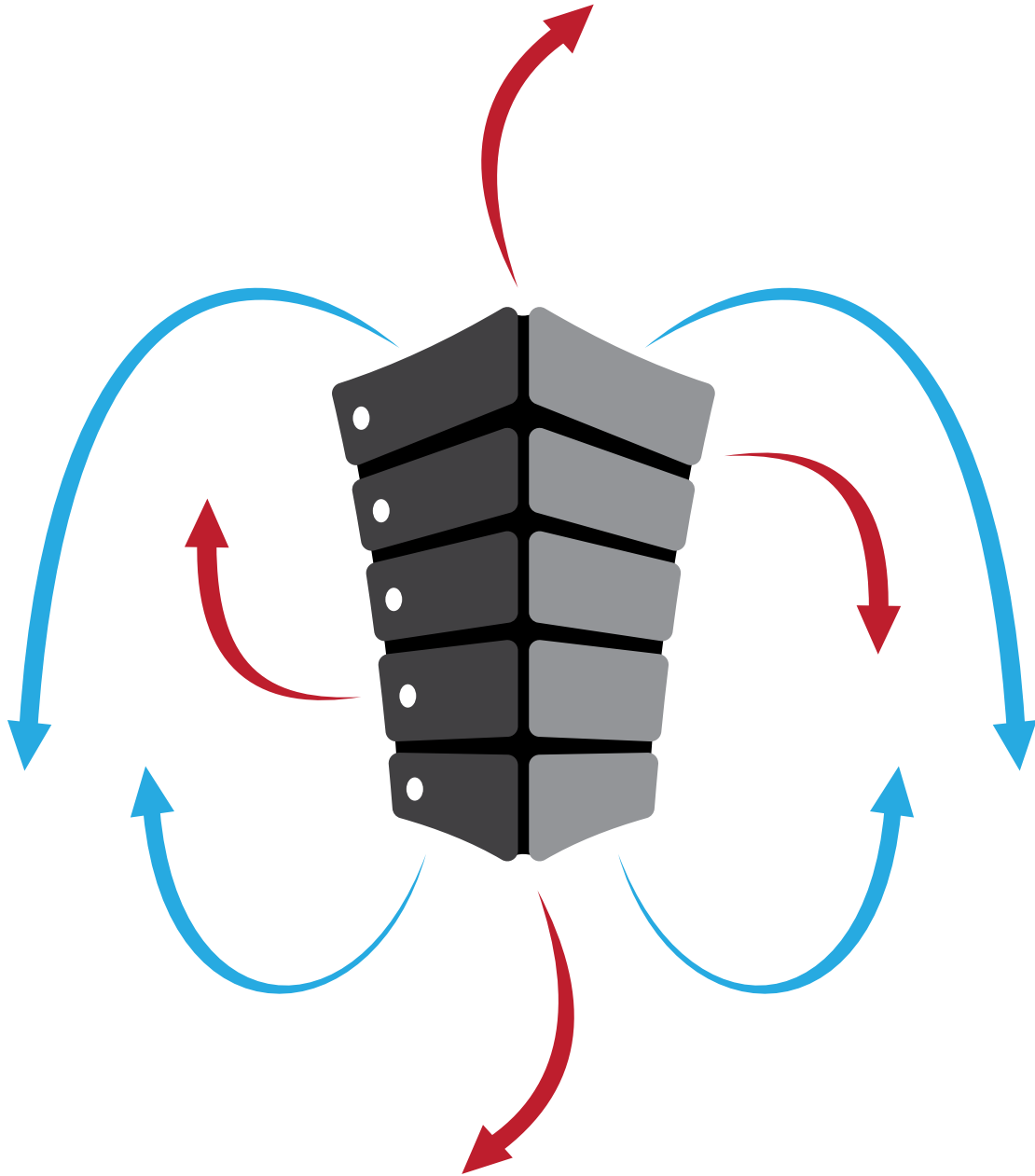
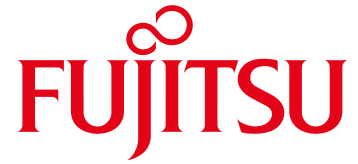




IN ASSOCIATION WITH



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.




PERFORMANCE

Fast multi-core processors, low-latency flash options, the latest high-speed networking, and sophisticated caching translate to inherently high performance and scalability. Self-tuning features then ensure continuous optimisation.

