

CSO

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 issues that will demand the most time and strategic thinking for IT and security teams.

Total respondents: 641

Collection method: Online questionnaire

Number of questions: 30

Region

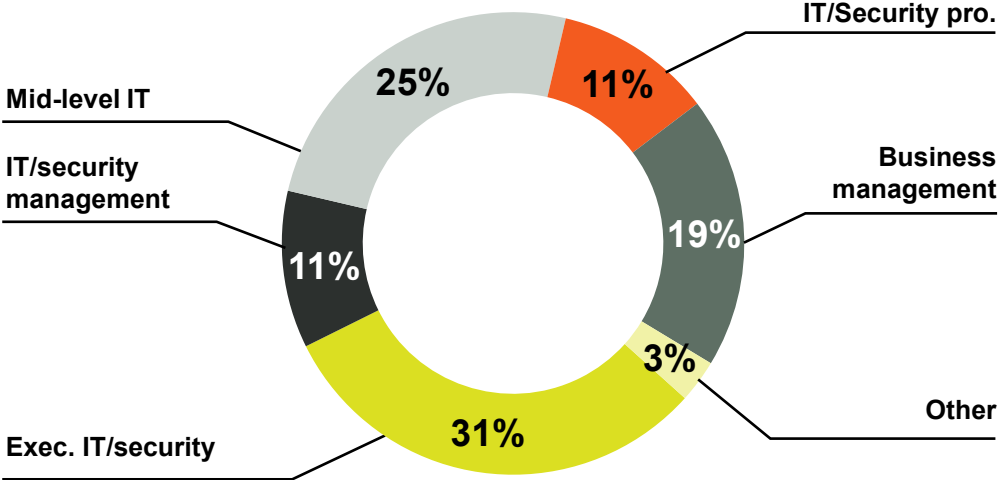
North America: 46%
EMEA: 18%
APAC: 36%

Average company size: 14,494 employees

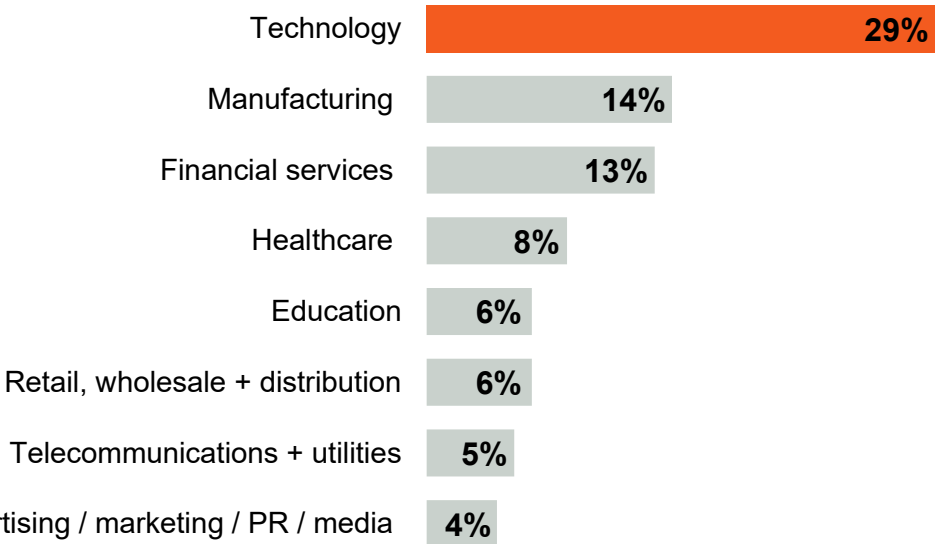
IT Leadership: All survey respondents are involved in IT and/or corporate/physical security decisions.

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

Job titles



Top represented industries



What's happening in the security department?

76%

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

57%

say their organization has
**struggled to find the root cause
of security incidents**
they've experienced
over the past 12 months.

