

From Developer to Consultant: Balancing Innovation and Reliability

Workshop by Mueed

W W W . A N T E M A T T E R . I O

OVERVIEW



Example

- Handling unknown unknowns for an interview: A recent example.
 - Information gathering (separating innovation from reliable info)
 - Knowing the right requirements
 - Choosing a bunch of “right” information about “probably right” requirements
 - Apply

Understand the client

- The technology we choose for a project should solve the client's problem in the most optimal way.
- Ask for their non-negotiables.
- Ask for the top 3 most important goals of their product.
- Ask for things they can compromise on.
- Look into why they chose this business direction.
- Explicit is better than implicit.

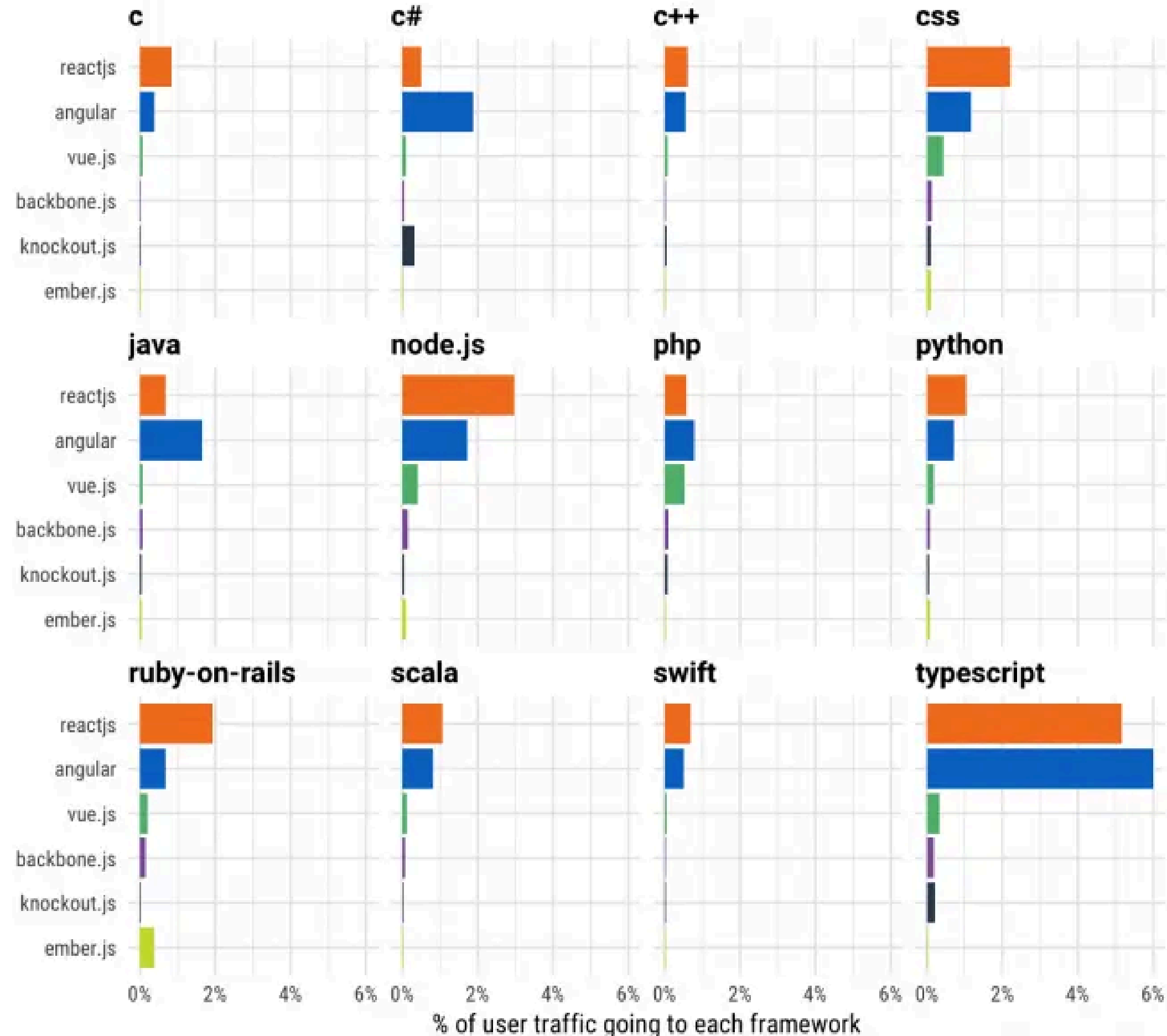
Things to look out for

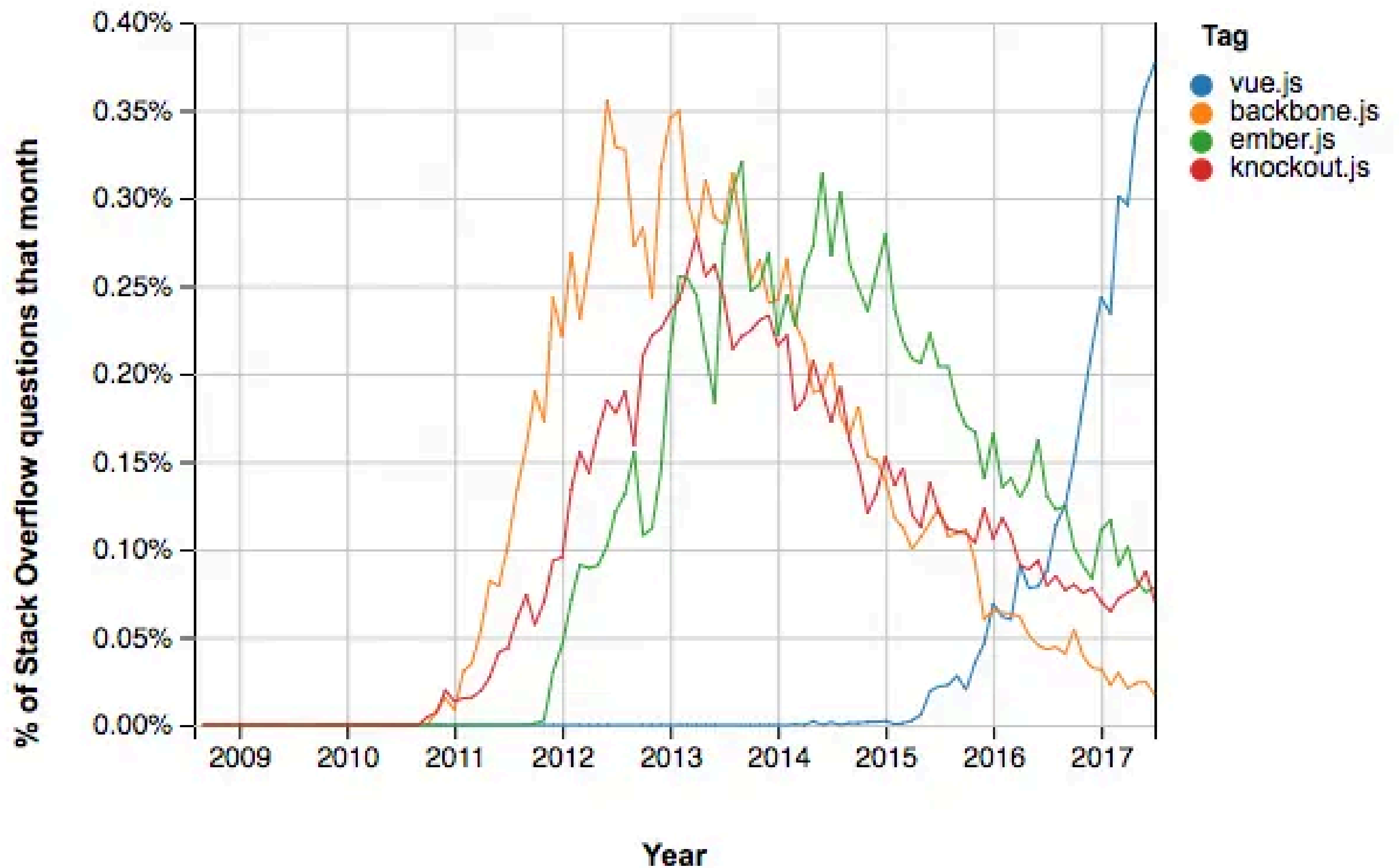
- Project Requirements and Objectives
- Scalability
- Security and Data Privacy
- User Experience and Accessibility
- Vendor Support and Community Engagement
- Technical Expertise and Team Compatibility
- Interoperability and Integration
- Longevity and Future Proofing
- Compare all selected solutions with SWOT

