



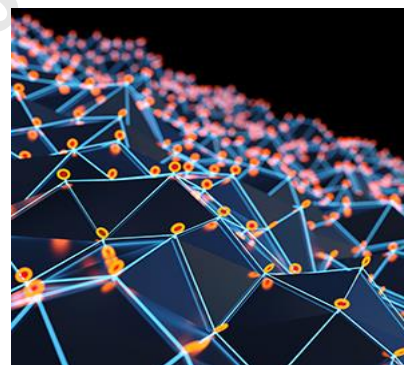
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Pulse Survey at Yotta 2025 Reveals Openness to New Internet Connectivity Strategies

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What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas. Or so the saying goes. But when more than 3,000 of the sharpest minds in compute, networking, energy, and AI descend on the MGM Grand for the annual [Yotta](#) conference, keeping a lid on the flow of ideas is well-nigh impossible. Billed as being “at the intersection of AI, energy, and infrastructure”, the event provided myriad opportunities for delegates to ponder, plan, and propel the future of our industry. Which is why my team took the opportunity of reading the room and doing a pulse survey to gauge responses to a few provocative questions about the future of connectivity.



Over 200 attendees weighed in, from hyperscalers to enterprise IT leads, network engineers to hardware vendors. They shared what they see as probable or improbable in the coming years, as our industry continues to evolve. It wasn't a scientific sample, but it caught the attention of enough people to gain a valuable snapshot into how insiders see the Internet, the cloud, and even outer space evolving by 2030. And while the methodology might not pass peer review, the findings were surprisingly consistent. Trust is shifting. Cloud strategies are diversifying. Satellites are moving from science fiction to infrastructure. And latency, the invisible force of digital performance, is fast becoming the currency of the next decade. And now, we break the rule and let you know a bit about what happened in Vegas.

What Happens When Trust Runs Out?

Surprisingly, one of the liveliest debates wasn't about AI ethics or cooling systems or how grand the Internet will become in the future. It was actually about whether enterprises will even trust it by the end of the next decade. Nearly half of those my team stopped between sessions (48%, to be exact) said no: they believe organizations will move away from relying on the public Internet altogether for enterprise traffic by 2030. The other third - a defiant 34% - weren't ready to give up on it just yet. You can imagine the two camps forming: the pragmatists, armed with horror stories of outages and breaches, and the idealists, holding onto the Internet's open, democratic promise. For many, the issue came down to control. The public Internet, for all its reach, still operates on a “best-effort” model. It's a gamble that increasingly few enterprises are willing to make when it comes to mission-critical workloads. The rise of zero-trust

frameworks, regulatory pressure around data sovereignty, and the sheer cost of downtime have made reliability and predictability non-negotiable.

Yet, there's a paradox here. The same enterprises losing faith in the open Internet still depend on it for global reach, innovation, and agility. Their skepticism isn't about abandoning the Internet, but about redefining how they use it. Private interconnection, direct cloud access, and secure network fabrics are becoming the norm for organizations that want the benefits of connectivity without the risk. In other words, the Internet isn't dying, it's evolving. The blind trust that once powered its early years is being replaced by something far more deliberate: a new kind of pragmatism that treats connectivity as an asset to be architected rather than a basic utility to be taken for granted.

The Cloud Conundrum

If there was one phrase that keeps rearing its head - whether at Yotta or anywhere else - it's "multi-cloud." Nearly half of respondents (48%) agreed that enterprises will abandon single-cloud strategies by 2026, signaling that the honeymoon phase of one-cloud-fits-all is officially over. For years, the industry has preached the gospel of consolidation: centralize your workloads, simplify your management, streamline your costs. But the reality hitting home for many IT leaders is that every cloud has its own quirks, strengths, and trade-offs, and betting your business on just one can feel a little too much like spinning the wheel. From outages and pricing shifts to regional compliance rules and AI-specific GPU availability, too much now rides on flexibility. Enterprises are learning to spread their chips, mixing public and private cloud with edge resources and colocation to build hybrid ecosystems that play to each environment's strengths.