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

The role of the security decision-maker is expanding

67%

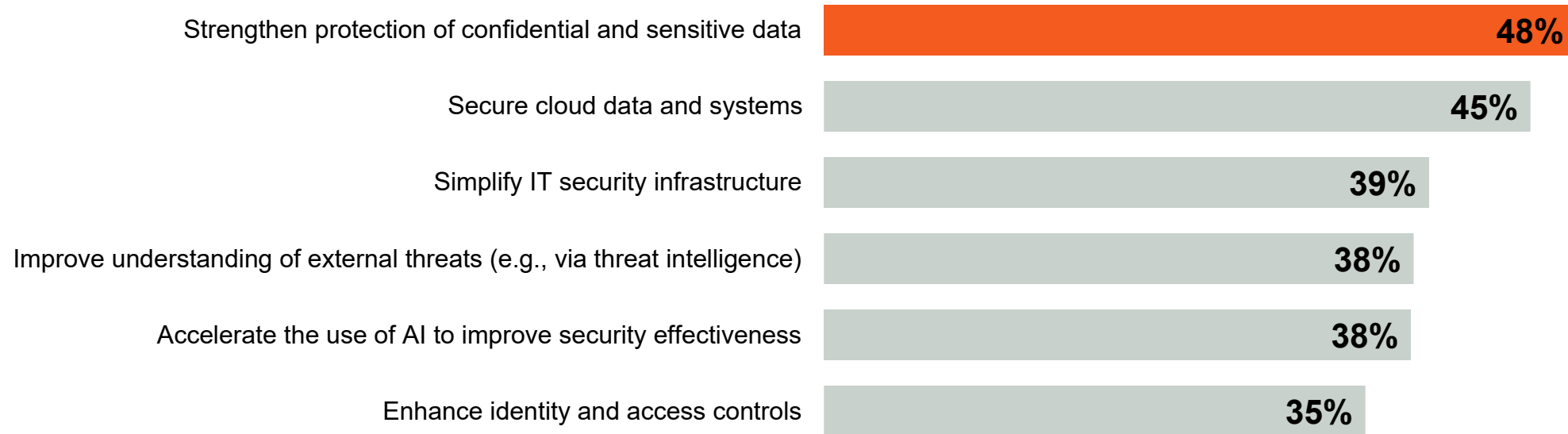
agree that their **responsibilities** include addressing information security issues **outside of their country or region**.

Top five responsibilities they are taking on:

1. **Cybersecurity strategy and policy development**
2. **Risk management**
3. **Security architecture and technology updates**
4. **Managing the risks of AI-enabled technology**
5. **Innovation and emerging technologies**

Question: Has your role expanded to include additional responsibilities over the past 12 months? AND What additional responsibilities have you taken on in your role?

Key security priorities organizations are focused on



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

Top five challenges inhibiting security goal achievement

1

Employee awareness training

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

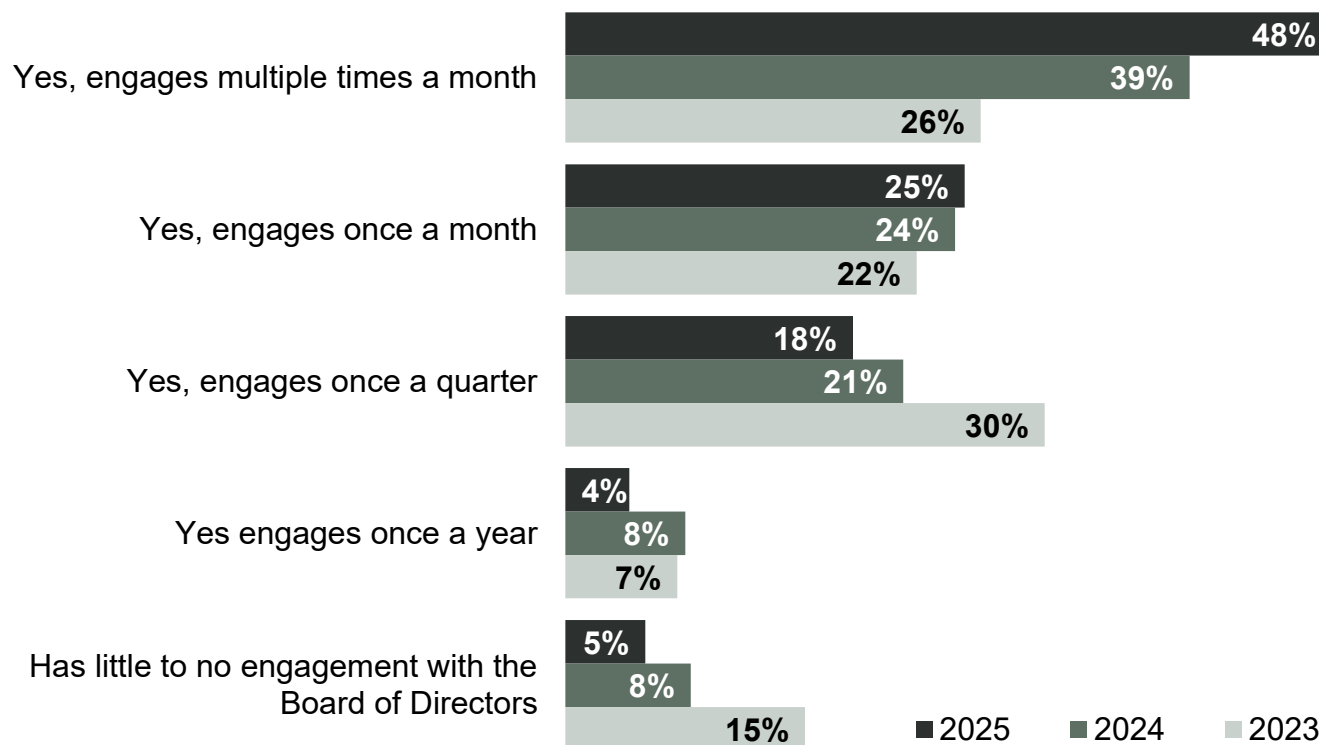
Question: What challenges are keeping you from achieving your security goals?

