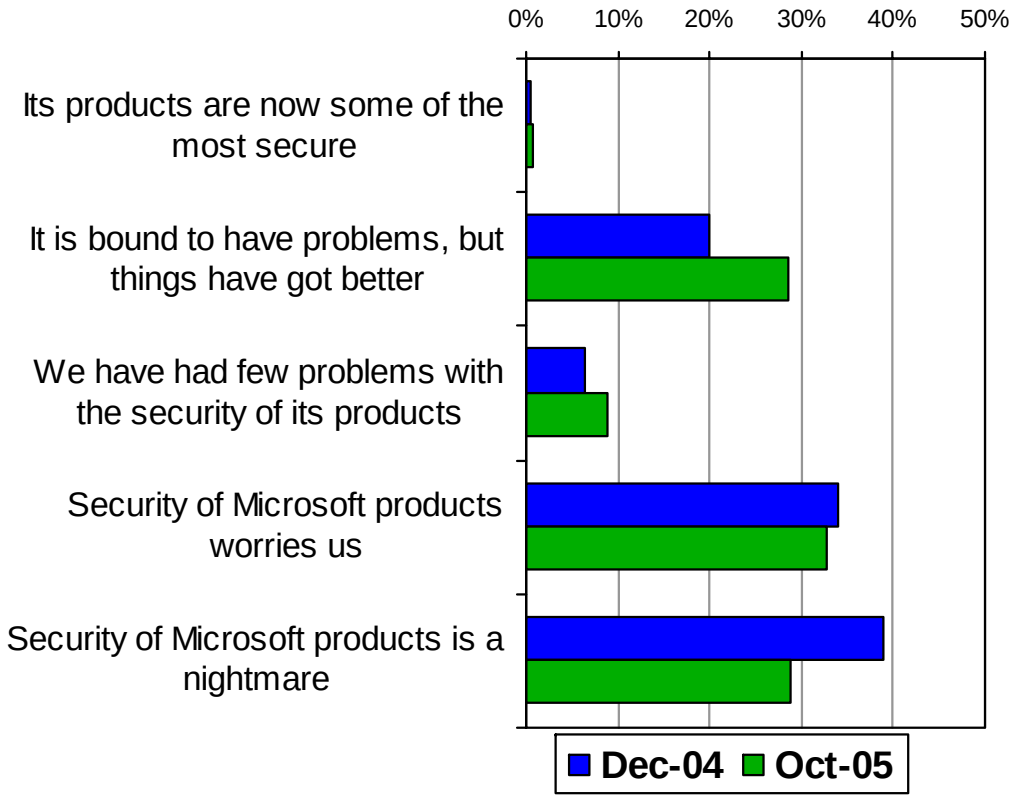
Does the organisation you work for sell IT or communications products or services?



The profile of the Reg reader panel has remained consistent

The split between those from the IT industry on those from end user organisations has remained a consistent 50:50 between Oct 2004 and Dec 2005

Microsoft has been talking a lot in 2004 about security and what they call "trustworthy computing". How would you rate Microsoft in this area?

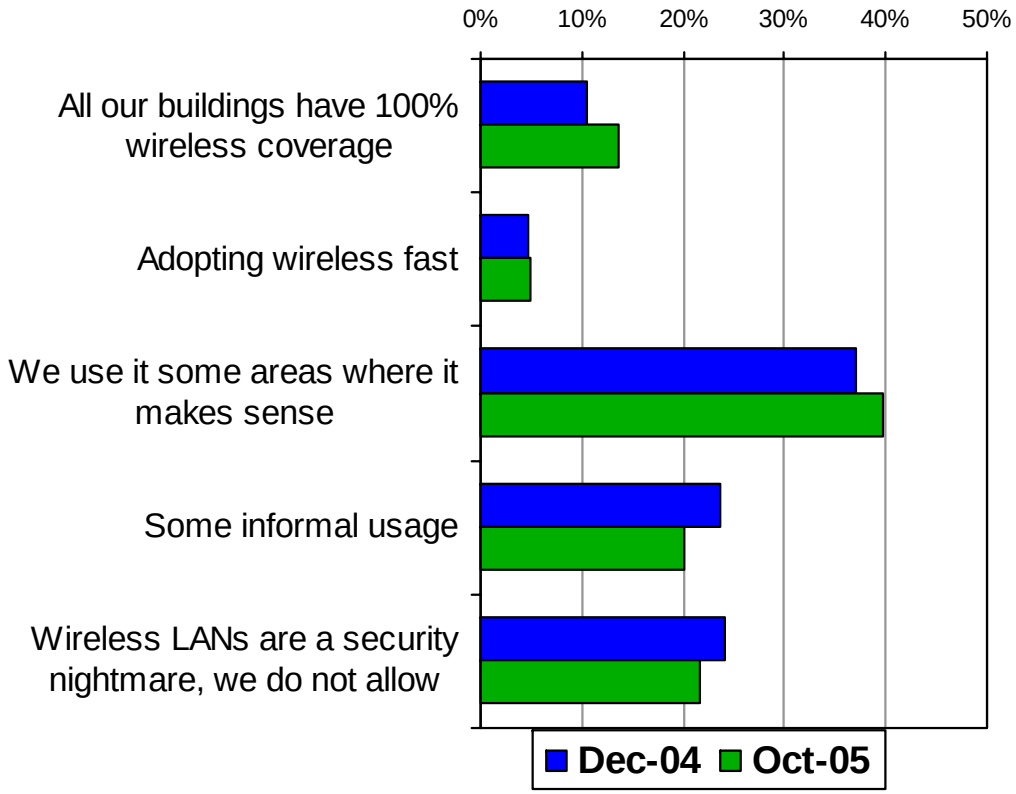


A big increase in the confidence around the security of Microsoft products

Given the stability of many of these barometers the change in perceptions around the security of Microsoft products is remarkable. The 10% decrease in those Reg readers who considered the security of Microsoft's products a nightmare and the 9% increase in those who say it has got better is good news for the vendor.

This is likely to reflect the efforts the Microsoft has been putting into its Trustworthy Computing initiative as well as tangible benefits gained by more users moving to Windows XP Service Pack 2 and Windows Server 2003.

What is your organisation's view of wireless LANs?



