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Security Priorities Study

Purpose and methodology

Survey goal

To gain a better understanding of the various security projects organizations are focused on now and in the coming year. The research also looks at the issues that will demand the most time and strategic thinking for IT and security teams.

Total respondents: 870

Collection method: Online questionnaire

Number of questions: 30

Region

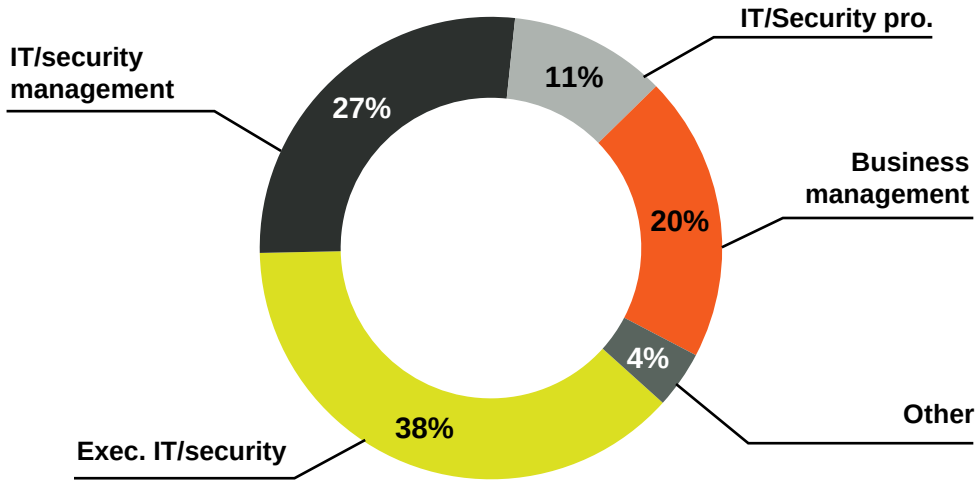
North America: 46%
EMEA: 15%
APAC: 35%

Average company size: 12,328 employees

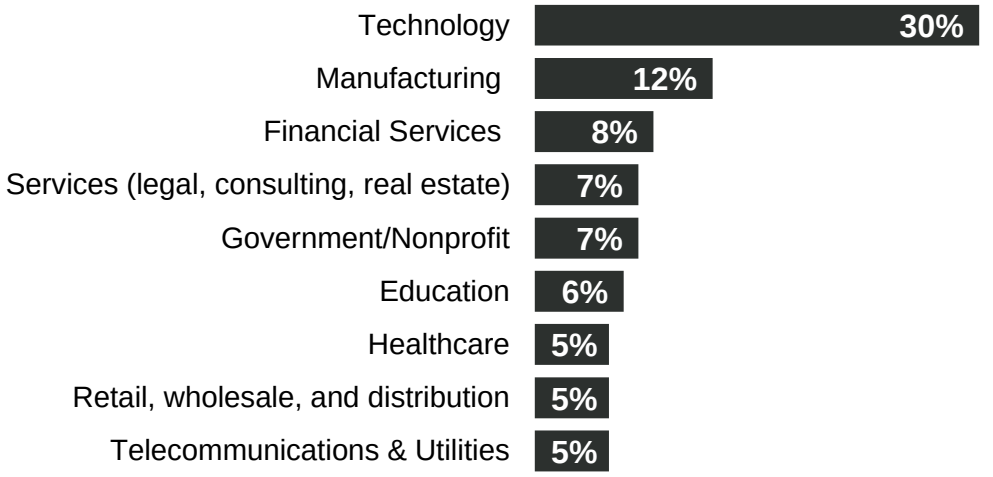
IT Leadership: All survey respondents are involved in IT and/or corporate/physical security decisions.

Audience base: CIO, Computerworld, CSO, InfoWorld and Network World site visitors, and email invitations to audience base

Job titles



Top represented industries



Source: CSO Security Priorities Study, 2024

What’s happening in the security department?

