SMEs: The Global Economy's Disruptive Middle

September 2013











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METHODOLOGY & RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

Goal: To better understand the business goals and challenges facing SMEs and to gain insight into the strategic initiatives SMEs are investing in to drive business growth.

Online survey conducted in September 2013

Target: SMEs in US and Europe

US 50-999 employees; EU 10-249 employees

300 completes (100 US; 62 UK; 61 Germany; 60 France; 17 Benelux)

Screeners: involvement in business/IT strategy, goal setting, training/development, budgets etc.



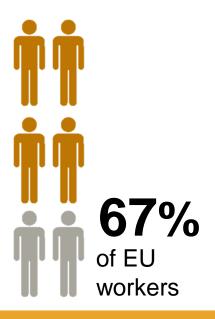
SMEs: Backbone of the Economy

SMEs defined:

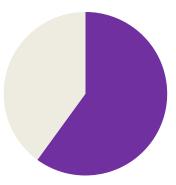
<250 employees in the EU <1,000 employees in the US

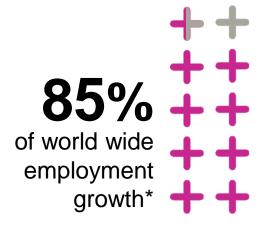


of companies in EU



60% of private sector employment world wide





Sources: WorldBank; European Commission. *Between 2002-2010



SMEs are poised to drive economic growth with customer-centric approach.

Retaining & Expanding Customer Base

	Global	81%
	US	76%
	EU	83%

Cost Control/Containment



Improving the customer experience through valued-added services



Question: "Using the scale provided below please rate each business outcome according to its importance to your business over the next 18 months." % shown represents respondents who answered "important" (7, 8, 9 or 10 on a 1-10 scale)

Base: 300 respondents Globally; 100 US respondents; 200 EU respondents



SMEs face enterprise challenges.

Security Concerns

50% Global 60% US 46% EU



Skills Shortage

49% Global 42% US 53% EU



Infrastructure & Data Complexity

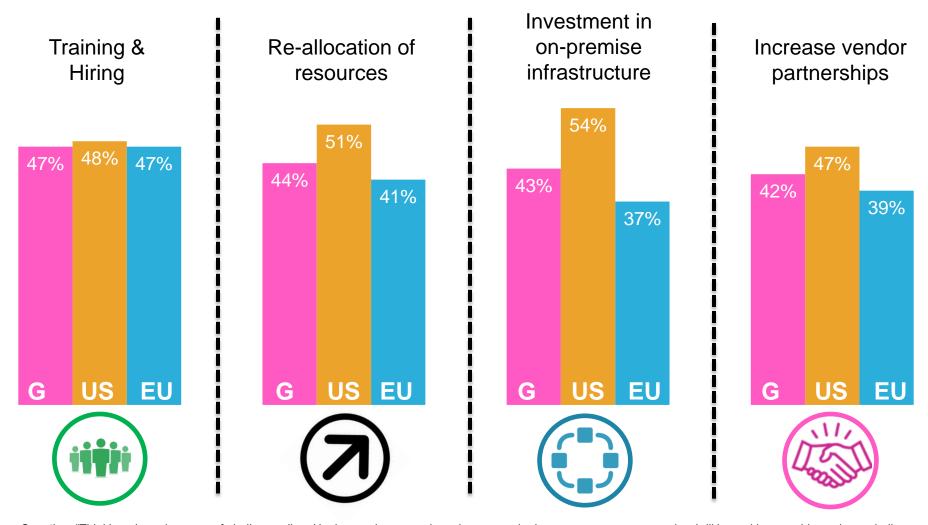
46% Global 59% US 40% EU



Question: "Using the scale provided below please rate the challenges your business faces in achieving growth." % shown represents respondents who answered "significant challenge" (7, 8, 9 or 10 on a 1-10 scale) Base: 300 respondents Globally; 100 US respondents; 200 EU respondents



SMEs are making investments to drive long-term growth & sustainability.



Question: "Thinking about the types of challenges listed in the previous question, please rate the investment your company has/will be making to address these challenges over the next 18 months?"