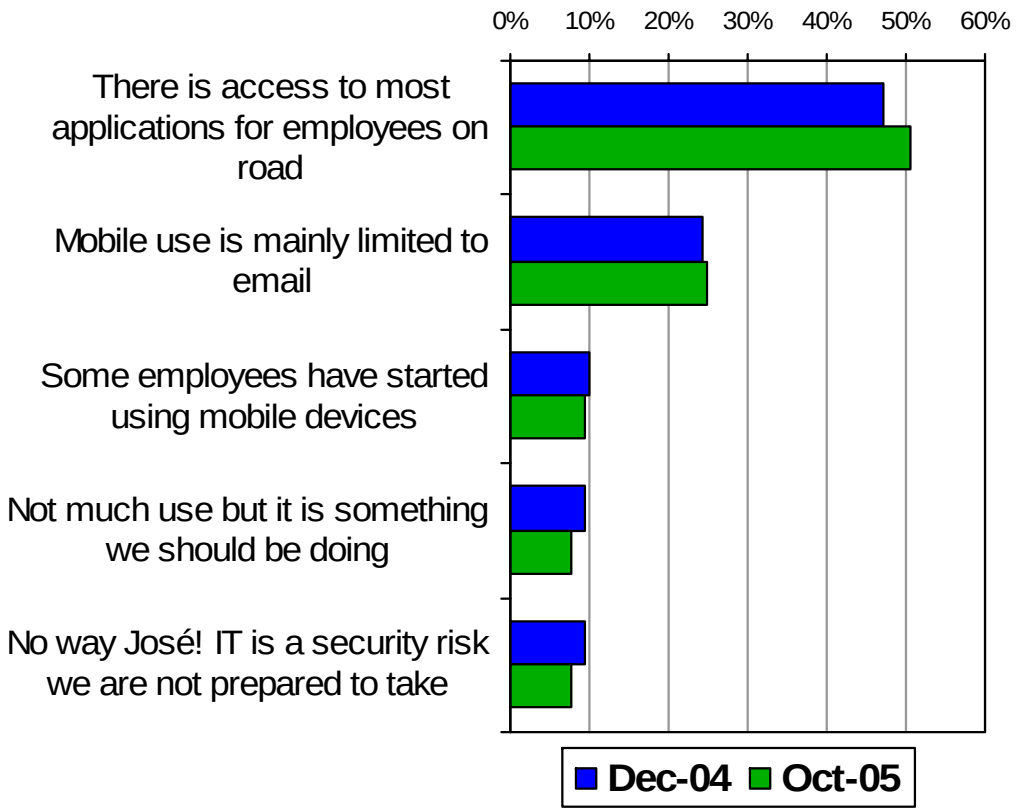
Growing confidence in wireless LANs

Wireless LANs are becoming more acceptable with a 2.4% decrease in those who think they are an unacceptable security risk and drop of about 3.7% in informal usage (which is good to see, given the security risks with unmanaged access points).

There has been a more than 3% increase in those saying they have 100% wireless coverage and a similar increase in the number using wireless LANs in some areas.

This indicates a maturation of the technology and increasing confidence that the security issues with wireless LANs are manageable

How much does your organisation utilise technologies like to broadband, GRPS, 3G, wireless hot spots, VPNs etc, to enable employees when out of the office?

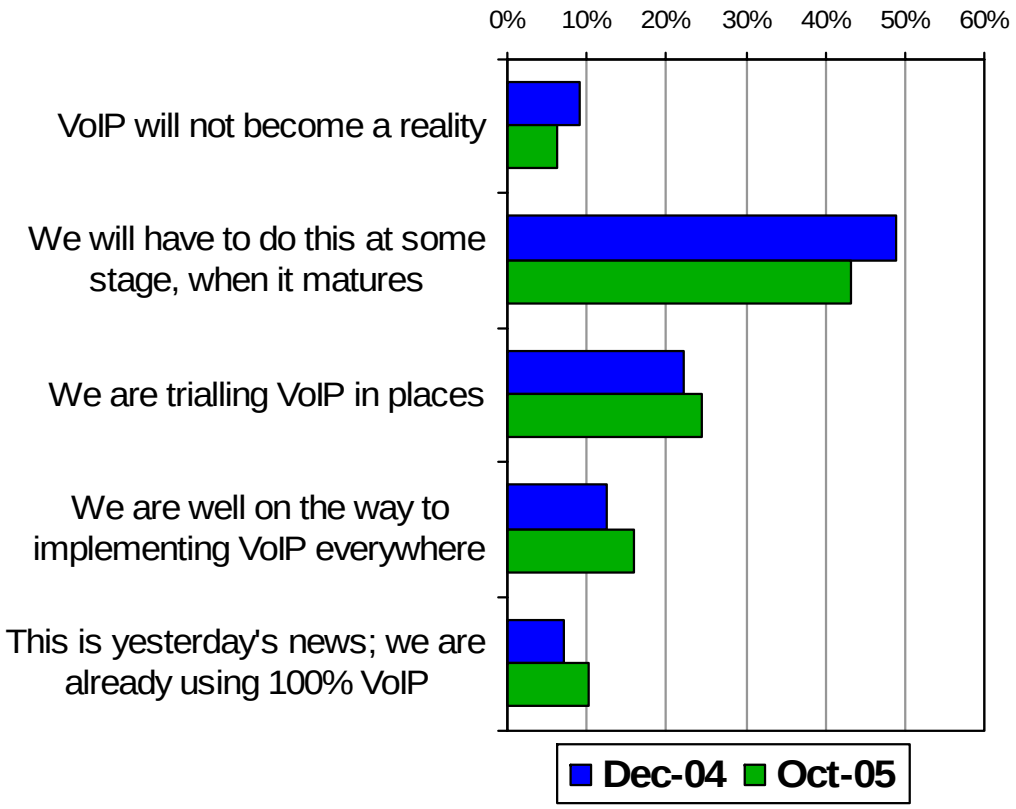


A slow march towards mobile data access for all relevant staff

Nearly 3% more Reg readers report that employees on the road have access to all applications they require bringing the total to 50%. There is a decrease in the number of laggards and those who see the security risks as too great.

This reflects an increasing confidence in the security of mobile access and recognition of the business benefits that enabling mobile employees can bring.

It is widely predicted that at some time in the future traditional telephony will be replace by Internet telephony (Voice over IP/VoIP). Where does your organisation stand on this?



VoIP adoption increasing, but progress is slow

There is clear movement on the VoIP barometer with the number of Reg readers whose organisations are using 100% VoIP rising to almost 10%. The number that are well on the way has also increased. This is significant, because some of those that 10 months ago were reporting they were well on their way have made it, although for some 10 months has not been enough time.

These has been a commensurate drop in those who do not believe VoIP is inevitable or who are waiting for the technology to mature.

