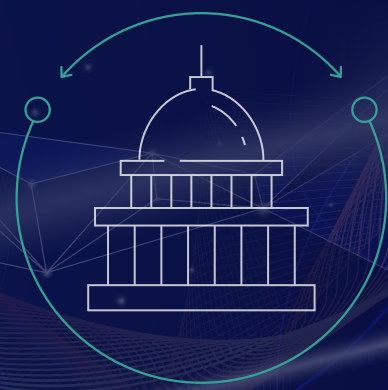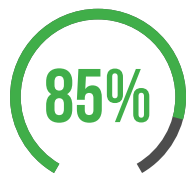# SPRING FEDERAL IT FORWARD:
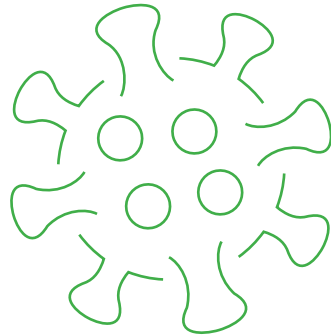## Five Trends to Enact Change

As we spring into a new administration, what will be the government's biggest IT priorities? MeriTalk, in partnership with DLT and Quest, examined five opportunities to spring Federal IT forward in 2021.

1 NURTURE IT MODERNIZATION

85% of **Federal executives** and **mission owners** feel the COVID-19 pandemic has been a watershed moment for government modernization[1]

Top 2021 priorities include:[2]

Adopting cloud computing

Consolidating and optimizing data centers

Investing in the Federal IT Workforce
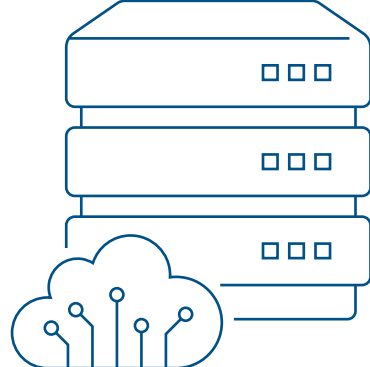
2 CLOUD: SOW THE SEED TO SUCCESS

> Cloud technology is the foundation for the entire modernization endeavor

– *Ryan McCarthy, Secretary of the Army and Gen. James McConville, Army Chief of Staff*[3]

Investments in cloud are **unlocking billions of dollars** in cloud-adjacent spending in digital services and artificial intelligence[4]

3 REIN IN DATA CENTERS

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2020 extended Data Center and Cloud Optimization Infrastructure (DCOI) through Oct. 1, 2022[5]

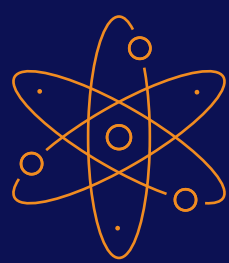**CLOSED** Agencies closed **6,952 centers** as of September 2020, saving over **$3.2 billion**[6]

> We want to continue to reduce the inventory mainly because building, maintaining and operating a data center is not in the federal government's core business

– *Thomas Santucci, Director of the DCOI PMO*[5]

4 CULTIVATE THE IT WORKFORCE

Feds agree an **agile workforce** is one of the most critical components of a resilient government[1]

By **2022** at least **54%** of workers across the world will need **significant reskilling** in order to keep up with the pace of technological innovation[7]
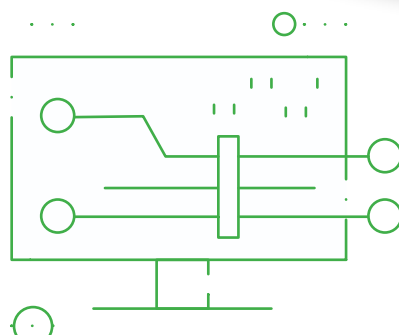
The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is launching a virtual data science training program to teach Feds data skills relevant to their current roles[7]

5 HELP DATA BLOOM

85% agree the ability to draw insights from streaming data is the **key to modern decision-making**[8]

Agencies are reaching key milestones to leverage data as a strategic asset:[9]

24 agencies selected an operational maturity assessment model for data and data infrastructure

Several **performed an assessment** of current staff data literacy and data skills

> Using data in a new and collaborative manner will drive ideas, spur innovation, and solve important problems

– *Pradeep Belur, SBA Official*[10]

DLT and Quest provide agencies with solutions to solve complex problems that stand in the way of government's ability to always be ready for what's next.

To learn more, visit:
https://www.dlt.com/government-products/quest

[1]Resilient: Government Pandemic Insights for a Safer America
[2]White House Proposes $92 Billion IT Budget in FY 2021
[3]Army Officials Stress Importance of Cloud, $800M Investment Plan
[4]The State of Federal Cloud
[5]GSA Official Promotes Shared Data Center Services
[6]Data Center Statistics
[7]Future of the Federal IT Workforce Update
[8]Data Constellations: Connecting the Dots in Federal Cloud
[9]Federal Agencies Overcome COVID-19 Challenges to Make Progress on the Federal Data Strategy 2020 Action Plan
[10]Leveraging Data as a Strategic Asset