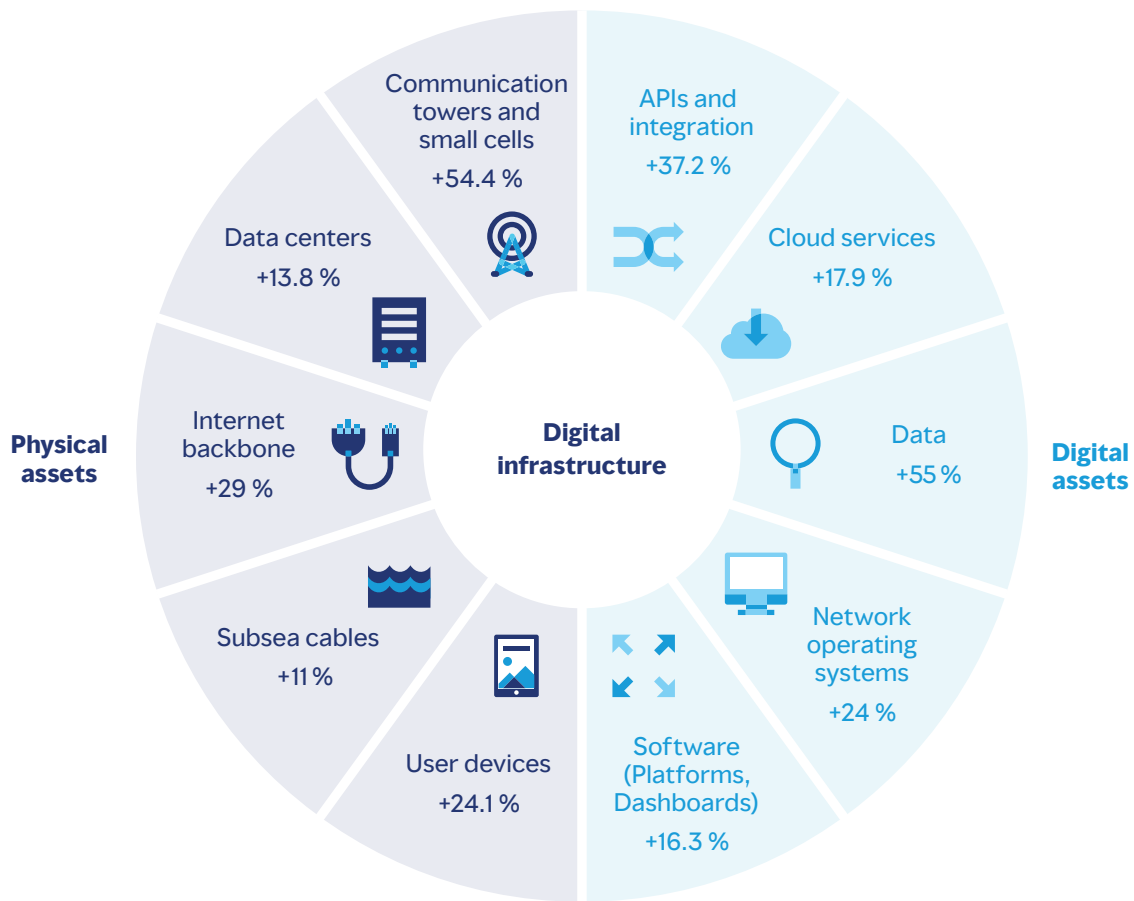


# The Fourth Utility:

## Imperatives for Governments in Overseeing Digital Infrastructure

Digital infrastructure is the collective term for the communications and data transfer network which comprises of a range of digital and physical assets. Demand for digital infrastructure is skyrocketing, but challenges remain for the sector.

### Types and annual growth of physical and digital assets:



The benefits that can be gained from high-quality digital infrastructure are numerous and varied. Governments have understandably planned significant investment in digital networks. However, truly maximizing the benefits of these investments and protecting national interests requires that governments meet three imperatives addressing the sovereignty, sustainability, and resilience of networks.

## Sovereignty

---

While regulatory bodies will continue to be focused on maintaining the performance level of critical services, there is also an increasing need for a broader government role in ensuring the legitimacy and security of a nation's digital infrastructure network.

**60%**

potential increase in costs for businesses with data localization policies

**80%**

of the 5G equipment market comes from only four firms

## Sustainability

---

Digital infrastructure assets can be a significant enabler for governments in realizing their climate ambitions, but they are currently among the largest consumers of energy globally.

**5.5%**

of the world's greenhouse gas emissions will be attributed to the digital sector by 2025, without intervention

**1/2**

data center operators track their direct water use, while only one in three tracks their carbon emissions

## Resilience

---

Digital networks have become critical infrastructure for countries, exacerbating the threats they face from a plethora of cyber and supply-chain risks.

**1,000**

cyberattacks were recorded per week by the communications industry in 2021

**\$12,000**

is the private cost of training a telecommunications worker in the U.S.

## Learn more about Marsh McLennan

### Marsh

Risk mapping and quantification, crisis management, insurance coverage support, organizational resilience strategies, cyber risk mitigation

### Guy Carpenter

Climate risk assessment, digital migration strategies, traditional and alternative risk transfer solutions, risk analytics and underwriting

### Mercer

ESG and responsible investment advisory, asset management services, workforce analytics and strategy, Business Impact Modeling (BIM)

### Oliver Wyman

ERM frameworks, digital transformation strategies, cyber resilience strategy, change management advisory

For more details and citations, please check out Building the Fourth Utility [here](#).