% shown represents respondents who answered "significant investment" (7, 8, 9 or 10 on a 1-10 scale) Base: 300 respondents Globally: 100 US respondents: 200 EU respondents



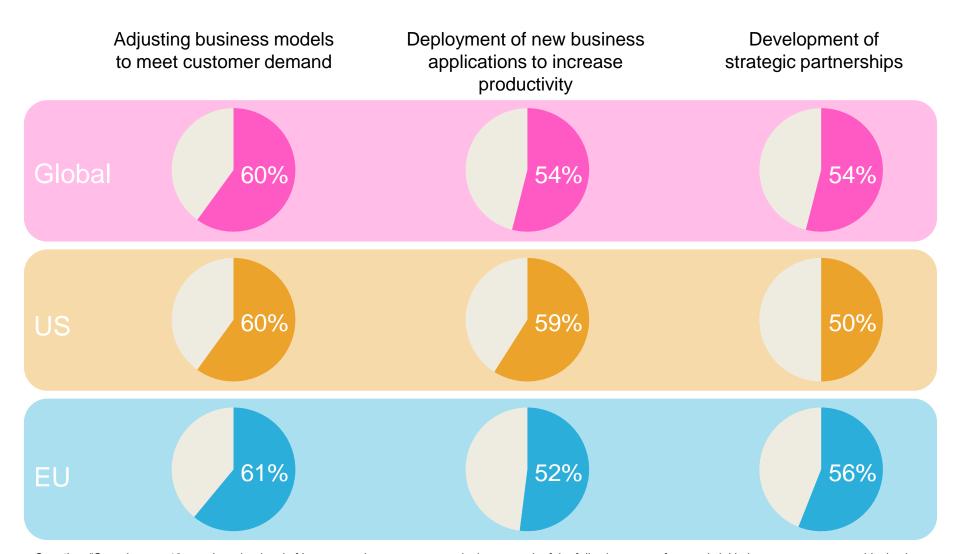
SMEs are rolling out strategic initiatives to <u>stay ahead</u> of the competition.



Question: ""Do you expect the strategic initiatives your company is rolling out over the next 18 months will:"
% shown represents respondents who answered "Move you significantly ahead of your competition" or "Move you somewhat ahead of your competition"
Base: 300 respondents Globally; 100 US respondents; 200 EU respondents



SMEs strategic priorities reflect forward-thinking agenda.

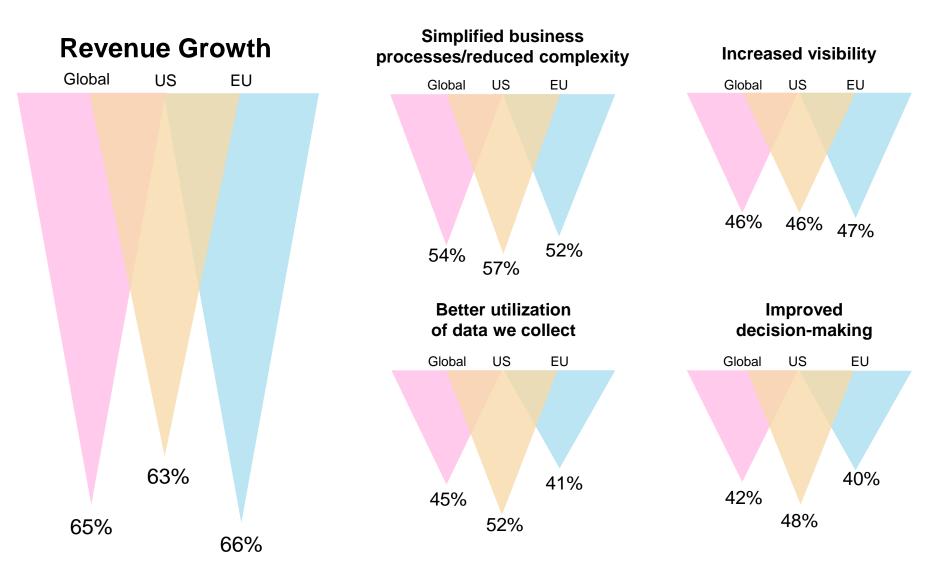


Question: "Over the next 18 months, what level of importance is your company placing on each of the following types of strategic initiatives as a means to achieving key business objectives?"