Frameworks used along with programming technologies

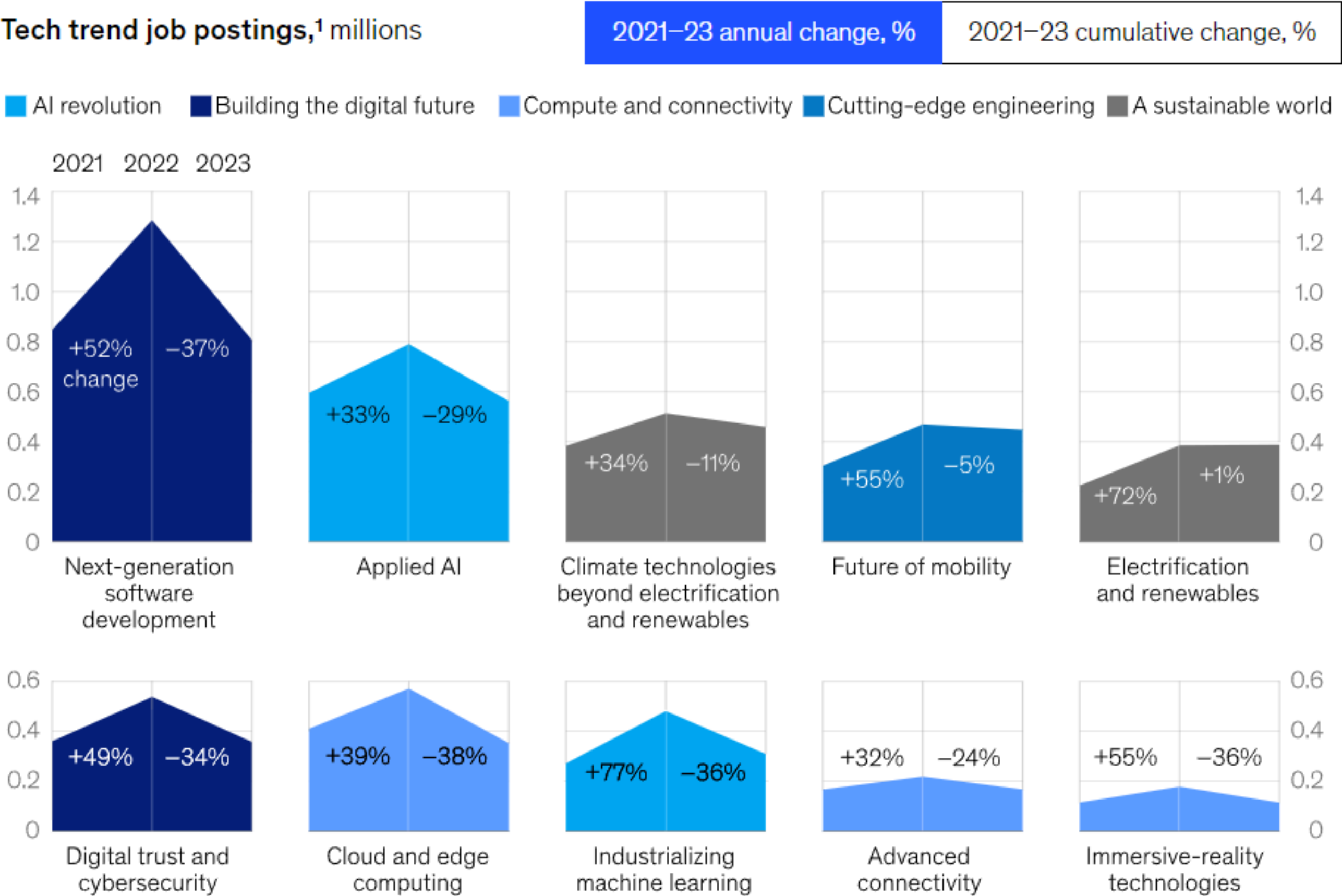
Based on one year of Stack Overflow traffic

