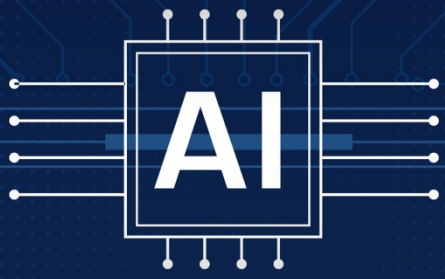
FUTURIOM
FUTURE OF CLOUD TECH

FUTURIOM.COM



THE FUTURIOM 50

Top Cloud and AI Infrastructure Trends and Private Companies 2026

INFRA TREND REPORT

Sixth Edition - Feburary 2026

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

2026 Futuriom 50 – Key Findings and Highlights

Every year, Futuriom names the strongest private companies in key markets for cloud, communications, and AI infrastructure.

- **The Futuriom 50 companies are the most exciting private companies in cloud, AI, and communications infrastructure we have seen over the past 12 months.** Our analyst team spends months vetting companies and analyzing trends.
- **AI is the macro theme driving everything in technology, with profound impacts on infrastructure.** This is driving strong themes we are following, including distributed cloud and AI infrastructure; data infrastructure and observability; unified cloud and AI security; and platform engineering and Infrastructure as Code (IaC). The Futuriom 50 companies all fit into these categories, with some names fitting into several.
- **The Futuriom 50 private companies have raised a total of $33+ billion in funding**. The top investors with number of deals funded include: Andreessen Horowitz (6 deals), Goldman Sachs (5), Insight Partners (5), General Catalyst (4), Tiger Global Management (4) Bessemer Venture Partners (3), Madrona Venture Group (3), Intel Capital (3), and Two Bear Capital (3)
- **Enterprise AI adoption and industry transformation is proceeding, with some hiccups.** Futuriom has been delving into the ROI for AI in worldwide segments, and we think AI is currently having outsized gains in specific industries and verticals, such as financial, industrial, healthcare, and retail.
- **Unified cloud security remains one of our top trends.** AI is driving further challenges and complexity in securing data and applications. Integrated AI and data analytics platforms can also be used to help solve these challenges.
- **AI spotlights the need for data management.** The need for clean data in AI workflows is driving the evolution of storage systems into data management platforms and spawning innovation in products and services **for managing data infrastructure.**
- **Successful exits from the 2025 F50 list include CoreWeave (IPO), Netskope (IPO), Wiz (M&A), and Chronosphere (M&A).**
- **Our Top F50 IPO and M&A candidates (in order of our ranking):** Databricks, Lambda, Vultr, Fivetran, Wasabi, Versa Networks, Aviatrix, Cato Networks, VAST Data.
- **Organizations continue to see cost-effective cloud infrastructure as a key success factor in 2026.** Cloud spending is being rationalized to pave the way for AI, and most technical leaders are focused on securing and optimizing their infrastructure.
- **The 2026 Futuriom 50 list:** Alkira, Arcee, Arrcus, Aryaka Networks, Aviatrix, Aviz Networks, CAST AI, Cato Networks, ClearBlade, Cockroach Labs, Databricks, DriveNets, Eclypsium, Elisity, Engflow, Exaforce, Fivetran, Fortanix, Grafana Labs, Graphiant, Index Engines, Itential, Komprise, Kong, Lambda, MinIO, Nasuni, NetBox, Netris, Nile, ProsperOps, Pulumi, Qumulo, Redpanda, Render, Resolve.ai, Selector, Spacelift, Stellar Cyber, Teleport, Tigera, UnifyApps, Vantage, VAST Data, Versa Networks, VDURA, Vultr, Wasabi, Writer, ZEDEDA

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 4 Introduction: Will 2026 Be the Year that the AI World Gets More Distributed?

- The AI Capex Boom Approaches $1 Trillion Annually (Pg. 4)
- Watching for Bubble Trouble (Pg. 5)
- Changes in Architectural Thinking (Pg. 7)
- F50: A Short History and Methodology (Pg. 8)
- 2025 F50 IPOs (Pg. 9)
- Who's Been Acquired (Pg.9)
- Big Funding News in the Futuriom 50 (Pg. 10)
- Who's Next for IPO or M&A? (Pg. 11)

Page 14 Inside the Top Trends: From Automation to Security

Page 15 Trend #1: Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure

- What AI Means for Cloud Services (Pg. 16)
- What AI Means for Networking (Pg. 17)
- The Network NaaS Model Booms (Pg. 18)
- AIOps and Edge Needs (Pg. 19)

Page 21 Trend #2: Data Infrastructure and Observability

- How AI Transforms Data Pipelines (Pg. 20)
- Observability for Cloud and AI (Pg. 22)
- Observability Drives AIOps for Networking (Pg. 23)

Page 23 Trend #3: Unified Cloud and AI Security

- M&A Will Continue at a Feverish Pace (Pg. 24)
- SASE Is Maturing (Pg. 25)
- SIEMs Converge Everywhere, Including XDR (Pg. 27)
- Identity and Zero Trust Strategies Grow (Pg. 28)
- Building Data Security and Cyber Resilience (Pg. 28)

Page 30 Trend #4: Platform Engineering and IaC

- Platform and IaC Tools Are Evolving Quickly (Pg. 30)
- Platform Tools Geared Toward Development (Pg. 30)
- Managing Cloud Costs Remains Key (Pg. 31)

Page 32 Appendix: Details on all the F50 Companies

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

INTRODUCTION: Will 2026 Be the Year that the AI World Gets More Distributed?

Capital spending continues to boom, but enterprise results in AI are uneven and we expect divergences in the market in 2026.

Every year, Futuriom dives into numerous trends driving cloud and communications infrastructure investment. We also meet with more than a hundred customers and private companies to understand where to find the best product/market fits that satisfy customer challenges. With the Futuriom 50, we summarize our findings over the last twelve months and pick the strongest private companies we see in the market. Our new Futuriom 50 report for 2026 includes all the details on the top private companies we are tracking, as well as the major cloud technology trends driving their success.

The AI Capex Boom Approaches $1 Trillion Annually

The AI capital spending (capex) boom rolled on in 2025 and it looks to continue in 2026. The major hyperscalers increased their capex budgets, with the four top hyperscalers (Alphabet, Amazon, Meta, and Microsoft) budgeting more than $600 billion in combined capex. Toss in additional major players such as OpenAI, Project Stargate, and Elon Musk's xAI, and aggregate AI capex spending is somewhere in the neighborhood of $1 trillion per year.

It's an astounding amount of capital. Deploying capital is always exciting, generating creative energy and "animal spirits" among the participants, not to mention a booming stock market. But the next question you should ask is: What's the return? Across the industry, there are wide-ranging opinions. We have monitored major economic surveys as well as data from our own Enterprise AI Index, and we have concluded that the return on investment for enterprises is mixed. There are indeed returns from specific use cases and industries: For example, automation of financial models and accelerated drug discovery in the healthcare industry are no doubt generating returns in those industries. Below is some of the data from our Enterprise AI Index showing the concentration of AI deployments in the retail, financial, and healthcare industries.

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

FUTURIOM

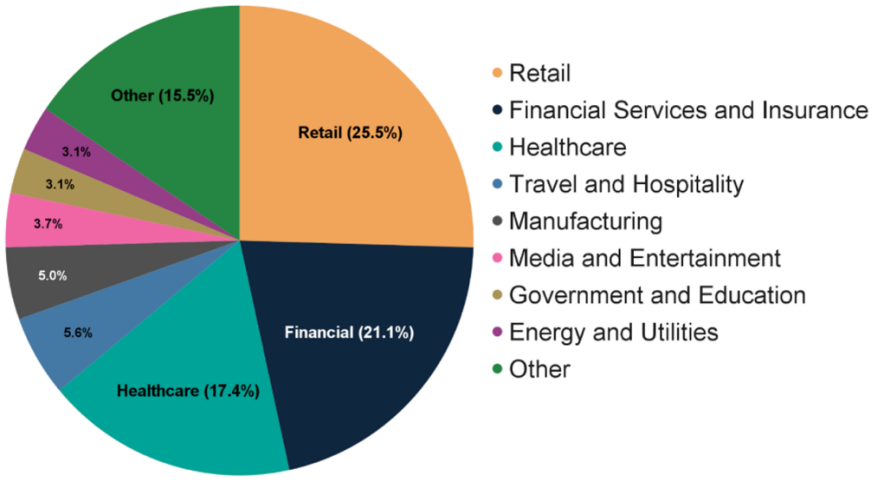
Where AI Is Being Deployed: Top Vertical Markets

Top 3 Industries Account for 64% of AI Deployment.

> AI adoption is widespread across diverse vertical markets, to ensure a **secure & compliant integration.**

> **Regulated industries** show strong preference for proprietary AI.

> Essential for **centralized control** in a variety of operations and new company developments.



In examining data and talking to practitioners, however, we are finding that the majority of enterprises are finding their AI transformations to be rewarding in some areas and challenging in others. The bulk of the gains are coming from simple use cases.

We'll talk a lot more about AI in our report, but if you were to sum up why it's so hard, you can do that in just one word: data. Data is the lifeblood of AI, whether it's training or inference. It needs to be cleaned up, moved, and applied to the right AI models by industry. And data needs infrastructure. That is why infrastructure worldwide is undergoing a sea change, as enterprises and cloud providers overhaul their infrastructure to support AI services and applications.

As we'll discuss in this report, this is having a big effect on cloud and AI data architectures. Your data pipelines have to be nimble, flexible, and above all, economical.

Watching for Bubble Trouble

There's no doubt, technology bubbles can be fun, especially if they are helping your stock portfolio along. But there are also risks. Massive growth booms tend to attract less intelligent investment, and that's when you get bubble trouble. For more info, consult the Internet boom of 1998-2000 and the housing bubble of 2005-2008.

It's important to distinguish what financial markets do with technology growth booms and what happens in technology markets. Regardless of what happens to the stock market and private market valuations, the technology will march on. The common reference point we use in the

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Internet bubble is that Internet technology continued to experience wide adoption and growth through both the boom of 1998-2000 and the subsequent bust. After all, Google didn't go public until 2004, when markets were still relatively depressed. Sometimes, the markets are uneven mechanisms at assessing the trajectory of technology.

If you are a practitioner or technology adopter, this is good news. Just as the Internet bubble subsidized fantastic deals for pet food and Web advertising, the AI bubble has democratized access to AI tools. The downside is AI slop. The key for enterprises will be how they fine-tune their commercial AI tools and applications to get quality results, using techniques such as retrieval augmented generation (RAG) and other approaches to building specialized applications. Again, it all comes down to the data.

Much has been made about Jevon's Paradox, which specifies that efficiency begets wider adoption. This can also be viewed as growing the market of a product through commoditization, which can drive down pricing. This will be good for some companies and bad for others, depending on your business model and margin structure. If you can gain market share by creating a better AI mousetrap, good for you. But as we are seeing in the market today, the business models of some large incumbent software technology vendors, such as Adobe, Salesforce, and ServiceNow, are under pressure from the fear that the democratization of AI poses a threat to any commercial software vendor. This impact will be highly dependent on how AI rolls out in specific markets, and how the software vendors react.

In the infrastructure and cloud services markets, the impact of AI will be diverse and uneven. We recently wrote in Forbes that 2026 will be the year of nuances and divergences. The monolithic "AI trade" will die.

Instead, here are the things you should watch:

- **China and AI.** There is a growing fear that China is making large progress in the AI race, and companies such as Baidu, DeepSeek, Doubao, and Tencent (among others) are building world-class technology. China is famously prioritizing different goals in AI, such as targeted use cases for automation, over the larger goal of Artificial General Intelligence (AGI), which has become the obsession of many American companies.
- **The circular relationship among companies such as Microsoft, NVIDIA, Oracle, OpenAI, and Softbank.** As discussed, much of the financing for the AI capex boom can be traced back to a handful of influential companies, most notably OpenAI. OpenAI could be the Achilles heel of the AI capex boom, because unlike the hyperscalers, which are funding

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

much of their buildout from profitable services, most of the funding tied to OpenAI is based on the future growth of new services, which are still unproven. (OpenAI is losing money and has pledged more than $1 trillion in spending on the back of less than $20 billion in projected annual revenue, a tremendous gap.)

- **Stock market divergences.** Look to the stock market to reflect divergences in reality, such as the ROI of enterprises as well as execution linked to AI infrastructure. As we chronicled in Forbes, this is always the case. For example, Cloudflare shares boomed 60% in 2025 on growth linked to AI and security infrastructure, yet competitor Akamai showed no gains. And AI investment darling NVIDIA's shares went nowhere in the 2H of 2025, reflecting growing investor angst about the AI trade as a whole. Recently, we've also seen software shares under pressure as investors fear AI taking away their "moats" or competitive advantage.
- **Enterprise AI adoption and industry transformation.** Futuriom has been delving into the ROI for AI gain in worldwide segments, and we think the more interesting areas of AI's impact will come in specific industries and verticals. For example, there are already great innovation stories in the fields of medicine, finance, retail, and energy. Companies and industries that correctly apply AI to increased growth, yields, and margins mean that the AI story can unfold in industries other than IT. Many large enterprises, such as John Deere and GM, are benefiting from the productivity of AI, and this has been reflected in their shares recently hitting new highs.