Top security execs engage with Board multiple times a month

95%

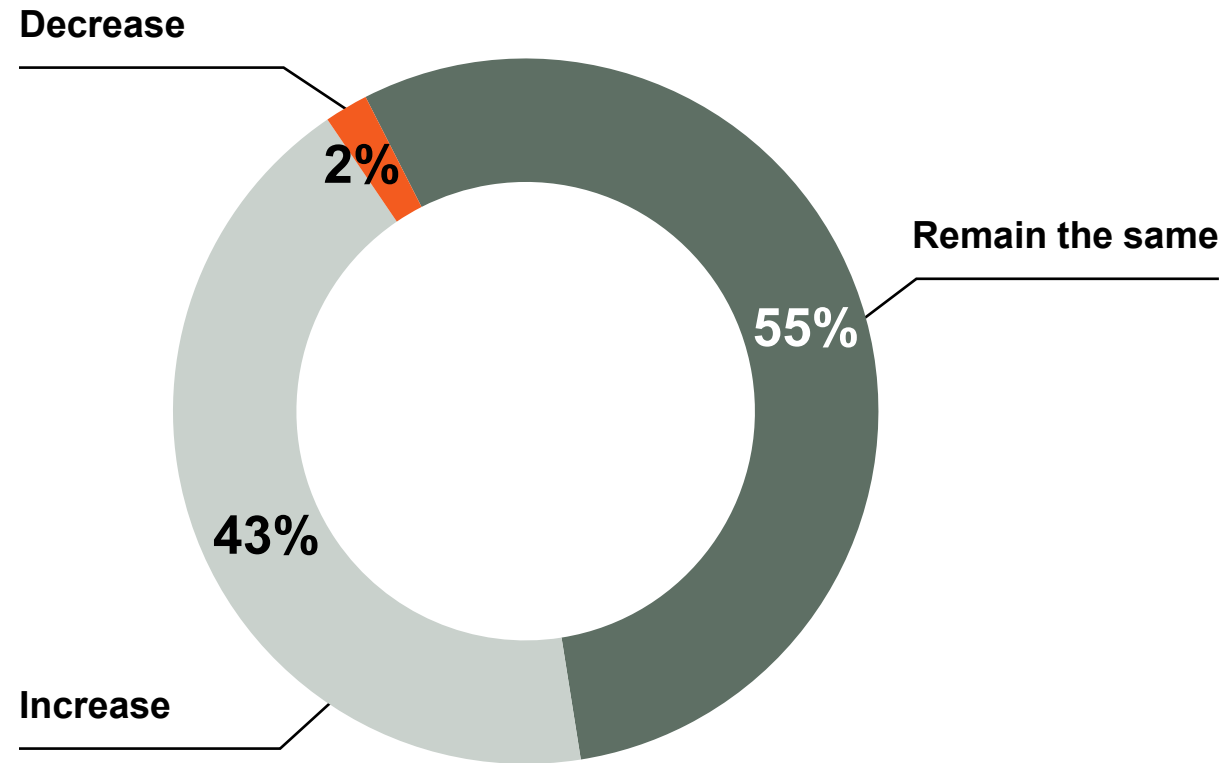
of top IT security executives have engagement with their Board of Directors.

