

# CSO

Security Priorities Study 2024



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# The security situation



# 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:

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# The role of the security decision-maker is expanding

**72%**

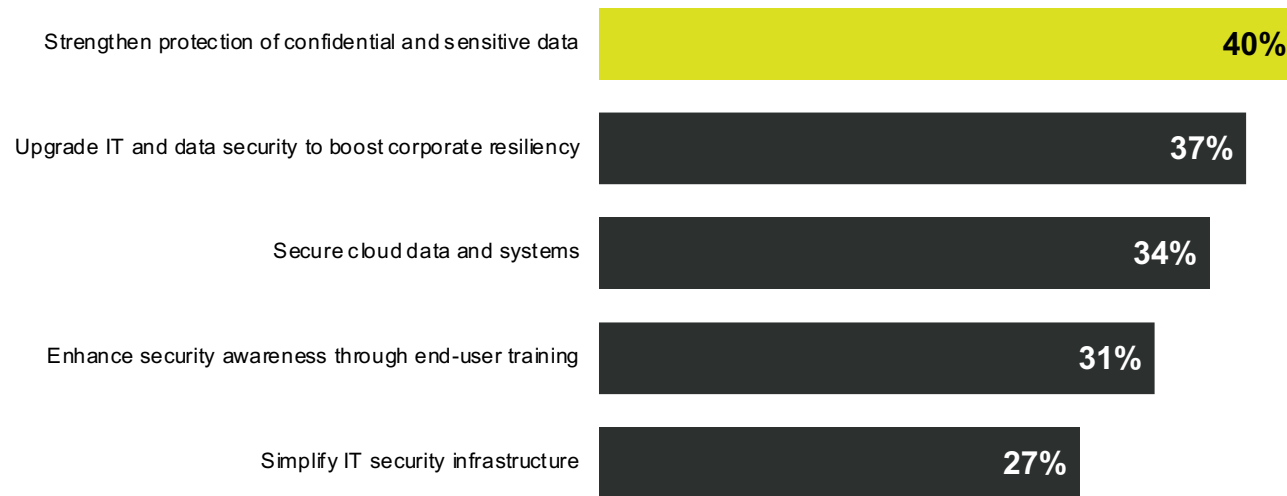
of security decision-makers  
say that their role has  
expanded to include  
additional responsibilities  
over the past 12 months

## Top five responsibilities they are taking on:

1. Cybersecurity strategy and policy development
2. Risk management
3. Securing AI-enabled technology
4. Innovation and emerging technologies
5. Security architecture and technology updates

**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



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

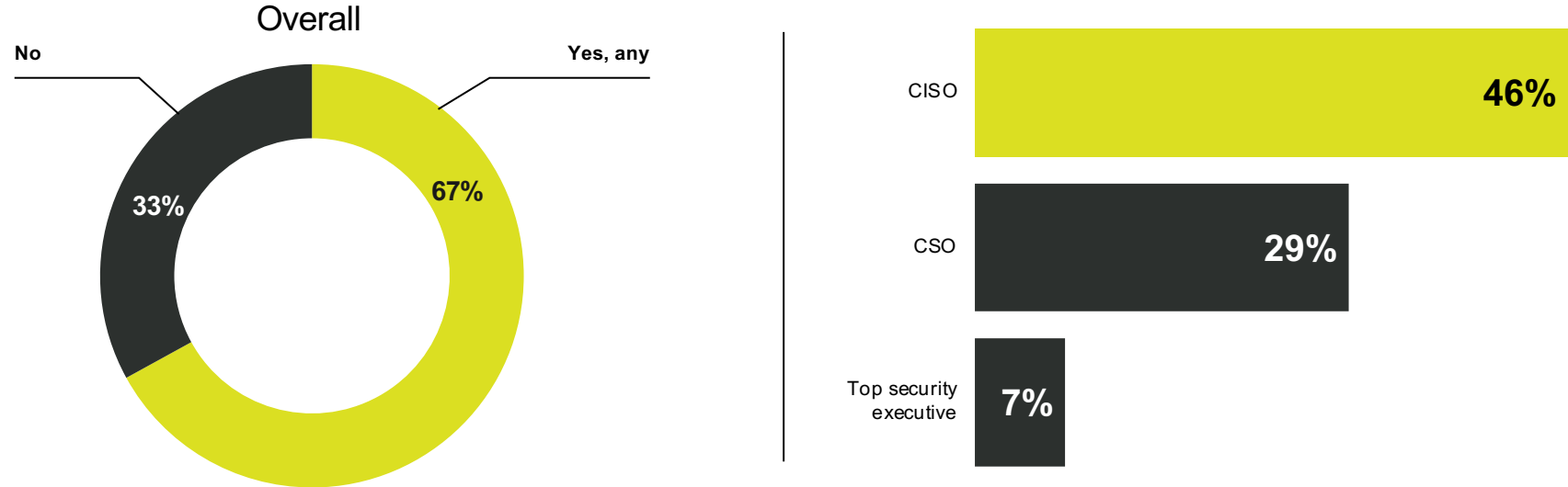


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# Security's role within the organization



