



PUTTING MANAGED FILE TRANSFER IN PERSPECTIVE:
TAKE A LOOK AHEAD


ABERDEEN
GROUP

IBM

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Overview

As organizations are adapting their managed file transfer initiatives to keep pace with several dimensions of the hyper-growth being caused by current technology megatrends, they should also look ahead to ensure that their capabilities incorporate two important themes: speed, and governance.



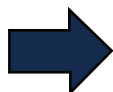
Traditionally, managed file transfer solutions have become established as reliable, automated, secure – and strategic to fundamental enterprise business processes.



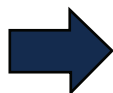
At one time, many organizations viewed file transfer as a purely tactical problem, with an emphasis on technical details such as file types, transfer protocols and encryption algorithms.



In recent years, enterprise-class managed file transfer (MFT) solutions have evolved to deliver a more strategic, holistic set of capabilities that address fundamental business requirements – including the reliable, automated and secure means to support collaboration between individuals, and to integrate business processes within (and between) enterprises.



Today, many advanced capabilities should be considered as table stakes for enterprise-class MFT solutions – including support for multiple modes, file types and file transfer protocols; convenient, reliable and secure delivery mechanisms; centralized policies, management and administration; and integration with multiple enterprise platforms, mobile devices, applications, and other existing IT infrastructure.



In addition, Aberdeen's research has shown that having better visibility over file movements is reflected in tangible business benefits, such as fewer errors (which avoids cost) and more efficient business processes (which reduces cost, and supports faster time-to-revenue).

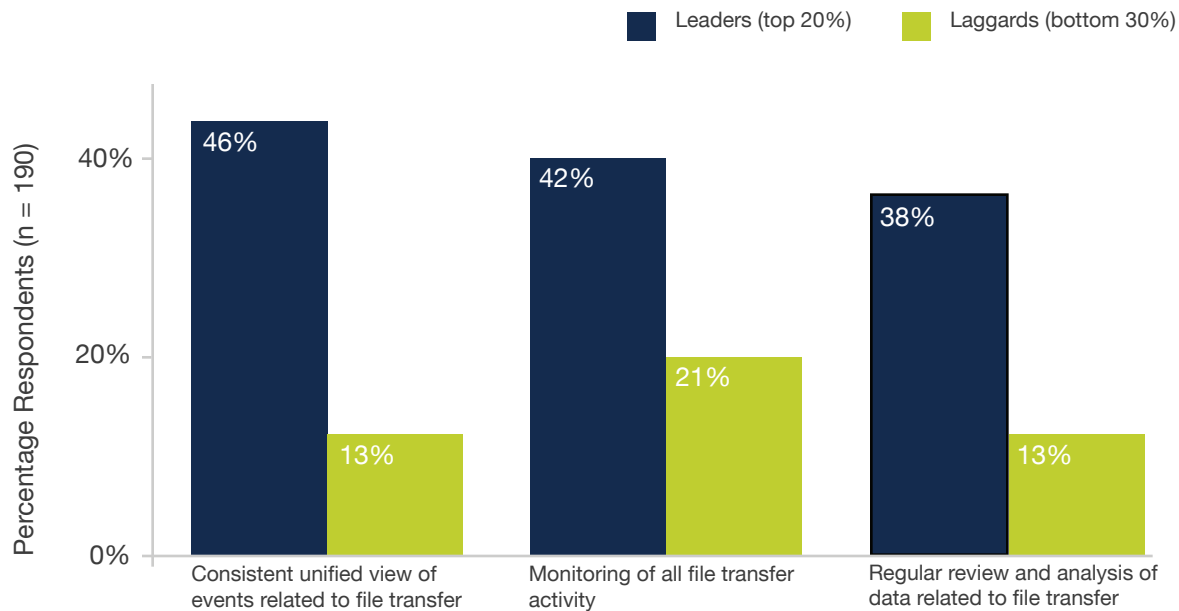


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Visibility is Key

On average, the leading performers in Aberdeen's study were 10-times more likely than the lagging performers to experience no incidents of data loss, audit deficiencies, or unauthorized access related to file transfer in the last year, and experienced 16.7-times fewer actual incidents.