It's clear that many organizations are already seeing gains from AI deployment, but it will be years before we see a clear quantification of AI. In the meantime, however, the large cloud providers don't appear to be taking their feet off the gas.

Changes in Architectural Thinking

One of the byproducts of this AI investment cycle will be rapid change in the architectures for the supporting infrastructure. Here are some of these architectural changes and challenges:

Distributed architectures. Historically, technology shifts have toggled between centralization and decentralization of compute. For example, when technology shifted from mainframes to client/server, it was a shift from centralization to decentralization. Cloud compute was the opposite. The current trend is toward vast distribution of both centralization and decentralization at the same time—think of it as full distribution. AI is causing organizations to reconsider how they will gather, process, store, and use their data for AI. The data is everywhere, so that will demand a distributed architecture to rapidly put data where it needs to be.

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Smarter and faster connectivity. The distributed nature of the AI world will drive the need for faster and more efficient connectivity. This is driving the trends we are following such as multicloud networking (MCN), Infrastructure as Code (IaC), and NetDevOps, which seek to automate network connections among apps and infrastructure. The scale of today's apps has long surpassed the capability of humans conducting manual operations. These apps demand automation instantiated by code.

The need for pervasive cybersecurity. As the velocity of data, connectivity, and infrastructure deployment speeds up, so does the need for pervasive and automated cybersecurity models. Firewalls are no longer enough. Apps and infrastructure need to be embedded with zero-trust models that ensure that all apps and access are accurately identified. Data must be secured with end-to-end encryption. Not only that, but cybersecurity silos such as Extended Detection and Response (XDR), Security Information and Event Management (SIEM), and Secure Access Service Edge (SASE) need to converge on a single distributed platform.

In this report, we have grouped the Futuriom 50 companies into some of these broad trends, as well as subtrends within these larger trends that define the focus of the Futuriom 50 companies.

F50: A Short History and Methodology

This is the sixth year of the F50. Years ago, after producing dozens of reports that profiled hundreds of companies, our analyst team asked a question: Wouldn't it be cool to do a "best-of" report on the top trends and private companies we saw throughout the year? And the F50 (originally the F40) was born.

We vet hundreds of companies throughout the year, attend countless presentations, interview dozens of cloud practitioners, and visit more than a dozen technology conferences and events. The list is also derived from the detailed research and analysis from our 10+ Cloud Market Trend Reports (CMTRs) and Cloud Tracker Pro (CTP) reports published through the year, which include data from three major surveys.

After we comb through the CMTRs and CTP reports, which provide deep dives in specific areas, we come up with a short list of companies. We follow these companies through news events, interviews, funding rounds, and chatter amongst the expert practitioners and investors we talk to.

Companies cannot influence the report with sponsorship; the report is commercially supported by report licenses and Amplification Packages sold to the F50 companies only *after* it is finalized.

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Recent F50 Exits

Each year, as we review our Futuriom 50, we look back to see how the choices we made last year are faring in the markets we cover. And of course, we're keeping an eye on who's still hot—and who's not.

As a reminder, the Futuriom 50 list for 2025 was: Alkira, Arcee, Arrcus, Aryaka Networks, Aviatrix, Aviz Networks, CAST AI, Cato Networks, Chronosphere, ClearBlade, Cockroach Labs, CoreWeave, Databricks, DriveNets, Eclypsium, Elisity, Enfabrica, Engflow, Fivetran, Fortanix, Graphiant, Index Engines, IP Fabric, Itential, Kentik, Komprise, Kong, Lambda Labs, MinIO, Netris, Netskope, Nile, Pinecone, ProsperOps, Pulumi, Qumulo, Render, Selector, Spacelift, Stellar Cyber, Teleport, Tigera, Vantage, VAST Data, Versa Networks, Vultr, Wasabi, Wiz, Yugabyte, ZEDEDA

In total, there were two IPOs and several M&A exits. Let's run through them all.

2025 F50 IPOs

Two of our Futuriom 50 picks went public this year:

CoreWeave's (CRWV) IPO raised $1.5 billion in March, which was followed by a 136%+ increase in the stock price YTD as of this writing. Since the IPO, CoreWeave also has made headlines for a lucrative deal with Meta for over $14 billion, which came just after CoreWeave expanded its multibillion-dollar arrangement with OpenAI. While challenges remain, CoreWeave's growth continues to prompt shock and awe.

Netskope (NTSK) raised $908.2 million in its IPO on September 17. The cybersecurity company offers a fully integrated SASE solution built around its network of cloud points of presence (PoPs). Its Netskope Security Cloud platform provides access to a range of security functions, including zero trust network access (ZTNA). All of these features are in demand in the enterprise. Overall, Netskope's IPO has been a big disappointment, falling 50% from its first day of trading. The shares were recently trading around $11. This poor performance will likely have a negative effect on the IPO prospects of the closest comps in the existing Futuriom 50 list, which are Aryaka and Cato Networks.

Who's Been Acquired

Wiz, one of the largest companies in our F50 by funding size with nearly $2 billion in investment, is one of the leaders in the CNAPP space. In March 2025, **Google** announced plans to buy Wiz for a stunning $32 billion and incorporate it into Google Cloud.

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Palo Alto Networks completed its $3.35 billion acquisition of former serial F50 member **Chronosphere** in early 2026, integrating the cloud-native observability platform to bolster its AI-driven security operations. Palo Alto says it will use the deal to enhance Palo Alto's Cortex XSIAM with real-time telemetry, allowing for automated detection and resolution of infrastructure issues. As this report went to press, **ProsperOps** had just been acquired by Flexera. Flexera is a private company and said ProsperOps will remain independent so we are leaving them in for now.

Big Funding News in the Futuriom 50

A variety of Futuriom 50 companies have garnered significant funding this year, made interesting deals, or dealt some dramatic M&A hands:

Arrcus landed $67 million from Fujitsu in June 2025 and signed a deal with Fujitsu subsidiary 1Finity to jointly develop go-to-market plans to expand its business globally with a primary focus on Japan, targeting network operators, enterprise customers, and datacenter operators.

CAST AI scored $108 million in April 2025 in a round led by G2 Venture Partners and SoftBank Vision Fund 2. Since then, the company has scored two undisclosed rounds at a valuation of over $1 billion. The company uses an AI engine to manage cloud costs, targeting and implementing ways to reduce costs of cloud services in all the major hyperscaler networks.

DriveNets, whose cloud-native software serves up telco-grade networking for a series of Tier 1 operators worldwide, was the focus of a $650 million stake by AT&T in 2025. The move was a boon for DriveNets stakeholders, and it is a significant indicator that AT&T is serious about moving away from heavy hardware reliance toward a software-based networking solution.

Enfabrica has had its CEO Rochan Sankar and other engineers hired away by NVIDIA. The GPU giant also has licensed Enfabrica’s technology, which connects massive GPU clusters with higher utilization and reduced AI job completion times compared to typical NICs and PCIe switches. NVIDIA spent $900 million on the deal—and avoided uncomfortable questions from government watchdogs by not buying Enfabrica outright.

Graphiant received $19 million in May 2025 from Saudi Aramco's Wa'ed Ventures and Saudi Telecom Co.'s Tali Ventures. Graphiant offers a private NaaS that provides policy-driven connectivity between the enterprise WAN, hybrid cloud, network edge, customers, and partners.

Spacelift in July announced a $51 million in a Series C funding round. The round was led by Five Elms Capital, with Endeavor Catalyst and Inovo VC. The company said the investment will

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

"accelerate product innovation, expand enterprise adoption and advance the company's commitment to simplifying complex infrastructure management through AI-powered automation."

Wasabi in January 2026 announced a $70 million equity funding round led by L2 Point Management with participation from Pure Storage and existing investors, including Fidelity Management & Research Company. The new round values Wasabi at $1.8 billion and brings the company's total funding to over $600 million. The capital will be used to accelerate Wasabi's expansion into AI infrastructure, broaden its global footprint, and enhance its product portfolio to meet the growing data demands of enterprises and AI developers worldwide.

Who's Next for IPO or M&A?

We see some of the same names on this year's list of potential IPO candidates as we have for the past two years. Let's run down the most likely candidates, in order of maturity and likelihood (in our opinion):

Databricks. This is a longstanding member of our prospective IPO list, and it seems to be in no hurry to go public. In September, the company announced it had achieved a $4 billion revenue run rate as of the second quarter 2025. It also closed a $1 billion Series K round of funding at a valuation north of $100 billion. Then, in February 2026, it closed a Series L round of $7 billion, including about $5 billion of equity financing at a $134 billion valuation and roughly $2 billion of additional debt capacity. We'll be awaiting more alphabetical rounds momentarily.

Lambda Labs. While we were launching the Futuriom 50 in February 2025, Lambda Labs was busy raising a $480 million Series D round. This was quickly followed by its $1.5 billion E round in November, bringing its total raised to more than $2.3 billion in funding, with an estimated valuation of $4 billion to $7 billion. The company also has signed a deal with NVIDIA for $1.5 billion to lease its GPUs back to NVIDIA.

Vultr. Futuriom considers Vultr a strong candidate for an IPO or acquisition by a larger hyperscaler. This alternative hyperscaler, or altscaler, has an attractive mix of enterprise clouds services, storage services, and GPU-as-a-service. We believe the market will favor cloud services suppliers that have adjacent services to support AI compute as well as strict security and data sovereignty controls, which Vultr has in place. Following a $333 million funding round in December 2024 that valued the company at $3.5 billion, this altscaler is well-regarded among customers and is expanding its AI infrastructure to position itself for a potential public market entry.

Fivetran, which manages data at scale for use in AI, is planning a multibillion-dollar merger with

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

dbt Labs, which prepares data from a range of sources for AI workloads. Reports indicate the merged company would be worth billions and post annual recurring revenue (ARR) of about $600 million. Could an IPO be in the offing?

Wasabi. Wasabi is a strong IPO candidate based on large growth numbers that have been shared with us by industry sources. It is well positioned as a cloud storage provider that gives users a strong alternative to Amazon S3, among other services. Cofounders David Friend and Jeff Flowers have a strong track record from founding storage company Carbonite, which was acquired by OpenText in 2019 for $1.4 billion. Wasabi was recently valued at $1.8 billion.

Versa Networks. Versa is one of the last strong independent competitors in the SD-WAN and Secure Access Service Edge (SASE) markets. In the announcement of its last funding round of $120 million, the company said it was positioned to achieve profitability and possibly for an IPO. Some large equipment vendors have bid for Versa in the past. It's recurring revenue is now in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

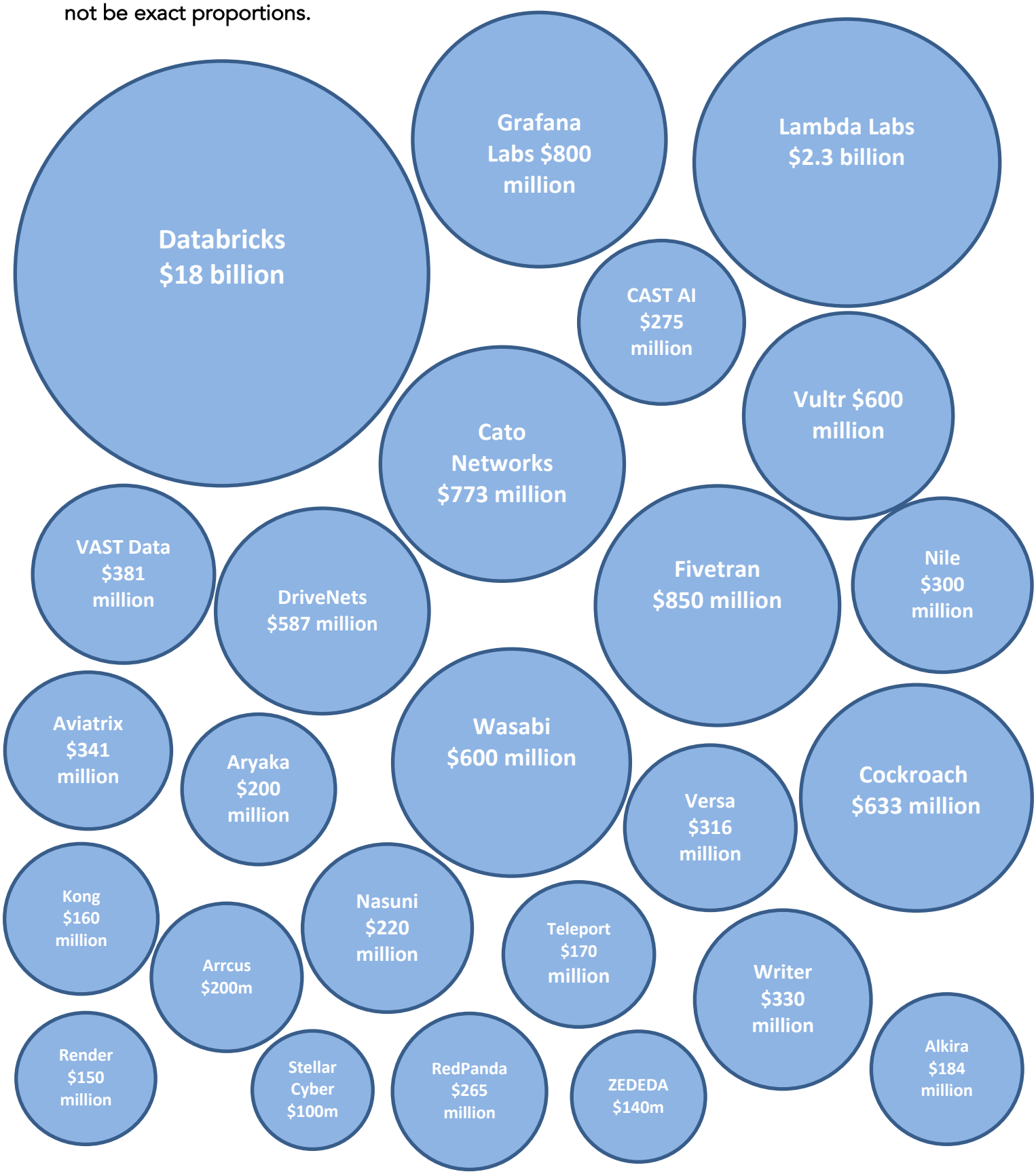
Aviatrix. Aviatrix remains one of the pioneers in MCN and distributed cloud security and we know that the company has a solid annual recurring stream with major clients, including AB InBev, IHG, Inmarsat, and PipelineRx, among many others. It's recently launched Cloud Native Security Fabric addresses key needs in the industry for embedded network security across clouds. We know that it has already been courted by major companies, and its technology is strategic for new distributed data architectures.