Still, this new era of "cloud roulette" won't be plain sailing. Multi-cloud architectures bring incredible agility, but they also multiply the points of failure and the number of integrations to manage. AI is making that even trickier: training might happen in one environment, inference in another, and data storage somewhere entirely different. The result is a sprawling, dynamic environment where connectivity is the number one strategic advantage. At a time when workloads move between clouds, edges, and data centers like travelers through an airport, having the right interconnection model will be the difference between chaos and choreography.

Betting on the Sky

When the team asked attendees whether satellite Internet would be as common as fiber by 2030, 65% said yes, and more than half (60%) went further, predicting the first Internet Exchange (IX) would be operating in orbit within the decade. This may have been a strange question to some, but it highlights a serious point: space is no longer a gimmick. It's becoming a genuine part of the network equation. With low-Earth orbit constellations shrinking transmission times from hundreds of milliseconds to just a few dozen, and new optical systems like the European Space Agency's OFELIAS project experimenting with laser-based data transfer, satellites are stepping out of the role of "last resort" connectivity. They're evolving into the next tier of the global digital backbone - capable of adding performance, not just coverage.

With the results of the survey, it's clear to see that industry is warming to the idea that space really is the next frontier. The same engineers once skeptical of anything outside fiber trenches can today be found talking about orbital relays and inter-satellite laser links with genuine excitement. Instead of talking about how satellites can compete with terrestrial networks, they are interested in how the two could co-exist. In regions where laying cable is expensive or impossible, space has always levelled the playing field. But for enterprises with distributed

operations or global AI workloads, it could soon become a seamless extension of terrestrial infrastructure. Call it “wireless fiber in the sky”, the “dawn of orbital Internet,” or simply “space laser connectivity” - either way, the odds that the next major interconnection point will be circling above us are getting better by the day.

We Can't Gamble with Latency

In Vegas, where split-second decisions can make or break fortunes, it was fitting that 61% of attendees believed connectivity would soon be priced on latency rather than bandwidth. That's a radical departure from the way the Internet has operated for decades, where performance was measured in megabits and gigabits and priced accordingly. But as industries shift toward AI inference and real-time data transfer, latency has become the new benchmark of business. Whether it's an AI query happening at the edge, autonomous vehicles reacting to sensor data, or surgical robots guided remotely, the margin for delay has all but evaporated entirely. Every millisecond matters. And if latency matters, so does geography. Enterprises are now buying proximity, precision, and consistency, and the conversation has shifted from “How much data can we move?” to “How fast can we boomerang it to where it needs to go and get it back in time for our applications to work?”

This is already reshaping how networks are built *and* how their economics work. Data center operators are racing to reduce physical distance between compute nodes, interconnection platforms are re-architecting for ultra-low latency routing, and enterprises are investing in edge locations purely to shave milliseconds off round-trip times. Bandwidth is no longer king, because it alone doesn't determine value when performance is measured in *time*. If the Internet's early years were about connecting as many people as possible, the next decade will be about connecting everything as fast as physics and geography will allow. And much like the blackjack tables at the MGM, winning will come down to timing, strategy, and maybe even a little bit of luck.

Reading the Room

Looking at the results of our little “pulse poll”, what really stands out is a palpable change in mood. In the industry today, there is an interesting blend of excitement and unease - a sense that we are entering uncharted territory. The public Internet can barely keep up with the demands of modern enterprises, yet no one's quite ready to give up on it. The cloud is becoming more patchwork in nature, but also more powerful. Satellites are shifting from a backup solution to a foundational backbone. And latency, once an engineer's obsession, is suddenly a boardroom metric. These contradictions mirror where digital infrastructure stands today: a system under pressure, evolving faster than the business models, regulations, or standards that govern it. The people my team spoke to weren't cynical. They were pragmatic, aware that the future of connectivity will depend on collaboration across every layer of the stack: physical, virtual, and even orbital.