Figure 1: For Business Users, the Value of Visibility is in Seeing the File Movements that are Relevant to Themselves



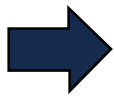
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File Movement Complexities

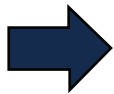
Today, enterprise-class managed file transfer solutions are being transformed further, in response to technology megatrends.

As a solution category, enterprise-class managed file transfer is clearly not standing still – on the contrary, leading MFT solutions are vibrant, changing and growing.

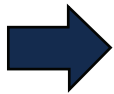
For most enterprises, the operational context for moving files has gotten considerably more complex, with the rapid adoption of transformational technologies – such as mobility, virtualization and cloud computing, social collaboration, big data and analytics – driving hyper-growth in several important operational dimensions, including:



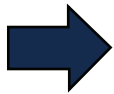
The **number of users** needing to transfer, synch or share files; and the **number of devices** from which files need to be transferred and accessed.



The **volume** and **size** of files; and the **increasing distances** that files need to be transferred.



The **multiple modes** of moving files that need to be supported (including person-to-person, process-to-process, file synch and file share).



The **number of applications** that are integrating, transforming and delivering content in context.



The **flexibility of delivery mechanisms** for enterprise-class managed file transfer solutions.

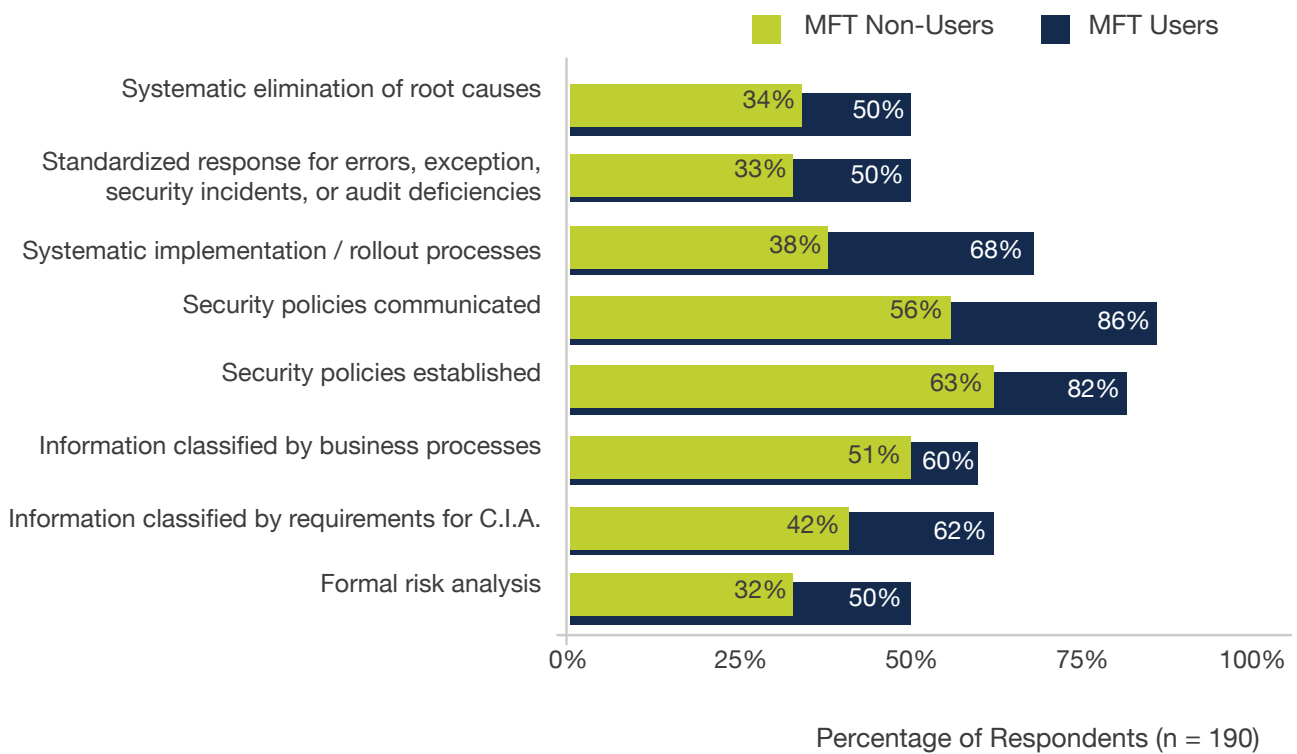


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Enterprise Rights Management