Cato Networks. Cato is still a candidate for IPO—and still waiting in the wings for the right moment. As mentioned, however, the crowded SASE market has many competitors (including Versa), and the poor performance of Netskope's recent IPO may have investors thinking twice about Cato, which is a close comp. Cato likely has no immediate need to go public because it is well funded. The SASE services pioneer raised $359 million at a valuation of $4.8 billion last June, bringing its total raised to over $1 billion. CEO Shlomo Kramer seems determined to stay in high-valuation limbo for now.

Other companies to watch for IPO or significant M&A: Cockroach Labs, VAST Data

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Funding Recap: Top Funding of Futuriom 50 by the Numbers (largest total funding). Circles may not be exact proportions.



Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Inside the Top Trends: From Automation to Security

Cloud and communications infrastructure professionals are looking to build the most efficient, secure, and economical infrastructure. The have myriad concerns to deal with, including data sovereignty, uptime, hackers, performance, customer experiences, and budget.

AI is of course driving huge demand for technology. But AI doesn't exist as a silo. AI is about data and application services, so it needs to coexist with traditional infrastructure as well as cloud. For this reason, AI is driving more complex hybrid and distributed architectures. With that, there are additional considerations and undercurrents. Should you outsource the infrastructure to the public cloud or build a private cloud? What are the fastest-growing applications? Should we move to Kubernetes or platform engineering? How do we host and secure data?

This presents big changes for how organizations adopt infrastructure for AI. Depending on the industry and the customer, it could require building private infrastructure to get in the AI game, or for the sake of speed and agility, you might use public cloud services. There are also large security, data management, and compliance issues related to AI, impacting infrastructures.

In speaking with hundreds of customers and industry experts over the course of months, here are the top trends we see for 2026:

#1 Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure

Providing scalable, distributed infrastructure to support AI, from training to inference.

#2 Data Infrastructure and Observability

Building and managing distributed data and storage platforms for AI and cloud operations.

#3 Unified Cloud and AI Security

Integrating security platforms and intelligence—from cloud to the edge.

#4 Platform Engineering and IaC

Using telemetry, code, APIs, and AI to drive infrastructure automation.

Now, let's dive into each trend …

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Trend #1: Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure

Providing scalable infrastructure to support AI

AI remains the biggest game in town.

We believe this means that infrastructure will continue to grow more complicated and interconnected, spanning private enterprise infrastructure, public clouds, and edge devices. This has an impact on technology vendors as well as service providers.

This AI infrastructure for enterprises is taking shape on several fronts, including all aspects of compute, networking, and storage. Each of these areas is seeing a variety of innovations. AI is also wreaking havoc on traditional architectures, such as private infrastructure built on virtual machines. Kubernetes and other container-based systems are now operating systems for both compute and AI, so cloud-native architectures remain on the rise.

What does this mean for the infrastructure providers? If you are providing networking services, storage services, compute, whether via private infrastructure or the cloud, you need to be more flexible and be built on software-based architectures that can deliver performance and scalability in connecting to any type of infrastructure. And you need to do so in the most secure way possible (more on security on the Unified Cloud and AI Security section).

Futuriom identifies distributed AI Infrastructure as one of the foundational shifts reshaping enterprise IT and cloud architecture. At its core, this trend acknowledges that traditional centralized compute is insufficient for AI workloads, which demand vast amounts of data, low latency, high-throughput networking, and geographically distributed resources to serve training, inference, and real-time AI applications.

Key Themes:

Cloud services continue to grow explosively to provided distributed compute and storage for AI. AI workloads require data and compute colocated across clouds, edge, and private datacenters. Futuriom points to distributed object storage, GPU cloud, and multicloud networking as critical enablers of AI services. In this section, we're focused on networking for AI and hybrid cloud services.

Data growth, security, and portability. AI is of course about data. This means that data has become more important to organizations looking to guide their AI strategies. We'll talk more

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

about what AI means for storage and data in the Data Infrastructure and Observability section.

Networking for AI. AI is placing unique demands on networking and has contributed to a renaissance in networking, because advanced networking technologies are required for all aspects of supporting AI, ranging from high-performance interconnects linking GPU clusters to connecting GPU clouds to traditional enterprise and cloud networks, as well as to new services for connecting infrastructure across the wide area.

Shift toward hybrid and private AI infrastructure. While public cloud giants drive a significant share of AI services, organizations are rethinking deployment choices, including private clusters and "AI neoclouds" tailored to their needs. We will discuss this theme throughout all the sections of this report.

What AI Means for Cloud Services

There is no doubt that AI has transformed the cloud services market, as the major hyperscalers have had to quickly pivot and adjust their strategies to give customers access to new compute and data services to support AI (data and storage will be covered in the Data Infrastructure and Observability section).

In compute, GPUs are the essential building blocks of accelerated computing. They are often costly for any but the wealthiest companies to obtain, and supplies are scarce. A growing number of services offer enterprise customers a solution: access to GPUs and other AI infrastructure as a metered service. This has become known as GPU-as-a-Service, or also as the emergence of "neoclouds," but we prefer to call them GPU clouds.

CoreWeave, for instance, was a member of the Futuriom 50 last year before going public early in 2025. The company was a pioneer in shifting its business model from cryptocurrency mining operations to offering AI infrastructure services, which includes renting out processing power on NVIDIA GPUs (including the new NVIDIA Blackwell platform); AMD and Intel CPUs; and virtual and bare metal servers. CoreWeave, as well as other GPUs, were last fall covered in detail in our "AI Clouds, GPU Clouds, and Neoclouds in the Age of Inference" report.

Another current member of the Futuriom 50**, Lambda Labs**, provides a GPU cloud for machine learning, AI model training, fine-tuning, and inference from datacenters located throughout the U.S. Lambda also offers a line of GPU desktop workstations separately from its cloud services. GPU vendors such as Lambda Labs and others are rapidly increasing the services they offer. Lambda's recent announcements include a massive new multibillion-dollar deal with Microsoft to support AI

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

infrastructure, system developments based on NVIDIA's GB300, and $1.5 billion in Series E funding. We think that Lambda is well positioned as a diverse provider of storage, networking, and managed services, including Kubernetes services, as well as platform services for GenAI workloads.

A group of companies that we are calling "altscalers," or alternative clouds, are also bringing important services to the mix. **Vultr**, for example, is an established non-hyperscale public cloud that was also quick to embrace GPU clusters. Vultr uses performance as a lever for attracting business, but it also promises lower prices and simpler operations than in the hyperscale clouds. It can also help with thorny issues such as compliance and security. As Vultr points out, infrastructure teams want to see certifications from the likes of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and/or proof of adopting guidelines and frameworks from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

What AI Means for Networking

Building infrastructure for AI services is not a trivial game, especially in networking. It requires large investments and exquisite engineering to minimize latency and maximize connectivity. AI infrastructure makes traditional enterprise and cloud infrastructure look like child's play.

The implication for the networking industry is that new architectures are required to support the needs of AI clusters, which connect many GPUs together. This new market has become a focal point for many networking players, especially as Ethernet emerges as a technology rivaling InfiniBand, which has traditionally driven back-end networks for high-performance computing.

Traditional networks aren't up to the high volumes and computational complexity of AI training and inferencing. As a result, a range of players has rushed to fill the need for high performance and network intelligence. Ethernet has risen as a high-throughput alternative to InfiniBand. Hardware and software are increasingly disaggregated, as cloud-based solutions streamline AI workflows.

Companies in the Futuriom 50 are at the forefront of these trends. For example, **DriveNets** is a pioneer in disaggregated cloud networking based on Ethernet technology. It offers a cloud-native solution called Network Cloud that furnishes distributed telco-grade networking over a physical network of white-box hardware. The network supports data rates from 2.4 Tbit/s to 921 Tbit/s and supports both front- and back-end AI networks. By disaggregating hardware and software, DriveNets says it can reduce network costs while improving scalability and performance.

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Arrcus's ACE-AI platform deploys a software-defined Ethernet fabric to connect GPU clusters, servers, and storage, along with multicloud resources. ACE-AI is based on ArcOS, a network operating system that runs on multiple hardware platforms, including white-box hardware, and features open APIs and programmability. Support of RoCEv2 (Remote Direct Memory Access over Converged Ethernet version 2) and adaptive congestion control improve performance. Real-time telemetry and analytics ensure reliability and sustained throughput. Recent news from Arrcus includes a strategic partnership with Fujtisu as well an expansion of growth in its operations in India.

SONiC (Software for Open Networking in the Cloud) is another open and prevalent network technology making inroads as a means of economically addressing the need for faster networks. A number of Futuriom 50 companies have grown out of the SONiC ecosystem, building cost-effective networking tools based on open standards and cloud-native technologies such as SONiC and Kubernetes. For example, **Aviz Networks** offers a SONiC-based operating system that works with hardware from third-party suppliers. The company's approach is to provide flexible, open solutions that deliver operational control and substantial cost savings while delivering centralized configuration, monitoring, and automation. Support of RoCEv2 optimizes throughput between servers and GPUs in AI workloads.

AI infrastructure networking has exposed a critical gap: traditional networking approaches are manual, fragmented, and don't scale economically. **Netris** is addressing this with its NAAM (Network Automation, Abstraction, and Multi-Tenancy) platform. In the last 10 months, Netris added 15 NVIDIA Cloud Providers—representing 12% of the global NCP market. The platform enables AI operators to launch clouds in weeks, onboard tenants instantly, and dynamically provision workloads. Netris delivers native support for AI-specific infrastructure, including NVIDIA Spectrum-X, InfiniBand, NVLink, and DPUs, with hardware-level isolation that enables higher tenant density and better GPU economics. Customers span US-based GPU clouds (STN, Boost Run, TensorWave) and sovereign AI providers (TELUS, DCAI, YOTTA). Leading systems integrators and industry partners like HPE are integrating Netris into their AI infrastructure practice, streamlining the deployment of thousands of enterprise AI factories worldwide.

The Network NaaS Model Booms

The enormous growth of cloud services in concert with AI has also driven new demand for multicloud networking technologies that can be built in the cloud or even across clouds. Organizations may want to connect private infrastructure to the cloud or any number of clouds together, including those supplying AI services. Futuriom believes this expands the need for network-on-demand services that can be purchased in the cloud.

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Aviatrix is one of the multicloud networking and cloud security pioneers, having long had the vision of providing network and security practitioners with distributed networking and security services both across and inside of cloud services. Aviatrix provides a software-defined cloud networking and security platform that simplifies multicloud networking (AWS, Azure, GCP, OCI) by delivering advanced networking, visibility, and automation. It creates a consistent, secure data plane across public clouds, offering features like high-performance encryption, intelligent traffic routing, and network segmentation that native cloud providers often lack. In 2025, Aviatrix was honored with the inaugural Wiz Integrations (WIN) Partner award, enabling joint customers to benefit from automated network enforcement, reducing security remediation time to minutes.

Alkira provides a fully managed cloud-based NaaS that requires no hardware or software and supports high bandwidth, low latency, and rapid data throughput. By furnishing an entirely cloud-native and intelligent fabric, the vendor says it removes impediments that come with relying on colocation facilities, including limits to scalability and operational complexity. Alkira has added Model Context Protocol (MCP) support to its network, allowing LLMs to link to Alkira's control-plane functions, including REST API, portal, and Terraform management.