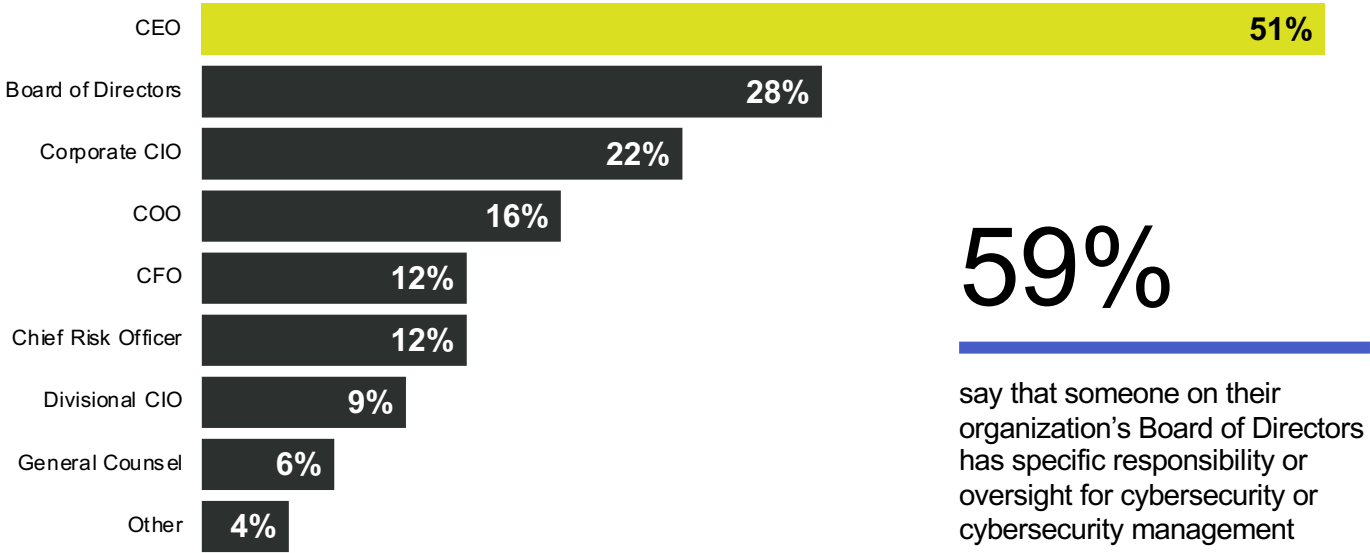
# Investing in executives to support security initiatives



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



# Reporting structure of security executives



Question: To whom does your CISO, CSO or equivalent report, directly and indirectly?

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Source: CSO Security Priorities Study, 2024

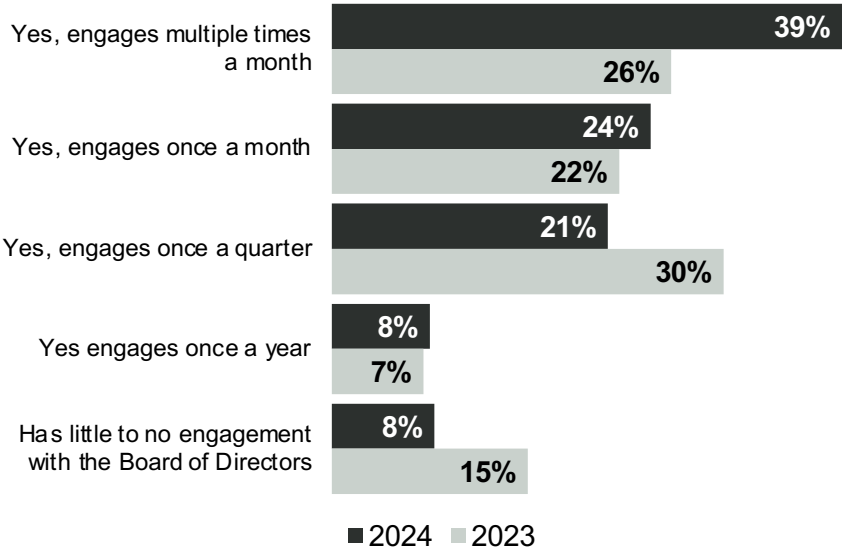
# Growing engagement with Board of Directors

66%

agree that their engagement with the Board of Directors helps improve cybersecurity/ security initiatives

92%

of top IT security executives have engagement with their Board of Directors  
**Up from 85% in 2023**