Up from 85% in 2023.



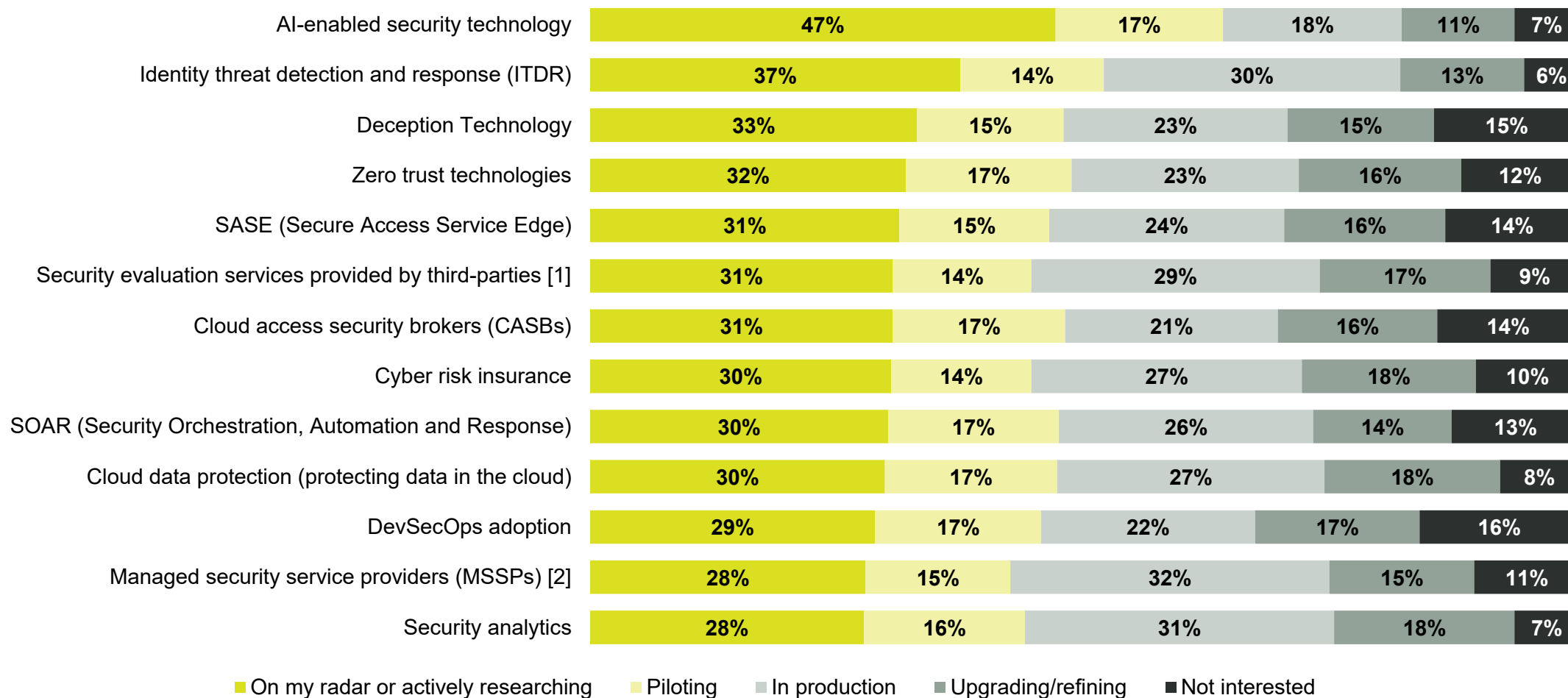
Question: Does your CSO/CISO/top security executive have regular engagement with the Board of Directors?

Security budgets expected to increase or hold steady



Question: Do you expect your organization's overall security budget to increase, decrease or remain the same in the next 12 months?

