





Corporate cybersecurity barometer

Wave 10 – January 2025





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Context



Context and objectives

- The Club des Experts de la Sécurité de l'Information et du Numérique (CESIN) provides a forum for corporate security and digital experts.
- CESIN, with OpinionWay, launched its first major survey of its members in 2015 to find out:
 - the **perception of cybersecurity and its challenges** within CESIN member companies
 - **the** concrete **reality of** corporate IT security.
- The survey, which is renewed every year, updates the results on the perception and reality of cybersecurity, and provides new data on the impact of the digital transformation of businesses.



Methodology







Sample of **401 CESIN members, drawn** from the CESIN membership file.



The sample group was interviewed by **online self-administered questionnaire on a CAWI** (Computer Assisted Web Interview) system.



The interviews were conducted between December 10, 2024 and January 7, 2025.



OpinionWay conducted this survey in accordance with the procedures and rules of the **ISO 20252 standard**



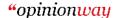
The results of this survey should be read in the light of the margins of uncertainty: 4.9 points at most for a sample of 400 respondents.



All publications, whether in whole or in part, must use the following full wording:

"OpinionWay survey for CESIN".

and no survey can be dissociated from this title.



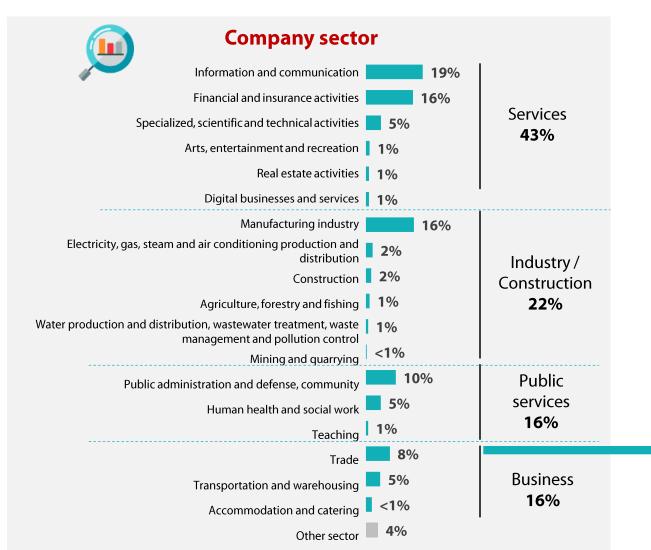


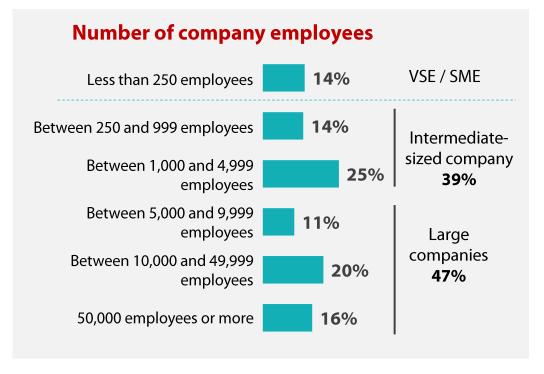
Sample

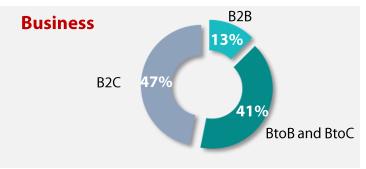




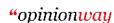
A sample that perfectly reflects the diversity of the population surveyed













Analysis





01

A stable volume of cyberattacks in 2024, with the contours and consequences remaining broadly identical to the previous year



"A cyberattack, for the purposes of this survey, is the occurrence of a malicious act against an IT device that significantly impairs the confidentiality and/or integrity of the company's information or the availability of the information system, resulting in significant financial loss and/or damage to the company's image and/or significant defense efforts to contain and deal with the attack. This does not include attempted attacks that have been stopped by your prevention systems."

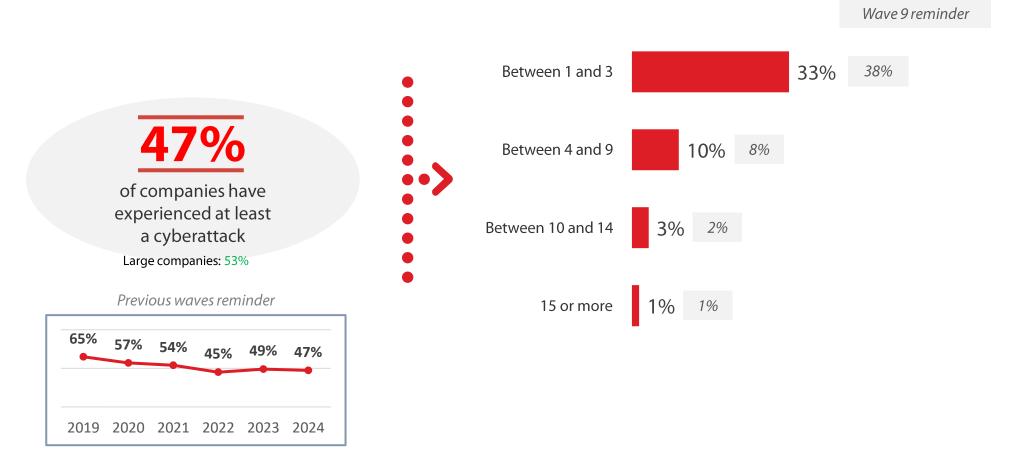




Half the companies suffered at least one cyberattack in 2024, a proportion that remains stable compared to the previous year.



Q4. In total, how many significant cyberattacks has your company suffered in the last 12 months? *Base: all*







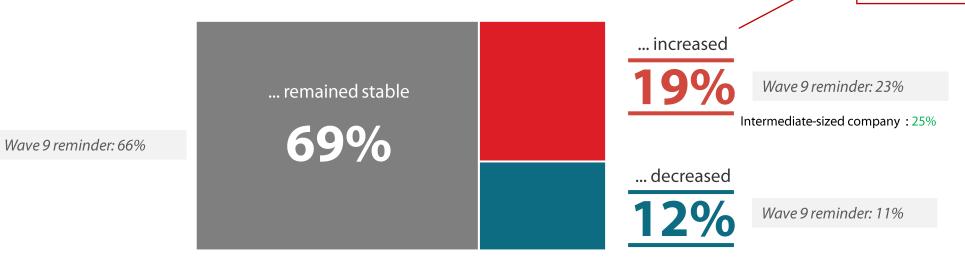
The number of attacks is stabilizing for most companies, although 1/5 are seeing an increase.



Q4bis. And compared to last year, has the number of attacks in your company ...? Base: all



Among the companies that reported having suffered at least one attack in 2024, 37% indicated that they had noticed an increase in such attacks.







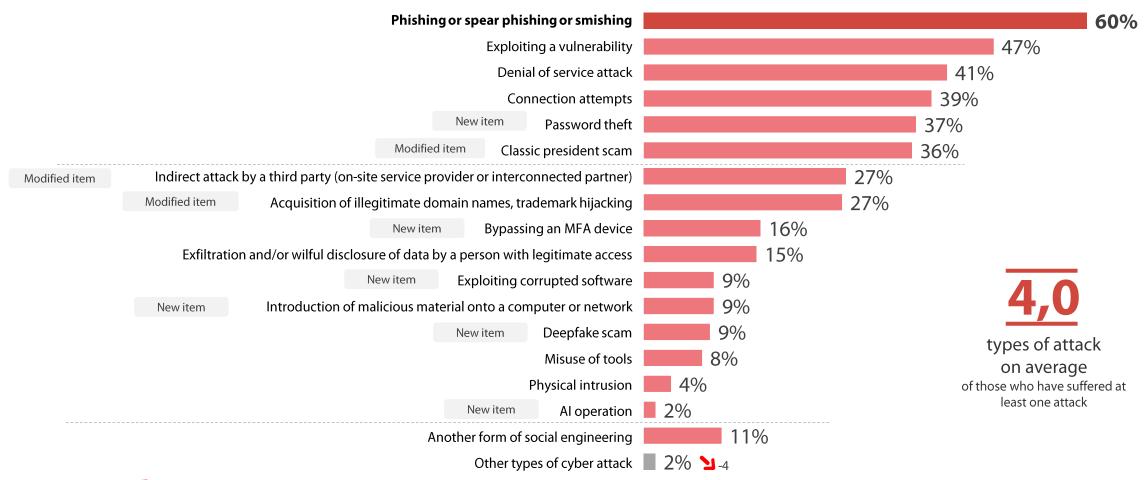
With an average of 4 vectors, phishing remains at the top of the attack list, followed by the exploitation of an existing vulnerability. Attack strategies are similar to last year.

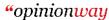


Q5A. Which of the following attack vectors have impacted your company in the last 12 months?

Base: Experienced an attack - multiple answers possible

47% of companies suffered at least one cyber attack in 2024









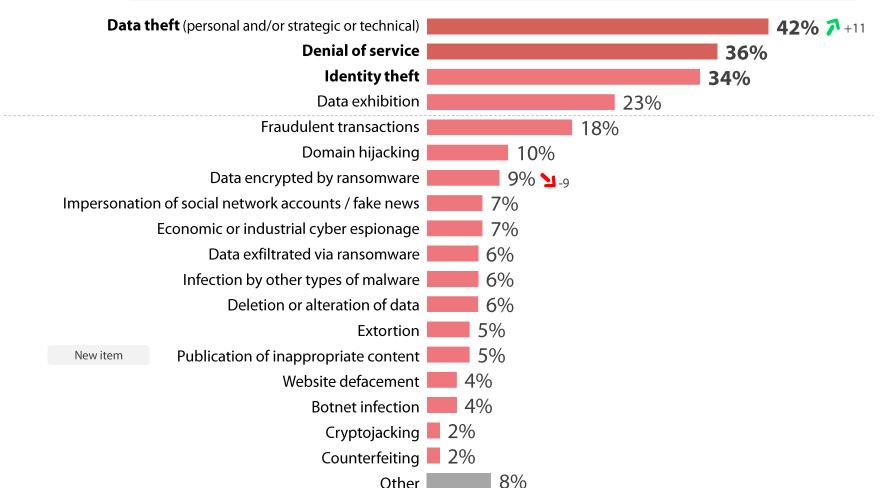
Data theft remains at the top of the list of consequences of these attacks, and is even gaining ground. Denial of service and identity theft are next in importance for over 1/3 of companies. Data encrypted by ransomware is on the decline.

