

Security priorities: a look ahead

A snapshot of how IT security leaders are prioritizing projects and planning investments in the next 12 months

Current security incidents and vulnerabilities

57%

of organizations have **struggled to find the root cause** of security incidents over the past 12 months.

Top challenges inhibiting security goal achievement

1. Employee awareness and training issues
2. Lack of sufficient budget
3. Addressing the risks presented by disruptive technologies (AI, machine learning, IoT)
4. Retaining qualified security employees
5. Process complexity

32%

are **willing to pay a premium** for AI-enabled security solutions that meet their specific security needs.

AI-enabled attacks are a concern to security buyers

AI-enabled ransomware	38%
Leveraging AI to facilitate attack automation	35%
Adversary’s use of AI to hunt for vulnerabilities in our enterprise	33%

How are organizations prepping to prevent cyberattacks?

This year’s top security priorities

1. Strengthen protection of confidential and sensitive data.
2. Improve security of cloud data and systems.
3. Simplify IT security infrastructure.
4. Improve understanding of external threats (via threat intelligence).
5. Accelerate the use of AI to improve security effectiveness.

76%

agree that understanding which security tools fit best within their company is **becoming more complex**.

Security tools on the radar for organizations

AI-enabled security technology	47%
Identity threat detection and response	37%
Deception technology	33%
Zero trust technologies	32%
SASE (Secure access service edge)	31%

Upcoming budget plans to combat risks

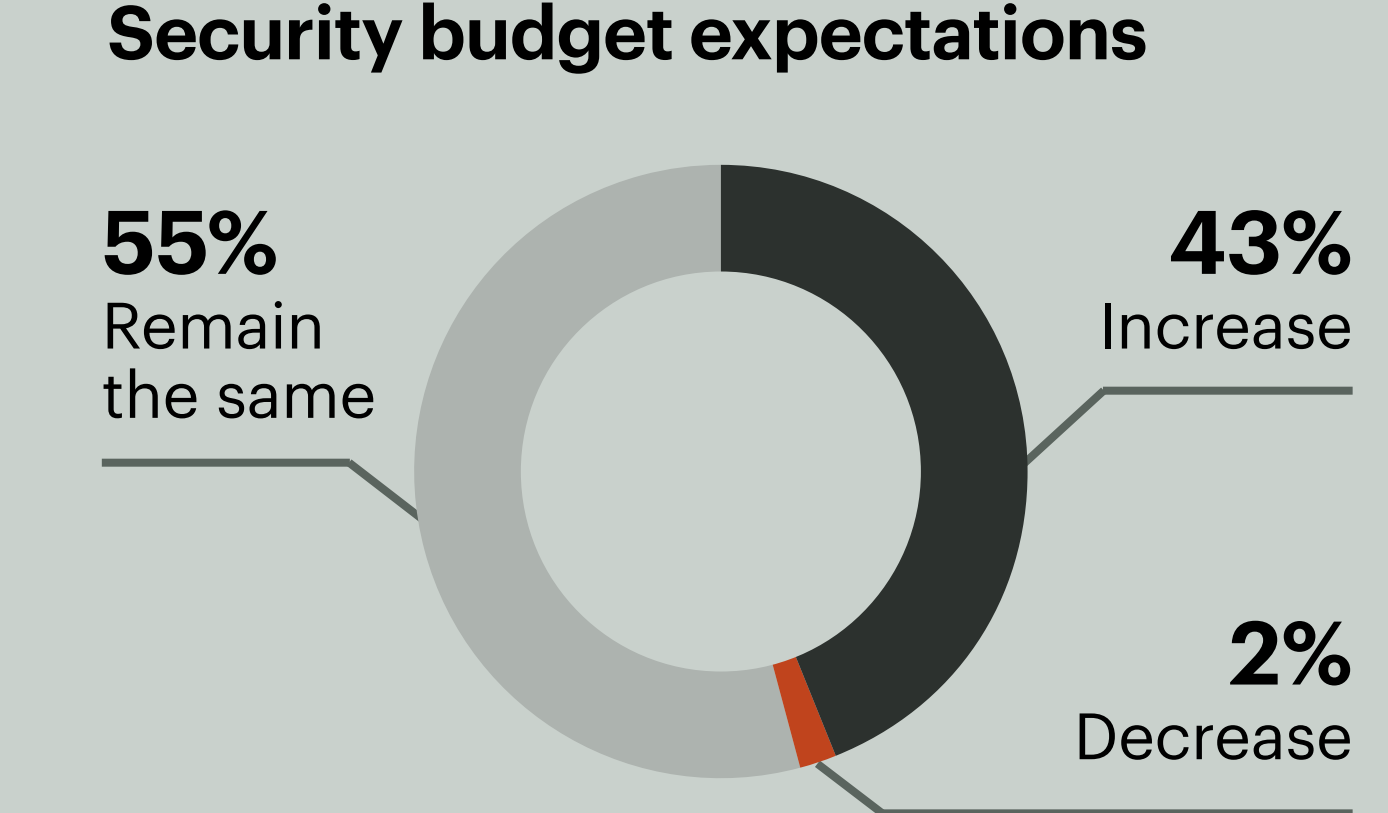
Top business priorities driving security spending

Increasing cybersecurity protections	42%
Increasing operations efficiency	37%
Accelerating AI-driven innovation	31%

Increasing spend in these areas

1. AI-enabled security technology
2. Application development security
3. Cloud data protection
4. Cloud-based cybersecurity services
5. Cyber risk insurance

90% will outsource their security functions to a managed security services provider or another third-party within the next 12 months.



Artificial intelligence driving security plans

73%

of security decision-makers say that their organization is **more likely to consider** a security solution that uses AI.

- 99% of organizations have experienced benefits from AI-enabled security technologies, including:**
- Faster identification of unknown threats
 - Accelerated detection and response times
 - The ability to sift through large volumes of data more efficiently than previous solutions

- Security leaders are leveraging AI in their security technologies, specifically in these areas:**
- Threat detection
 - Malware detection
 - Anomaly detection (detection of unusual user behavior)