% shown represents respondents who answered "important" (7, 8, 9 or 10 on a 1-10 scale) Base: 300 respondents Globally: 100 US respondents; 200 EU respondents



Revenue growth is a shared priority at SMEs in both the US and EU.



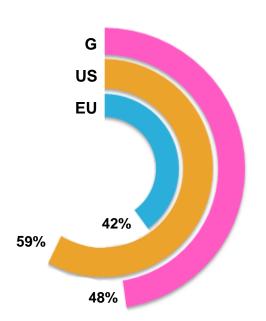
Question: ""What benefits do you hope to realize from the strategic initiatives your company is rolling out over the next 18 months?" Base: 300 respondents Globally; 100 US respondents; 200 EU respondents



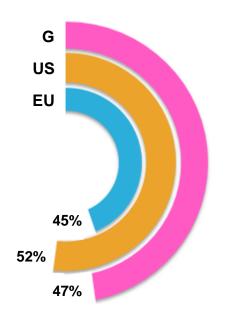
SMEs are focusing on application initiatives that will create a more agile, responsive business environment.

Key application initiatives for future growth:

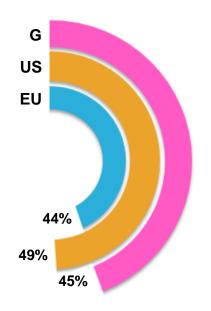
Ensuring security/compliance for key business applications



Increasing
Collaboration between
IT & business to build better
business applications faster



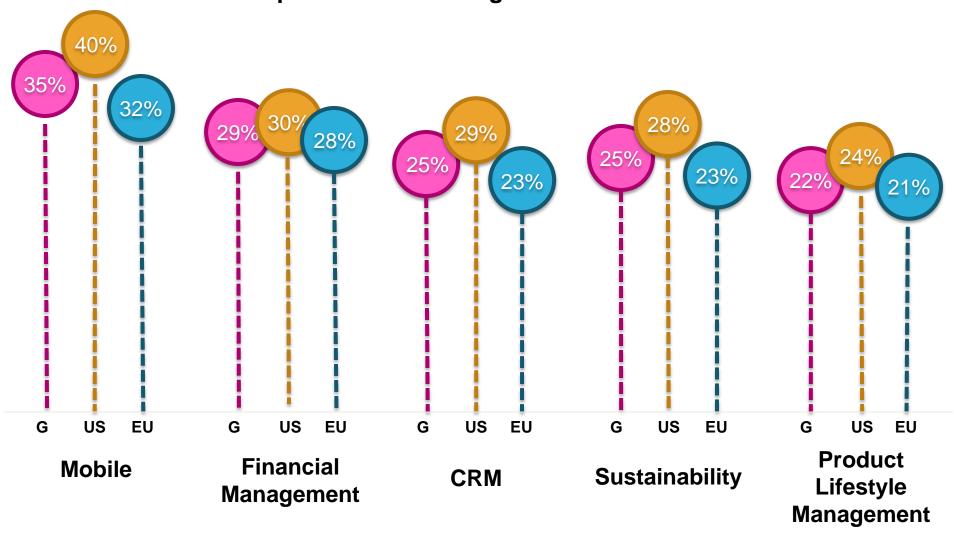
Leveraging your business expertise to create business apps that help drive innovation and growth



Question: "What level of importance is your company placing on each of the following application initiatives over the next 18 months?" Base: 300 respondents Globally; 100 US respondents; 200 EU respondents