Security solutions on the radar



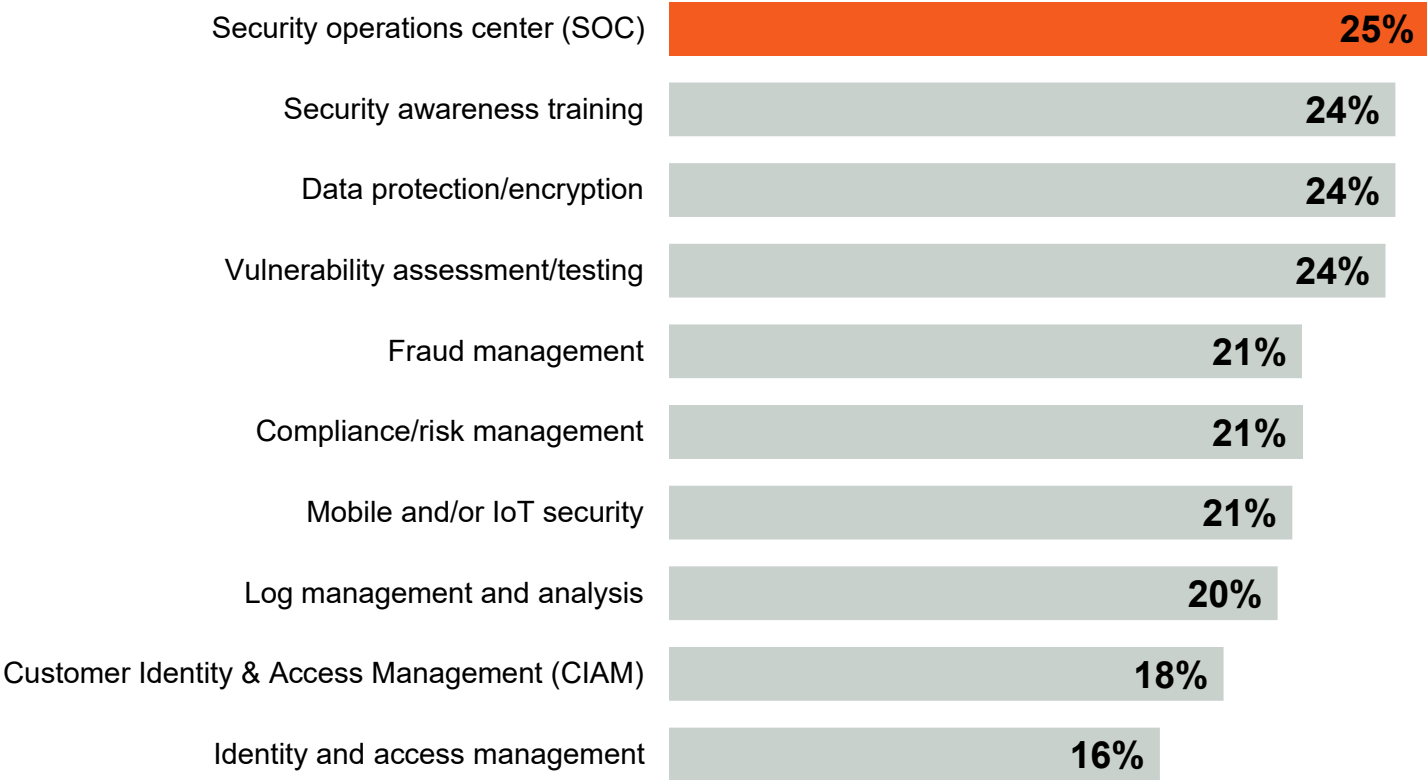
Question: Which option best describes your current activity for each of the following security solutions, services, or models?