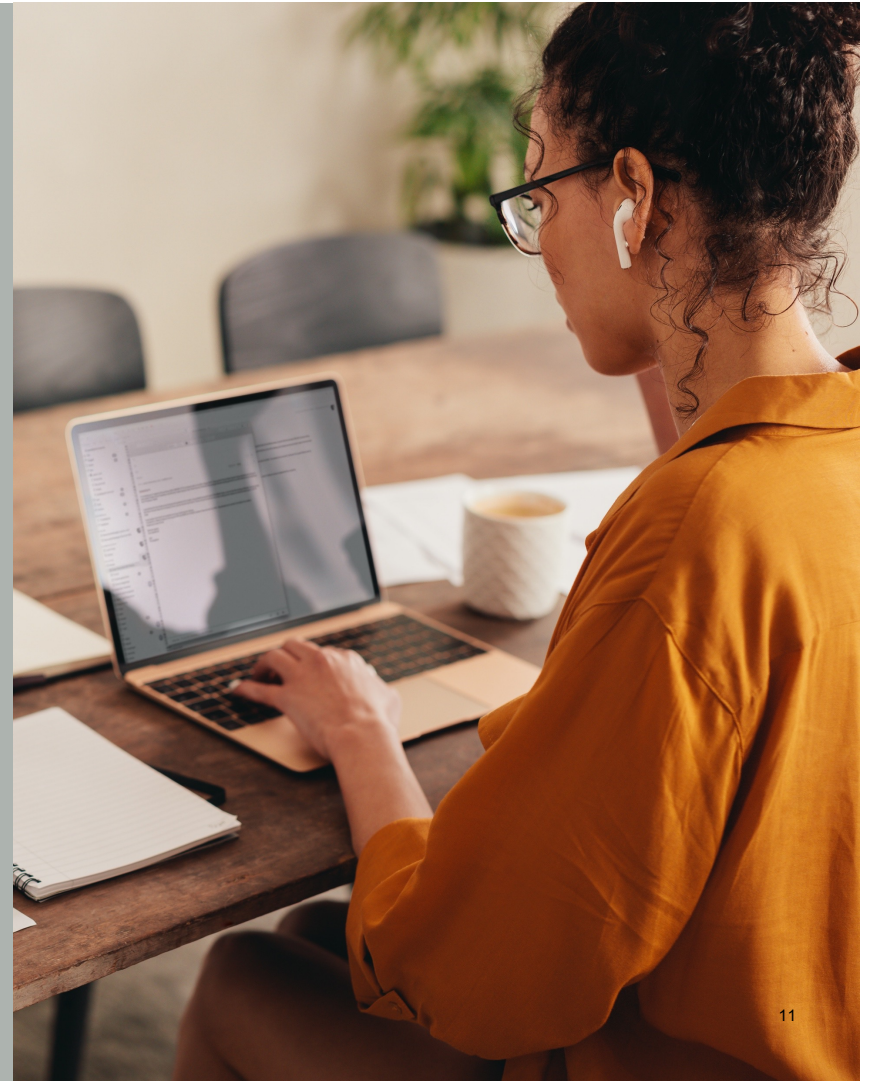
Question: Does your CSO/CISO/top security executive have regular engagement with the Board of Directors ?

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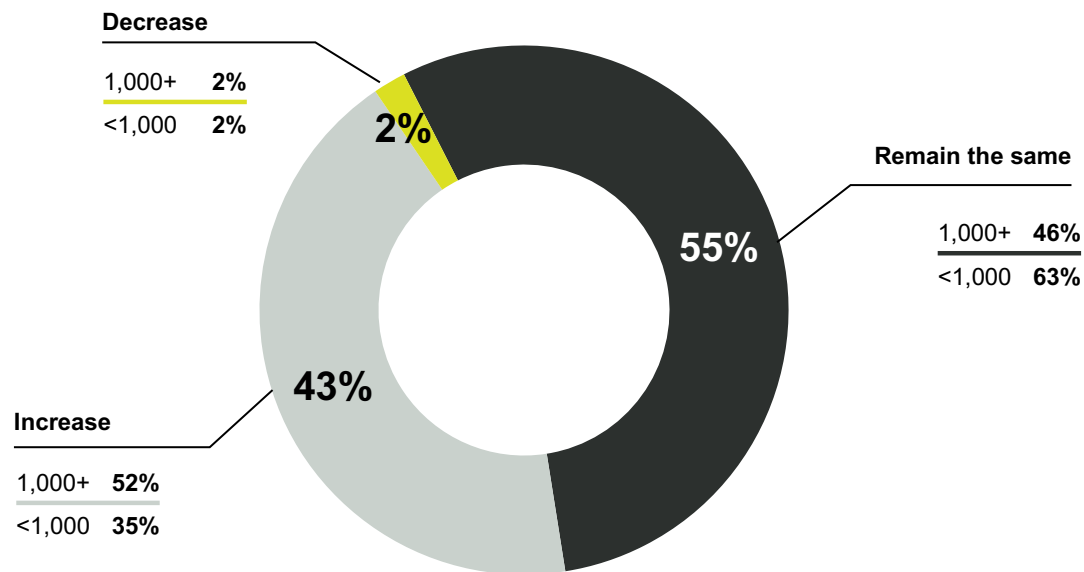
Source: CSO Security Priorities Study, 2024