Visitors were divided based on their most visited Stack Overflow tag



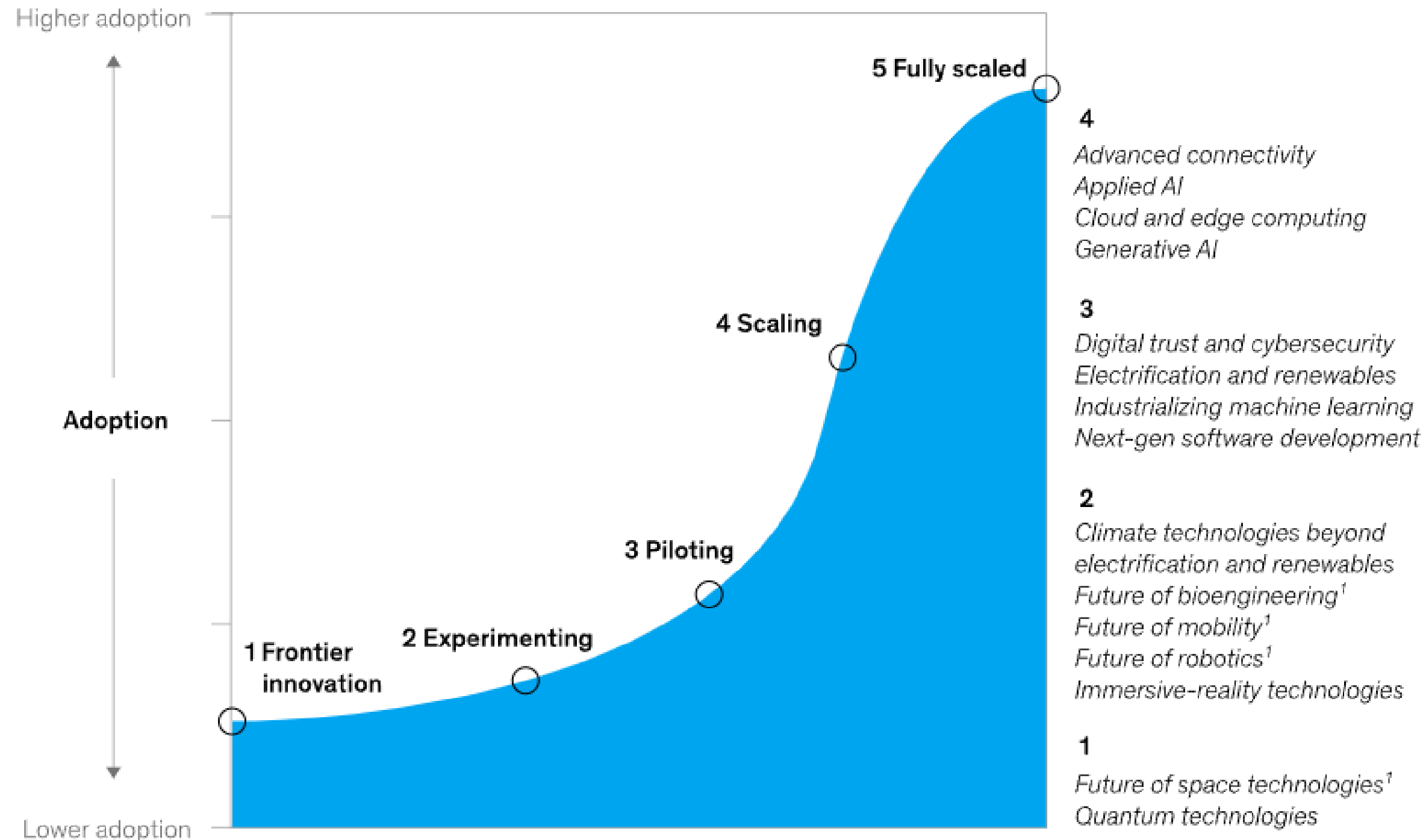


Despite a one-year drop in job postings, demand for jobs in many technology trends has increased over two years.



