

BRIC Countries Lag in Cloud Computing

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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WASHINGTON — Brazil, Russia, India and China still lag far behind developed countries in policies considered critical for the future of cloud computing, but each made some progress over the past year, a U.S. industry group said.

The Business Software Alliance, which represents U.S. industry heavyweights such as Microsoft, said the BRIC nations all came in at the bottom half of 24 countries surveyed in its second annual cloud computing report.

Brazil moved from final position to 22nd, with a tally of 44.1 out of a possible 100 points. China, India and Russia each also rose two slots, with scores of 51.5, 53.1 and 59.1, respectively.

Cloud computing refers to providing software, storage, computing power and other services to customers from remote data centers over the web.

Demand for cloud-based software is rising rapidly because the approach allows companies

to start using new programs faster and at a lower cost than traditional products installed at a customer's own data center.

At the same time, the aggregation of massive amounts of data in large data centers "creates new and highly tempting targets" for cyber attacks, making it vital that both law enforcement officials and cloud providers have adequate tools to fight the intrusions, the BSA report said.

Australia, France, Germany and Japan score extremely high in the cybercrime section. Canada, China, [South] Korea, Russia and Vietnam score poorly. The country that shows the most improvement is Brazil, which finally passed cybercrime laws after a long campaign," the report said.

The 24 countries included in the survey represent 80 percent of the global information and communications technology industry. They were assessed in seven areas, including data privacy, security, free trade, intellectual property protection, infrastructure and support for industry-led standards to promote smooth data flows.

China got a small boost in this year's rating for introducing new data privacy laws, while Russia got credit for reforms made as a result of its entry into the World Trade Organization. India's improved score reflects changes to its copyright laws to bring them in line with international standards, the report said.

Japan came in first again with 84.1 points. It was followed closely by other developed countries, including Australia, the United States, Germany, Singapore, France, Britain and South Korea, which all scored in the upper 70s.

The United States finished second in the survey, up from third in the inaugural report, while Germany, France and Britain each slipped a notch and Italy fell four spots.

Cross-border data flows are already a focus in talks on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a proposed regional free-trade agreement between the United States and 10 other Asia-Pacific countries that are slated for conclusion this year.

One of the TPP countries, Vietnam, finished last in this year's cloud computing scorecard, with a tally of 40.1 points.

Vietnam, Indonesia, China and India have pursued policies that threaten to divide the cloud, either by trying "to wall themselves off or by imposing local requirements that are antithetical to the very underpinning of cloud computing," said Robert Holleyman, president of the Business Software Alliance.

The next summit of the BRICS, which includes South Africa, is scheduled later this month.

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