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# Security investment plans

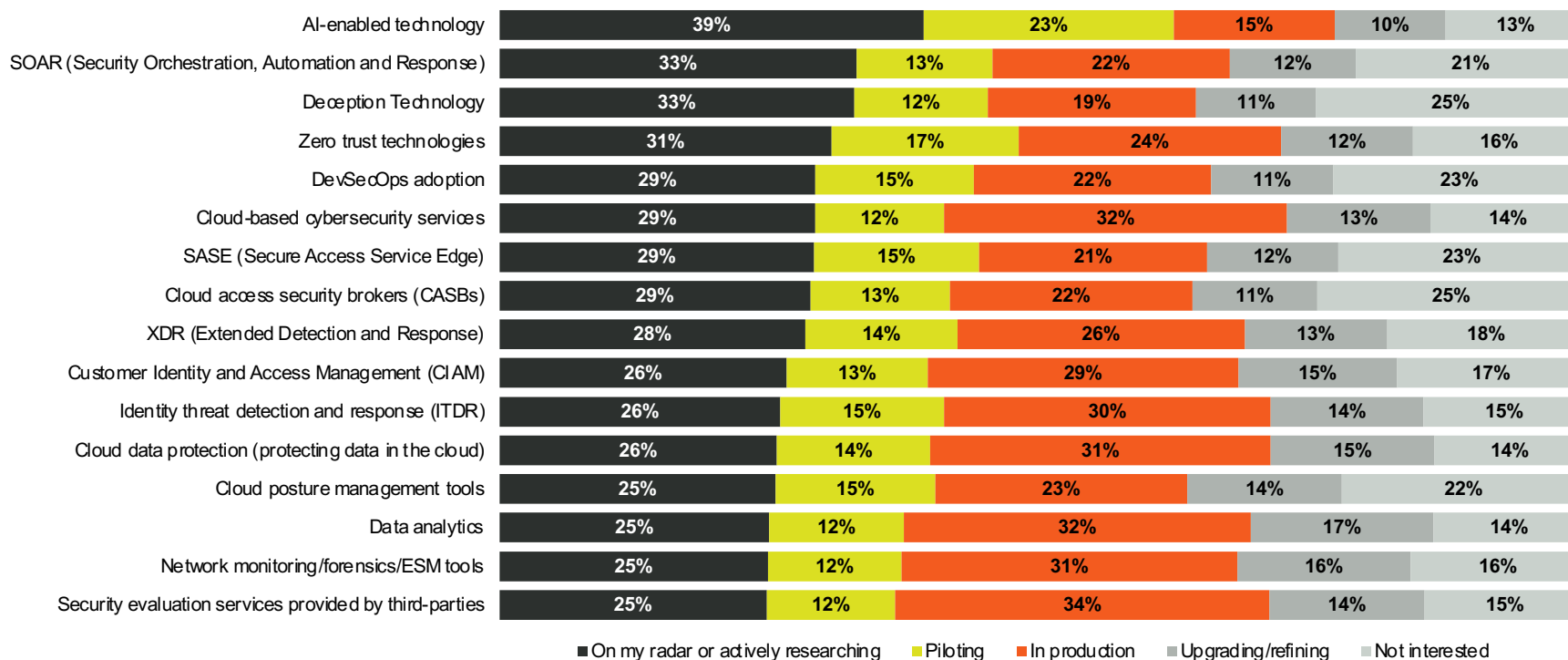


# Security budgets expected to increase or hold steady



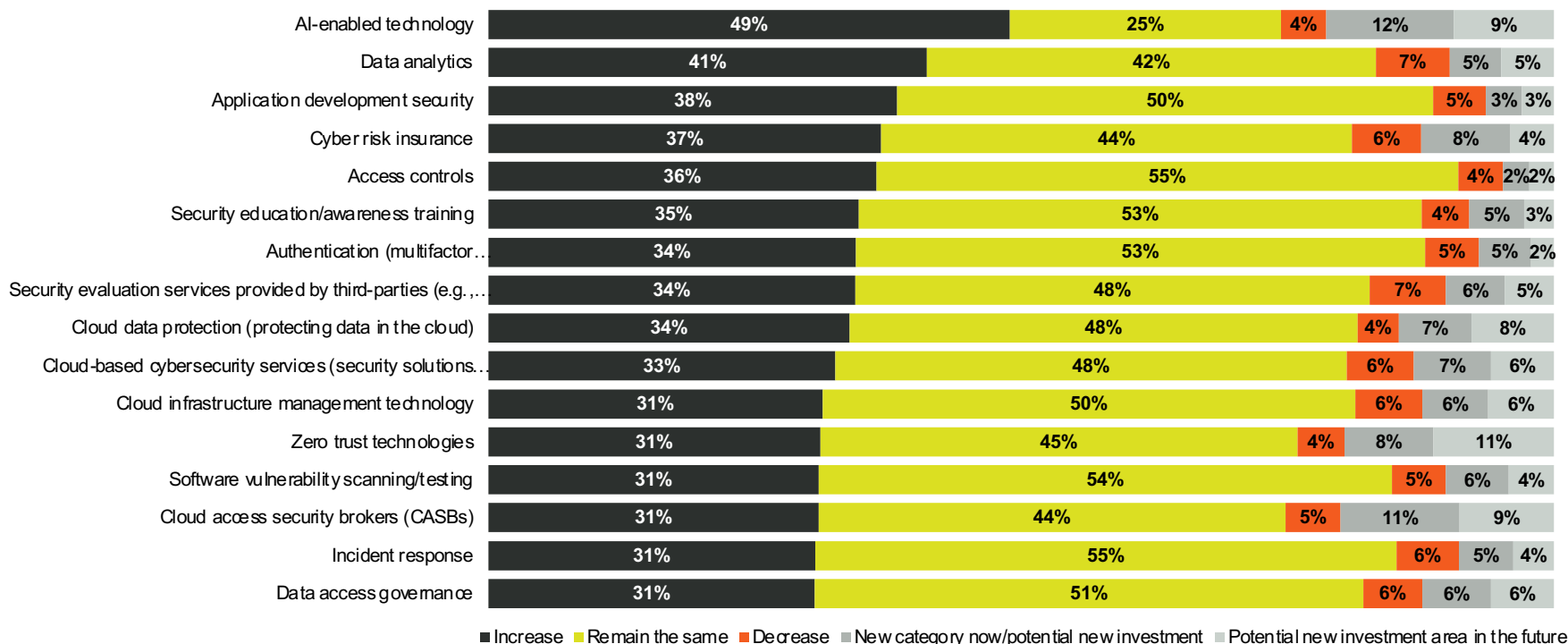
**Question:** Do you expect your organization's overall security budget to increase, decrease or remain the same in the next 12 months?