Graphiant provides a NaaS for WAN, multicloud, hybrid cloud, and AI workloads. It bases its services on a software-defined Graphiant Edge router/firewall that leverages x86 hardware. Graphiant Edge also runs in hypervisors or within clouds. Central to the vendor's architectural approach is a universal backbone to which enterprises attach as "edges," with all management and provisioning done through a cloud-based portal.

AIOps and Edge Needs

AI is also a factor automating networking itself, a trend known as AIOps. **Aviatrix**'s Cloud Network Security Platform-as-a-Service (Aviatrix PaaS) uses AI to configure, monitor, and manage its secured multicloud networking service. AI also assists with diagnostics and troubleshooting.

Itential is an important company providing a platform to aid network integration and Infrastructure as Code (IaC) support, which will be crucial to building more hybrid architectures to support AI. Itential supports MCP integration but monitors and checks input from LLMs and other systems for policy compliance. We'll also discuss Itential in the Platform Engineering and IaC section.

Networking startups are also focusing on using AI to streamline the network operations in enterprise and campus environments. **Nile**, for example, uses AI to manage its secure Nile Access Service, a NaaS that supports autonomous network design, deployment, and day-to-day management of wired and wireless connections. The network detects errors and uses AI to fix

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

them automatically. It features zero-trust security and a 99.95% performance guarantee.

Other vendors support AI infrastructure at the edge, which should enjoy a boost from AI as it drives data collection at the edge. **ClearBlade** offers IoT, edge AI, and connected digital twin software that is highly tailored to the building, transportation, and energy industries. ClearBlade's software connects with a wide range of devices, sensors, edge gear, clouds, and on-premises systems via multiple protocols.

Another vendor intent on using AI for edge networks is **ZEDEDA**, which has extended its edge orchestration and management system to support AI models at edge locations, including on edge devices used for traffic management, on medical equipment, on sensors in manufacturing environments, and integrated with video surveillance gear in retail environments.

Trend #2: Data Infrastructure and Observability

Building flexible and scalable data services to support AI and other enterprise applications

Enterprise AI feeds on corporate data. AI workflows demand that data be clear, free of errors, easily convertible to vectors or labeling for model deployment, and capable of rapid throughput to accelerated computing clusters for processing. Unless these criteria are met, AI workflows can fail to process effectively, not only creating errors in AI applications but snarling expensive GPU-based systems, resulting in costly lags and restarts.

Futuriom believes that cloud data management, distributed storage, and data processing pipelines are central to slowing data sprawl and enabling real-time insights. Distributed object stores, scalable databases, and data platforms that integrate analytics and AI workloads are experiencing rapid growth and receiving a lot of attention from investors. Many of these companies are looking to help deliver better data engineering, integration, and scalable transactional/analytic processing.

How AI Transforms Data Pipelines

The new market needs have spawned a shift among storage vendors, which are reworking—and in some instances rearchitecting—their products to meet the challenges of AI workloads.

Suppliers of storage for high-performance computing (HPC) have extended their wares to work specifically with GPU-based accelerated networks. **VAST Data** and **VDURA**, for example, began as

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

HPC storage suppliers and now support storage specifically designed to keep GPUs running at high throughput without interruption.

VAST Data offers what it terms an AI operating system based on a Disaggregated, Shared Everything (DASE) architecture that keeps stateless CPUs separate from storage, letting customers add CPUs as needed while storing data in a single pool of commodity flash SSD. According to VAST, this approach, along with comprehensive deduplication and compression of data, delivers consistent performance for any AI workload. **VDURA**, formerly Panasas, was a pioneer in parallel file systems, which feed GPUs through multiple channels simultaneously, thereby keeping throughput optimized. The vendor provides a single global namespace for data stored across multiple distributed SSD, HDD, cloud, and hybrid storage systems.

A key element of today's data platforms is support for unstructured data, or data that doesn't conform to a standardized format. This has given rise to object storage systems from **MinIO** and **Qumulo,** along with object storage services from **Wasabi.**

MinIO provides high-performance, hyper-scale object storage via its product AIStor, which features native Apache Iceberg support to unify structured and unstructured data. **Qumulo** is a database as-a-service company offering Azure Native Qumulo (ANQ), a file-based cloud storage system launched in April 2025 with Microsoft Azure. New additions to ANQ include Global Namespace (Q-GNS), a unified data plane for an organization's entire unstructured data, from edge to core and cloud. **Wasabi** offers a service based on object storage infrastructure in datacenters worldwide, which serves as an origin server for CDNs and an alternative to services from the public cloud hyperscalers due to reduced cost and added security features. The company claims 90,000 customers and tens of thousands of managed service provider (MSP) partners.

Other vendors orchestrate and manage object data for AI use. **Komprise** offers a Global File Index to manage unstructured object and file data regardless of the type of underlying storage and its location. The vendor's Komprise Smart Data Workflows lets customers tag and enrich data for use in AI or for isolation in secure storage. **Nasuni** prepares data for AI workflows by creating a single source of unlimited object-based file storage in a cloud environment. The vendor offers access controls, usage analytics, and intelligent edge caching for frequently accessed data. Nasuni also supports multi-site collaboration, global file synchronization, and global file locking to prevent multiple versions from confusing the data store.

Just as important are the platforms that manage data for use in a variety of storage systems. **Databricks** supports structured and unstructured data in its lakehouse architecture, which is also

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

equipped with Lakeflow Connect, a feature that provides access to AI models within Databricks. Since Databricks uses open-source Delta Lake technology with ACID guarantees, the AI models are served clean data with low latency. Databricks also supports a Unity Catalog to govern all data, files, tables, models, and vectorized data in the Lakehouse, including embeddings and indexes, which are generated within the Lakehouse. Governing includes access control and auditing of all data. Tools to build AI agents are also governed by the Unity Catalog.

Redpanda provides AI workflows with continuous, streaming live data—a key element in applications such as financial services. Its Apache Kafka-compatible system can be deployed on premises, in virtual private clouds, or on public clouds. It furnishes over 300 connectors to a variety of enterprise systems and applications and integrates streaming data via Apache Iceberg.

In summary, data platforms for AI cover a broad range of product types, and it's likely that enterprises will use more than one solution in constructing an AI pipeline, because one product doesn't seem to address every nuance of data preparation for AI.

Observability for Cloud and AI

There may be no more abused word in marketing jargon than observability, which can stretch across many different technology groups. But if we were to simplify, observability means using a wide range of technologies to collect infrastructure data, including device telemetry, logs, metrics, traces, and events across hybrid, multicloud stacks. This important data can be used to feed AIOps and orchestration engines to enable closed-loop processes to improve operations.

Of course, collecting telemetry isn't enough; tools need to correlate logs, metrics, traces, and events to provide automation and orchestration, and this is where practitioners often run into problems. Some observability tools are geared for specific environments (networking, cloud-native, or security), and different tools come with varying capabilities to deliver better automation and orchestration.

Overall, we see a shift in the market from merely providing "observability" or "visibility" to actually doing something with the data—automation and orchestration. And of course, all of these toolsets are implementing AI/ML to help deliver on this dream. The industry needs a shift from siloed monitoring toward unified observability stacks incorporating the following:

- AI-augmented insights and predictions
- Metrics/logs/events fusion using standards such as OpenTelemetry
- Integrated telemetry driving orchestration and remediation

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Observability infrastructure, data pipelines, and visibility tools are converging with AI—not just to store and analyze data but to drive intelligent automation and real-time operational decisions. Tech stacks that combine scalable data platforms with observability and AIOps are being positioned as the next generation of cloud operations.

We'll dive into the security aspects in more detail in the next section (Unified Cloud and AI Security), but this means that data and observability pipelines will become more intertwined with security tools. This was one of the trends that led Palo Alto Networks to announce its purchase of 2025 Futuriom 50 member **Chronosphere** for $3.35 billion.

Observability Drives AIOps for Networking

Networking infrastructure is growing in importance to enable applications in more complex hybrid environments. That is also boosting the need for observability tools to enable AIOps.

Network observability is a key building block to network automation. It can also use AI to correlate logs, traces, and metrics across all layers, enabling predictive operations and rapid anomaly detection. In this area, we have been watching some innovative startups mentioned by end users as providing new use cases for network observability and connecting this to automation. In one example of specialized tools, **NetBox** Cloud provides a programming interface to network functions such as IP address management, datacenter resources management, and other networking tasks. It also enables automated testing of new networking resources as well as monitoring. It's been embraced by large infrastructure operators such as GPU cloud **CoreWeave**. Previously mentioned NaaS and multicloud networking startup **Aviatrix** is also helping in this area by providing more fine-grained observability of network behavior across cloud environments.

Selector AI combines observability, AI, and root-cause analysis to deliver correlated, contextual insights across network, infrastructure, and application domains. Its purpose-built Network Language Model (NLM) and Copilot interface enable natural language interactions, event correlation, and integration with existing tools, reducing tools sprawl and accelerating resolution. Selector's platform integrates tightly with **Itential** to enable closed-loop automation through API-driven workflows that support policy enforcement and automated error correction.

Trend #3: Unified Cloud and AI Security

Security tools are exploding and AI is making it worse—practitioners are looking for ways to unify security tasks

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Of all the areas we cover, unified security is perhaps the most demanding and vexing for practitioners. Confronted with a daily onslaught of security risks, IT staff and cloud architects alike are charged with protecting their data and assets, whether that's cloud infrastructure or on-premises assets.

Cybersecurity vendors never met an acronym they didn't like. This can be seen in the onslaught of new categories and efforts by the largest companies to update their acronym file (SASE, SD-WAN, ZTNA, CASB, CNAPP, XDR, etc.). The end users want integrated platforms that ingest the most possible data at the lowest cost and then work together with analytics to deliver results with less alerts and screens.

This need is finally driving cybersecurity away from point tools to unified platforms powered by AI, identity, cloud integration, and real-time security operations. Traditional boundaries—such as network vs. endpoint vs. cloud—are blurring as attackers exploit integrated environments. This spans every domain from firewalls to security operations.

M&A Will Continue at a Feverish Pace

One prediction that's easy to make is that cybersecurity acquisitions will continue at a feverish pace. The largest players in the market, ranging from cloud hyperscalers to cybersecurity platform companies, have an ongoing hunger to acquire the latest and greatest tools. The rise of AI and agentic operations will only complicate that process, as these groups look to lock down user data, networks, and services.

AI is now central to cybersecurity automation, threat hunting, and detection. It will become a key tool for ingesting data from numerous services to drive platforms. Teams will use agentic AI for incident response, risk scoring, and automated playbooks.

One interesting trend is the rise of the hyperscalers as buyers of cybersecurity functionality. One of the largest deals in the Futuriom 50 list for 2025 was Google's $32 billion acquisition of Wiz, which is expected to close soon. This was Google's largest acquisition ever, focused on providing users with multicloud CNAPP protection, as well as automated risk detection. Google also acquired Siemplify in 2022, targeting security orchestration, automation, and response (SOAR).

Microsoft has been busy as well. Some of its acquisitions include CloudKnox Security and RiskIQ (threat intelligence). Microsoft's acquisitions have been more incremental and focused on embedding identity, entitlement, and surface intelligence into Azure Defender and Microsoft Sentinel (SIEM/XDR) capabilities.

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Here are more recent acquisitions of note in the cybersecurity market:

- **Palo Alto Networks** acquired **CyberArk** ($25B). This deal was focused on bringing identity and privileged access management (PAM) into Palo's platform to address modern Zero Trust and identity threats.
- **Cisco** in 2024 completed its $28B acquisition of **Splunk**, expanding SIEM/observability capabilities in its networking and security portfolio.
- **F5** in 2025 acquired Dublin-based AI security **CalypsoAI** for $180 million. This adds AI guardrails and data leak protection for AI inference. F5 also made some smaller acquisitions, including Fletch and LeakSignal.
- **SentinelOne** in 2025 acquired **Prompt Security** ($180M) and **Observo AI**, looking to expand its AI security stack into runtime AI protection and high-performance telemetry for autonomous detection and SIEM.
- **Zscaler** in August 2025 completed the acquisition of **Red Canary** ($675M), strengthening its managed detection and response and agentic AI automation.

These acquisitions show that the major players are scrambling to stay ahead of the game by providing more cybersecurity features as they head toward building more cohesive cybersecurity platforms. The largest companies want to own security workflows from identity to response.

SASE Is Maturing

One of the major cybersecurity growth markets in recent years has been SASE. The SASE wave has been going on for more than a decade, rolling up features in the networking security space. Leaders in the public markets include **Cisco**, **Palo Alto Networks**, and **Zscaler**.

SASE was propelled by end users looking for more affordable networks leveraging multiple connectivity options (Internet, wireless, etc.), as well as more simplicity in deploying WAN and cybersecurity services. SASE now integrates security with connectivity to provide a wide range of security functions from ZTNA to secure web gateway (SWG), firewall-as-a-service (FWaaS), and much more. It's also been subject to acronym-washing, including the Secure Service Edge (SSE) concept, which we just see as an alternative architecture to SASE.

To summarize, SASE is part of the trend to build software-defined, AI-augmented, and cloud-native security rather than just another network box. Vendors like **Palo Alto** are using SASE approaches to integrate firewall policy into broader SASE/SSE stacks.