Source: CSO Security Priorities Study, 2024

75%

of security decision-makers say that understanding which security tools and solutions fit best within their company is **becoming more complex**

67%

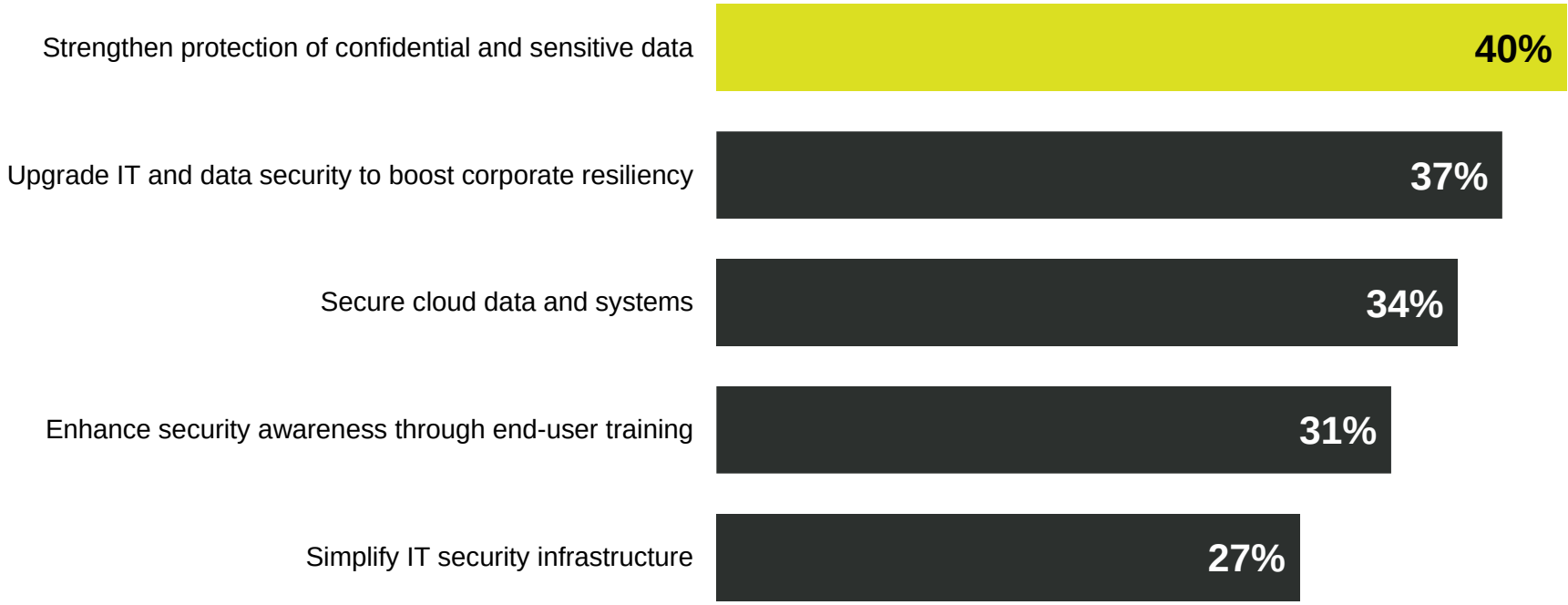
of organizations are **aware of what caused** data security **incidents** they have experienced over the past 12 months.

59%

agree that their **responsibilities** include addressing information security issues **outside of their country or region**

Question: Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements:

Key security priorities organizations are focused on



Question: What are your organizations top security priorities for the coming year?

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Source: CSO Security Priorities Study, 2024

Top five challenges inhibiting security goal achievement

1	2	3	4	5
Lack of sufficient budget	Too many competing priorities	Employee awareness and training issues	Organizational/ cultural barriers	Employee retention and hiring skilled and qualified workers

Question: What challenges are keeping you from achieving your security goals?