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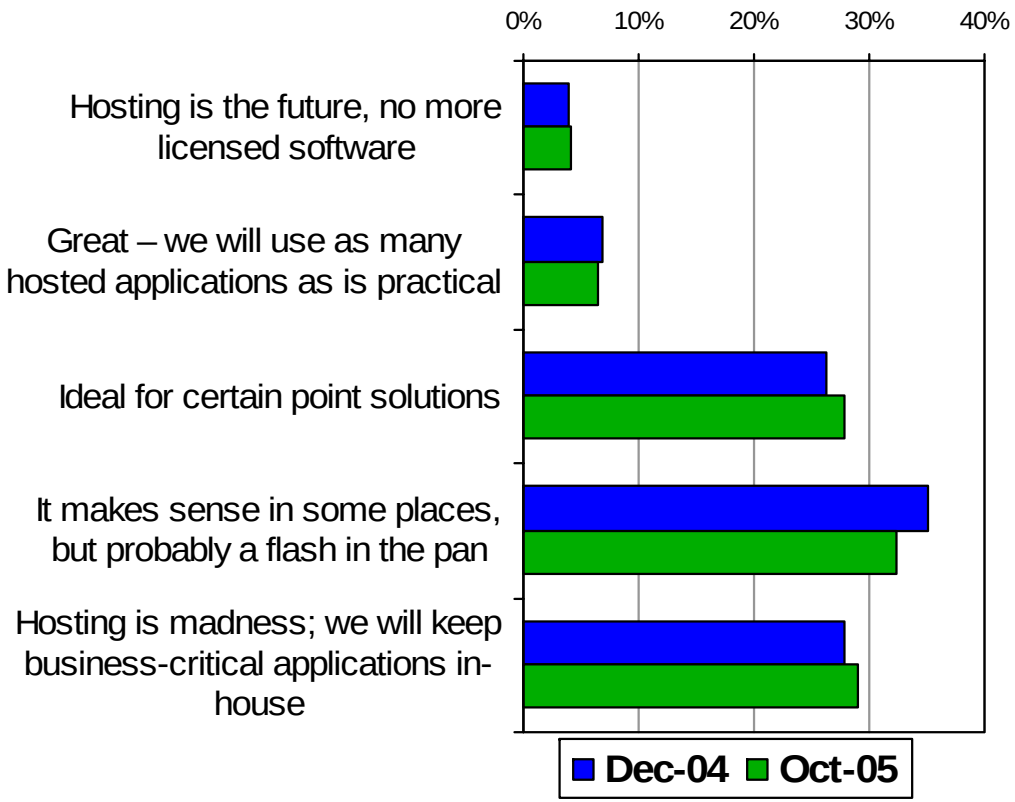
Hosted computing is back and some of the major IT vendors like IBM are backing it big-time. What view does your organisation take?

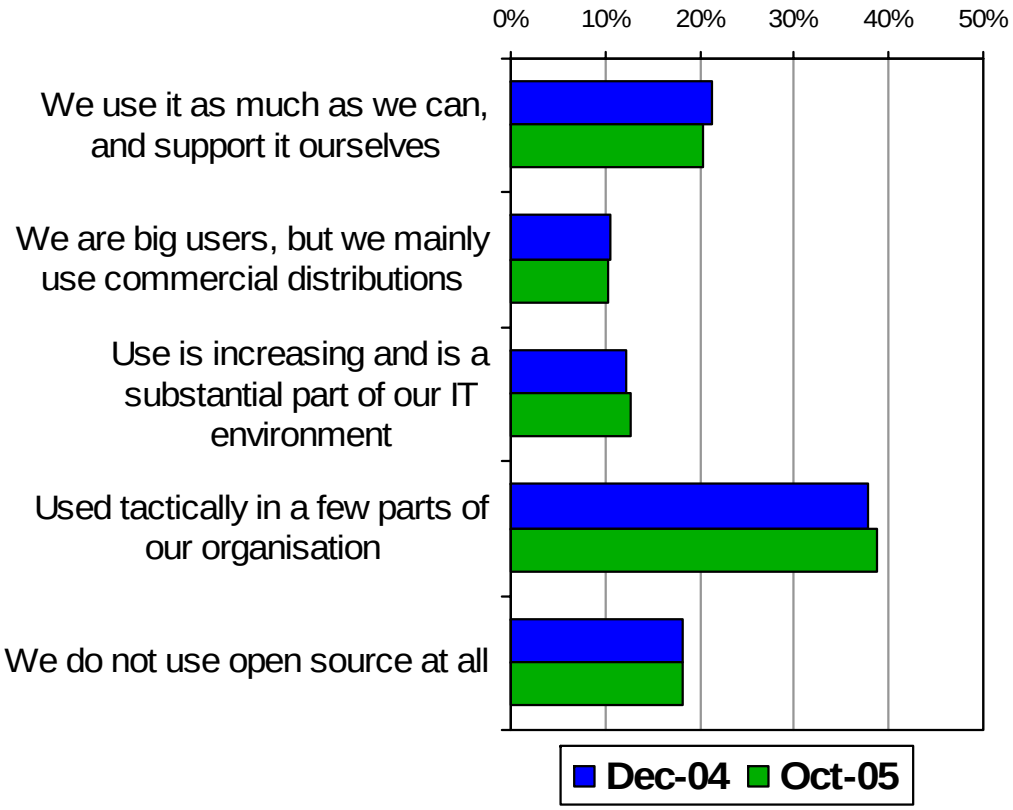


Increasing acceptance of the hosted model, but it is not for everyone

The change in Reg readers views on hosted computing are a little ambiguous. There is a 2.5% increase in those who see it as a good idea for certain point solutions, but there is also an increase in those who consider using hosted solution to be madness.

There is a decrease is in those who think the current drive behind hosted computing is a flash in the pan – so increased acceptance that it here to stay, but that does not always translate into adoption.

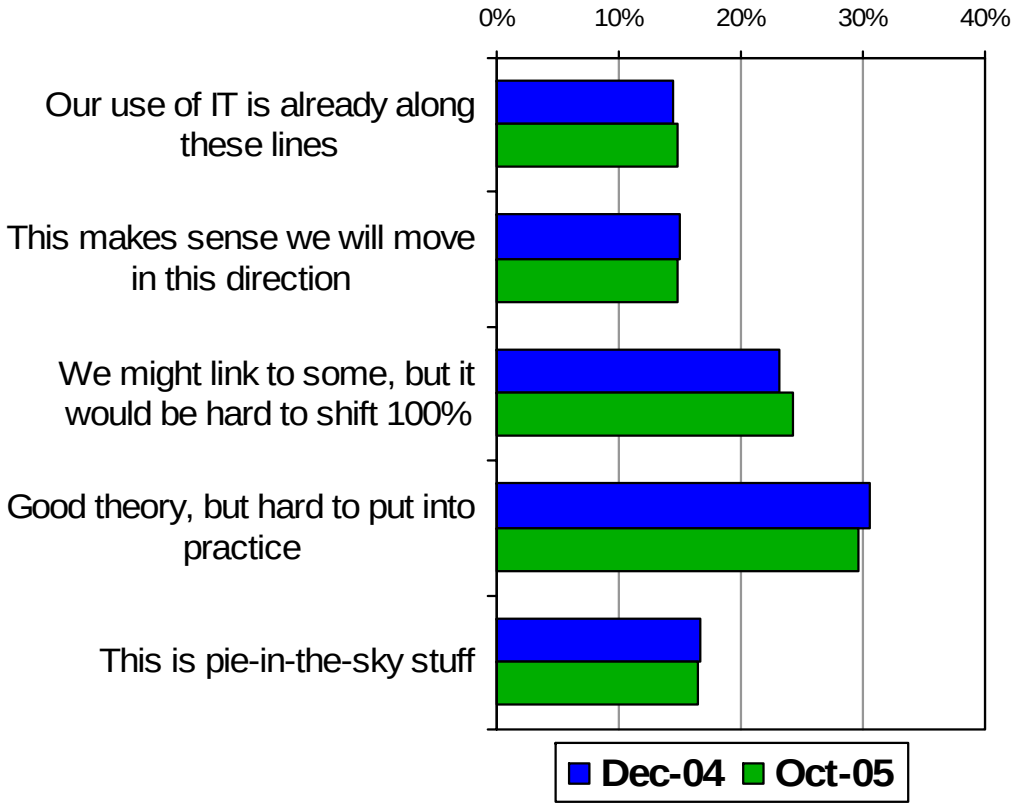
What is your organisation's view of open-source software?