Flexible architecture means you can mix flash and disk to your needs, then add/replace media to enable growth or exploit new media options. Automated tiering and QoS management enables support for any mix of workloads.

FLEXIBILITY





AVAILABILITY

In-built snapshotting, replication, mirroring and rapid recovery options, including between different combinations of flash, disk and hybrid systems, protects data from loss, while minimising downtime.

Intelligent automation greatly reduces admin time and effort, while continuous compression and de-duplication boosts physical space utilisation. Operational overheads are then further reduced through better energy-efficiency.

EFFICIENCY



SECURITY / LEGAL

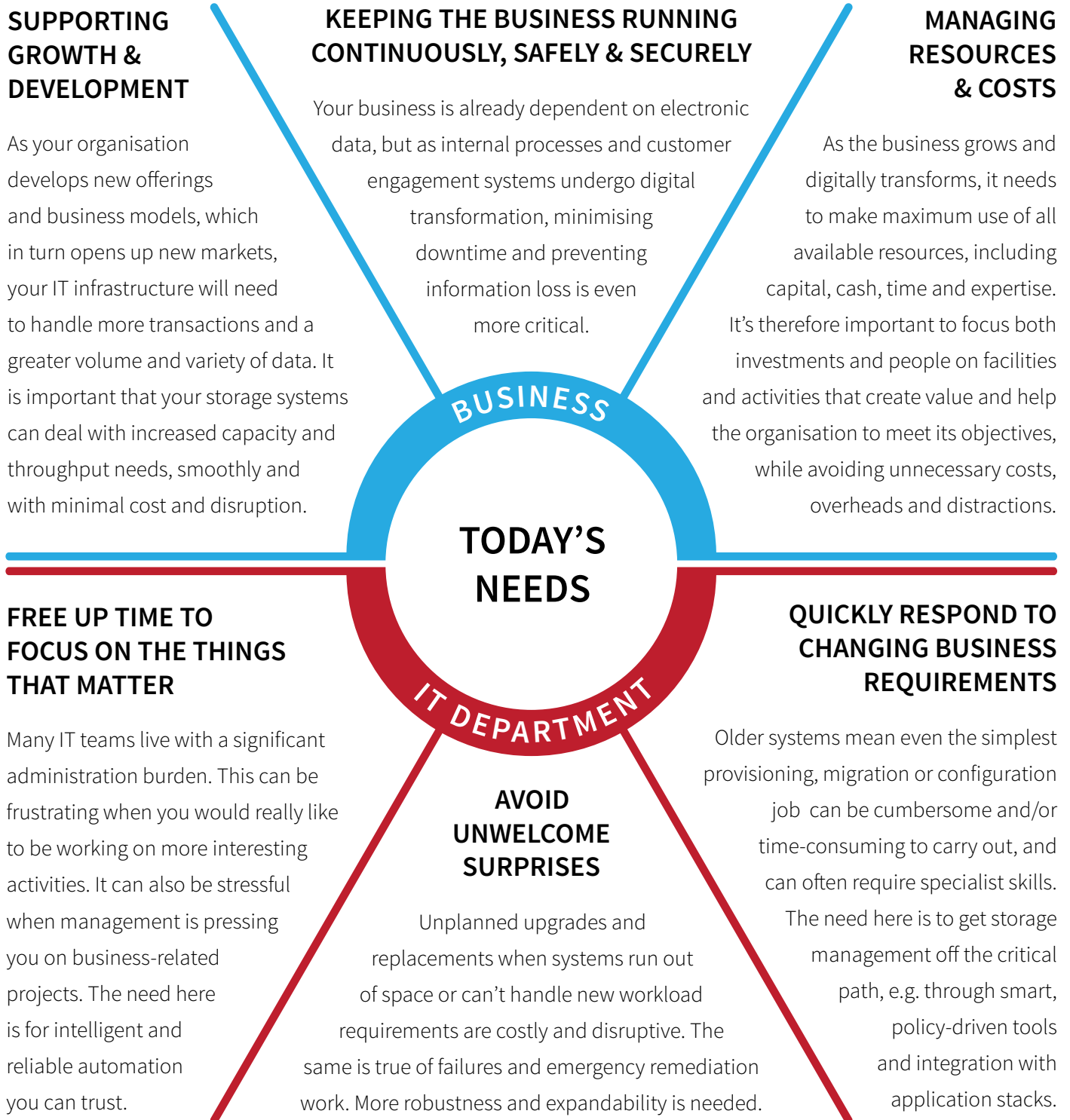
Powerful processors allow data encryption/decryption with little/no impact on performance. Where regulations dictate, encryption, compression and de-dupe can be selectively disabled so data remains in its original form.