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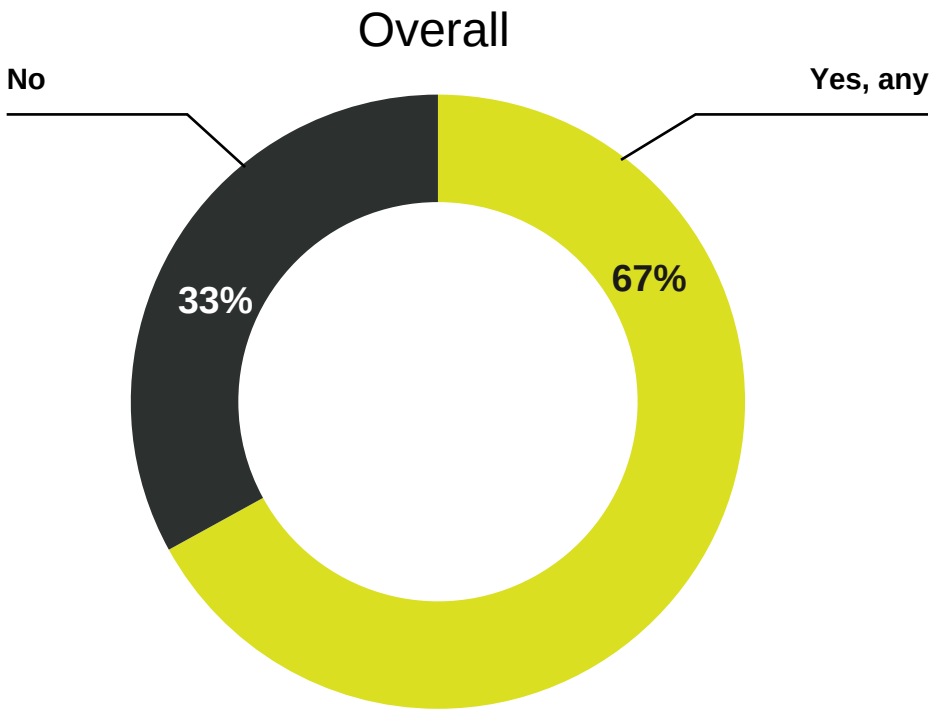
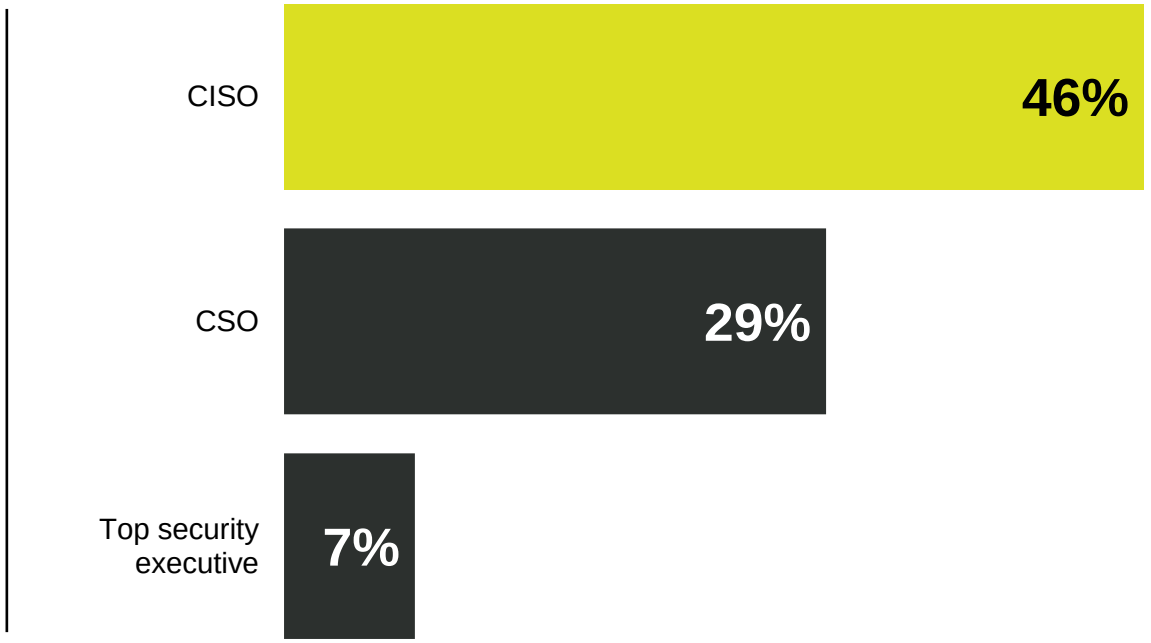
Source: CSO Security Priorities Study, 2024

Investing in executives to support security initiatives





Question: Does your company have a CISO, CSO or top security executive? (Please select all that apply)

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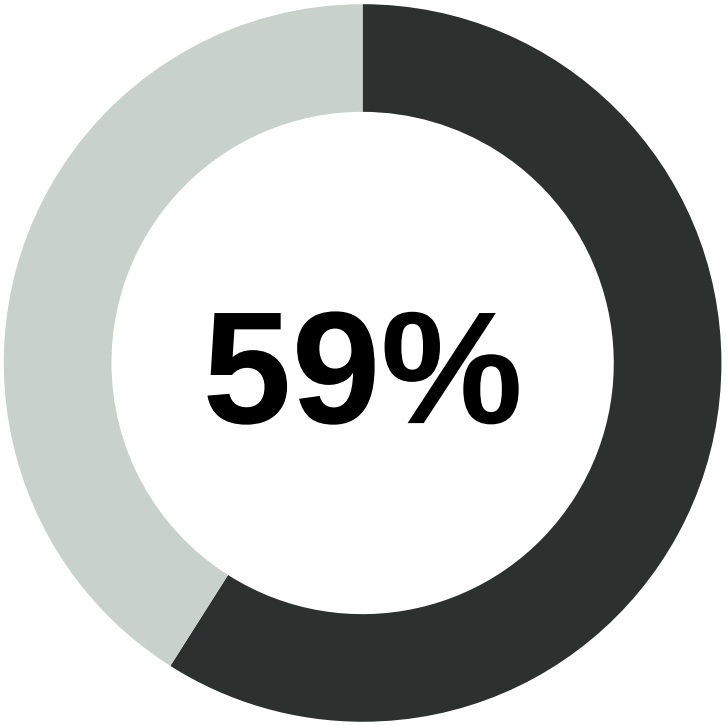
Source: CSO Security Priorities Study, 2024