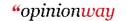


Q5B. And what were the consequences of this/these attack(s)?

Base: Experienced an attack - multiple answers possible









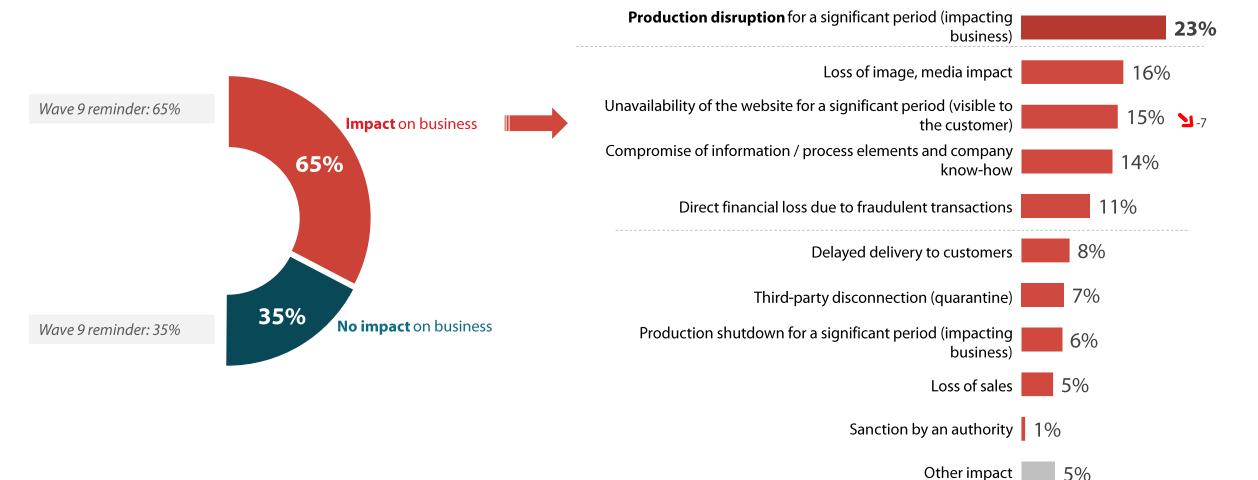


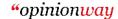
The impact of cyber attacks on business remains stable this year: 2/3 are affected. While production disruption is still the most frequently mentioned consequence, website unavailability for a significant period is declining.



Q7. What impact have cyber attacks had on your business?

Base: have observed an attack and/or a cause of security incidents - Multiple answers possible







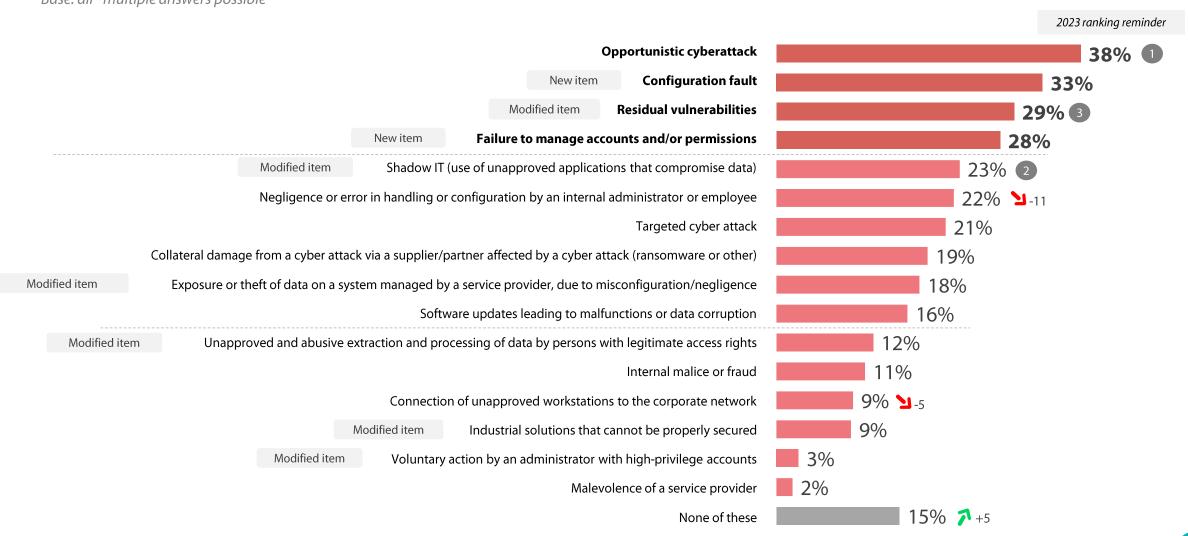


The majority of security incidents are caused by opportunities left open to attack: opportunistic cyber-attacks, misconfigurations, residual vulnerabilities and account management failures, relegating Shadow IT to 5th this year (vs. 2nd the previous year).



Q6. Which of the following causes of security incidents, including cyber-attacks, has your company had to face in the last 12 months?

Base: all - multiple answers possible





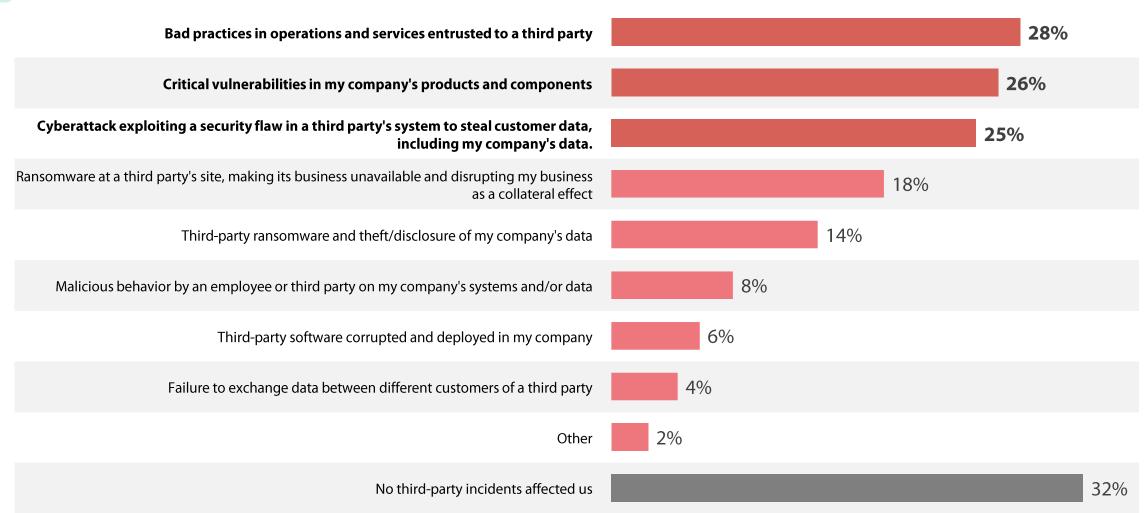


With regard to third-party incidents, ¼ of companies have noted poor practices in operations entrusted to third parties, critical product vulnerabilities or a cyber attack linked to a third-party security flaw.



New question in 2024

Q40: What third-party incidents have affected you? Base: all - multiple answers possible



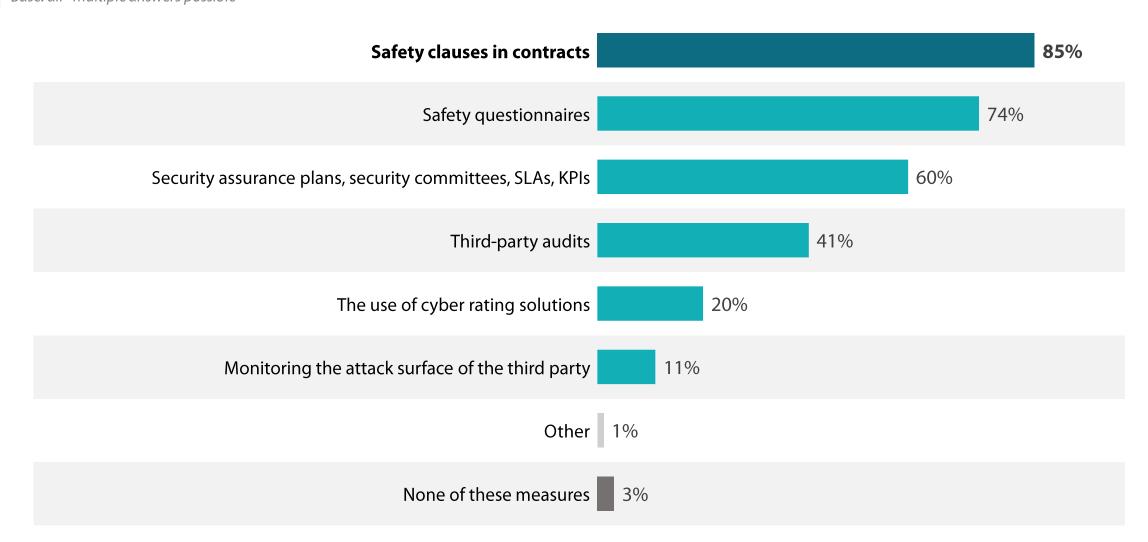




To address this third-party risk, companies rely first on safety clauses in contracts, then on safety questionnaires, and finally on safety insurance plans.