Planning to outsource these security functions

90%

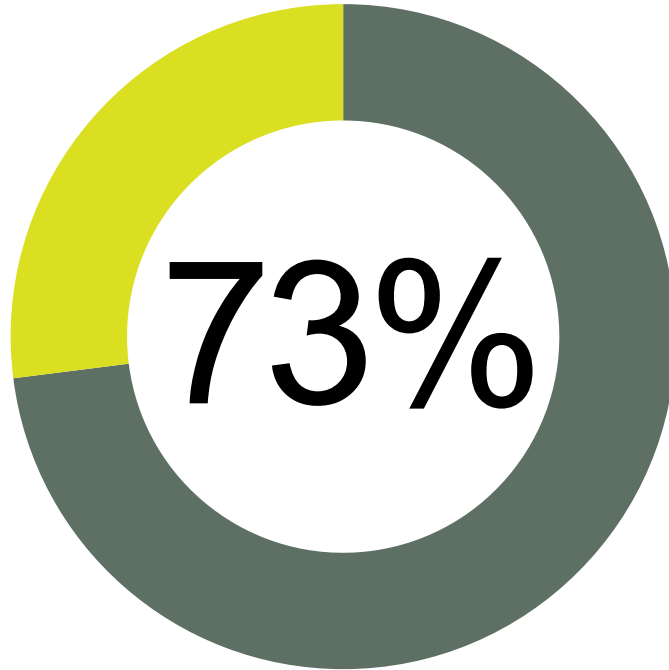
will outsource security functions to a managed security services provider or other third-party in the next 12 months.

Up from 82% in 2024.



Question: Which of the following security functions will your organization outsource over the next 12 months to a managed security services provider or other third-party (not including SaaS)?

Security buyers more likely to consider AI security tools

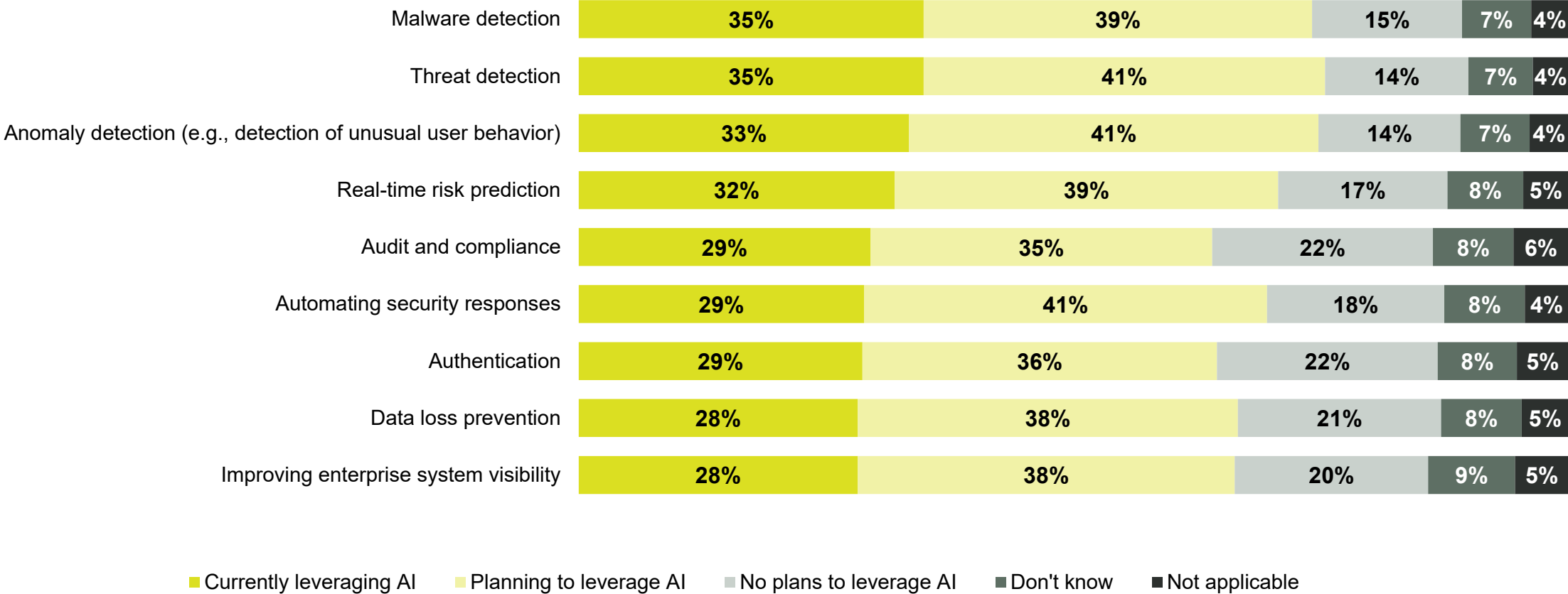


of security decision-makers say that their organization is more likely to consider a security solution that uses Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Up from 59% in 2024.

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

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?

Thank you

CSO