Many companies in the Futuriom 50 provide new SASE services that can be more easily consumed

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

by enterprises from the cloud or in a NaaS model. **Cato Networks** is focusing on the enterprise mid-market, delivering network and cloud security through a worldwide network to connect and secure distributed branch locations, cloud instances, and mobile users. Security functions include FWaaS, SWG, intrusion prevention system (IPS), next-generation anti-malware, DNS security, XDR, and remote browser isolation (RBI). Cato has seen strong growth in the enterprise midmarket. Its direct competitors include **Palo Alto** and **Zscaler**. However, the recent IPO of **Netskope**, which has lost more than 50% of its value and is a likely Wall St. comparison to Cato, may put a damper on near-term IPO exits.

Alkira leverages cloud networking to enable customers to build a secure, global network in minutes. We were recently involved in several interesting case studies with Alkira, including a global financial company that was able to build its entire global network on Alkira's Network Infrastructure-as-a-Service (NIaaS). Alkira provides a cloud-hosted network fabric that enables enterprises to program connectivity, routing, segmentation, and security policies across multicloud and hybrid environments from a centralized control plane.

Aryaka is a provider of converged network and network security delivered as a service in over 100 countries. Lately, it has been further evolving the unified power of both a private network as well as a SASE platform to help large organizations lock down their security in the age of AI, wrapping this strategy around unified SASE-as-a-service. By owning its own network assets, Aryaka has the additional flexibility of offering layer 2 or layer 3 network services integrated with security functions. Aryaka operates more than 30 PoPs worldwide.

Versa Networks has adhered to a long-term strategy of unifying security using both cloud and on-prem tools. It can deliver integrated security at the edge as well as its own network of cloud PoPs. Versa's functions combine SD-WAN, ZTNA, SWG, CASB, FWaaS, advanced threat protection (ATP), RBI, and user and entity behavior analytics (UEBA). The company deploys artificial intelligence and machine learning throughout its network. All these security functions run using its Versa Operating System (VOS), whether that's on-premises or in the cloud, positioning Versa as one of the few network security companies with a unified platform across both cloud and traditional infrastructure.

As the SASE integration wave takes hold, it's clear that the architecture has evolved to move deeper into the cloud space. Futuriom expects SASE functionality to expand to include multicloud networking, which focuses on how networks are connected to multiple clouds, including managing traffic inside the cloud. The idea is that if multicloud networking solutions can manage and examine traffic and packets, they can provide security. We discussed this trend earlier in the report

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

as NaaS and NIaaS become legitimate ways for enterprises to build secure global networks on demand.

Cisco's purchase of **Isovalent** has raised the visibility of using open-source Cilium and eBPF projects to secure cloud-native networking. **Tigera** provides secure networking and comprehensive protection for containers and Kubernetes to detect and mitigate breaches. Tigera says that its open-source offering, Calico Open Source, is the most widely adopted container networking and security solution, powering more than 100 million containers across 8M+ nodes in 166 countries.

In another example of this, cloud networking provider **Aviatrix** provides a Distributed Cloud Firewall with a centralized, programmable interface that can implement policies in multicloud environments. It packs a network address translation (NAT) gateway, egress controls, microsegmentation (dividing a network into distinct segments with separate security policies), and security groups.

SIEMs Converge Everywhere, Including XDR

Enterprises also must defend endpoint devices and provide detection and response. This is often defined as the XDR category, which has proven a huge growth market for public market leaders **CrowdStrike** and **SentinelOne**. Ideally, these security platforms absorb data into a SIEM (Security Information and Event Management) database and employ AI and ML to deliver EDR or XDR.

One of the key trends over the past few years is the closer relationship between SIEMs (or so-called "Next-gen SIEMs") and XDR as well as other cybersecurity tools. Acquisitions by Cisco, CrowdStrike, Zscaler, and SentinelOne show SIEMs are seen as strategic assets for delivering a better platform, with an integrated workflow. There is an industry-wide push toward automated, AI-augmented XDR rather than siloed detection products.

Longtime F50 member **Stellar Cyber** recently pointed out to us in an interview that many cybersecurity platform companies are struggling with integrating SIEM and other data pipelines into their platforms. They also face business challenges when they attempt to charge for discrete services. Customers want an economical solution that simply reduces the mean time to discovery. **Stellar Cyber** delivers a Security Operations Platform, including next-generation SIEM (NG-SIEM) and network detection and response (NDR). It is powered by Open XDR, meaning it easily connects to third-party data feeds from systems such as MITRE and Splunk. Stellar targets multiple security areas, including SIEM, NDR, and UEBA, and it can unify security alerts, logs, and telemetry from any source and then apply AI-driven threat analytics. Stellar customers have told us how the platform empowers lean security teams of any skill level to successfully secure their environments.

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Identity and Zero Trust Strategies Grow

Spurred by the increase in AI usage and machine-generated traffic, identity is becoming the new perimeter. Zero trust, identity risk, and continuous authentication increasingly replace static firewall fences. Identity breaches are now often the first step in an attack.

Locking down cloud-native apps is crucial, but it's also become more complicated. With the recent rise of Kubernetes and AI, that's only going to become more demanding.

F50 company **Teleport** is focused on ways to lock down access privileges to cloud resources, enabling cryptographic identity and zero trust with better ease of use. It allows any engineer or machine to securely connect to any infrastructure resource—Windows servers, Kubernetes clusters, databases, and DevOps environments—without the need for a VPN. The company says it ensures that every connection is encrypted and authenticated. Teleport recently launched Teleport Agentic Identity Framework, a platform that helps enterprises build a unified identity security layer for both human and machine credentials.

Elisity's flexible, modern approach to network segmentation and zero trust is gaining traction in enterprises because it provides the widest amount of policy-based device coverage in the shortest amount of time. Elisity says that microsegmentation reduces the blast radius of ransomware, malware, and active attackers—potentially preventing lateral movement risk by up to 85%. Elisity discovers all devices, compiles them into its IdentityGraph, and provides the context to automate classification and apply dynamic, identity-based policies. These granular controls are managed in the cloud and enforced through existing network infrastructure. The company recently announced that it closed a record year of business and has secured new investment from prior investors.

Building Data Security and Cyber Resilience

Finally, let's not forget about data security and cyber resilience. AI technology is also in the hands of the bad guys, who are using it to launch advanced threats, including techniques such as intermittent encryption, which can stealthily lock down your data in a ransomware attack. Organizational leaders are adjusting their approach to cybersecurity and cyber resiliency to address the inevitability of cyber attacks.

Index Engines has pioneered the area of cyber resiliency, which aims to protect and secure data. Its tools help organizations protect their data and ensure rapid recovery in the case of an attack,

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

especially in cases involving ransomware. It's AI-driven CyberSense technology claims a 99.9% precision in detecting ransomware. It's a perennial top winner of leading awards, including the Global Infosec Awards. Index Engines is helping move the industry from a prevention-only mindset to a recovery-first posture that requires using advanced technology to track and control data integrity, including detecting hidden corruption at the content level, reflecting how attackers are now using advanced technology to hide their tracks.

Trend #4: Platform Engineering and IaC

The growth of hybrid platforms and applications means users need a more automated way to connect infrastructure

We've talked about the competing silos of technology to build infrastructure. You have networking, storage, and compute silos. There's also DevOps, security, and cloud engineering teams. These silos aren't always on the same page, and sometimes they use different sets of technology that aren't integrated. Talk to any networking practitioner and they might have a different view of the world than the security department or cloud engineers.

The proliferation of data, the rise of AI, and the complexities inherent in distributed, hybrid cloud networking are highlighting the challenges of having technology management silos. This is where the practice of platform engineering comes in. The main thrust of platform engineering is to provide a management layer that can help unify and integrate the silos.

As we covered in our observability section, let's review some of the top new challenges for managing infrastructure in the hybrid cloud era. They include the following:

• Increased need for data observability and compliance, including feeding analytics tools that can drive infrastructure automation.

• The need for interoperability across platforms and IT domains—resulting in hybrid platforms that can interact across on-premises and cloud environments.

• The requirement for observability data, APIs, and automation platforms to drive automation.

Platform engineering and IaC can help with each of these areas. Traditionally, the sector has distinct groups, such as internal developer platforms (IDPs) focused on development versus IaC tools more focused on infrastructure. Automation and orchestration platforms will be needed to coordinate systems, while providing management with control and governance. A patchwork of

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

scripting and infrastructure tools no longer suffices to drive automation across infrastructure.

Platform and IaC Tools Are Evolving Quickly

Platform engineering is maturing to help provide automated platforms for deploying, monitoring, and operating infrastructure. This can be helpful by limiting choices and streamlining infrastructure and compliance. This also enables organizations to deliver standardized, self-service tools to DevOps and business teams, reducing operational friction.

At the same time, typical IaC tools are evolving into broader platforms that merge DevOps management and cloud infrastructure automation.

Pulumi is an IaC platform that can help compile code (Python, Go, TypeScript) into a declarative desired state, which the engine then reconciles against cloud APIs. It can be used to track resources, enabling drift detection, dependency management, and lifecycle operations to deliver a unified platform to run DevOps and infrastructure in the cloud. It delivers productive automation, automatic security, and intelligent management across hundreds of clouds.

Spacelift is an infrastructure orchestration platform that manages the entire infrastructure lifecycle —provisioning, configuration, and governance. Spacelift helps integrate a wide variety of IaC tooling already available (e.g., Terraform, OpenTofu, Kubernetes, CloudFormation, Pulumi, Ansible) to provide a single integrated workflow. By automating deployment and configuration, providing developer self-service, golden paths with guardrails, and an OPA policy engine, Spacelift helps platform engineers maintain control and governance over their infrastructure, while giving developers the tools to accelerate application and service velocity.

Platform Tools Geared Toward Development

There also are new platform tools designed to make life easier for developers by abstracting infrastructure and automating repetitive tasks. **Render** offers a cloud platform for application development teams looking to quickly build and scale applications and websites with a global CDN, DDoS protection, preview environments, private networking, and auto deploys from Git.

Kong helps developers and software product owners to create portals to APIs, manage them, and adjust for scaling. Some of the popular features deployed through Kong include authentication of services for protection and traffic control to restrict inbound and outbound API traffic. **EngFlow**

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

distributes builds and tests across a cluster of machines to help developers test builds, share results with others for debugging, review historical data to discover trends, and analyze code runs to optimize builds and tests.

Resolve.ai automates away the drudgery of what developers and on-call engineers need to deal with every day. The company produces AI tools that automate production engineering by autonomously troubleshooting and resolving production issues and handling operational tasks, dramatically reducing MTTR and freeing up engineers to focus on building. By combining a deep understanding of code and production environments with state-of-the-art agentic AI, Resolve.ai aims to accelerate how engineers build, deploy, and maintain real-world software systems.

Managing Cloud Costs Remains Key

Although it may not be considered a core part of platform engineering, cloud cost management and Kubernetes is a key part of DevOps.

To cover just a few examples: **CAST AI** uses an AI engine to manage cloud costs, targeting and implementing ways to reduce costs of cloud services in all the major hyperscaler networks.

ProsperOps is an automated FinOps platform that uses AI to optimize cloud costs (AWS, Azure, and Google Cloud) by autonomously managing compute commitment discounts. It continuously adjusts, purchases, and sells reservations/savings plans in real time to maximize savings, reduce waste, and minimize financial risk without manual effort. Key features include Autonomous Discount Management (ADM), multicloud support, and effective savings rate.

Vantage focuses on a better experience for managing and optimizing cloud costs. The Vantage team is comprised of professionals with experience in scaling previous companies like AWS, DigitalOcean, Stripe, MongoDB, GitHub, and Cloudflare. From their combined experiences of leading cloud infrastructure teams, the team is focused on applying simplicity to managing cloud infrastructure bills. Functions include reserve instances (RI) management, cost recommendations, and management of savings plans. Users can also allocate Kubernetes cost by service, namespace, and label, as well as identify pod waste and optimize clusters.