No change in views on open source

There has been very little movement of the open source barometer, if anything a slight decrease to about 20% in the number of Reg readers reporting their organisations use it extensively. Open source software remains a tactical or no go option for the majority of Reg readers.

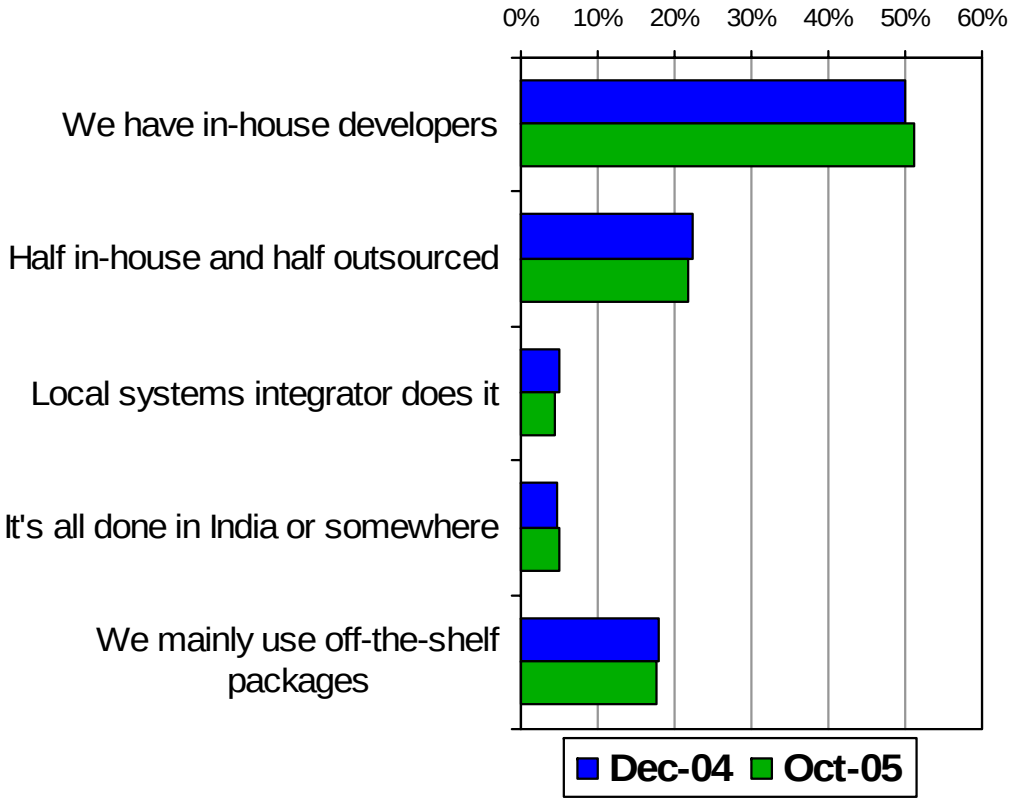
There is much talk about the passing of application-focused IT deployment in favour of a service-focused approach based on web services - a so-called "service oriented architecture". What is your view on this?



Views on SOA unchanged

There is slight movement on the SOA barometer, with slightly less considering it theoretical and slightly more accepting they may make some use of an SOA in the future.

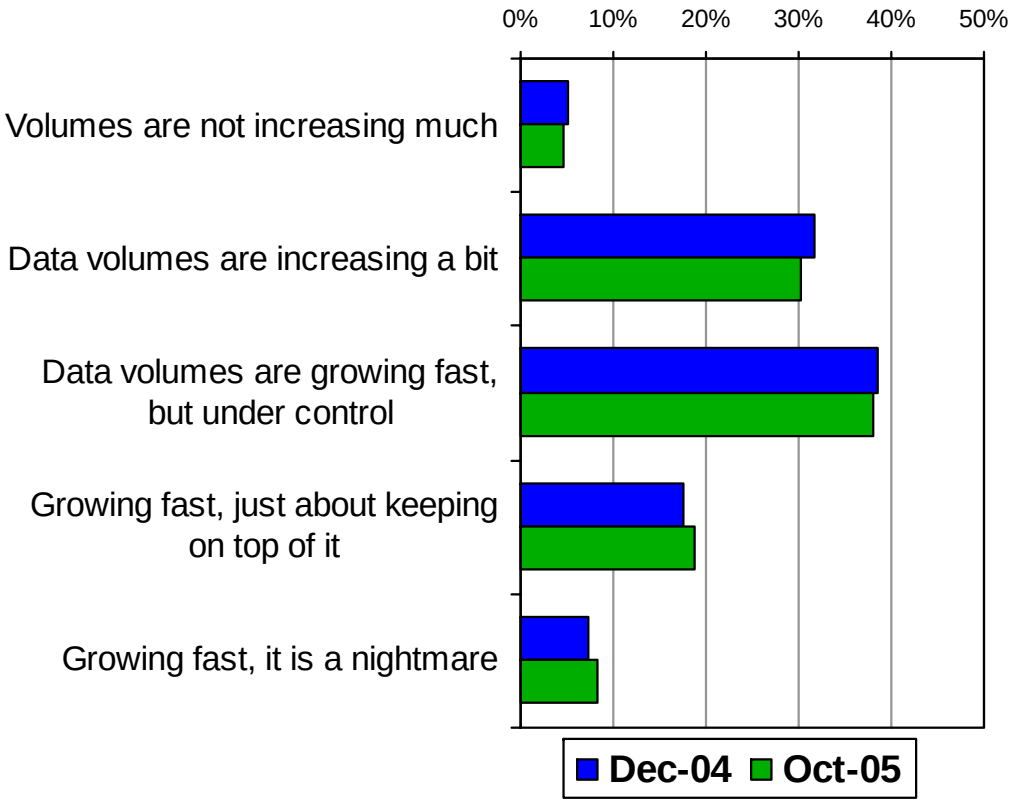
How does your organisation go about developing bespoke (custom-designed) software?



