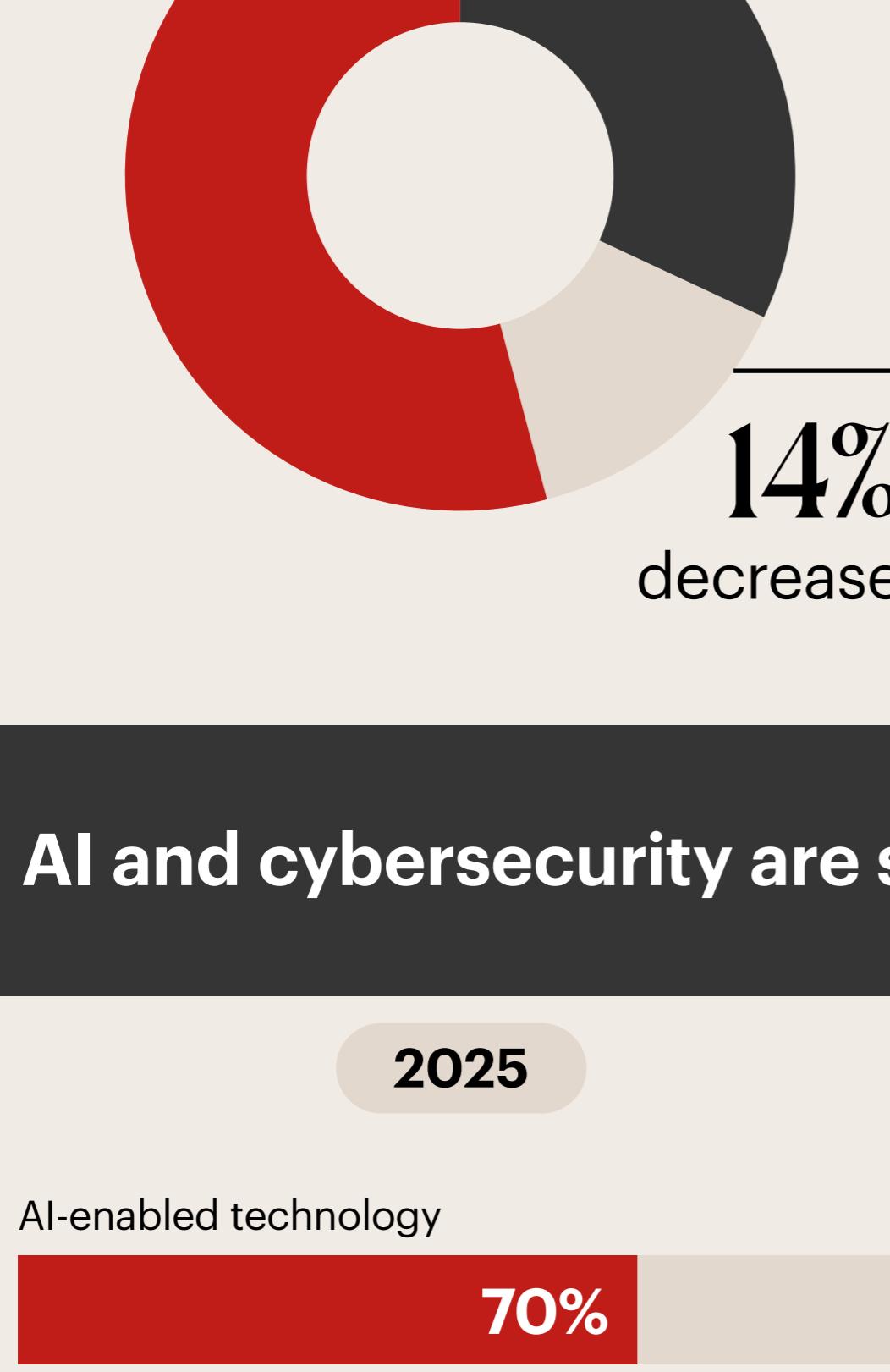


CIO tech trends: then vs. now

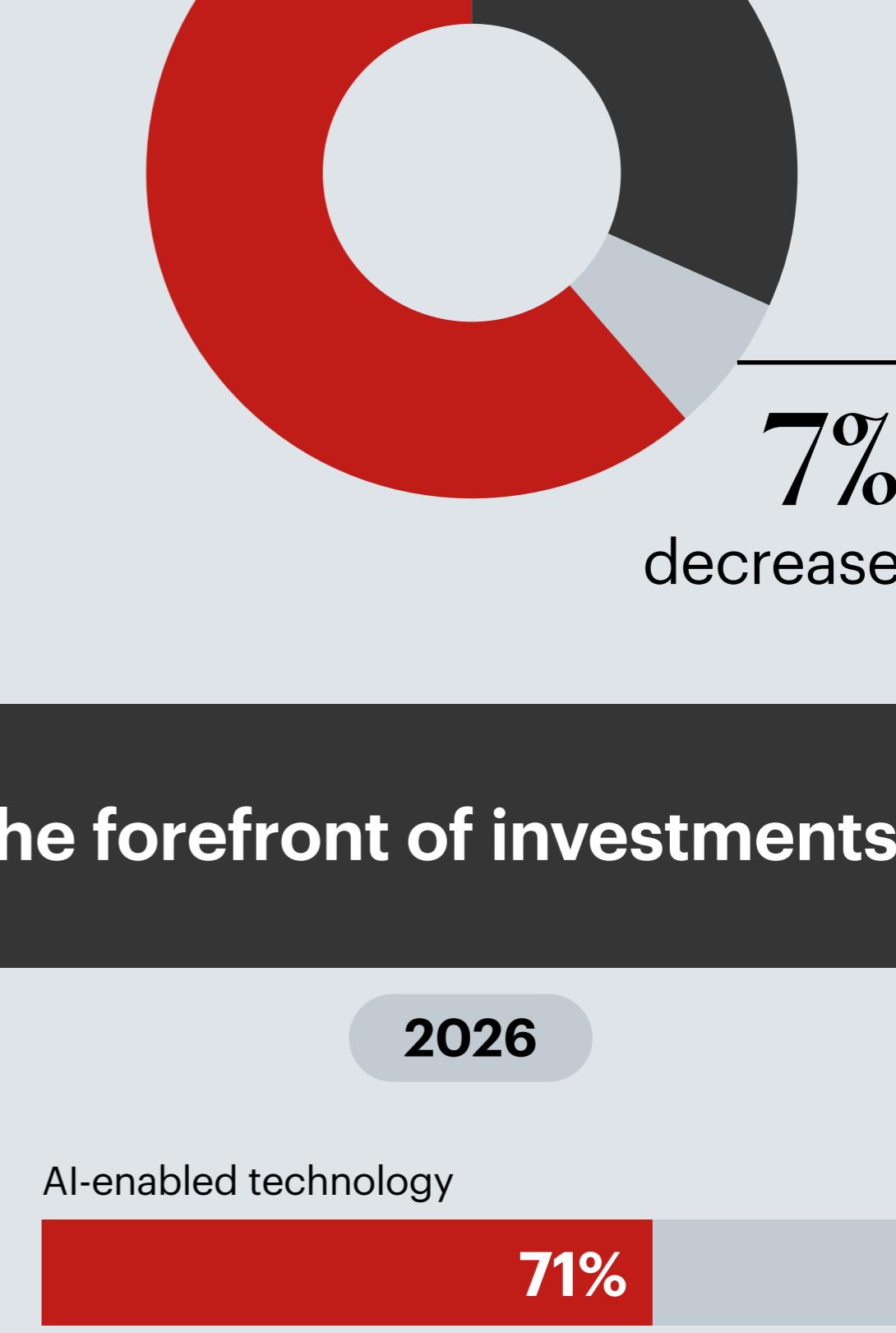
HIGHLIGHTS FROM CIO TECH POLL: TECH PRIORITIES STUDY

Technology budgets on the incline

2025

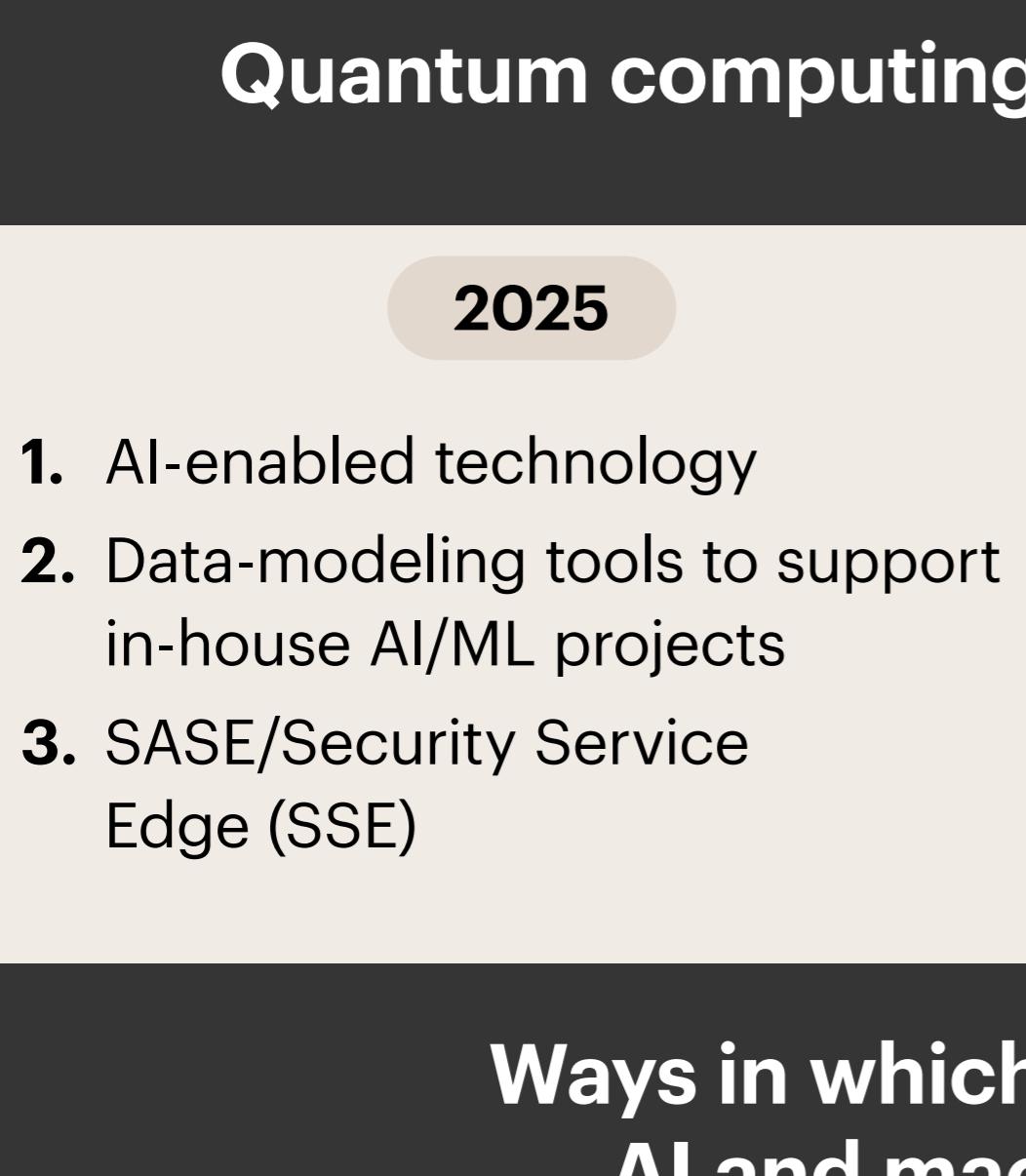


2026

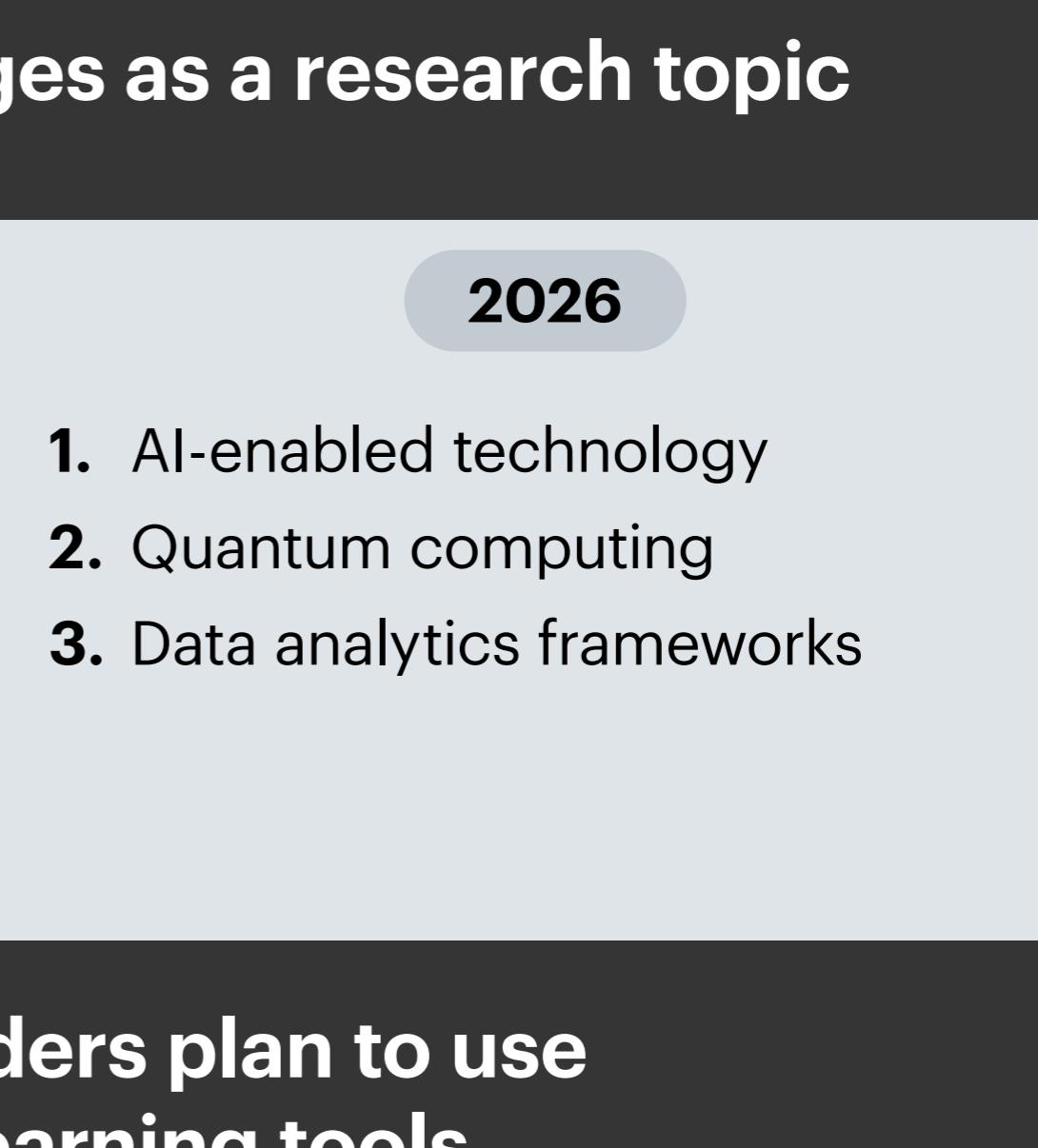


AI and cybersecurity are still at the forefront of investments

2025



2026



Quantum computing emerges as a research topic