Security buyers more likely to consider AI security tools



of security decision-makers say that their organization is more likely to consider a security solution that uses Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Up from 52% in 2023

Question: Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements:

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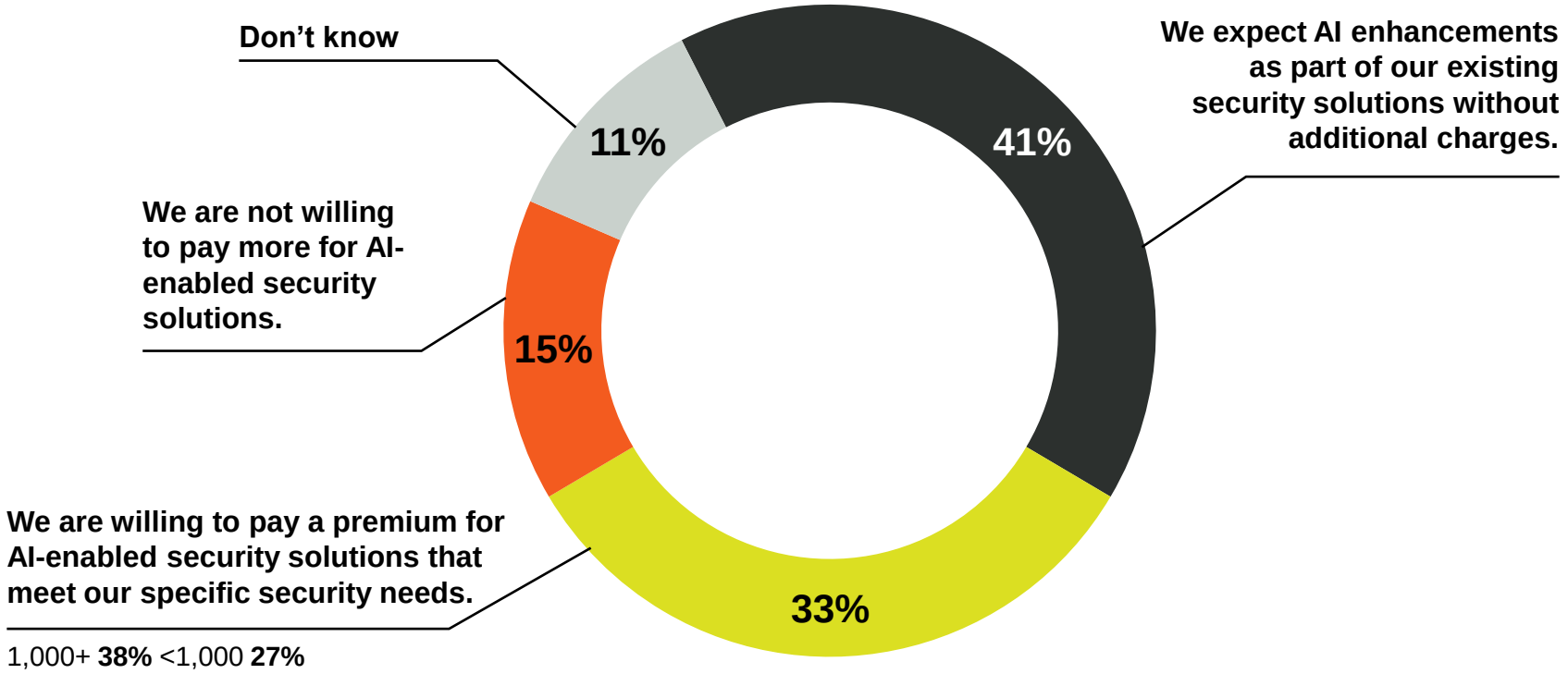
Source: CSO Security Priorities Study, 2024

And they’re expecting their vendors to add AI enhancements



Question: What is your organization's stance on investing in AI-enabled security solutions?