The majority of software development remains in house

There was virtually no movement of the software development barometer, 50% of it staying in house and only about 5% going overseas.

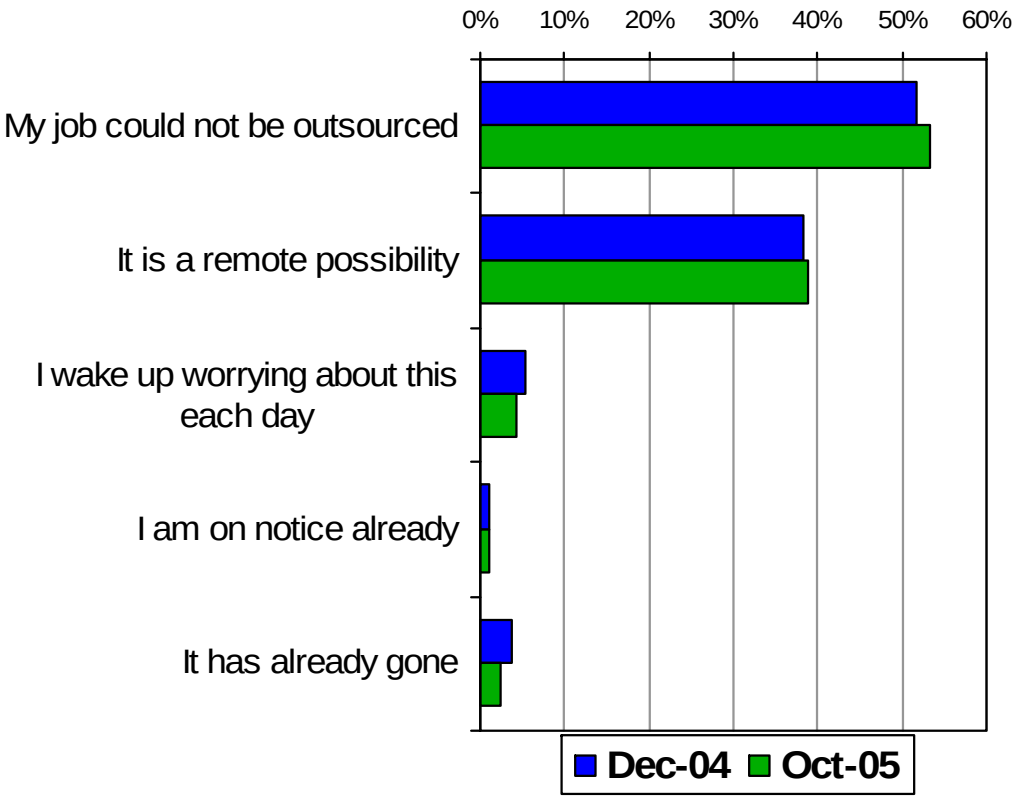
In most organisations the volume of stored data is proliferating. What is the situation in your organisation?



The rate of change of data volumes remains the same

There is a slight increase in concerns about data volumes, with a few percentage points drop in those reporting low growth and a few points increase from those reporting it is hard to keep on top of it or that the increases they see are a nightmare.

How likely do you think it is that your job will be outsourced overseas in the next year?



Confidence about jobs staying at home remains high

Reg readers are even more bullish about keeping their jobs, slightly more of them asserting that their job could not be outsourced overseas and fewer stating that this had already happened.

Perhaps, some of the few who in October 2004 had recently lost their jobs overseas, have now found more secure employment.

How the IT industry varies from its customers – Oct 2005

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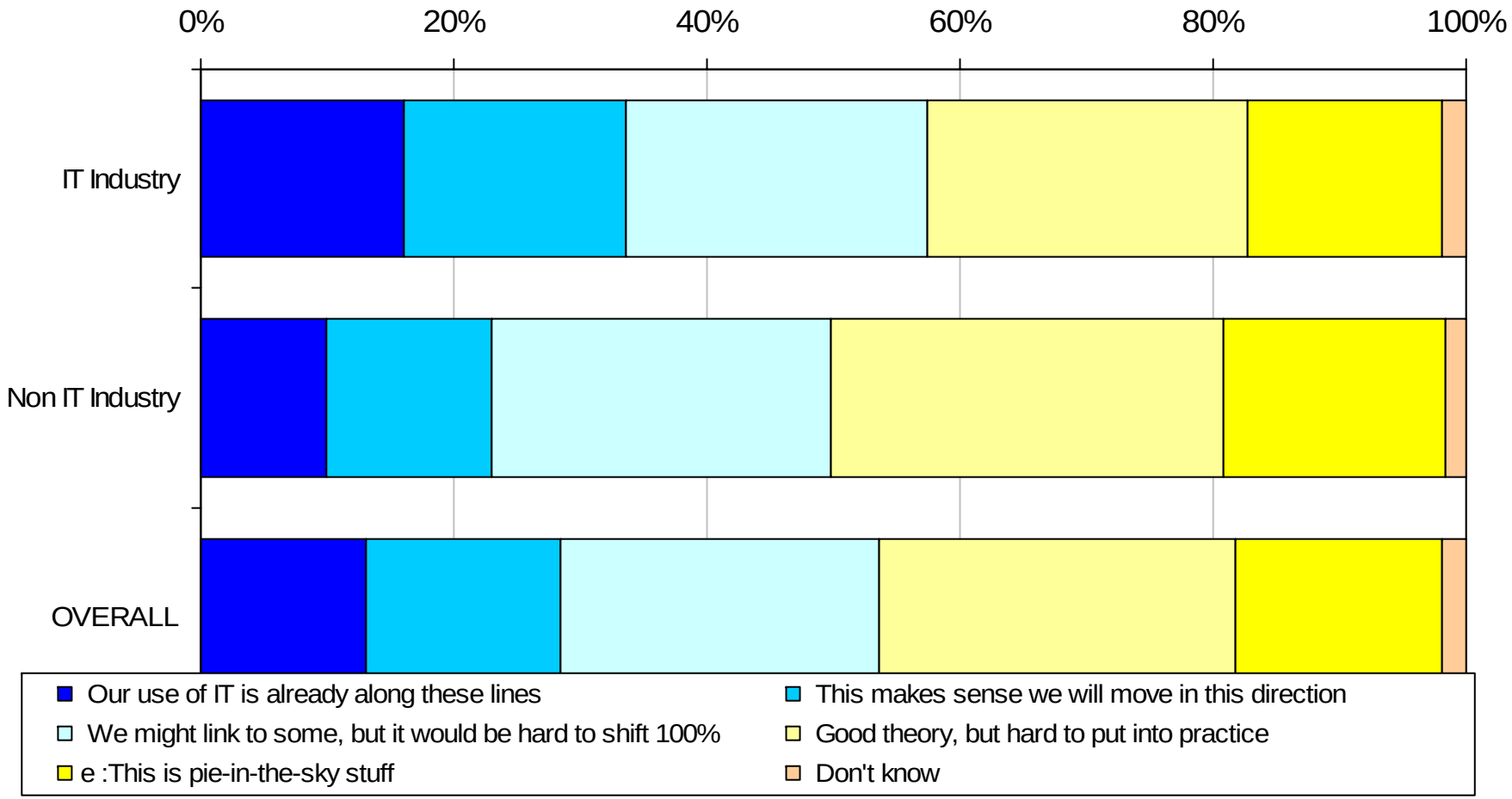