New question in 2024 Q43: What measures have you taken to address third-party risk? Base: all - multiple answers possible



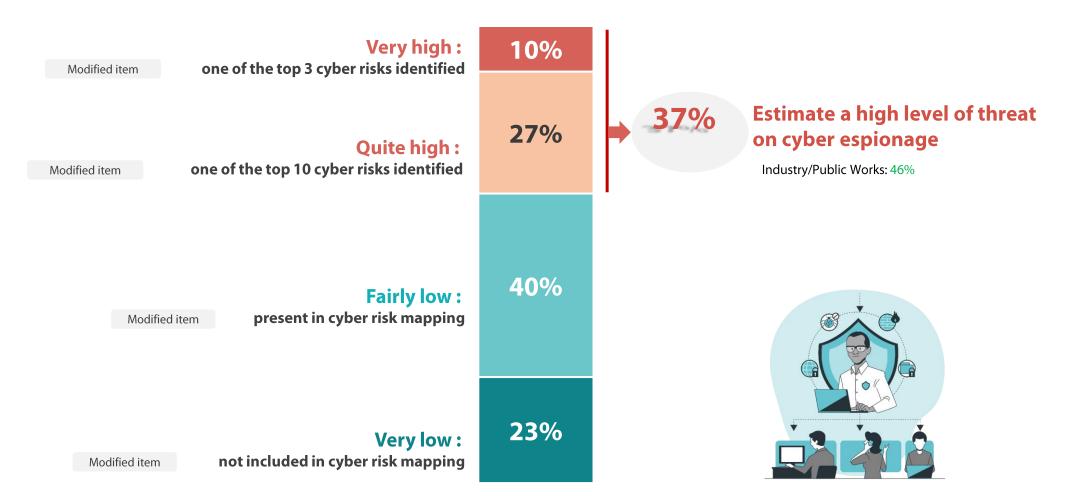


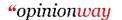


Nearly 4 out of 10 companies rate the risk of cyberespionage as high, which is an important factor given that some companies, by virtue of their activity, are not very concerned by this type of risk.



Q9. Today, how would you assess the level of cyberespionage threats to your company? Base: all









02

High-performance defenses that have proven their effectiveness over the years (notably firewalls, EDR and MFA).

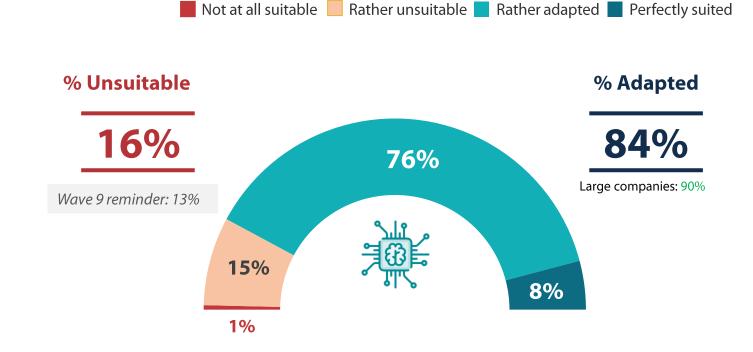


In the same proportions as last year, companies are still satisfied with the adequacy of security solutions and services available on the market.

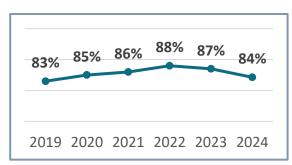


Q25. Do you think that the security solutions and services available on the market are completely, somewhat, rather not or not at all adapted to your company?

Base: all



Previous waves reminder



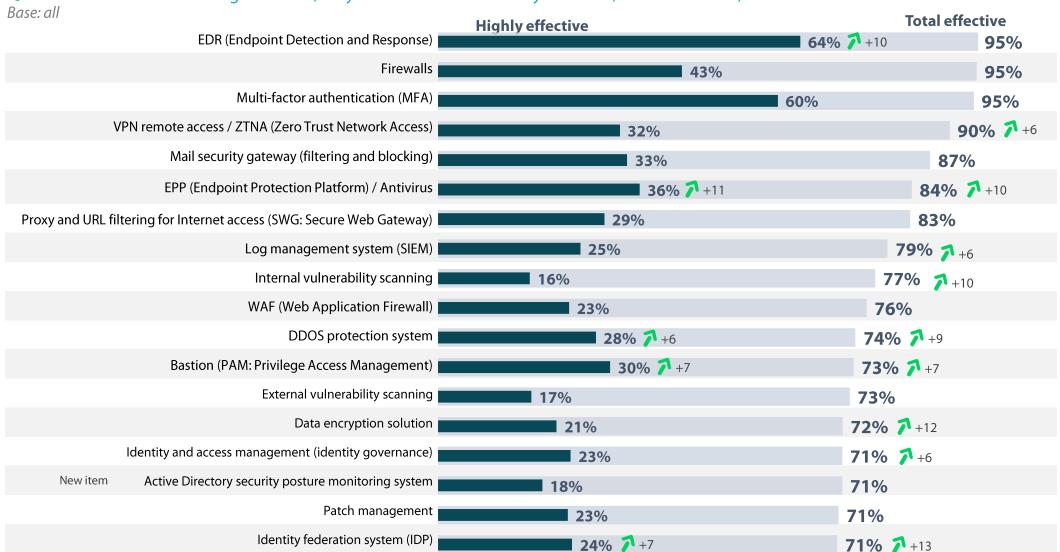




In detail, EDR, firewalls and MFA are considered the most effective solutions, with EDR even gaining points in the "very effective" category.



Q13. For each of the following solutions, do you consider it to be very effective, rather effective, rather not effective or not at all effective?



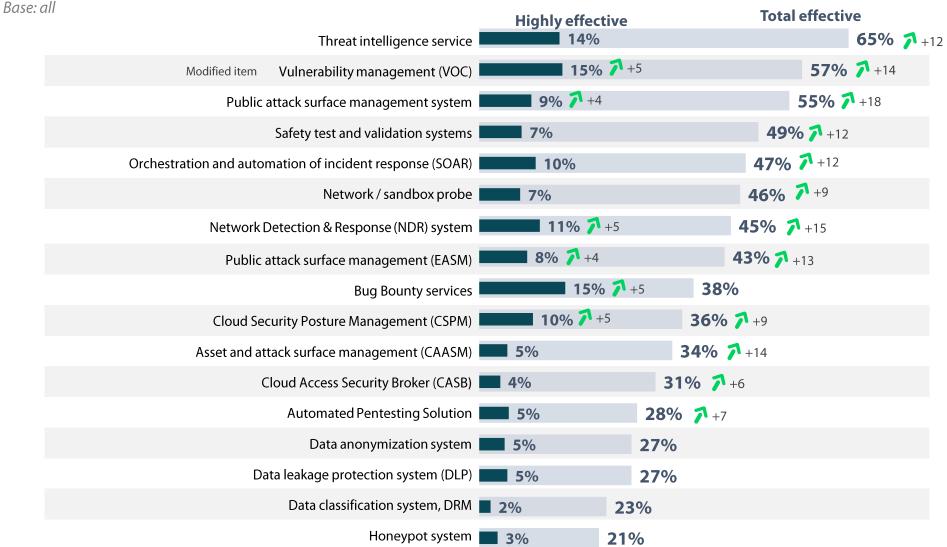


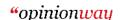


The effectiveness of most other solutions also improved this year.



Q13. For each of the following solutions, do you consider it to be very effective, rather effective, rather not effective or not at all effective?





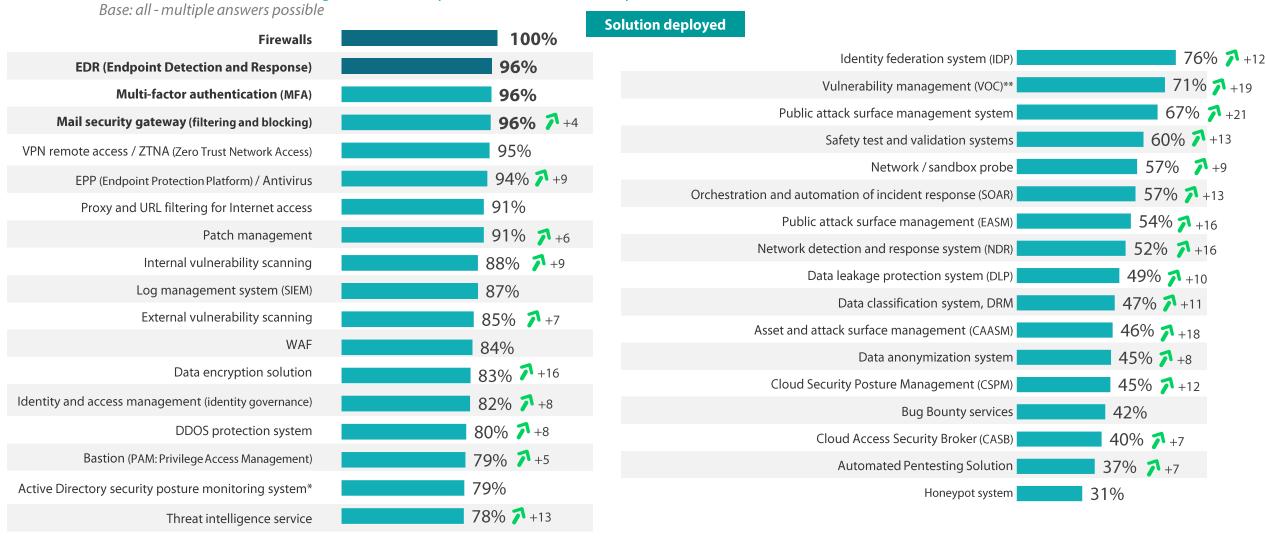




Firewalls, EDR and MFA continue to top the list of solutions deployed in companies. Mail security gateways are also on the rise, joining the podium. Overall, companies are protecting themselves more.