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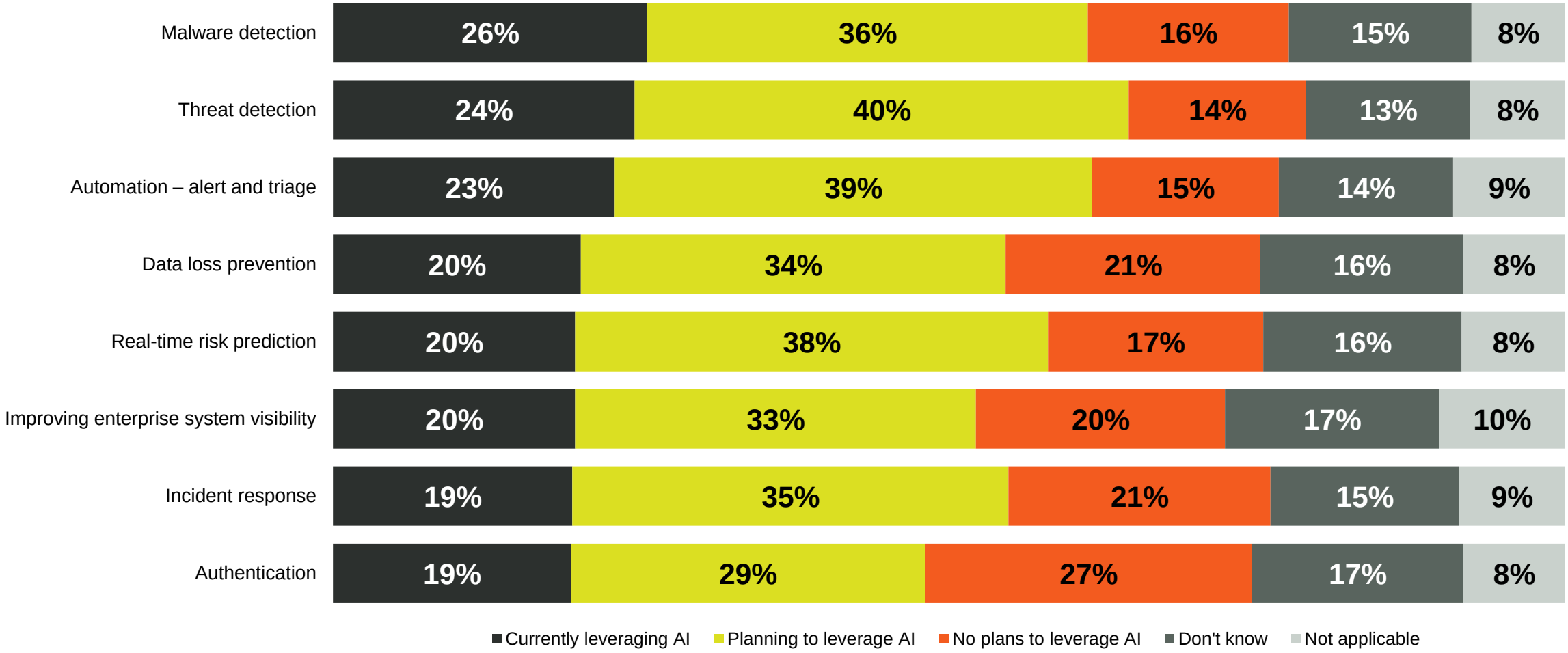
Source: CSO Security Priorities Study, 2024

Many plans to leverage AI in security technologies



Question: In which areas are you leveraging or planning to leverage Artificial Intelligence (AI) in your security technologies?

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Source: CSO Security Priorities Study, 2024

Benefits from AI-enabled security tech

98%

have seen benefits from the AI-enabled security technologies utilized by their organization

Up from 72% in 2023

Question: What benefits are you currently seeing from AI-enabled security technologies utilized by your organization?

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Source: CSO Security Priorities Study, 2024

Conclusions

One-third of companies are not aware of what caused their data security incidents over the past year, and three-quarters say it's becoming more complex to understand their security tech stack.

Despite too many competing priorities challenging businesses from achieving their security goals, security decision-makers are aiming to improve the protection of sensitive data and corporate resiliency.

To assist with their initiatives, top security execs have regular engagement with their Board of Directors. This relationship has significantly grown in the past year, further proving security's spotlight.

IT leaders are addressing security risks by investing in new solutions and increasing spend on what they have in their current security stack. AI continues to be sought after and shows clear benefits.

More than half are likely to consider a security solution that uses AI, but vendors must step up and offer insight into business value of the solution, security incident record, cost, and innovation.