Technologies progress through different stages, with some at the leading edge of innovation and others approaching large-scale adoption.

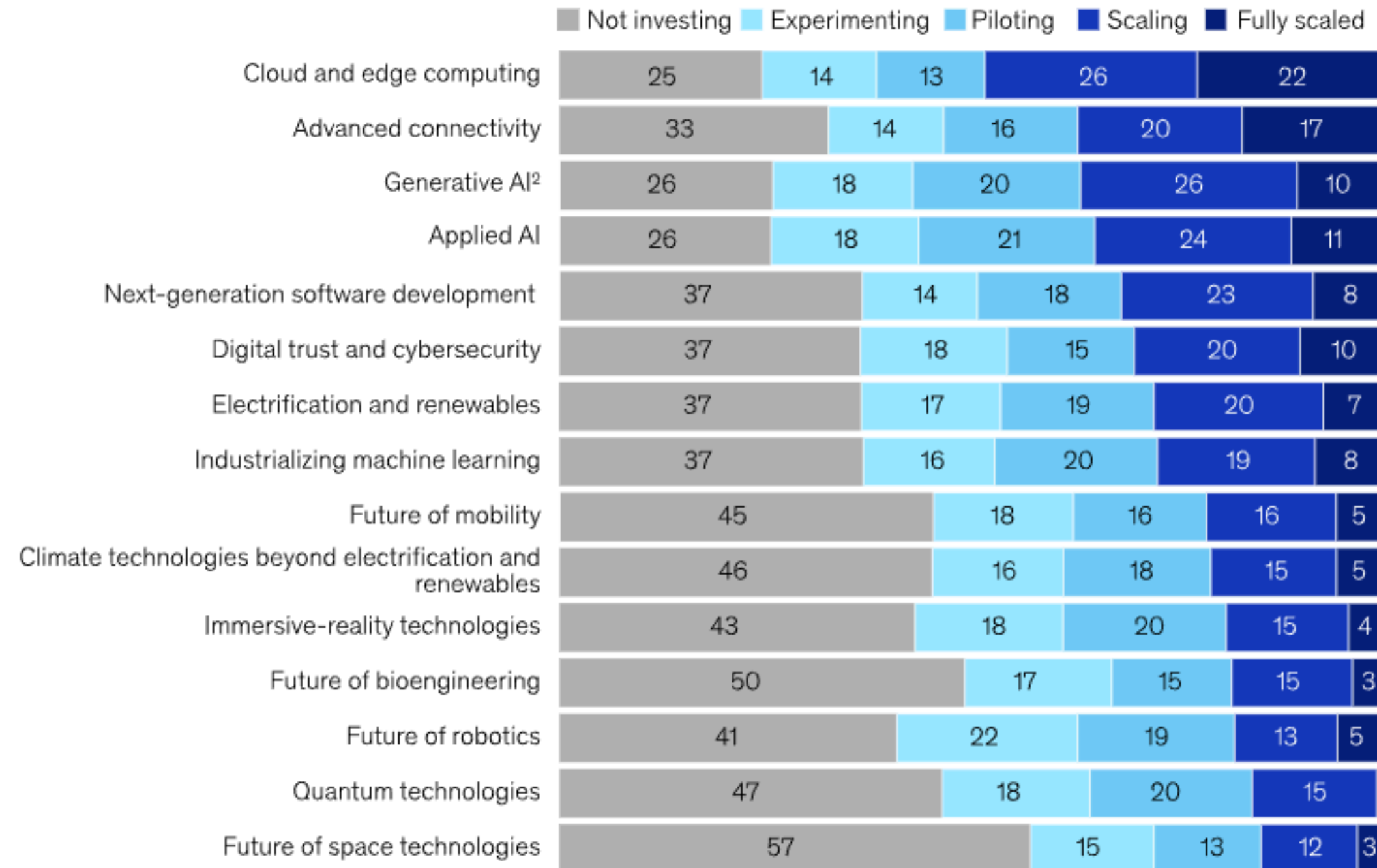
Adoption curve of technology trends, adoption score