Q13. For each of the following solutions, do you consider it to be very effective, rather effective, rather not effective or not at all effective?





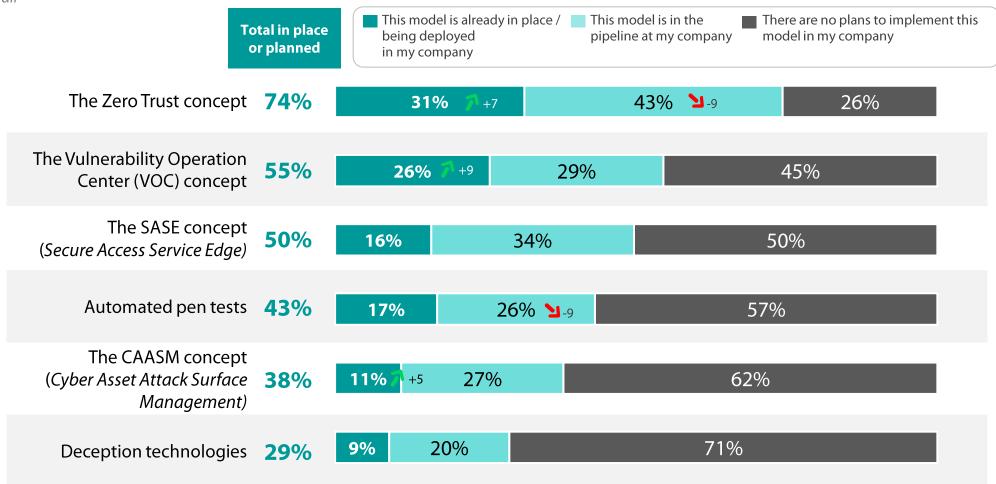


Zero Trust and VOC are more widely implemented or in the process of being deployed this year, as is CAASM to a lesser extent, which had already begun its ascent last year.



Q28b. What is your vision of the following concepts?





New item

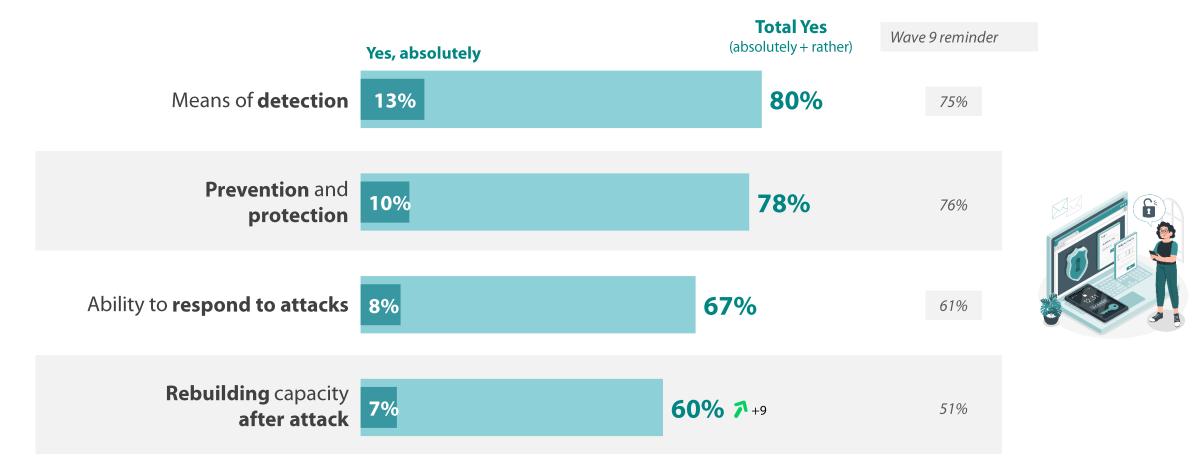




While companies are still more confident in their ability to detect and prevent attacks than to respond to them and rebuild, they are nonetheless more confident this year about their ability to rebuild.



Q14. In your opinion, is your company prepared to handle a large-scale cyber attack in terms of...? Base: all





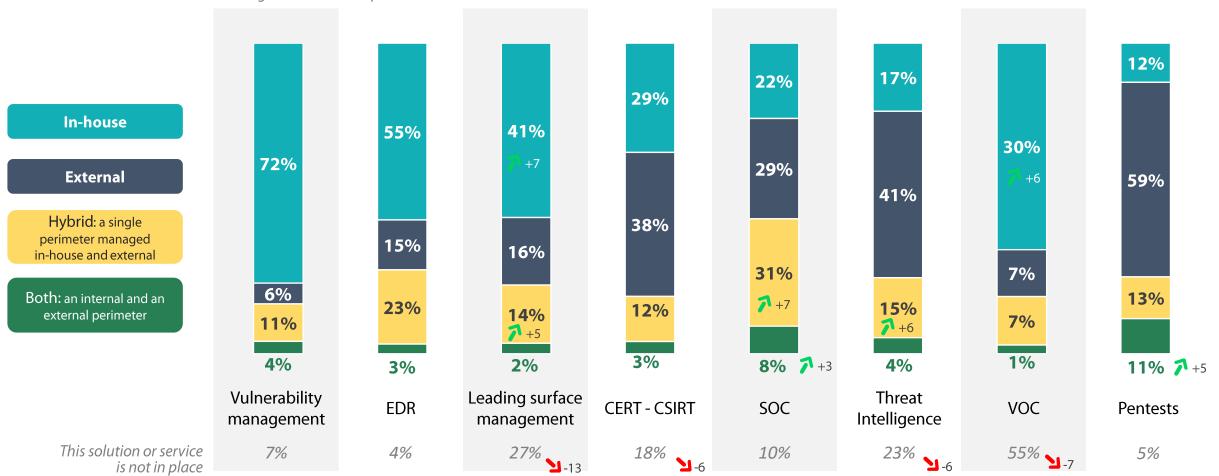


Management varies depending on the solution: while vulnerabilities, EDR, attack surface and VOC are mainly managed in-house, pentests, threat intelligence and CERT-CSIRT are mostly outsourced, while SOC combines hybrid internal and external management.



Q30b. How do you operate the solutions and services below?

Base: all - results excluding solutions not implemented



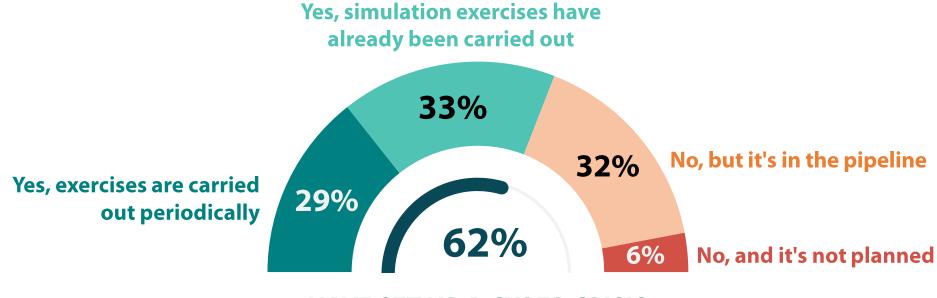




6 out of 10 companies have set up a cyber crisis training program, a proportion that has remained stable since last year.

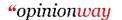


Q15. Has your company set up a cyber crisis training program? *Base: all*



HAVE SET UP A CYBER CRISIS TRAINING PROGRAM

Wave 9 reminder: 57%



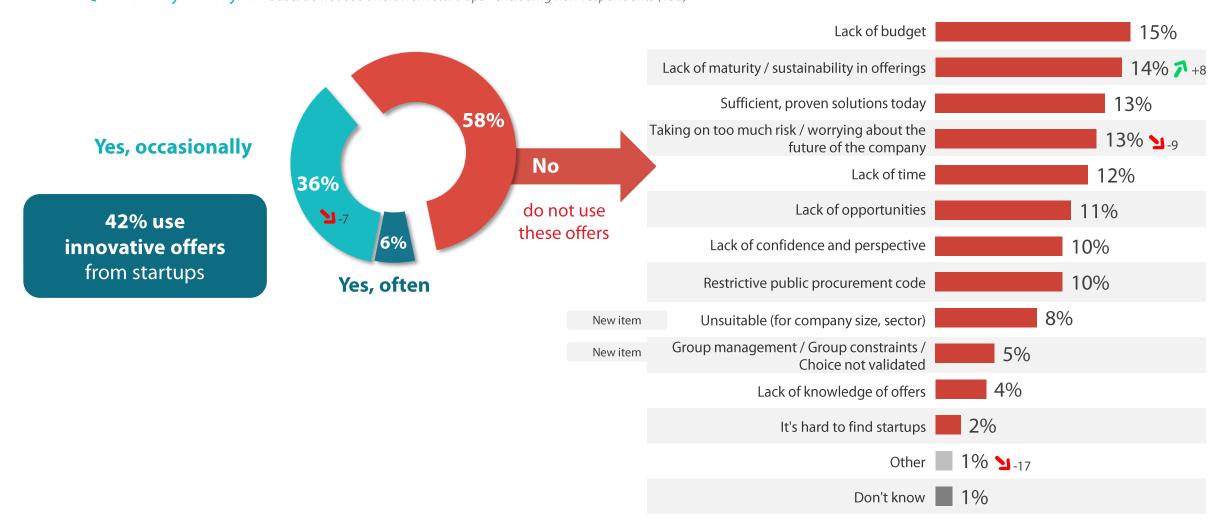




The use of innovative offers from startups concerns 4 out of 10 companies. For the others, lack of budget explains their reluctance, as does the lack of maturity of the offers, which is on the increase this year. On the other hand, fewer and fewer companies see this as a risk.