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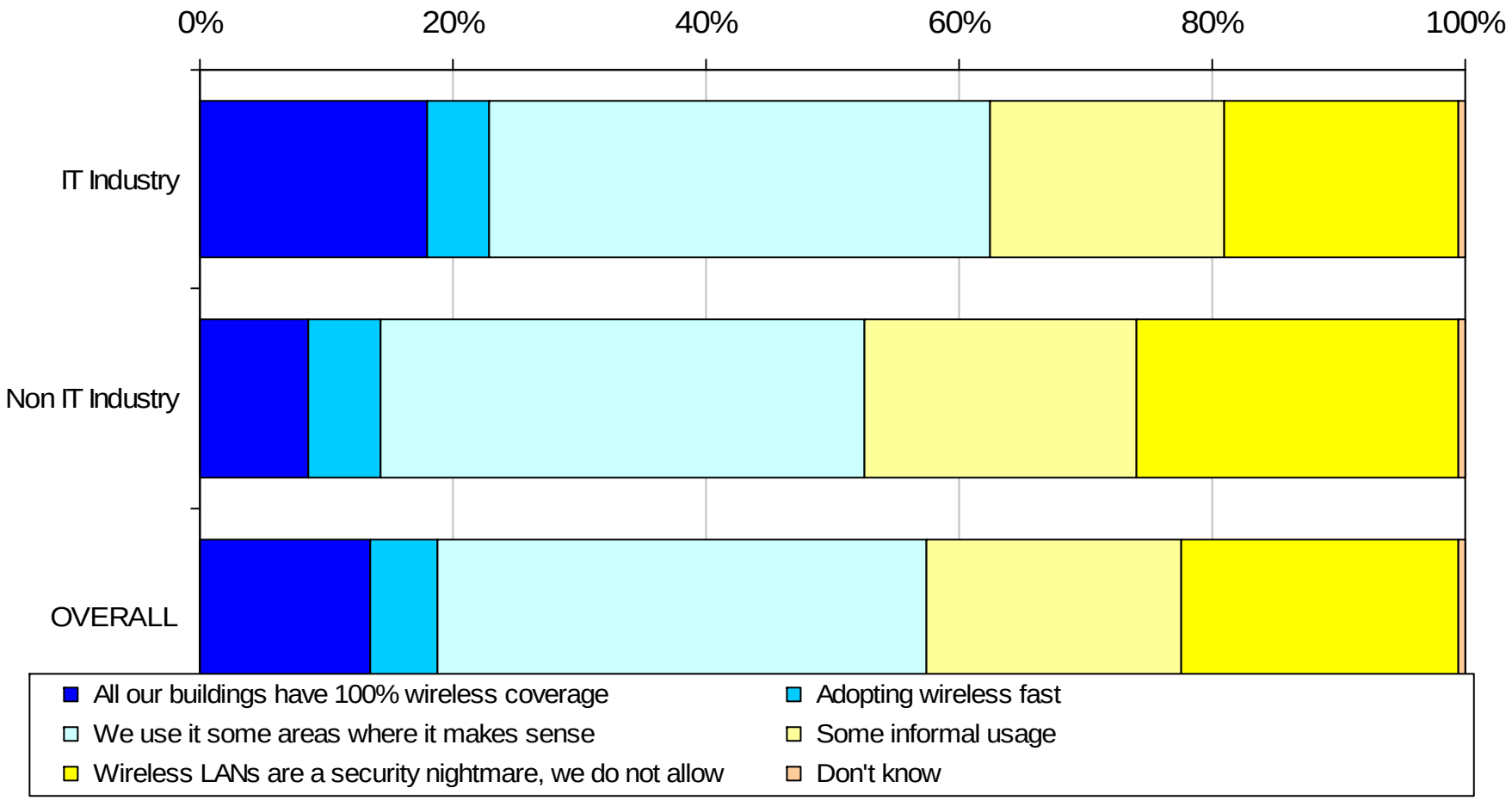

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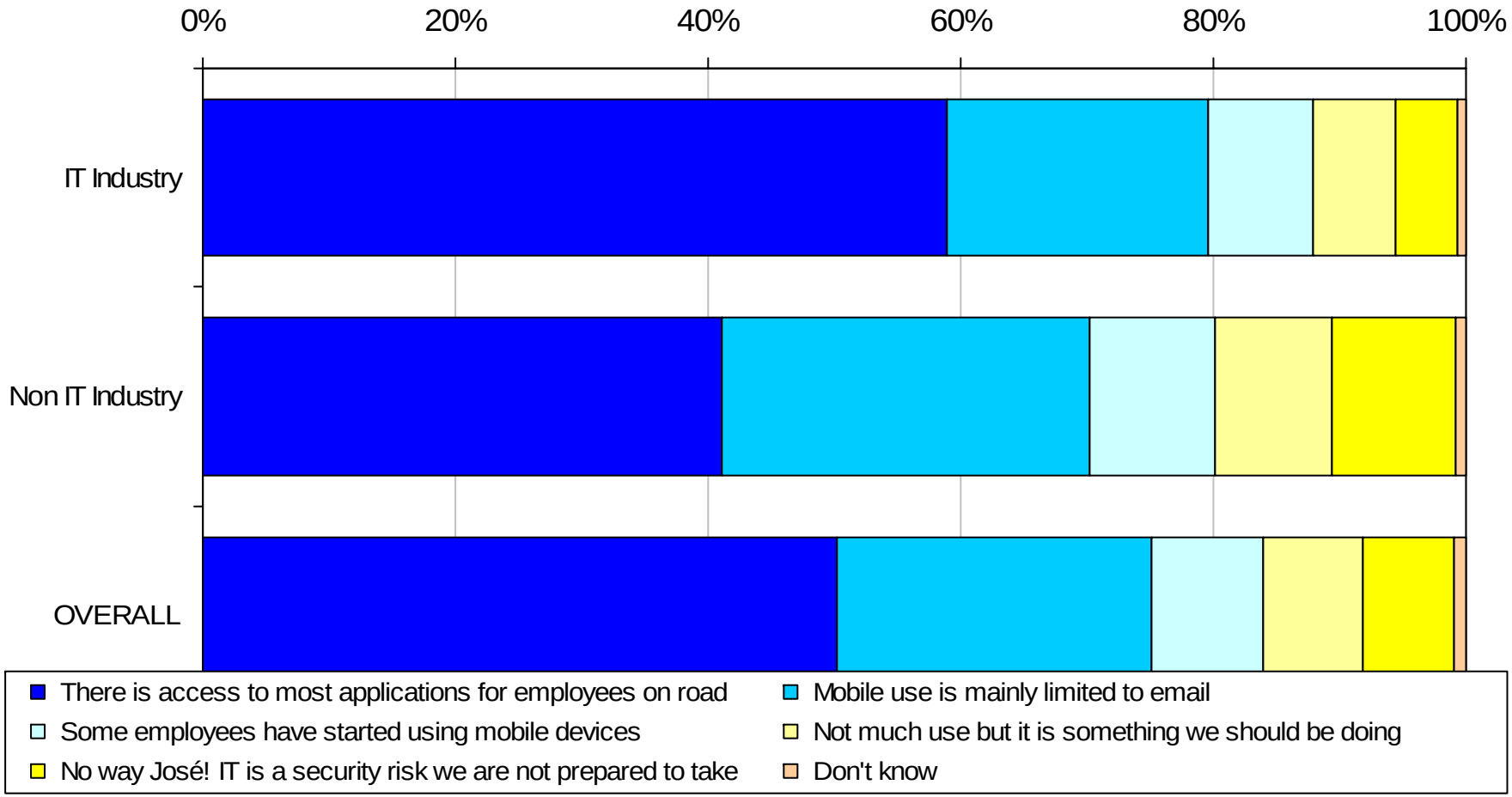