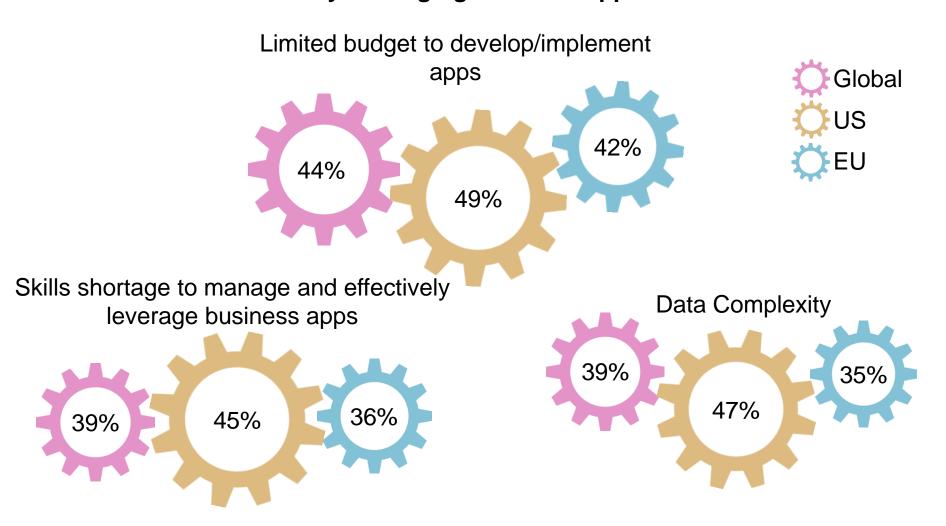
SMEs are investing in a variety of application initiatives but Mobile tops the list reflecting customer-centric focus.



Question: ""What application initiatives are on your company's radar as priority projects for the next 18 months?" Base: 300 respondents Globally; 100 US respondents; 200 EU respondents



Limited budget, data complexity and skills shortage are the biggest roadblocks for effectively leveraging business applications.

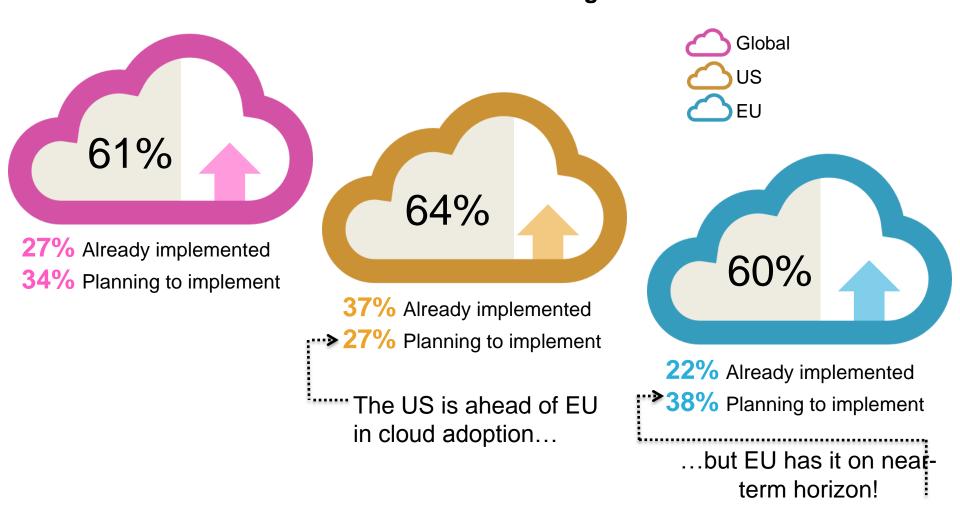


Question: "To what extent have the following issues/problems affected your company's use of business applications as a tool for achieving key business objectives?"

% shown represents respondents who answered "to a significant extent" (7, 8, 9 or 10 on a 1-10 scale) Base: 300 respondents Globally; 100 US respondents; 200 EU respondents



About two-thirds of SMEs globally are already using or are planning to migrate to the cloud to assist with strategic initiatives.



Question: ""What are your company's plans to migrate, or augment, your existing IT infrastructure and application workload to cloud infrastructure/services to assist in the implementation of these types of strategic initiatives?"

Base: 300 respondents Globally; 100 US respondents; 200 EU respondents



SMEs: Poised to Drive Economic Growth

- SMEs are the backbone to local economic growth and stability.
- Despite continued economic volatility, SMEs are taking a customercentric approach and investing for long-term growth.
- ➤ Top priorities: strategic initiatives that will move SMEs ahead of the competition and create more agile, responsive business environments.
- Obstacles facing SMEs on the path to growth are the same as those facing larger, enterprise organizations – driven by increases in data, devices, mobility.
- ➤ SMEs are relying on cloud-based services and applications to adjust quickly to customer needs, fuel expansion, and speed time to market.



Questions?

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