# Researching and piloting solutions to meet security goals



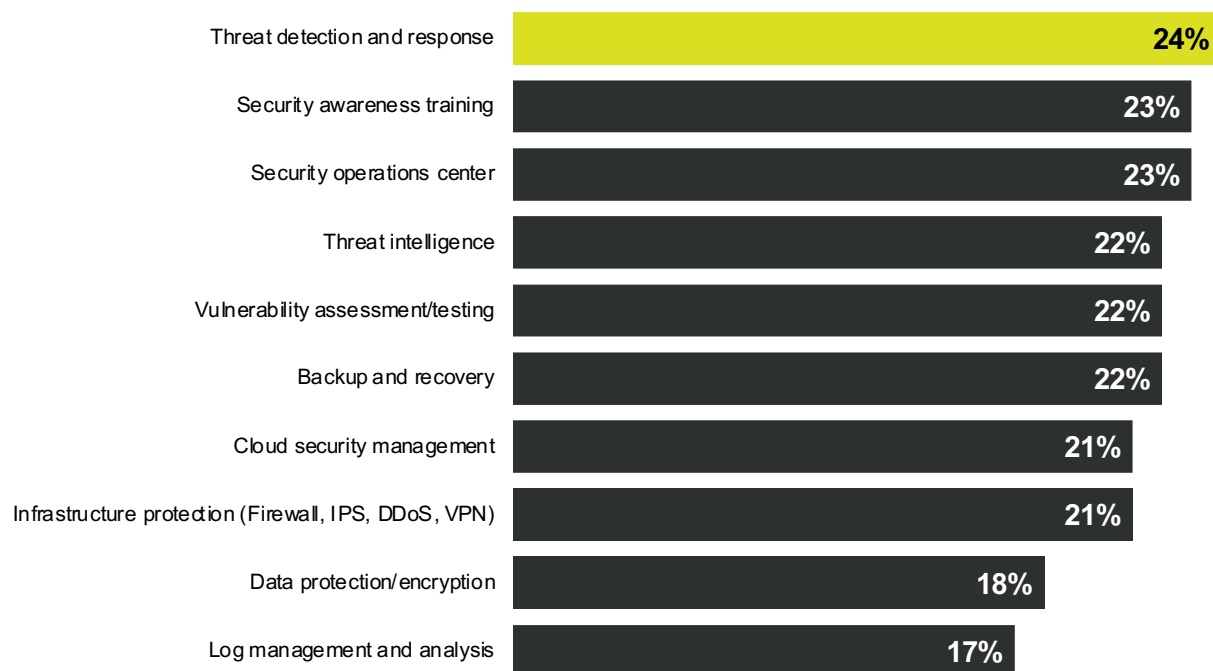
**Question:** Which option best describes your current activity for each of the following security solutions, services, or models?

# AI-enabled security tools see the greatest increase in spending



**Question:** Please describe how your company's level of spending in the following areas will change over the next 12 months.