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Alkira

https://www.alkira.com

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure

Alkira delivers Network Infrastructure-as-a-Service, unifying on-prem, cloud, edge, and business partners into a single global fabric consumed entirely as a service. With no hardware to deploy and no agents to install, Alkira provides instant, scalable connectivity with built-in segmentation, zero-trust security, and AI-assisted operations. Enterprises use Alkira to modernize networks, accelerate M&A integration, enable secure extranet connectivity, and prepare for hyper-distributed AI workloads. Alkira's cloud-delivered fabric offers unmatched agility, policy consistency, and global performance—empowering organizations to operate networks at the speed of business and deliver resilient, compliant, AI-ready infrastructure without complexity.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2018	Series C	$184 million	Amir Khan	Kleiner Perkins, Tiger Global, Sequoia Capital, GV, Dallas Venture Capital, Geodesic Capital

Founders	Employees
Amir and Atif Khan	180 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Arcee.AI

https://www.arcee.ai/

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure

Arcee's vision is based on the belief that only SLMs can offer the domain-specificity, efficiency, scalability, and security that enterprises need for generative AI. The flagship product, Arcee Orchestra, takes SLMs to their full potential: leveraging them to work together in an easy-to-use platform for implementing custom agentic AI workflows. With Arcee Orchestra, you can do more than get answers from your AI strategy; you can get business actions and outcomes that will dramatically boost your teams' productivity and efficiency.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2023	Series A	$30 million	Mark McQuade	Emergence Capital, Long Journey Ventures, Flybridge, Centre Street Partners, Arcadia Capital, and Scott Banister

Founders	Employees
Mark McQuade (CEO), Jacob Solawetz (CTO), and Brian Benedict (CRO)	52 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Arrcus

https://www.arrcus.com

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure

Arrcus is a leading provider of networking software solutions that empower businesses to achieve unparalleled scalability, performance, and reliability in their infrastructure. Arrcus is disrupting the industry with disaggregated solutions that deliver innovative, agile, and cost-effective networking, allowing enterprises to break free from traditional, monolithic systems and embrace a more flexible, efficient, and scalable approach to modern networking. The Arrcus team consists of world-class technologists who have an unparalleled record in shipping industry-leading networking products, complemented by industry thought leaders, operating executives, strategic partners, and top-tier VCs. The company is headquartered in San Jose, Calif.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2016	Series E	$200+ million	Shekar Ayyar	NVIDIA, Prosperity7, Hitachi Ventures, Liberty Global, Clear Ventures, Lightspeed

Founders	Employees
Devesh Garg, Keyur Patel, Derek Yeung	160 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Aryaka Networks

https://www.aryaka.com

Unified Cloud and AI Security

Aryaka is a leader in delivering Unified SASE as a Service, a fully integrated solution combining networking, security, and observability. Built for the demands of Generative AI as well as today's multi-cloud hybrid world, Aryaka enables enterprises to transform their secure networking to deliver uncompromised performance, agility, simplicity, and security. Aryaka's flexible delivery options empower businesses to choose their preferred approach for implementation and management. Hundreds of global enterprises, including several in the Fortune 100, depend on Aryaka for their secure networking solutions.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2009	Series F	$200+ million	Darin McAreavey (interim)	Nexus, Venture Partners, Third Point, Trinity Ventures, DTCP, Goldman Sachs, Interwest Partners

Founders	Employees
Ajit Gupta, Rajeev Bharadhwaj, Ashwath Nagaraj	600 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Aviatrix

https://www.aviatrix.com

Unified Cloud and AI Security, Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure

Aviatrix is the cloud networking platform. The company says it's on a mission to make cloud networking simple so companies stay agile. Trusted by more than 500 of the world's leading enterprises, the Aviatrix cloud networking platform creates the visibility, security, and control needed to adapt with ease and move ahead at speed. Combined with the Aviatrix Certified Engineer (ACE) Program, the industry's leading multicloud networking and security certification, Aviatrix empowers the cloud networking community to stay at the forefront of digital transformation.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2014	Series E	$341 million	Doug Merritt	CRV, Ignition Partners, Formation 8, General Catalyst, TCV

Founders	Employees
Sheri Wei	490 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Aviz Networks

https://aviznetworks.com/

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure

On a mission to deliver networks for AI and AI for networks, Aviz Networks was founded to modernize and transform the networking software solutions, addressing the evolving demands of data centers, edge, and GPU networks as they scale and integrate AI. By providing vendor-agnostic Community SONiC solutions, data first network visibility, and AI-Agent driven Network Copilot, Aviz empowers enterprises with the flexibility of hardware choices, operational control, and significant cost savings.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2019	Seed	$31 million	Vishal Shukla	Moment Ventures, Cisco

Founders	Employees
Vishal Shukla (CEO), Chid Perumal (CTO), Gautam Agrawal (CPO)	84 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

CAST AI

https://www.cast.ai

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure

Cast AI is the leading Kubernetes automation platform that cuts AWS, Azure, and GCP customers' cloud costs. Cast AI goes beyond monitoring clusters and making recommendations. The platform utilizes advanced machine learning algorithms to analyze and automatically optimize clusters in real time, reducing cloud costs, enhancing security, and boosting DevOps and engineering efficiency.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2019	Series c	$272+ million	Yuri Frayman	Cota Capital, Creandum, Vintage Investment Partners, Uncorrelated Ventures

Founders	Employees
Yuri Frayman, Leon Kuperman, Laurent Gil	224 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Cato Networks

https://www.catonetworks.com

Unified Cloud and AI Security

Cato is a leading single-vendor SASE platform. Cato creates a seamless and elegant customer experience that enables threat prevention, data protection, and timely incident detection and response. Using Cato, businesses replace costly and rigid legacy infrastructure with an open and modular SASE architecture based on SD-WAN, a purpose-built global cloud network, and an embedded cloud-native security stack to secure and optimize their global hybrid workforce and mission-critical applications and data on premises and in the cloud. Customers include AFI Properties, Alewijnse, Brake Masters, C3 Technology Advisors, Fiskars Group, and Fullerton Health.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2015	Series G	$1+ billion	Shlomo Kramer	Adams Street Partners, Acrew Capital, Greylock Partners, Lightspeed Venture Partners, SoftBank Vision Fund, U.S. Venture Partners

Founders	Employees
Gur Shatz, Shlomo Kramer	1,170 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

ClearBlade

https://www.clearblade.com/

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure

As a leader in Edge AI, IoT, and digital twin software, ClearBlade connects physical assets to actionable intelligence with security, reliability, and scale. Organizations worldwide trust the ClearBlade platform to power mission-critical operations across industries, enabling faster deployments in under 30 days, lower costs, and smarter outcomes.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2007	N/A	$30 million	Eric Simone	Align Capital, Capital Factory, Purdue Ventures, Eric Simone, John Padilla, Jim Schneider

Founders	Employees
Eric Simone, Aaron Allsbrook	39 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Cockroach Labs

https://www.cockroachlabs.com

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure, Data Infrastructure and Observability

Cockroach offers an open-source, cloud-native, distributed SQL database named CockroachDB delivered as a managed cloud service, as a service within a public cloud, or on-premises or within a private cloud. CockroachDB's distributed architecture ensures continuity in case of outage—regardless of where the failure occurs. CockroackDB incorporates a vector search function for AI workloads and supports semantic search, NLP, and LLMs. Customers include Adobe, Booking.com, Bose, CoreWeave, Hard Rock Digital, Home Debot, Netflix, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Cockroach has partnerships with AWS, Google Cloud Platform, Microsoft Azure, IBM, PwC UK, among others.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2015	Series F	$633 million	Spencer Kimball	Altimeter, BOND, Benchmark, Firstmark, Coatue, GV, Tiger Global Management, Index Ventures, Lone Pine Capital, J.P. Morgan, Greenoaks Capital, Redpoint, Work-Bench, Sequoia, IBM, AWS

Founders	Employees
Peter Mattis, Spencer Kimball, Ben Darnell	719 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Databricks

https://www.databricks.com

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure, Data Infrastructure and Observability

Databricks offers a Data Intelligence Platform built on an open-source foundation built by the creators of Apache Spark, Delta Lake, MLflow, and Unity Catalog. Functionality is supported by a lakehouse architecture, which provides a unified approach to building, deploying, sharing, and maintaining enterprise-grade data, analytics, and AI solutions at scale. Databricks has over 20,000 customers, including AstraZeneca, Block, Comcast, Condé Nast, Rivian, Shell and over 60% of the Fortune 500.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2013	Series L	Over $18 billion	Ali Ghodsi	J.P. Morgan Asset Management, Meta, QIA, Thrive Capital, DST Global, Insight Partners, WCM Investment Management, Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, ICONIQ Growth, MGX, Sands Capital, Wellington Management, Counterpoint Global, Baillie Gifford, Clearbridge, Andreessen Horowitz, CPP Investments, BlackRock, Coatue, Fidelity

Founders	Employees
Ali Ghodsi, Ion Stoica, Matei Zaharia, Patrick Wendell, Reynold Xin, Andy Konwinski, Arsalan Tavakoli-Shiraji	14,306 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

DriveNets

https://www.drivenets.com

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure

DriveNets is a leader in high-scale networking solutions for AI infrastructures and service providers. The company created a radical new way to build networks that substantially improves the network's economic model and optimizes network performance, utilization, and efficiency. DriveNets-based networks power global leaders such as AT&T and Comcast, supporting more than 30% of overall US Internet traffic. DriveNets' Network Cloud-AI, which was introduced to the market in 2023, offers full-stack networking for AI infrastructures, delivering the highest-performance Ethernet alternative to InfiniBand. The solution is used by Hyperscalers, NeoClouds, and Enterprises worldwide.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2015	Series C	$587 million	Ido Susan	D2 , Bessemer Venture Partners, Pitango, D1 Capital, Atreides Management, and Harel Insurance Investments & Financial Services.

Founders	Employees
Ido Susan (CEO), Hillel Kobrinsky	507 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Eclypsium

https://eclypsium.com/

Unified Cloud and AI Security

Eclypsium establishes trust in every endpoint, server and network appliance in enterprise infrastructure (IT, cloud, data centers, network) by identifying, verifying and fortifying 3rd-party software, firmware and hardware in every device. Eclypsium helps enterprises and government agencies mitigate risks to their infrastructure from complex technology supply chains. With Eclypsium's AI-powered platform, organizations can validate IT components, detect hidden threats, and respond quickly with automated updates. Eclypsium has been named a SINET16 Innovator, a TAG Cyber Distinguished Vendor, and an RSAC Innovation Sandbox finalist. It's also now a member of the Futuriom 50.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2017	Series B	$100 million	Yuriy Bulygin (CEO) and Alex Bazhaniuk (CTO)	Andreessen Horowitz, Alumni Ventures, AV8 Ventures, Intel Capital, Madrona Venture Group, Mindset Ventures, Oregon Venture Fund (OVF), Translink Capital, and Ubiquity Ventures
Founders			**Employees**	
Yuriy Bulygin			108 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*	

Elisity

https://www.elisity.com

Unified Cloud and AI Security

Elisity is a leap forward in network segmentation, enabling Zero Trust maturity in weeks, not years. The platform discovers every user, workload, and device, correlating insights into the Elisity IdentityGraph. Elisity proactively prevents threats, reduces complexity, and supports ephemeral IT/IoT/OT devices. Teams create policies that control access through automated, identity-based policies, managed in the cloud and enforced via existing infrastructure—without downtime, hardware, or agents. Founded in 2019, Elisity has a global workforce and growing Fortune 500 customers.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2018	Series A	$72 million	James Winebrenner	Insight Partners, Atlantic Bridge Capital, AllegisCyber Capital, Two Bear Capital
Founders			**Employees**	
Burjiz Pithawala, Sundher Narayan, Srinivas Sardar.			99 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*	

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

EngFlow

https://www.engflow.com/

Platform Engineering and IaC

Software developers typically build source code and run tests on their local machines. EngFlow Remote Execution distributes builds and tests across a cluster of machines and remotely caches the results to make them faster. Engflow's build and testing tools help developers test builds, share results with others for debugging, review historical data to discover trends, and analyze code runs to optimize builds and tests. Engflow also helps developers analyze their Bazel profiles and gain insights to optimize their builds and tests. Customers and case studies include Brave, Blue River Technology, BMW, Envoy Mobile, Viasat.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2020	Series A	$22 million	Helen Altshuler	Andreessen Horowitz, Firstminute Capital, Tiger Global

Founders	Employees
Helen Altshuler (CEO), Ulf Adams (CTO)	30 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Exaforce

https://www.exaforce.com/

Unified Cloud and AI Security

Exaforce provides an AI-powered Security Operations Center (SOC) platform designed to automate the full threat detection and response lifecycle, specifically for cloud-native environments. It utilizes "Exabots"—task-specific, multi-model AI agents—to ingest data, analyze behavior, and act on threats at machine speed. Exaforce says it reduces false positives and accelerates investigations by providing deep, contextual insights across cloud, SaaS, and identity systems. The platform, which can be deployed as SaaS or Managed Detection and Response (MDR), enables organizations to scale security operations without increasing headcount.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2023	Series A	$138 million	Ankur Singla	Khosla Ventures, Mayfield Fund, Thomvest Ventures

Founders	Employees
Ankur Singla (CEO), Devesh MIttal, Ariful Huq, Jakub Pavlik, Marco Rodrigues	110 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Fivetran

https://www.fivetran.com/

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure, Data Infrastructure and Observability

Fivetran offers data integration that enables enterprises to accelerate cloud migration and power AI and ML workloads to drive innovation. The Fivetran platform reliably and securely centralizes data from hundreds of SaaS applications and databases to destinations on-premises, in the cloud, or in a hybrid environment. Over 10,000 global brands, including OpenAI, LVMH, Pfizer, Verizon, and Spotify trust Fivetran to move their most valuable data assets to fuel analytics, drive operational efficiencies and grow their businesses.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2012	Series D	$850 million+	George Fraser	a16z, General Catalyst, Matrix, CEAS Investments, Iconiq Capital, Andreessen Horowitz, D1 Capital Partners, YC Continuity

Founders	Employees
George Fraser, Taylor Brown, Tristan Handy	1,736 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Fortanix

https://www.fortanix.com

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure, Unified Cloud and AI Security