2025

1. AI-enabled technology
2. Data-modeling tools to support in-house AI/ML projects
3. SASE/Security Service Edge (SSE)

2026

1. AI-enabled technology
2. Quantum computing
3. Data analytics frameworks

Ways in which IT leaders plan to use AI and machine learning tools

2025

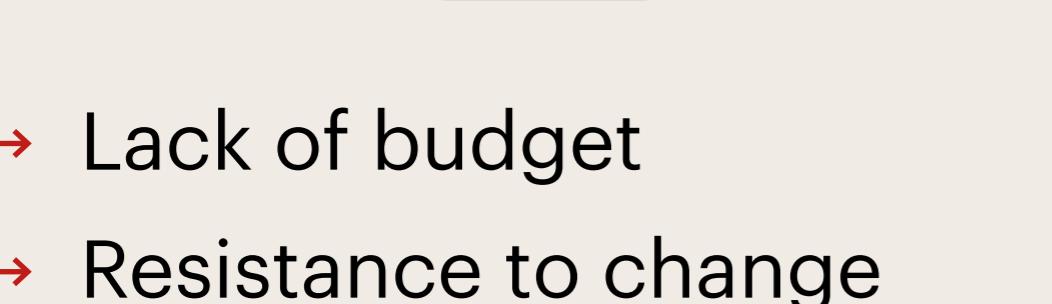
- Process automation and efficiency
- Enhancing customer experiences