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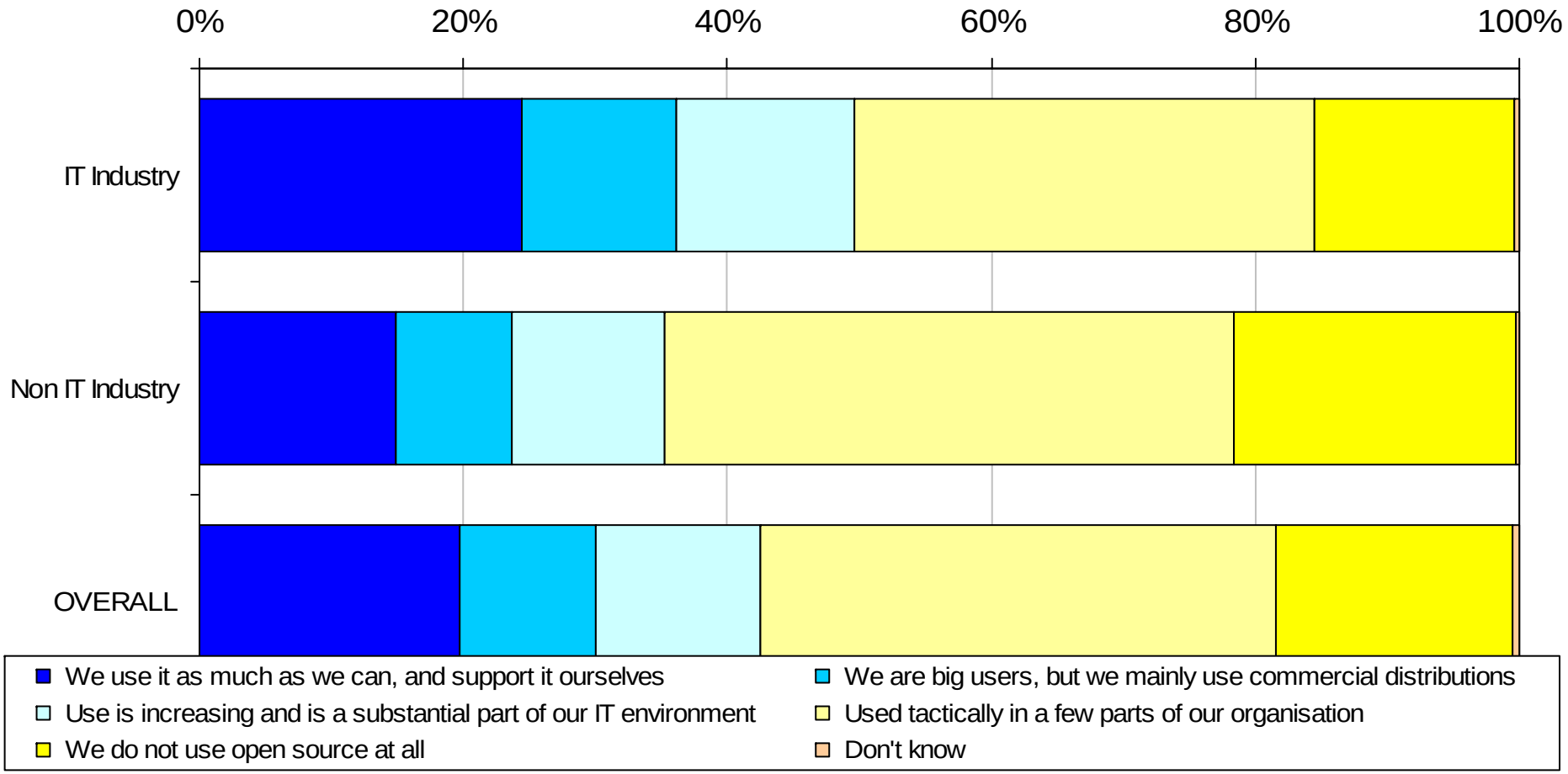