Fortanix is a global leader in data-first cybersecurity and a pioneer of Confidential Computing. Its unified platform secures sensitive data across on-premises and multi-cloud environments—at rest, in transit, and in use—through advanced encryption and key management. Fortanix enables users to run applications and AI workloads entirely within secure hardware enclaves—isolated, tamper proof environments. As enterprises build modern AI factories, Fortanix provides the confidential AI foundation that protects data, models, and pipelines throughout the full AI lifecycle. This innovative approach, an industry standard known as Confidential Computing, has been supported by leading technology companies, including Intel, Microsoft, and NVIDIA.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2016	Series C	$122 million	Ambuj Kumar	Goldman Sachs, Foundation Capital, Neotribe Ventures, Intel Capital, In-Q-Tel, GiantLeap Capital

Founders	Employees
Ambuj Kumar, Anand Kashyap	213 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Grafana Labs

https://grafana.com

Data Infrastructure and Observability, Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure

Grafana offers an open-source observability platform that creates visualizations of metrics, logs, and traces across IT infrastructure, including servers, databases, Kubernetes, and applications, all in a fully managed Grafana Cloud. The platform creates graphical representations of telemetry and operational data and lets users set up rules for alerts. The software uses AI agents to interpret data and analyze issues. Grafana claims over 25 million users and 7,000+ customers – including Anthropic, Bloomberg, NVIDIA, Microsoft, and Salesforce.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2014	Series D	Over $800 million	Raj Dutt	Lightspeed Venture Partners, Sequoia Capital, GIC, Coatue, J.P. Morgan, CapitalG, Lead Edge Capital

Founders	Employees
Raj Dutt, Torkel Ödegaard, Anthony Woods	1,782 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Graphiant

https://graphiant.com/

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure, Unified Cloud and AI Security

Graphiant is a Silicon Valley-based provider of a private, next-generation Network-as-a-Service (NaaS). Graphiant delivers secure, sovereign, and AI-ready connectivity services that combine real-time data security, governance, and performance. Founded in 2020, Graphiant is building the next generation of sovereign network infrastructure worldwide.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2020	Series B	$115 million	Ali Shaikh	Sequoia Capital, Two Bear Capital, IAG Capital, Saudi Aramco (Wa'ed Ventures), and STC (TALI Ventures)

Founders	Employees
Khalid Raza (Chief Strategy Officer)	79 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Index Engines

https://www.indexengines.com/

Unified Cloud and AI Security

Index Engines is the leader in Cyber Resiliency, ensuring trusted, reliable data. The company's flagship solution, CyberSense, delivers a 99.99% SLA for detecting ransomware corruption, empowering organizations to mitigate risks and recover quickly. It helps businesses navigate cyber threats with confidence, fostering resilience, innovation, and trust. With unmatched data insight, Index Engines enables companies to survive and thrive in an evolving threat landscape.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2004	Private	Private (self funded)	Tim Williams	Self funded

Founders	Employees
Tim Williams (CEO)	160 (company source) *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Itential

https://www.itential.com

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure

Itential is the platform for agentic infrastructure operations, orchestrating agents, APIs, and governance for safe, scalable automation across hybrid cloud and network environments. Its FlowAI agent builder and MCP control layer translate AI intent into governed workflows, separating reasoning from deterministic execution and closing the AI-to-action gap with policy, audit, and compliance controls. This approach lets teams safely build, connect, and run intelligent agents alongside traditional automation, turning complex AI insights into secure, auditable infrastructure outcomes. Itential's agentic orchestration brings adaptive intelligence into real operations with enterprise guardrails and cross-domain execution.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2014	Series B	$25.5 million	Ian Bresnahan	Elsewhere Partners

Founders	Employees
Ian Bresnahan, Chris Wade	200 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Komprise

https://www.komprise.com/

Data Infrastructure and Observability, Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure

Komprise Intelligent Data Management delivers a single platform to easily analyze, migrate, transparently tier and manage the lifecycle of petabytes of file and object data across hybrid environments. With Komprise, enterprise IT gains full visibility across silos to optimize storage, backup, ransomware and cloud costs. Komprise Smart Data Workflows and the Komprise Global File Index unlock unstructured data insights and access for AI.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2014	Series D	$85 million	Kumar K. Goswami	Canaan Partners, Celesta Capital, Multiplier Capital, Top Tier Ventures

Founders	Employees
Kumar Goswami, Krishna Subramanian, Mike Peercy	176 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Kong

https://konghq.com/

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure, Data Infrastructure and Observability

Kong provides a cloud-native API platform designed to help create better ways to manage and connect with APIs. Kong is used by developers and software product owners to create portals to APIs, manage them and adjust for scaling. Some of the popular features deployed through Kong include authentication on services for protection and traffic control to restrict inbound and outbound API traffic. This helps customers trust that their APIs are secure. Products include Kong Konnect, for API management; Kong Connect for service mesh; and Kong Insomnia, for designing and testing APIs. Customers include Nasdaq, Cargill, GSK, Moderna, Verifone, Vestas, and Wayfair.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2007	Series D	$160 million	Augusto Marietti	Andreessen Horowitz, CRV, GGV, Goldman Sachs, Index Ventures, Tiger Global Management

Founders	Employees
Augusto Marietti (CEO), Marco Palladino (CTO)	700 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Lambda

https://lambda.ai

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure

Lambda provides GPU-dense AI factories and cloud supercomputers for machine learning, AI model training, fine-tuning, and inference from datacenters located throughout the U.S. Headquartered in San Francisco, the company bases its cloud services on NVIDIA GPUs. Lambda services are compatible with AWS, Microsoft Azure, Google Cloud, and Oracle OCI. Lambda offers Lambda Stack for developers, a curated set of software packages for Ubuntu that are widely used in machine learning and deep learning. Lambda customers include Pika, Iambic Therapeutics, and Genesis Therapeutics.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2012	Series E	Approximately $2.3 billion	Stephen Balaban	TWG Global, Gradient Ventures, 1517, Mercato Partners, USIT, SK Telecom, T. Rowe Price Associates, Bloomberg Beta, Georges Harik, Crescent Cove

Founders	Employees
Stephen Balaban, Michael Balaban, Robert Brook IV	718 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

MinIO

https://min.io

Data Infrastructure and Observability, Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure

MinIO provides high-performance, hyper-scale object storage. The company's commercial offering, AIStor, is built for the exascale data infrastructure challenges presented by modern AI workloads. AIStor features native Apache Iceberg support to unify structured and unstructured data. MinIO is deployed by AT&T, Broadcom, Comcast, Palantir, PNB Parabas, the U.S. Air Force, and Verizon, among many others.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2014	Series B	$126 million	Anand Babu Periasamy	Intel Capital, SoftBank, Dell Capital, Nexus, General Catalyst

Founders	Employees
Anand Babu Periasamy, Garima Kapoor, Harshavardhana	200 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Nasuni

https://nasuni.com

Data Infrastructure and Observability, Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure

Nasuni provides cloud-based object storage system for organizing unstructured data for use in AI and distributed enterprise applications. Its multisite synchronized system features an open-source MCP server and integration with AWS and Azure AI models. If needed, Nasuni supports physical and virtual edge appliances that interact with cloud storage continuously and with local caching of active files for optimal performance. Backup and disaster recovery are included, providing a single platform where other providers require two or more. Customers include Dow, Barnes and Noble, E-Trade, and Pernod Ricard.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2009	Series F	$220 million	Sam King	KKR, TCV, Sigma Partners, Flybridge, Dell Technologies Capital, Telstra, North Bridge, Sixth Street, Vista, Goldman Sachs

Founders	Employees
Andres Rodriguez	578 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

NetBox Labs

https://netboxlabs.com

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure, Data Infrastructure and Observability

As the commercial steward of open source NetBox, NetBox Labs offers a platform to design, procure, operate, and scale physical and logical datacenter infrastructure. The result is a single source of truth about datacenter infrastructure and a unified way to manage cabling, power, IP addressing, VLANs, and other datacenter components at speeds that keep pace with AI. Customers include ARM, Cisco, Constant Contact, CoreWeave, J.P. Morgan, Kaiser Permanente, and Riot Games.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2023	Series B	$55 million	Kris Beevers	NGP Capital, Sorenson Capital, Headline, Flybridge Capital, Notable Capital, Mango Capital, Salesforce Ventures, Two Sigma Ventures, IBM

Founders	Employees
Kris Beevers, Jeremy Stretch, Bill Lapcevic, Salil Jani, Mark Coleman, Shannon Weyrick	93 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Netris

https://www.netris.ai

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure

Netris is the most widely deployed network automation platform for AI infrastructure, providing Network Automation, Abstraction, and Multi-Tenancy (NAAM) for GPU clouds, sovereign AI operators, and enterprise AI factories. In the last 10 months, Netris has captured 12% of the global NCP market, as well as numerous sovereign AI providers worldwide. The platform enables AI operators to launch in weeks instead of years, onboard customers instantly, and dynamically provision workloads while maximizing GPU utilization. Netris delivers native support for Ethernet (including NVIDIA Spectrum-X), InfiniBand, NVLink, DPUs, and Virtual and Edge Networking.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2018	Seed	$7 million	Alex Saroyan	Various undisclosed investors

Founders	Employees
Alex Saroyan, Arsen Arakelyan, Tigran Martirosyan	35 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Nile

https://nilesecure.com/

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure, Unified Cloud and AI Security

Nile is disrupting the enterprise network market by building natively secure connectivity that modernizes IT operations with a new AI networking architecture, delivering enterprise networks as a service. The Nile Access Service integrates Zero Trust security and offers performance guarantees for connectivity, coverage, and availability. With Nile, IT organizations close the gap between their digital aspirations and legacy realities with superior connectivity that reduces the burden on critical IT resources.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2018	Series C	$300 million	Pankaj Patel	March Capital, Sanabil Investments, Prosperity7, Liberty Global Ventures, 8VC, Geodesic Capital

Founders	Employees
John Chambers, Pankaj Patel, Suresh Katukam, Sri Hosakote	1,286 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

ProsperOps

https://www.prosperops.com/

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure

ProsperOps is a leading FinOps automation platform for multicloud cost optimization. Governed by your settings, our software manages discount instruments and automates workload schedules to reduce costs, mitigate risk, and eliminate manual work. DevOps and FinOps teams are overloaded. Tools only offering visibility or recommendations require additional effort. Changing architectures, volatile and cyclical usage, and rapidly evolving technology make cost optimization increasingly complex.ProsperOps operates autonomously, eliminating the constant human interaction required by non-automated solutions or DIY approaches. Implementation takes hours, and results begin immediately. ProsperOps manages over $5 billion of spend and has returned over $3 billion to customers.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2018	Series A	$72 million	Chris Cochran	Snowhawk, HIG Growth Partners

Founders	Employees
Chris Cochran (CEO); Chris Kuehl (CTO); Erik Carlin (Chief Product Officer)	75 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Pulumi

https://www.pulumi.com/

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure, Platform Engineering and IaC

Pulumi helps engineers ship infrastructure faster with Infrastructure as Code in general-purpose languages. The Pulumi platform solves a broad set of problems that engineering leaders face in the modern cloud era. This spans cloud automation, security, and management, which aligns to Pulumi's three products: Pulumi IaC (infrastructure-as-code), Pulumi ESC (secrets management & orchestration), and Pulumi Insights (cloud asset management, compliance remediation, and AI insights over the cloud). Pulumi's unified approach ensures developers, infrastructure experts, and security teams can collaborate closely and ship faster with high confidence.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2017	Series C	$99 million	Joe Duffy	Madrona, New Enterprise Associates, Tola Capital, Strike Capital

Founders	Employees
Joe Duffy, Eric Rudder	123 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Qumulo

https://qumulo.com/

Data Infrastructure and Observability, Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure

Qumulo is a database as-a-service company targeting hybrid data management. Scale Anywhere includes Azure Native Qumulo (ANQ), a file-based cloud storage launched in April with Microsoft Azure. New additions to ANQ include Global Namespace (Q-GNS), a unified data plane for an organization's entire unstructured data, from edge to core and cloud. Qumulo believes that Q-GNS can access remote data as if it were local for all workflows. It includes a set of data services (multi-protocol access, enterprise security integrations, snapshots, quotas, replications, etc.) across geographically distributed systems—edge, core, or cloud.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2012	Series E	$230 million	Douglas Gourlay	Amity Ventures, BlackRock, Goldman Sachs, Highland Capital Partners, Kleiner Perkins, Madrona Venture Group

Founders	Employees
Neal Fachan, Peter Godman, and Aaron Passey	472 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Redpanda

https://www.redpanda.com

Data Infrastructure and Observability, Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure

Redpanda offers an Agentic Data Plane - a new category in AI infrastructure that makes it simple and secure to connect AI agents with enterprise data and systems. Built on a multi-modal data streaming engine, Redpanda empowers agentic applications that reason and act in real-time with speed, autonomy, and precision. Global leaders including Activision Blizzard, Cisco, Moody's, Texas Instruments, Vodafone and 2 of the top 5 banks in the U.S. rely on Redpanda to process hundreds of terabytes of data a day.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2019	Series D	$265 million	Alex Gallego	GV, Lightspeed Venture Partners, Haystack VC

