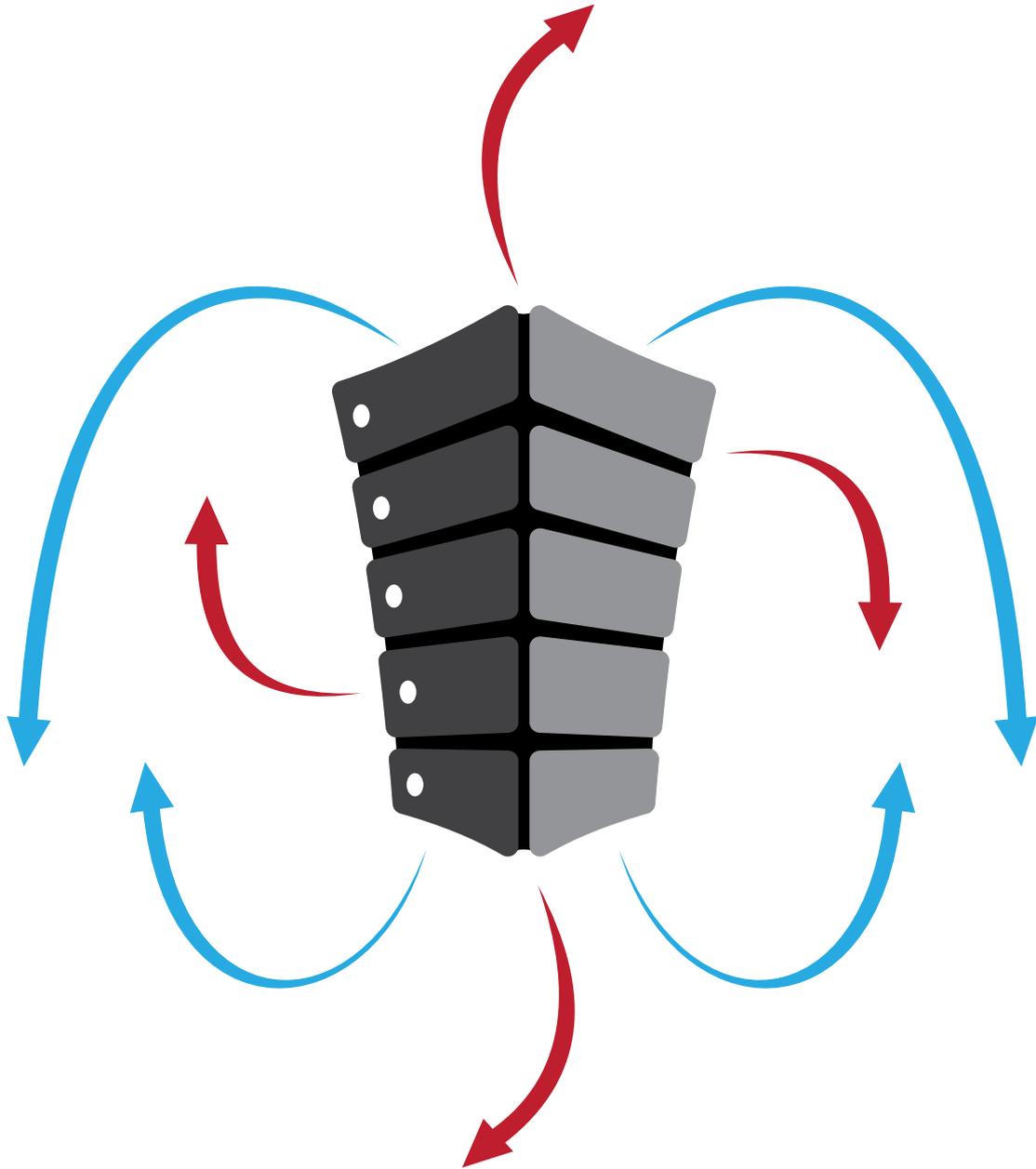
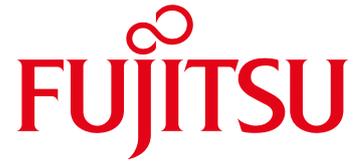