It's important to note that technology megatrends are not the only driver for the transformation of managed file transfer implementations – Aberdeen's research has also highlighted several “people” and “process” capabilities of more mature managed file transfer processes.

Figure 2: Managed File Transfer Users Exhibit More Mature Policies and Processes for File Movements



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A Need for Speed

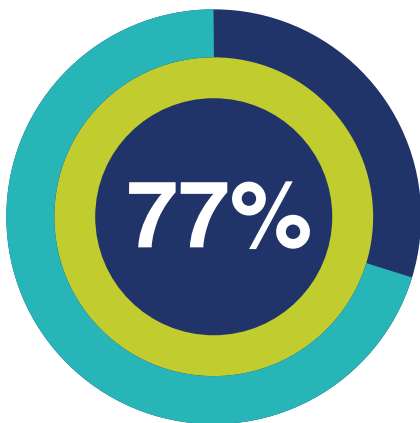
Going forward, the capabilities of leading managed file transfer solutions should also incorporate two important high-level themes: speed, and governance.

The need for speed is actually reflected in several dimensions, including:

The time it takes for onboarding – including both new users, and new connections.

The time it takes to integrate file movements with applications and processes – with minimal need for manual intervention.

The time it takes to transfer files – not only in terms of time, but also in terms of predictability.



of the leading performers in Aberdeen's study have integrated MFT with their existing identity infrastructure.



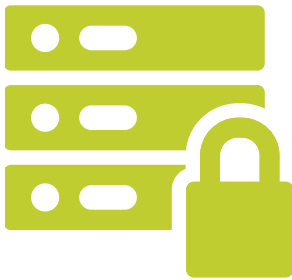
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Focus on Governance

Governance implies more than just visibility; governance implies having the information and processes needed to support making decisions and taking action, including:



Visibility not only into what happened, but also into what's happening right now, what can we keep from happening, and what can we prevent from happening again.



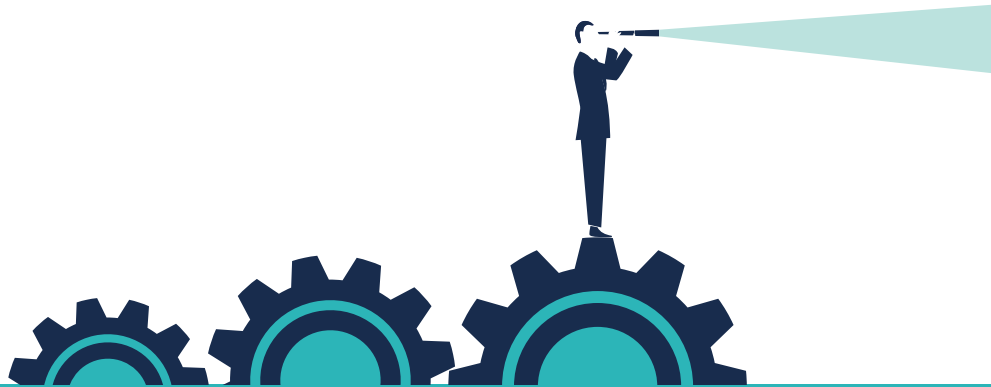
Security and compliance, from a broader perspective that includes an inventory of all existing file transfer activities; consistent policies for file movements; awareness and training for users; monitoring of all file movement activity; and automated enforcement of file movement policies whenever reasonable.



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MFT in Perspective

Simply put, organizations need to focus on the files that matter, and then on proactively governing their movements –reliably, promptly and securely – throughout the extended enterprise.



Flash Forward:

Putting Managed File Transfer in Perspective

[Read the full report >](#)