Founders	Employees
Alex Gallego	194 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Render

https://render.com/

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure, Platform Engineering and IaC

Render is the leading modern cloud for application development teams that want to focus on bringing ideas to market faster. Render customers can quickly build and scale applications and websites on the industry's most advanced developer platform with a global CDN, DDoS protection, preview environments, private networking, and auto deploys from Git.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2018	Series C	$156 million	Anurag Geol	Georgian, 01A, Avra Capital, South Park Commons Fund, Bessemer Venture Partners, Addition, General Catalyst

Founders	Employees
Anurag Geol (CEO)	120 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Resolve.ai

https://resolve.ai

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure

Resolve AI automates away the drudgery of what developers and on-call engineers need to deal with every day. The company produces AI tools that automate production engineering by autonomously troubleshooting and resolving production issues and handling operational tasks, dramatically reducing MTTR and freeing up engineers to focus on building. By combining a deep understanding of code and production environments with state-of-the-art agentic AI, Resolve.ai aims to accelerate how engineers build, deploy, and maintain real-world software systems.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2024	Seed	$35 million	Spiros Xanthos	Greylock, Unusual Ventures

Founders	Employees
Spiros Xanthos, Mayank Agarwal	124 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Selector

https://selector.ai

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure

Selector is an AIOps solution providing leading telecommunications companies, cloud service providers, and enterprises with full visibility into complex networks, infrastructure, and applications. It reduces 90% of manual repair time by using an AI engine integrated with its industry-first network large language model (NLM), which autonomously analyzes vast data volumes. This allows instant troubleshooting and real-time conversations in human language across data warehouses and tools. By enabling faster issue resolution, Selector ensures networks operate smoothly, generating revenue and minimizing downtime for some of the world's largest companies. Its cutting-edge technology powers smarter, more efficient network management.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2019	Series B	$66 million	Kannan Kothandaraman	Two Bear Capital, Atlantic Bridge Ventures, Sinewave Ventures, Ansa Capital, Singtel Innov8, Hyperlink Ventures

Founders	Employees
Kannan Kothandaraman, Nikin Kumar	53 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Spacelift

https://spacelift.io/

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure

Spacelift, via the Spacelift Infrastructure Orchestration Platform, manages the entire infrastructure lifecycle—provisioning, configuration and governance. Spacelift integrates with existing infrastructure tooling (e.g., Terraform, OpenTofu, CloudFormation, Pulumi, Ansible) to provide a single integrated workflow to deliver secure, cost-effective and resilient infrastructure, fast. Spacelift is redefining how infrastructure is provisioned and governed with Spacelift Intent, the first open source, agentic, natural language model for cloud infrastructure. Intent allows developers to provision resources instantly without writing HCL, while DevOps and Platform teams maintain full visibility, policy control and auditability.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2020	Series C	$73.6 million	Pawel Hytry	Five Elms Capital, Insight Partners, Endeavor Catalyst, Inovo VC, Blossom Capital, Hoxton Ventures

Founders	Employees
Pawel Hytry (CEO), Marcin Wyszynski (CPO)	138 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Stellar Cyber

https://stellarcyber.ai/

Unified Cloud and AI Security, Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure

Stellar Cyber's Automation-driven Security Operations Platform, including NG-SIEM and NDR and powered by Open XDR, delivers comprehensive, unified cybersecurity without complexity. It empowers lean security teams of any skill level to successfully secure their environments. As part of this unified platform, Stellar Cyber's Multi-Layer AI enables enterprises, MSSPs, and MSPs to reduce risk with early and precise threat identification and remediation while slashing costs, retaining investments in existing tools, and improving analyst productivity. This delivers a 20X improvement in MTTD and an 8X improvement in MTTR. The company is based in Silicon Valley.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2015	Series C	$102 million	Changming Liu	Highland Capital Partners, Northern Light Venture Capital, Samsung Next, SIG

Founders	Employees
Aimei Wei	160 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Teleport

https://goteleport.com/

Unified Cloud and AI Security

Teleport modernizes identity, access, and policy for infrastructure (both humans and machines), improving engineering time to market and resiliency of infrastructure against human error or compromise. Teleport supports the following infrastructure asset types/protocols: Servers (Windows and Linux), Windows RDP, SSH, Kubernetes clusters, databases, and DevOps tools such as the AWS Management Console, CI/CD, GitHub, and various monitoring dashboards. It also supports Web applications. Customers include Nasdaq, DoorDash, Elastic, Snowflake, and Vonage, among others.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2015	Series C	$170 million	Ev Kontsevoy	Bessemer Venture Partners, Kleiner Perkins, Insight Partners

Founders	Employees
Alexander Klizhentas (CTO), Ev Kontsevoy (CEO), Taylor Wakefield (COO)	200 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Tigera

https://www.tigera.io

Unified Cloud and AI Security

Tigera provides secure networking and comprehensive protection for containers and Kubernetes. Its Calico security platform prevents, detects, and mitigates breaches. Tigera's open-source offering, Calico Open Source, is the most widely adopted container networking and security solution. Powering more than 100 million containers across 8M+ nodes in 166 countries, Calico software is supported across all major cloud providers and Kubernetes distributions, and is used by leading companies including Discover, Chipotle, NBCUniversal, HanseMerkur, Box, Siemens Healthineers, Playtech, Royal Bank of Canada, and Bell Canada.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2016	Series B	$53 million	Ratan Tipirneni	New Enterprise Associates, Wing Ventures, Madrona Venture Group, Insight Venture Partners

Founders	Employees
Andy Randall, Alex Pollitt, Christopher Liljenstolpe	138 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

UnifyApps

https://unifyapps.com

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure, Data Infrastructure and Observability

UnifyApps offers an Enterprise Operating System for AI, helping large global organizations turn fragmented data, knowledge, and processes into intelligent, production-ready automation. UnifyApps unifies enterprise records, activity, and knowledge into a single source of truth—powering autonomous agents, human-in-the-loop applications, and AI-native workflows at scale. Built for complex enterprises, UnifyApps supports all layers of the modern AI stack, from integrations and governance to orchestration and agentic AI. Organizations across financial services, retail, manufacturing, aviation, and the public sector use UnifyApps to compress processes from days to minutes.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2023	Series B	$81 million	Ragy Thomas, Pavitar Singh (co-CEOs)	WestBridge Capital, ICONIQ, Elevation Capital

Founders	Employees
Ragy Thomas, Pavitar Singh, Abhishek Khurana, Rachit Mittal, Sumeet Nandal, Haitham Elkhatib, Rohan Vijay, Abhinav	*(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Vantage

https://www.vantage.sh/

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure

Vantage focuses on a superior experience for managing and optimizing cloud costs. The Vantage team is comprised of professionals with experience in scaling previous companies like AWS, DigitalOcean, Stripe, MongoDB, GitHub and Cloudflare. From their combined experiences of leading cloud infrastructure teams, the team is focused on applying simplicity to managing cloud infrastructure bills. Functions including reserve instances (RI) management, cost recommendations, and management of savings plans. Users can also allocate Kubernetes cost by service, namespace, and label. as well as identify pod waste and optimize clusters.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2020	Series A	$25 million	Ben Schaechter	Scale Venture Partners, Andreessen Horowitz, and Harpoon Ventures

Founders	Employees
Ben Schaechter (CEO) and Brooke McKim (CTO)	*(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

VAST Data

https://www.vastdata.com/

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure, Data Infrastructure and Observability

VAST Data provides a unified AI operating system that consolidates data, compute, and agentic execution into one scalable platform, enabling organizations to deploy AI agents, reason over real-time data, and automate complex workflows globally. VAST is one of the fastest-growing infrastructure companies in history, achieving record cumulative bookings and maintaining a cash-flow-positive status. Leading organizations such as CoreWeave, xAI, Lowe's, and ServiceNow have standardized their data infrastructure on the VAST AI OS.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2016	Series E	$381 million	Renen Hallak	Fidelity Management and Research Co., NVIDIA, Tiger Global Management, Next47

Founders	Employees
Renen Hallak, Jeff Denworth, Shachar Fienblit, Alon Horev	1,118 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Versa Networks

https://www.versa-networks.com

Unified Cloud Security, Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure

Versa Networks, based in San Jose, Calif., delivers AI/ML-powered SSE and SD-WAN solutions. The platform provides networking and security with true multitenancy and sophisticated analytics via the cloud, on-premises, or as a blended combination of both to meet SASE requirements for small to extremely large enterprises and service providers. Versa SASE includes SD-WAN, ZTNA, SWG, CASB, FWaaS, ATP, RBI, and UEBA. Versa's unified, single-vendor SASE platform provides the capability to integrate networks, points of presence, policy definitions, application definitions, agent logic, and data lakes.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2012	Series E	$316 million	Kelly Ahuja	Blackrock, Silicon Valley Bank, Princeville Capital, Sequoia Capital, RPS Ventures, Mayfield

Founders	Employees
Apurva Mehta and Kumar Mehta	650 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

VDURA

www.vdura.com

Data Infrastructure and Observability, Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure

VDURA delivers software-defined storage engineered for AI and high-performance computing. The platform combines flash-optimized speed, linear scalability across thousands of clients, and hyperscale durability through file-level network erasure coding. This unified, parallel file system keeps GPU clusters fully saturated while simplifying operations with policy-driven automation. Building on its Panasas heritage, VDURA offers a global namespace, multi-media integration, and flexible deployment across on-premises, cloud, and hybrid environments.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
1999, refounde		$155 million	Ken Claffey	White Oak Global Advisors

Founders	Employees
Garth Gibson, Hugo Patterson	77 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Vultr

www.vultr.com

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure, Data Infrastructure and Observability

Vultr delivers enterprise-grade AI and GPU cloud infrastructure featuring globally decentralized compute clusters, robust networking, top-tier security, and regulatory compliance. Developers can instantly access dedicated or on-demand AMD and NVIDIA GPUs—including latest-generation models such as the NVIDIA HGX B200 and AMD Instinct MI355X—for training, deployment, and edge-serving AI applications. Vultr removes vendor lock-in, offers transparent pricing, and integrates easily with tools and APIs. Advanced orchestration (via Run:ai and Kubernetes) ensures optimal resource use, lifecycle management, and rapid AI project development across regions. This approach enables secure, compliant, cost-effective scaling and redefines AI architecture as the new public cloud standard.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2014	Growth round	$660+ million	J.J. Kardwell	LuminArx, AMD

Founders	Employees
David Aninowsky	190 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Wasabi

https://wasabi.com/

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure, Data Infrastructure and Observability

Recognized as one of the technology industry's fastest growing companies, Wasabi is on a mission to store the world's data by making cloud storage affordable, predictable and secure. With Wasabi, visionary companies gain the freedom to use their data whenever they like without being hit with unpredictable fees or vendor lock-in. Instead, they're free to build best-of-breed solutions with the industry's fastest-growing ecosystem of independent cloud application partners. Customers and partners all over the world trust Wasabi to help them put their data to work so they can unlock their full potential.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2017	Series E	$604 million	David Friend	Azura, SiS Cloud Global Tech Fund 8, Prosperity7 Ventures, Forestay Capital, L2 Point Management, Cedar Pine, Fidelity Management & Research Company

Founders	Employees
David Friend, Jeff Flowers	555 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.

Writer

https://writer.com/

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure

Writer provides an AI platform for creating content based on enterprise data. Customers can create their own agents, customize Writer's LLMs, and deploy a no-code AI Studio tool to create AI applications. Writer offers solutions tailored to HR, marketing, finance, legal, sales, support, and other areas in specific vertical markets such as financial services, healthcare and life sciences, retail, and technology. The company claims hundreds of customers, including Accenture, Dropbox, Hilton, Prudential, Qualcomm, and Salesforce.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2020	Series C	$330+ million	May Habib	Premji Invest, Radical Ventures, ICONIQ Growth, Insight Partners, Balderton, B Capital, Adobe Ventures, Citi Ventures, IBM Ventures, Salesforce Ventures

Founders	Employees
May Habib (CEO) and Waseem Alshikh (CTO)	2,395 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

ZEDEDA

https://zededa.com/

Distributed Cloud and AI Infrastructure

ZEDEDA, a leader in orchestration for the distributed edge, delivers visibility, control and security for deployments. Its open, vendor-agnostic framework enables seamless deployment on any hardware at scale, connecting to any cloud or on-prem system. ZEDEDA empowers customers with real-time insights, improved security, and streamlined edge management for optimized operations. ZEDEDA is backed by world-class investors with teams in the United States, Germany, India and the Middle East.

Founded	Stage	Total Funding	CEO	Notable Investors
2016	Series C	More than $140 million	Said Ouissal	Smith Point Capital, Lux Capital, Emerson Ventures, Juniper Networks, Chevron Technology Ventures, Energize Capital

Founders	Employees
Said Ouissal, Erik Nordmark	155 *(Source: LinkedIn and/or company)*

Copyright 2026 Rayno Media Inc.