IN ASSOCIATION WITH



# STORAGE MODERNISATION

AN EVALUATION AND DECISION GUIDE FOR IT TEAMS

FREEFORM DYNAMICS, MAY 2017

# NOT YOUR GRANDFATHER'S ARRAY

## WHAT TO EXPECT FROM A MODERN STORAGE SYSTEM

Storage technology has advanced considerably over the past few years. Capabilities that were previously prohibitively expensive to buy or too complex to implement can now be purchased as standard features and options, delivered as part of a future-proof total solution that's fast, efficient and very easy to operate. Smaller businesses can now enjoy features that not long ago were only within the reach of large enterprises with lots of budget, skills and resources.



Make the right investments, and today it's possible to procure a storage solution that will meet your needs for many years to come, meaning you can focus both your time and budget on adding business value. But how do you form the business case to modernise your storage environment? First let's look at the needs and priorities that drive decisions.

# ASSESSING YOUR NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

## FOCUS ON THINGS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

If it was just a case of managing ‘business as usual’ then traditional storage solutions would be adequate for some time to come. The truth, however, is that the dynamics of today’s digital world are creating a new set of demands and challenges. When considering needs and priorities, it is important to consider both the business and IT perspectives.

### SUPPORTING GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

As your organisation develops new offerings and business models, which in turn opens up new markets, your IT infrastructure will need to handle more transactions and a greater volume and variety of data. It is important that your storage systems can deal with increased capacity and throughput needs, smoothly and with minimal cost and disruption.

### KEEPING THE BUSINESS RUNNING CONTINUOUSLY, SAFELY & SECURELY

Your business is already dependent on electronic data, but as internal processes and customer engagement systems undergo digital transformation, minimising downtime and preventing information loss is even more critical.

### MANAGING RESOURCES & COSTS

As the business grows and digitally transforms, it needs to make maximum use of all available resources, including capital, cash, time and expertise. It’s therefore important to focus both investments and people on facilities and activities that create value and help the organisation to meet its objectives, while avoiding unnecessary costs, overheads and distractions.

BUSINESS

TODAY’S NEEDS

IT DEPARTMENT

### FREE UP TIME TO FOCUS ON THE THINGS THAT MATTER

Many IT teams live with a significant administration burden. This can be frustrating when you would really like to be working on more interesting activities. It can also be stressful when management is pressing you on business-related projects. The need here is for intelligent and reliable automation you can trust.

### AVOID UNWELCOME SURPRISES

Unplanned upgrades and replacements when systems run out of space or can’t handle new workload requirements are costly and disruptive. The same is true of failures and emergency remediation work. More robustness and expandability is needed.