¹Trend is more relevant to certain industries, resulting in lower overall adoption across industries compared with adoption within relevant industries.
Source: McKinsey technology adoption survey data; McKinsey analysis

More-mature technologies are more widely adopted, often serving as enablers for more-nascent technologies.

Self-reported adoption level by tech trend, 2023,¹ % of respondents



¹Respondents may interpret these categories differently based on their organizations. As such, the results should be considered as indicative of organizations' self-assessments, rather than precise measurements. ²For a deeper look at our AI-related trends, see "The state of AI in early 2024: Gen AI adoption spikes and starts to generate value," McKinsey, May 30, 2024.
Source: McKinsey technology adoption survey data

Getting “reliable” info

- Github - Daily.dev - substack - dev.to - Hashnode - Hackernoon
- Google Trends –
- Stack Overflow –
- Meetups, workshops, conferences = Active Community
- Support from an established company.

Sample Tech Project

- Frontend Development
- Backend Development
- Databases: SQL/NoSQL Databases
- Mobile App Development
- Cloud Providers and services
- Test suite and monitoring



Sample Cooking Project

- Ingredient Preparation
- Cooking Techniques
- Storage and Preservation Methods
- Recipe Development
- Kitchen Equipment and Tools
- Quality Control and Tasting



A Structured Process?

- Input Processing:
 - Tech: Frontend Development
 - Cooking: Ingredient Preparation
- Core Processing:
 - Tech: Backend Development
 - Cooking: Cooking Techniques
- Data/Resource Management:
 - Tech: Databases
 - Cooking: Storage and Preservation Methods
- Product Customization:
 - Tech: Mobile App Development
 - Cooking: Recipe Development
 - Common Idea: These involve tailoring the product for specific uses or tastes.
- Infrastructure:
 - Tech: Cloud Providers and services
 - Cooking: Kitchen Equipment and Tools
- Quality Assurance:
 - Tech: Test suite and monitoring
 - Cooking: Quality Control and Tasting

Things to reconsider

- I can know everything.
- The next best thing is what I work in.
- It worked for me, it must work for you.
- Yeah, I am comfortable working in that, so I will recommend only this to you.
- We've always done it this way.
- That's not my job.
- It's good enough to ship.
- We don't need to document this.
- Testing is a waste of time.
- Users are stupid if they can't figure it out.

Invest

- Soft skills
- Logic over emotions
- Hold on to your opinions as loosely as possible, and be willing to take constructive criticism.
- Invest at least 15 minutes daily in “new info” of tech.
- Long reports from big tech and billion-dollar consultancy firms matter.

QUESTIONS???



References

- https://docs.google.com/document/d/1krohTRFxOzALfU1bfi8AxzvJX_4zmqspIVJIE89vbbs/edit?usp=sharing