## Planning to outsource these security functions



# 82%

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

**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)?

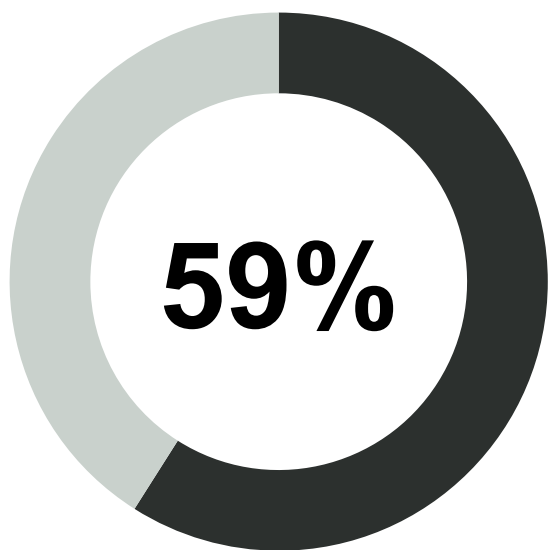


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# Activity around AI-enabled security solutions



## 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)

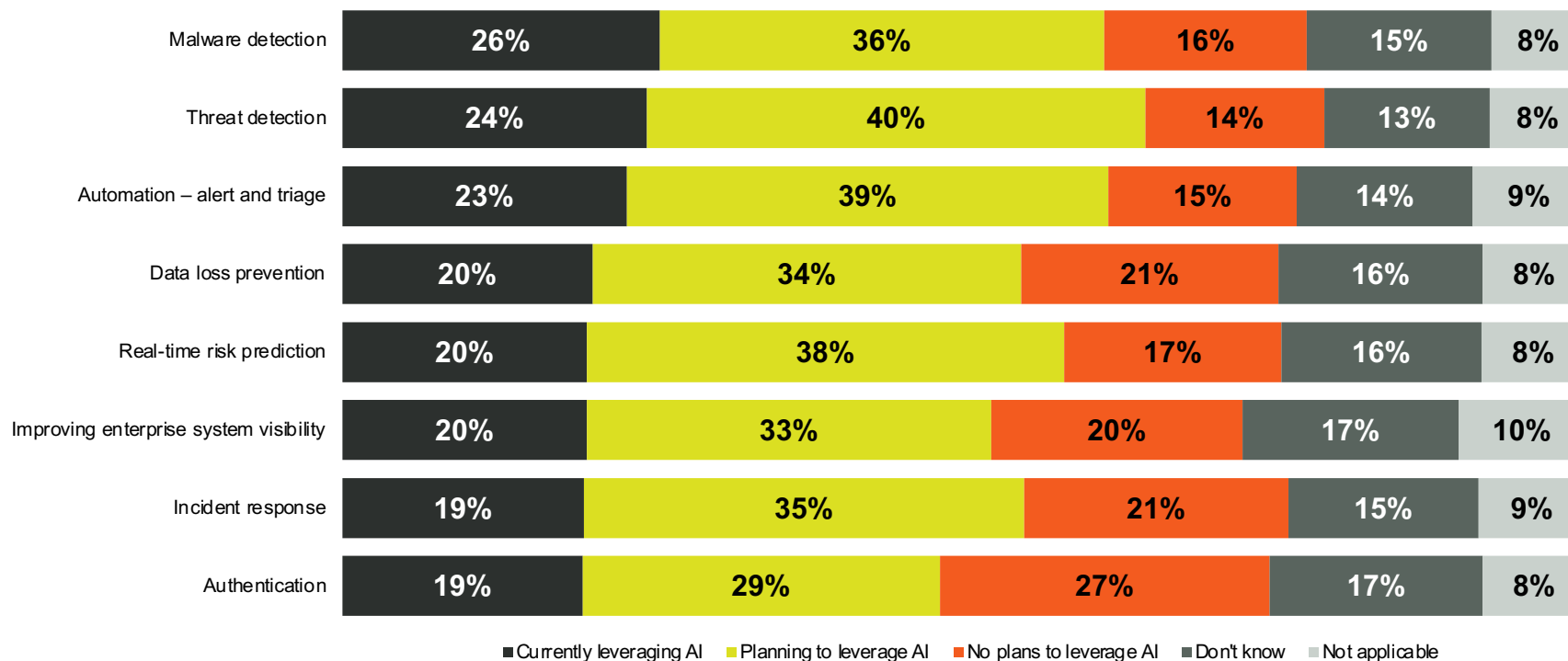
**Up from 52% in 2023**

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

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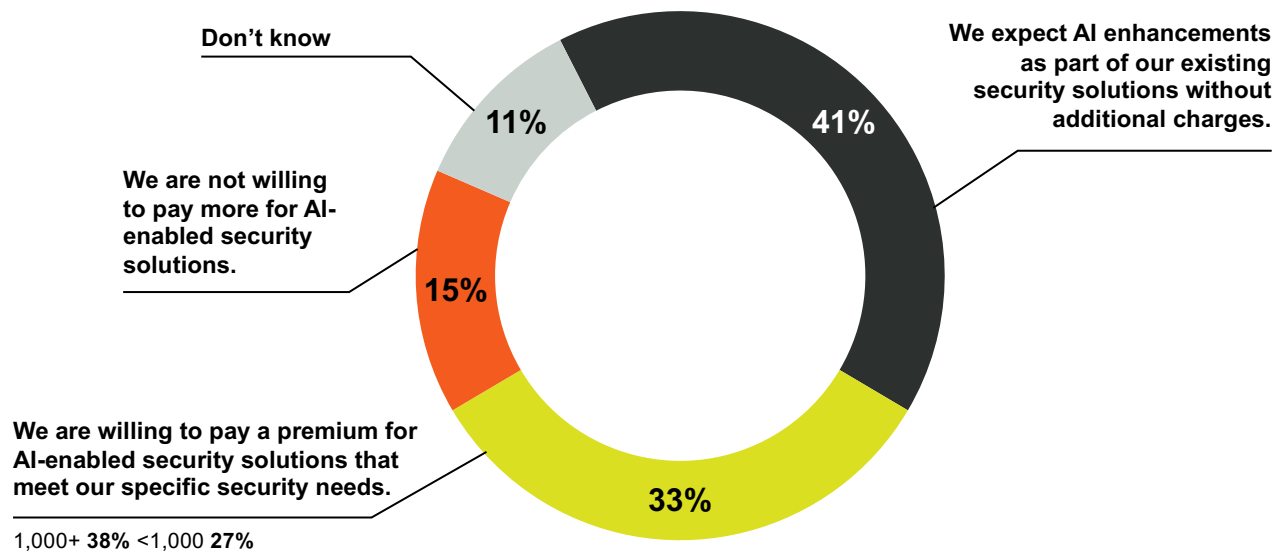
Source: CSO Security Priorities Study, 2024