Q26. When it comes to cybersecurity, do you use innovative offers from startups? Base: all Q26bis. Why don't you? Base: do not use offers from start-ups - excluding non-respondents (152)



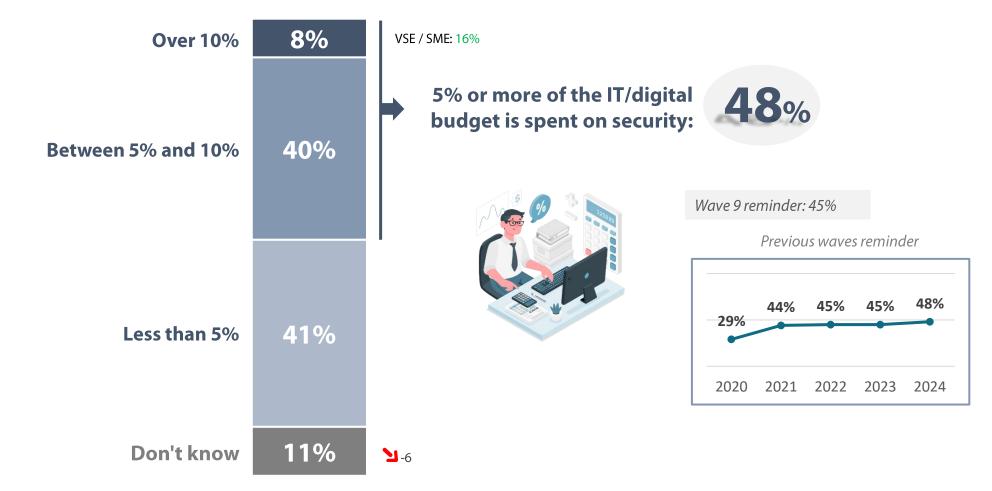




IT security budgets remain stable for the 3rd consecutive year.



Q18. In your company, how much of the IT/digital budget is devoted to security? Base: all



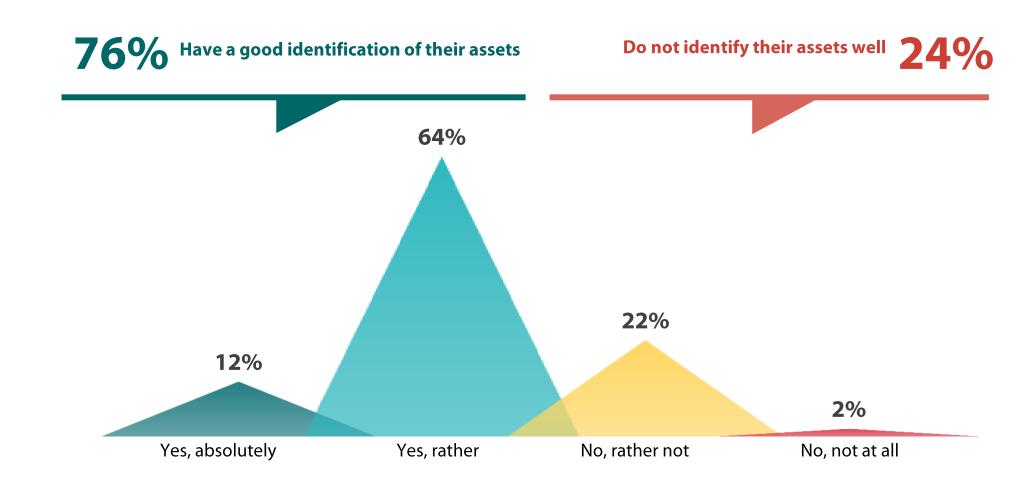




³/₄ of companies correctly identify their assets.



New question in 2024 Q41: How well do you identify your assets? *Base: all*



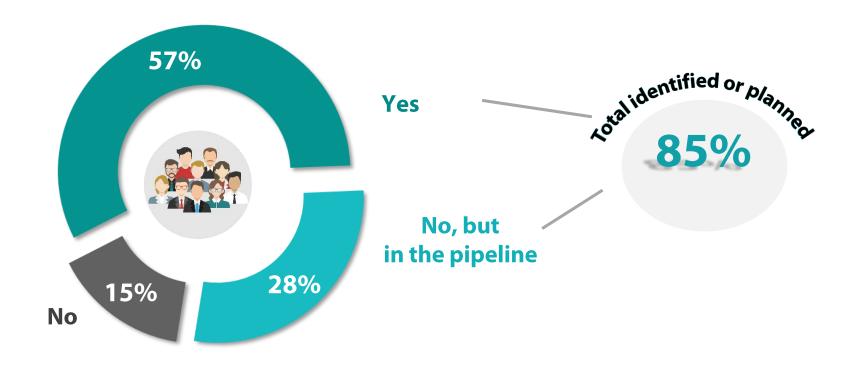




The same applies to the identification of critical assets for the vast majority of companies: while more than half already identify them, $\frac{1}{4}$ plan to do so.



New question in 2024 Q42: Have you clearly identified and marked crown jewels? *Base: all*



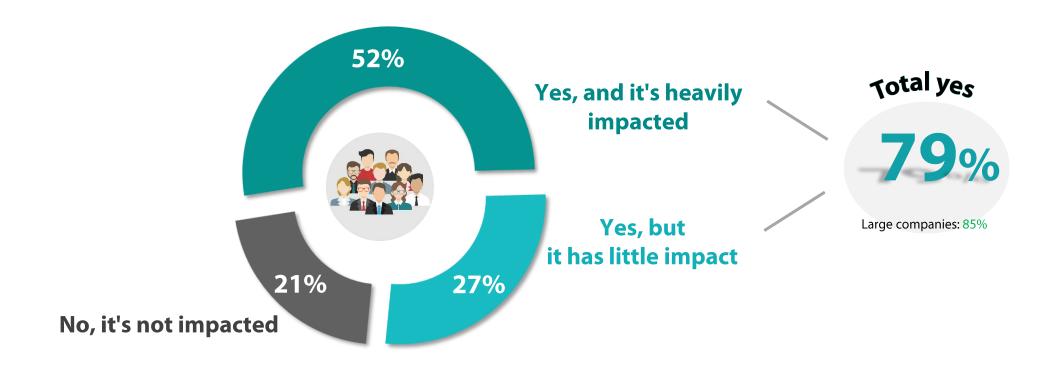




Cyber regulations (excluding GDPR) are of great importance to businesses: the majority are impacted, half of them heavily.



New question in 2024 Q46: Is your company impacted by one or more cyber regulations (excluding GDPR)? Base: all







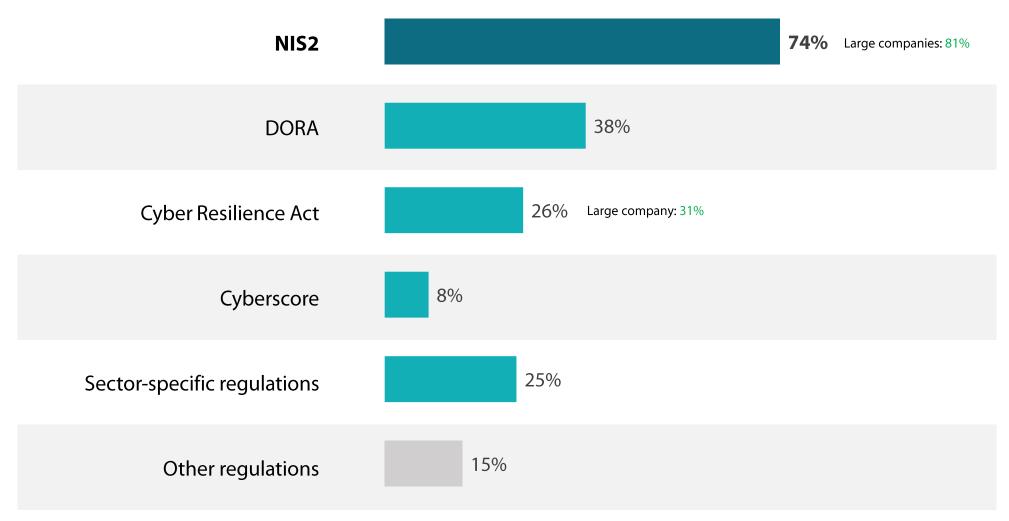
In detail, it is the NIS2 regulation that has the greatest impact on businesses, far ahead of DORA and the Cyber Resilience Act. Meanwhile, Cyberscore remains in the minority.



New question in 2024

Q47: What cyber regulations does your company have to comply with?

Base: your company is impacted by one or more cyber regulations (excluding RGPD) - multiple answers possible







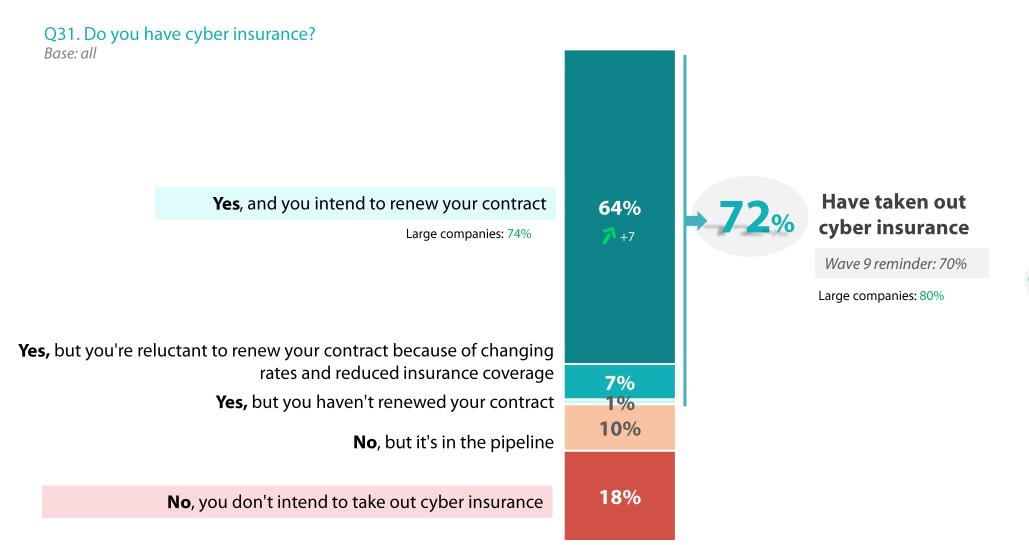
Focus on...