- Natural Language Processing (NLP)
- Risk management/fraud detection
- Smart manufacturing/IoT integration (predictive maintenance, quality control, etc.)

2026

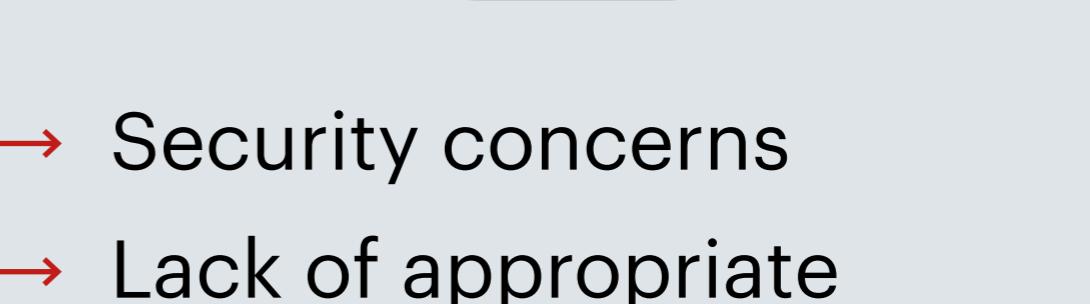
- Improving decision making through predictive or real-time analytics
- Risk management (e.g., cybersecurity, fraud detection)
- Process automation and efficiency
- Enhancing customer experiences
- Enhancing employee experiences (e.g., talent acquisition, personalized training)

AI gains traction as a top driver in vendor evaluation

2025



2026



Security becomes the top challenge to new technology adoption

2025

- Lack of budget
- Resistance to change within the organization
- Shortage of staff

2026

- Security concerns
- Lack of appropriate skillsets for deployment
- Inability to integrate with existing tools