## 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?

## And they're expecting their vendors to add AI enhancements



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

# Benefits from AI-enabled security tech



98%

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

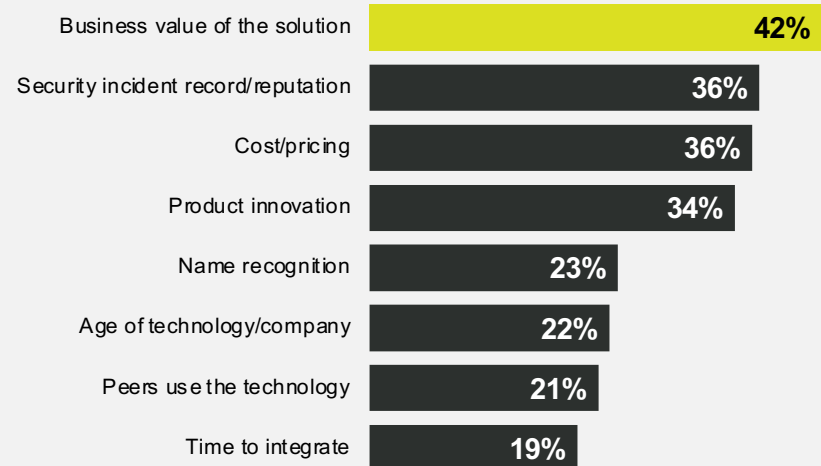
Up from 72% in 2023

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

# Top 10 leaders in AI-enabled security

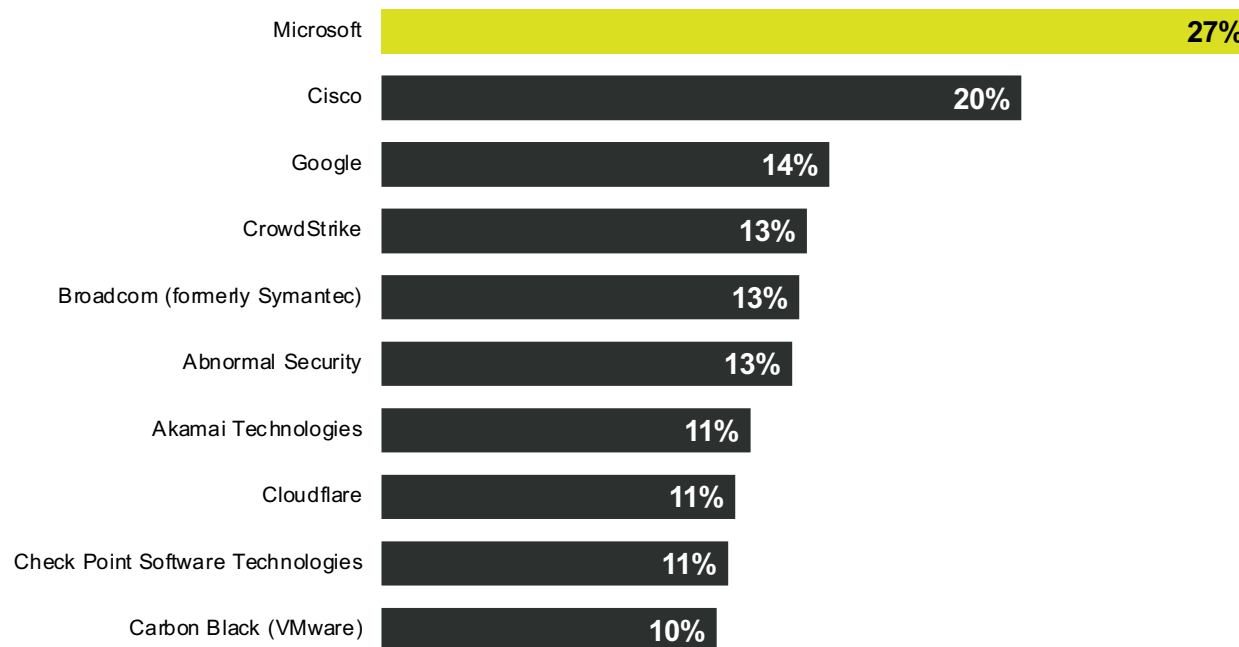
1. Microsoft
2. Cisco
3. Google
4. CrowdStrike
5. Cloudflare
6. Abnormal Security
7. IBM Security
8. Broadcom (formerly Symantec)
9. Akamai Technologies
10. Palo Alto Networks