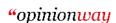
Cyber insurance



While the proportion of companies with cyber insurance remains stable in 2024 (7/10), more and more are planning to renew their contracts.







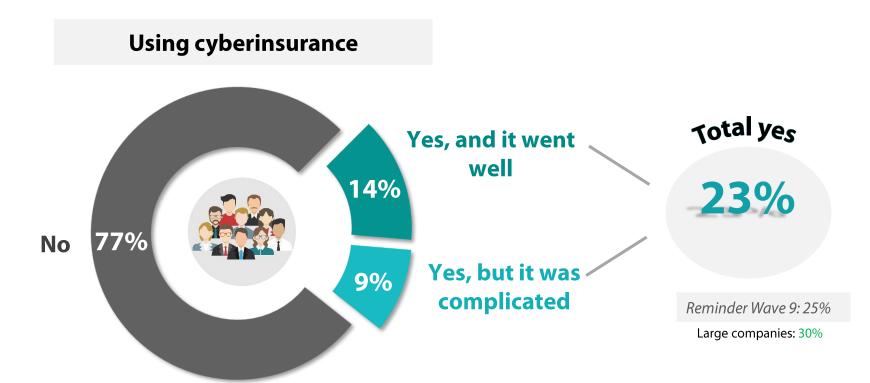




Even so, only a quarter of companies have ever called on their cyber insurance in the event of an attack.



Q32. Has your company ever called on its cyber insurance in the event of a cyber attack? Base: have or plan to have cyberinsurance





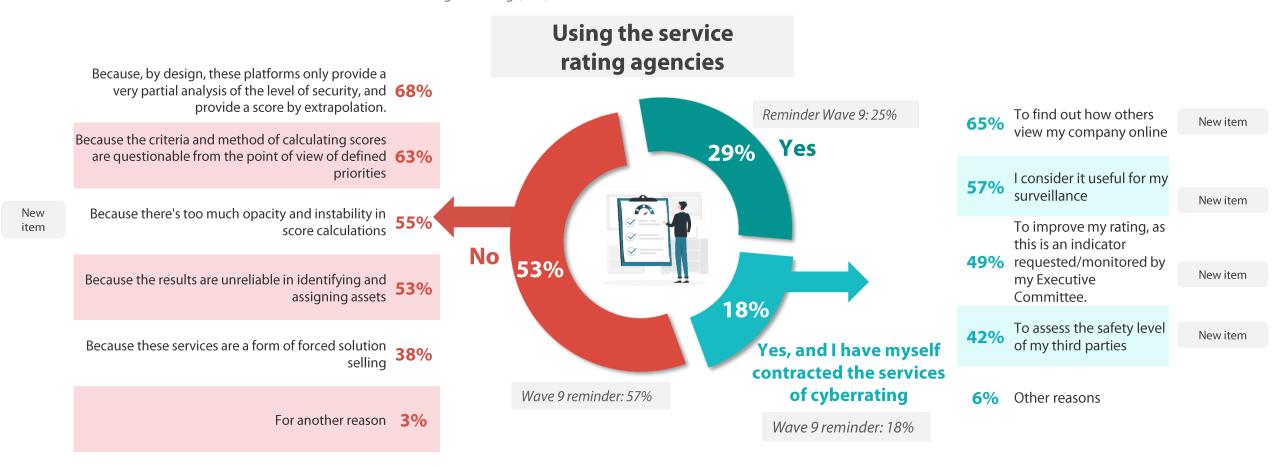


The perception of the use of rating agencies by cyber insurers divides companies: half think it's a good idea, mainly because it gives them the opportunity to find out how third parties view their company. The others are not convinced by the analysis and scores produced by these agencies.

Q33. Cyber insurers are increasingly using the services of rating agencies. Do you think this is a good thing? Base: all

Q33b. And why did you contract cyber-rating services? Base: have contracted cyber-rating services (72)

Q33bis. For what reasons? *Base: don't think it's a good thing (212)*







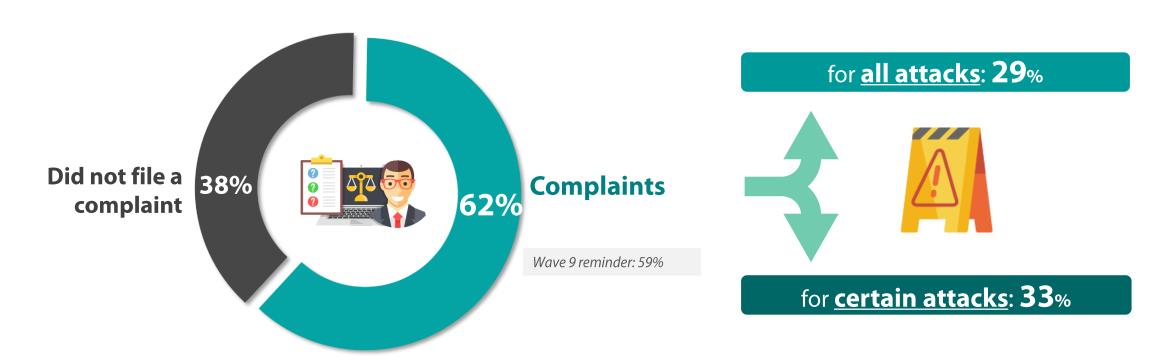
Almost 2/3 of companies file a complaint in the event of a cyber-attack, including almost 1/3 for all attacks.



Q8. Did you file a complaint following the cyber attack(s) your company suffered?

Base: observed an attack

47% of companies suffered at least one cyber attack in 2024







03

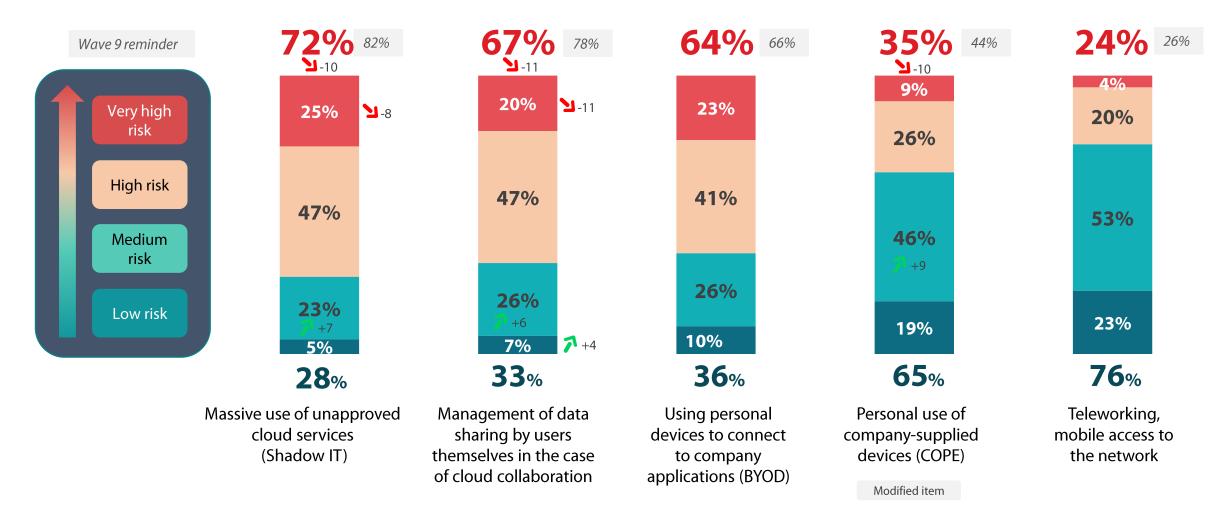
Reduced digital risks thanks to effective awareness-raising and training of employees



The level of risk associated with employees' digital practices has fallen this year, with regard AF to Shadow IT and data sharing via cloud collaboration (although the risk remains high), as well as personal use of company devices.

401 people

Q23. How do you assess the level of risk induced by the following uses of digital technology by employees? Base: all



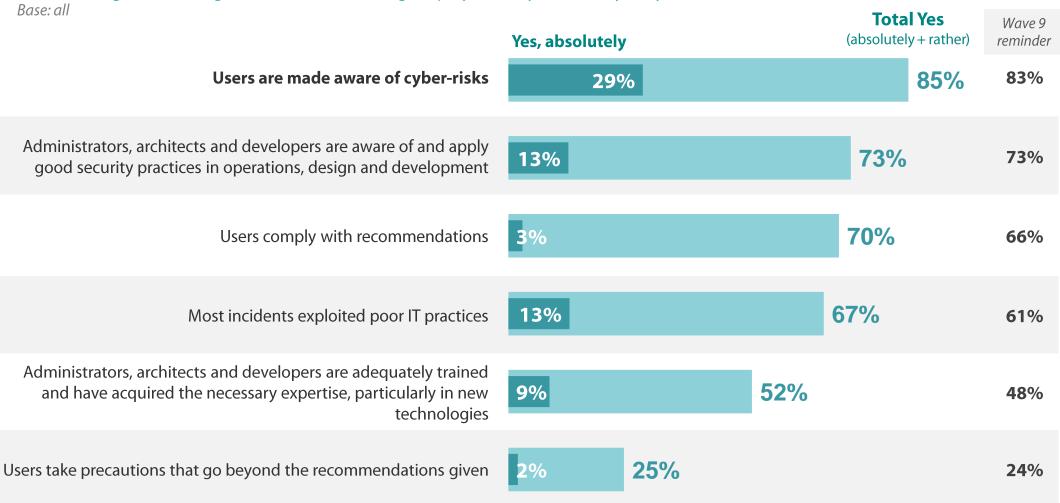




Cybersecurity awareness and training for all employees (users, administrators, architects and developers) remains stable this year, with companies particularly confident in cyber risk awareness.