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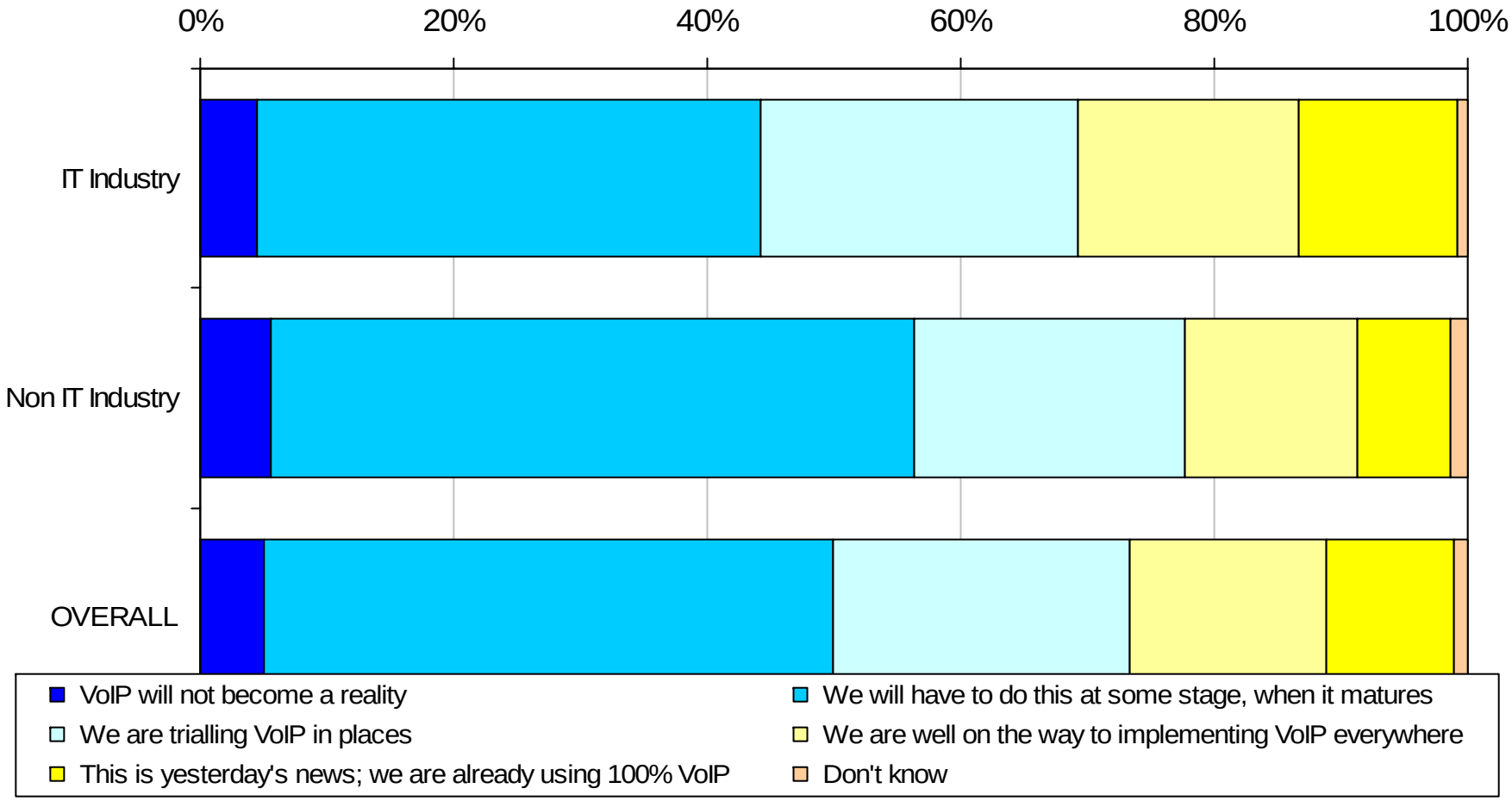

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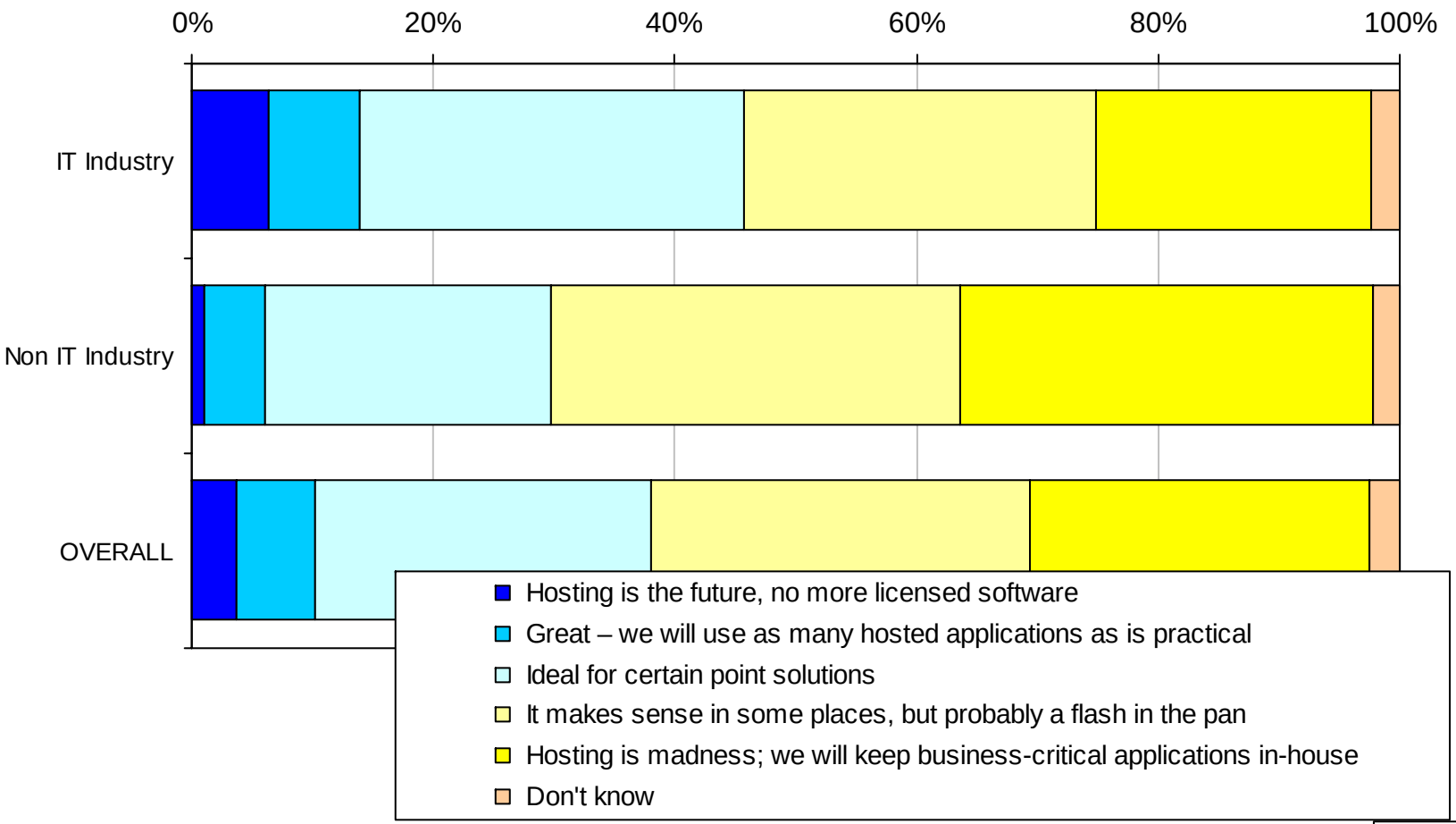

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