## Based on these factors:



**Question:** Which technology providers do you consider to be leaders in AI-enabled security? AND In the prior question, what were the most important factors in your decision to select a provider as a leader in AI-enabled security?

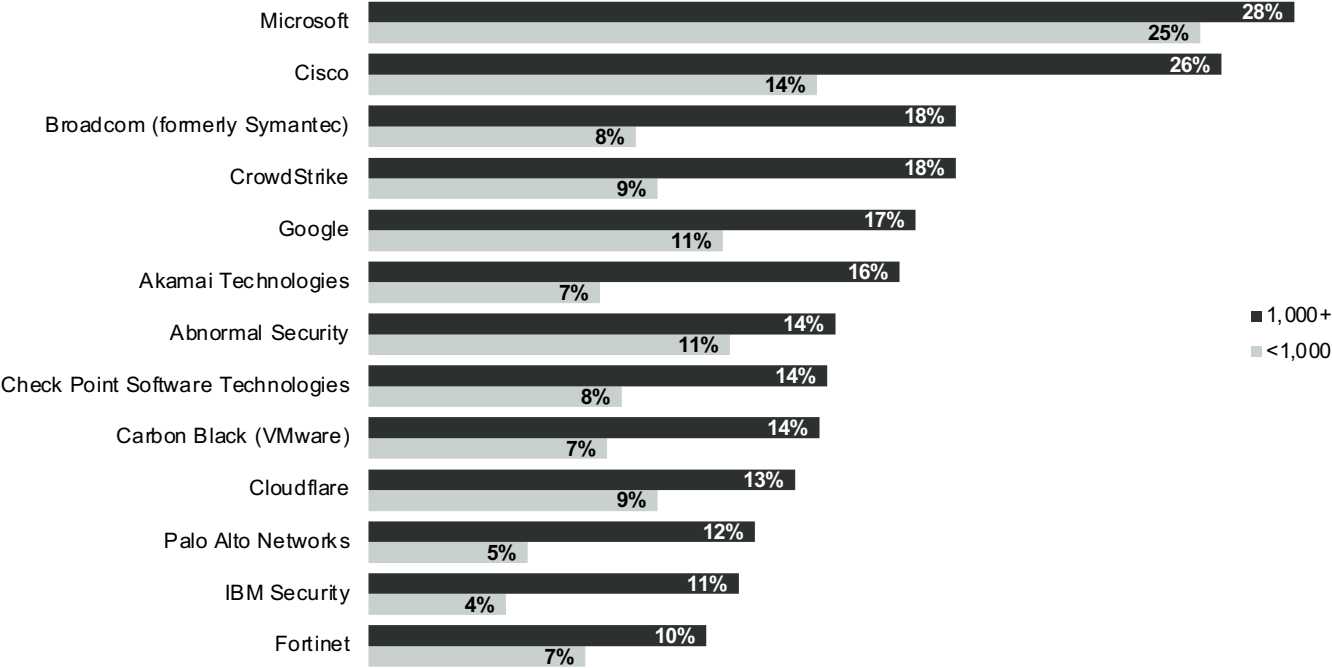
## AI-enabled security vendors currently in use



**Question:** Is your organization currently using AI-enabled security products from any of the following vendors?



# Higher use among enterprise organizations



Question: Is your organization currently using AI-enabled security products from any of the following vendors?

# Conclusions

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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.

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