Q19. With regard to raising awareness and training employees in cybersecurity, do you think that?







Focus on...

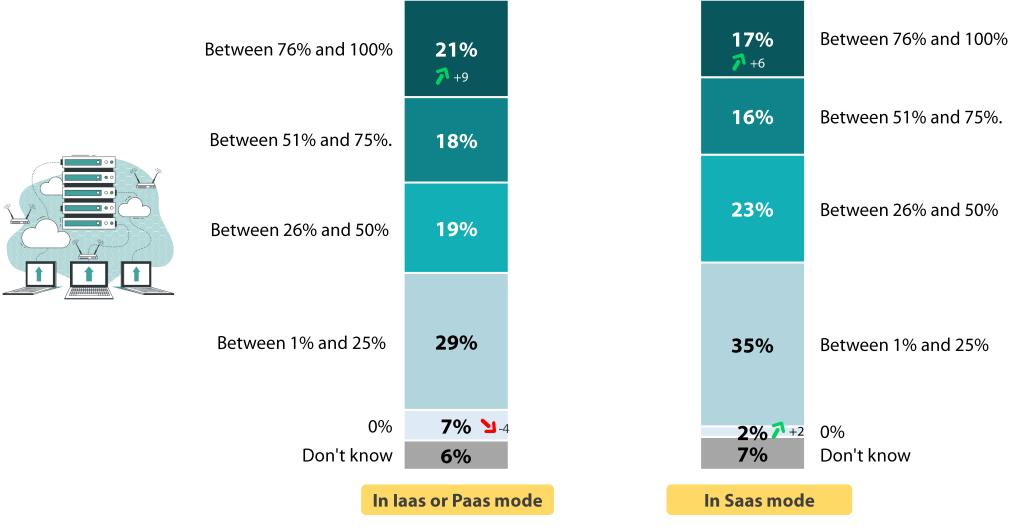
The Cloud



For both laas/Pass and Saas modes, the cloud has been adopted by less than 50% of the IS in the majority of companies. However, there has been an increase in adoption to over 75%.



Q20b. How much of your IS is in the Cloud, whether in laas, Paas or Saas mode? Base: all







The risks of using the Cloud lie mainly in the control of subcontractors (although in decline since 2023), the difficulty of carrying out audits, and access control by administrators (also in decline). Poor visibility of Cloud resource inventory is less of a risk for companies this year (whereas it was the 3rd risk in 2023).



Q21. In your opinion, do the following factors represent a low, moderate or high risk when it comes to using the Cloud?

Base: all		
2023 ranking reminder		% High risk
1 -9 1	40%	No control over the hosting provider's subcontracting chain
	37 %	Difficulty of carrying out audits (penetration testing, configuration control, on-site visits)
1 -7 2	36 %	Difficulty of controlling access by host administrators
	34%	Expertise still too rare, expected from architects and administrators
5	34 %	Data storage in foreign datacenters, outside French law
4	34%	Data stored in France/Europe but provided and/or operated by foreign service providers where the law of the country of origin also applies
	33%	Difficult to control how your employees use it
	32 %	Lack of compartmentalization between the host's different customers
	31 %	Unavailability of data/application due to an attack on the hosting provider
1 -10 3	31 %	Poor visibility of the inventory of resources in the cloud
	29 %	Data confidentiality vis-à-vis the hosting provider
1 -7	29 %	Non-control of security parameters / weak encryption on the part of the host (the host manages the decryption keys)
	26 %	High frequency of new online versions with potential uncontrolled changes to safety principles or parameters
	25 %	Systemic propagation of attacks and human errors at the host level
	25%	Difficulty or impossibility of feeding logs from the cloud into the SIEM system
\(\) -10	23%	Failure by the hosting provider to delete data at the end of the contract (normal or early) when contractually required to do so
1 -7	23%	Bounce attack from host
1 -7	22%	Failure to erase data during use, as deletions and purges carried out by the customer are not really effective
	22%	Data processing and use by the host without the customer's knowledge
	21%	Non-restitution of data by the hosting provider at the end of the contract (normal or early) when contractually agreed
	15%	Trapping a hosted application





Nearly 2/3 of companies believe that securing data stored in the cloud requires specific tools, with 1/3 having subscribed to additional tools for this purpose.

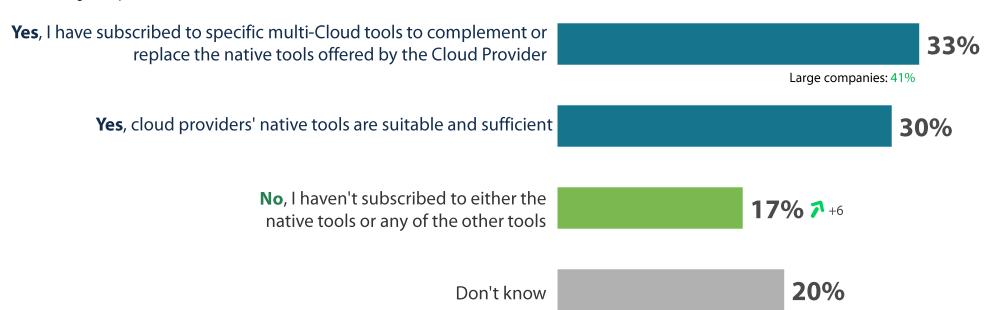


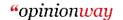
Q22b. In your opinion, does securing data stored in the Cloud require any specific tools or devices?

Base: all

... 63% believe that securing data stored in the Cloud requires specific tools

Large companies: 70%









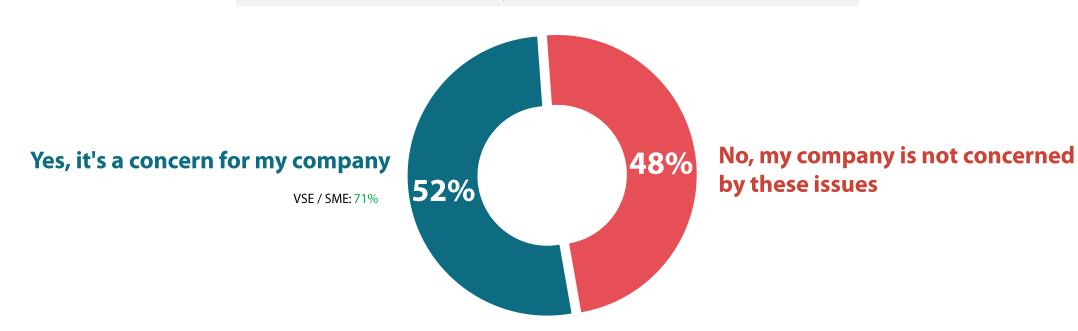
Half of companies feel concerned by the subject of sovereignty and the Trusted Cloud, in the same proportions as last year.



Q35. A number of initiatives have recently been launched in the field of sovereignty and the Trusted Cloud. Do you feel concerned by these issues?

Base: all

Sovereignty and Trusted Cloud





04

Companies need to adapt to digital transformations, including the rise of Al



The use of AI has risen sharply since 2023, and now concerns 7 out of 10 companies, 1/3 of which have officially integrated it into their security strategy.

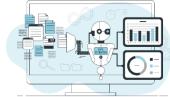




Q39. Al, already used to a greater or lesser extent in certain cyber solutions, has made its way into our IS, with a large number of initiatives around generative Al in particular. What role does Al play in your organization today?

Base: all







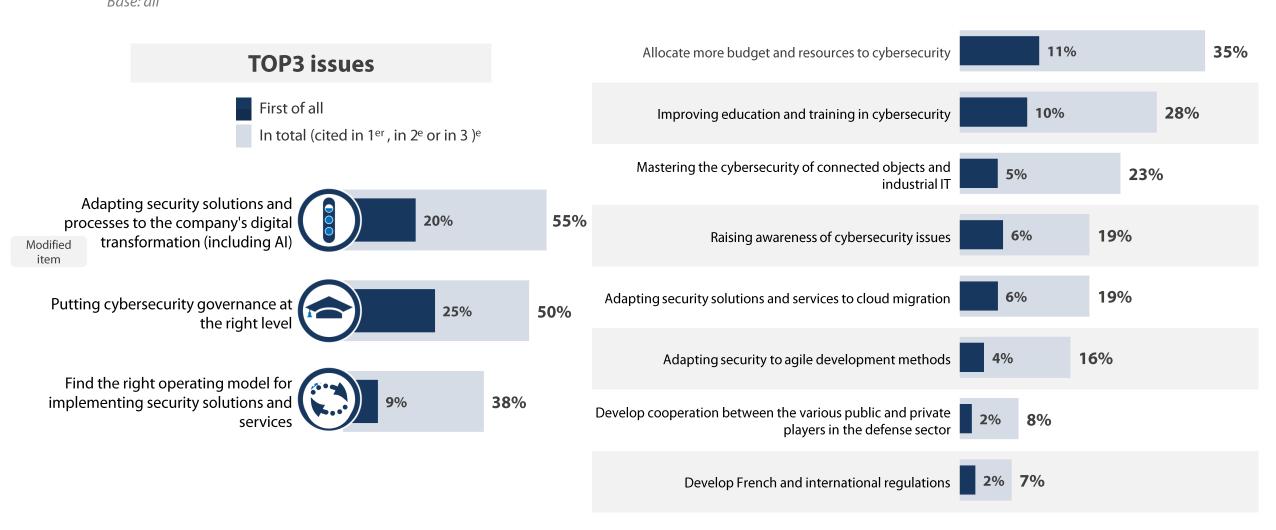


Adapting security solutions and processes to digital transformations remains essential in this context of AI development, the first challenge identified for the future of cybersecurity.



Q27. Which of the following issues do you consider to be the three most important for the future of corporate cybersecurity?

Base: all







34 of companies trust their COMEX to measure the scale of cybersecurity challenges, in the same measures as in 2023.