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.

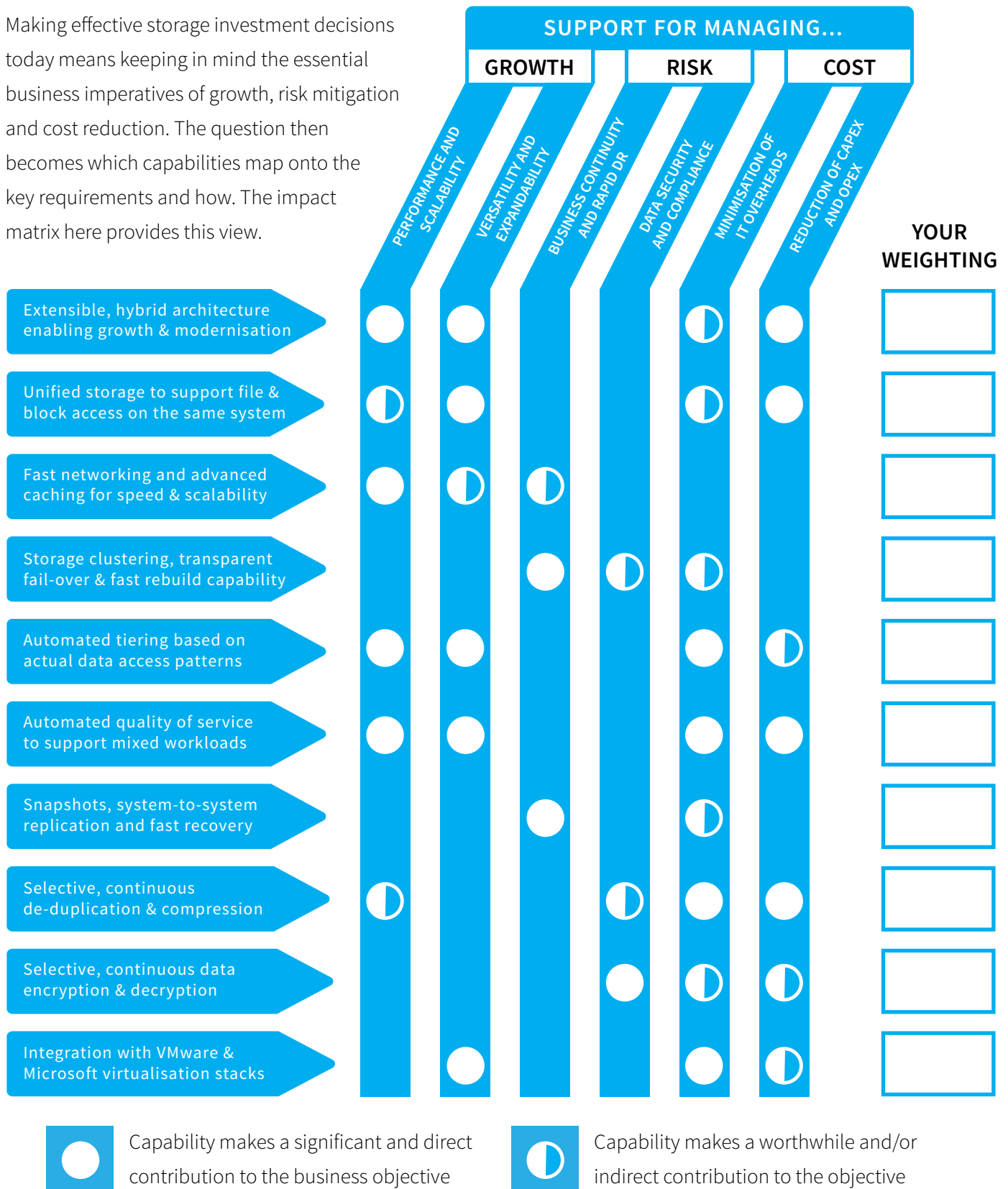


The priorities and needs listed here are by no means exhaustive, but they are the kind of things we hear time and again from IT and Business Professionals involved in driving change in their organisations. If we pull the above together with a more detailed list of modern storage capabilities, we can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