### QUICKLY RESPOND TO CHANGING BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS

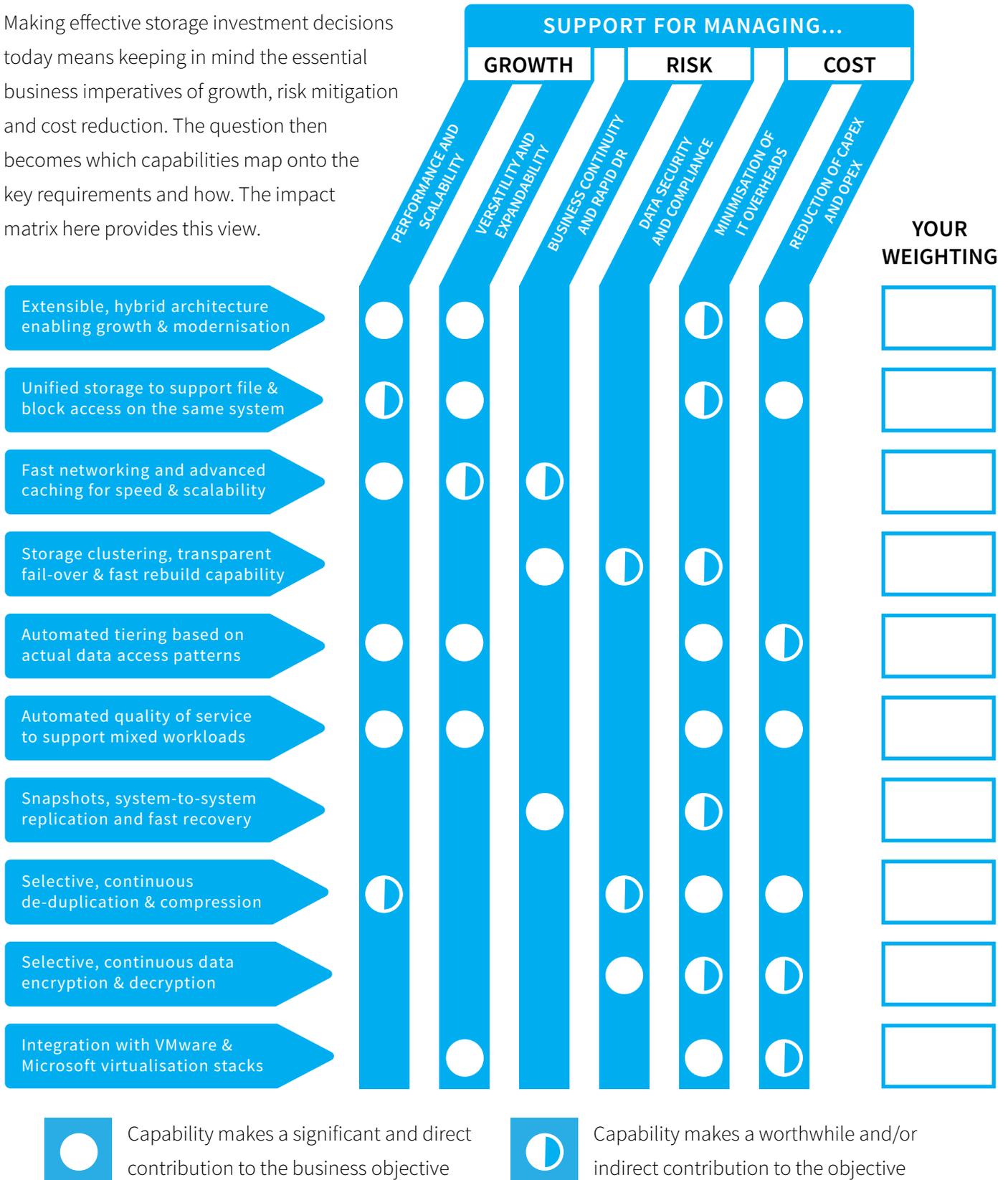
Older systems mean even the simplest provisioning, migration or configuration job can be cumbersome and/or time-consuming to carry out, and can often require specialist skills. The need here is to get storage management off the critical path, e.g. through smart, policy-driven tools and integration with application stacks.

The priorities and needs listed here are by no means exhaustive, but they are the kind of things we hear time and again from IT and Business Professionals involved in driving change in their organisations. If we pull the above together with a more detailed list of modern storage capabilities, we can form an actionable view of what’s important and why.

# BUSINESS DRIVEN DECISION MAKING

## 10 KEY CAPABILITIES THAT MATTER, AND WHY

Making effective storage investment decisions today means keeping in mind the essential business imperatives of growth, risk mitigation and cost reduction. The question then becomes which capabilities map onto the key requirements and how. The impact matrix here provides this view.



The 'weighting' boxes are there to acknowledge that some capabilities may be more important to you than others; use these as you see fit. The message from the above, and this document in general, is that a modern, future-proof storage solution is essential for digital transformation. We hope our discussion has been useful to illustrate how and why.

## **ABOUT FREEFORM DYNAMICS**

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