Q24. For the future, would you say you are very confident, fairly confident, fairly worried or very worried about...?

Base: all

Ensuring that your company's COMEX takes cybersecurity issues into account Very concerned Quite concerned Fairly confident Very confident Wery confident 49% Concerned 20% 20% 24% 73%





Reminder Wave 9: 25%

7%

Wave 9 reminder: 75%

Large companies: 80%

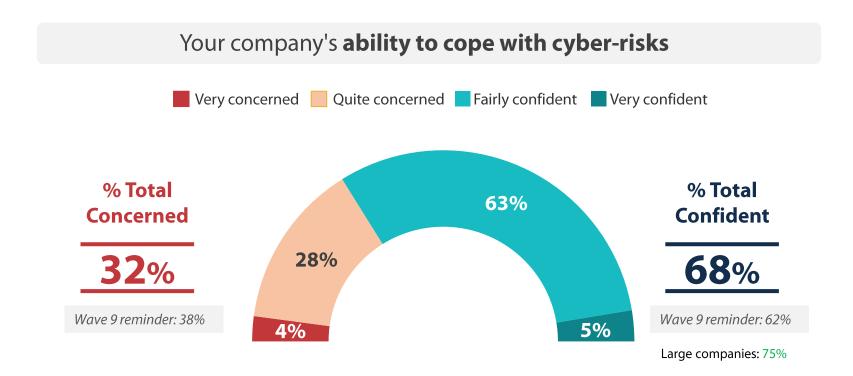


As well as being aware of the challenges, 7 out of 10 companies are confident in their ability to cope with cyber risks.



Q24. For the future, would you say you are very confident, fairly confident, fairly worried or very worried about...?

Base: all



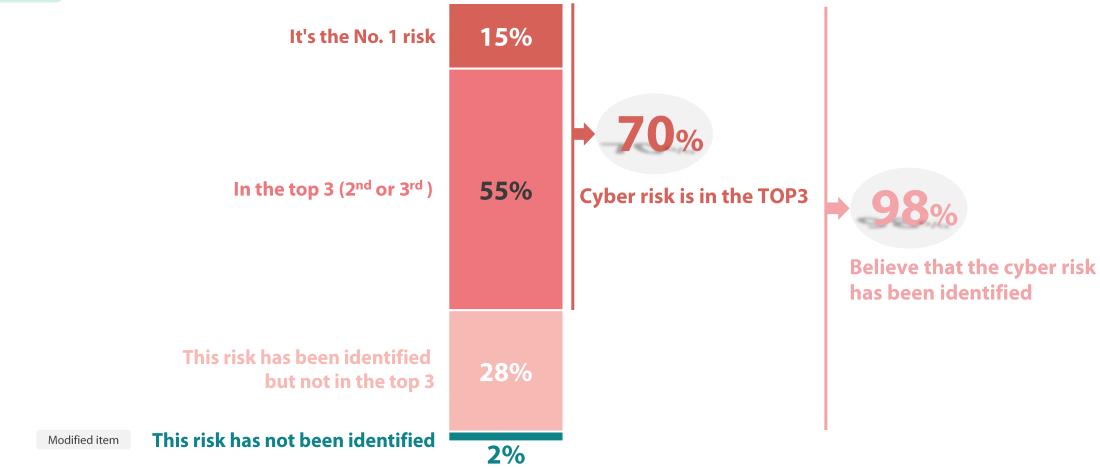




Almost all companies identify cyber risk in their risk mapping, with 7/10 even ranking it in the TOP3.



New question in 2024 Q48: How is cyber risk positioned in your company's risk map? Base: all







To address cyber risk, almost half of all companies are planning to increase the number of staff dedicated to cybersecurity, although fewer are planning to do so than in 2023.



Q17. Over the next 12 months, does your company plan to...? Base: all

7

45% plan to increase the number of staff allocated to cyber risk protection

Large companies: 52%

increase the number of staff

allocated to the governance of protection against cyber-risks



increase the number of staff

allocated to operational cybersecurity to protect against cyber-risks



New item

increase the number of staff

allocated to safety culture, awareness-raising and training







Similarly, the desire to acquire new solutions and increase budgets is down this year.



Q17. Over the next 12 months, does your company plan to...? *Base: all*

increase budgets allocated to protection against cyber-risks



acquire new technical solutions for cybersecurity





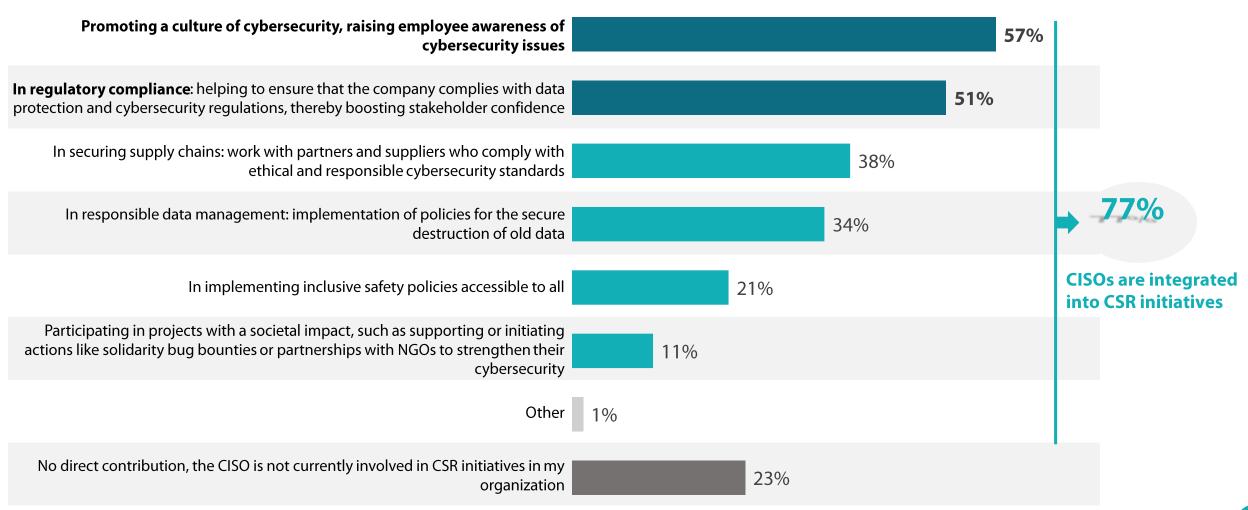


³/₄ of CISOs are integrated into their company's CSR initiatives, notably via the promotion of a culture of cybersecurity and regulatory compliance.





Q49: To what extent does, or could, your role contribute to your organization's CSR objectives? Base: all - multiple answers possible





Conclusion





Number of cyberattacks stable since 2023, with little innovation in attack methods or impact

In the same proportions as last year, one company in two suffered at least one successful cyber attack in 2024 (47%).

Strategies remain similar to last year, with phishing, spear phishing and smishing again the main attack vectors (60%), followed by vulnerability exploitation (47%) and denial of service (41%).

As a result of these attacks, data theft has increased in 2024 (42%, +11 points), while denial of service remains stable (36%). Identity theft (34%) completes the trio of main impacts. At the same time, data encrypted by ransomware is declining (9%, -9 points).

Third parties are also sources of incidents, mainly through bad practices (28%). To protect themselves, companies rely mainly on security clauses in contracts (85%), as well as on security questionnaires (74%).

The risk of cyberespionage remains important for companies, with 37% considering it to be high.





Renewed confidence in emblematic defensive systems: firewalls, EDR and MFA.

For 84% of CISOs, security solutions and services are still adapted to business needs. While most of the solutions measured are becoming more effective this year, the three most popular solutions are consolidating their position: firewalls, EDR and MFA, both in terms of effectiveness and deployment within companies.

The Zero Trust and Vulnerability Operation Center (VOC) concepts are more widely implemented in companies (respectively 31%, +7 points and 26%, +9 points), as is Cyber Asset Attack Surface Management (CAASM) (11%, +5 points).

Companies have a good understanding of their assets (76%) and crown jewels (57%).

The vast majority of companies are impacted by cyber regulations (79%, of which 52% strongly), notably by NIS2 (74% of companies concerned).

Cyber insurers well established in the cybersecurity market

The majority of companies have taken out cyber insurance (72%), with 64% planning to renew (+7 points). Nearly a quarter (23%) used their cyber insurance following an attack.

The use of rating agencies by cyber insurers continues to divide companies. 47% think it's a good thing, particularly as it gives them an insight into the cyber view of their company held by third parties (65% of companies concerned), while 53% say it's not a good idea, as they are sceptical about the agencies' analyses and scores.

At the same time, 62% of companies have filed a complaint following a cyber attack, a figure stable compared to 2023.



Less risky individual behavior thanks to ongoing employee training and awareness campaigns

While the digital uses of employees still represent a risk for companies, this risk decreases in 2024 for Shadow IT (72%, -10 points), the management of data sharing by users in cloud collaboration (67%, -11 points) and the personal use of company-supplied devices (COPE) (35%, -10 points).

Improved risk management has been achieved by raising awareness and training all employees in cybersecurity (85% of users have been trained).

The Cloud: a real security challenge for businesses

The adoption of Cloud in IS concerns less than 50% of IS in the majority of companies, whether in laas / Paas or Saas mode.

The use of the Cloud represents a risk for companies, mainly due to a lack of control over the hosting provider's subcontracting chain, although this risk has been declining since 2023 (40%, -9 points). The difficulty of carrying out audits (37%) and the difficulty of controlling access by the host's administrators (36%, -7 points) are also among the priority risks of the Cloud.

Securing data stored in the Cloud also requires specific tools for 63% of CISOs, 33% of whom have subscribed to specific tools in addition to the Cloud Provider's native tools.



Digital transformations necessarily imply an adaptation of companies, in particular to take into account the rise of Al

The use of AI is democratizing in companies. 69% of companies now use it (an increase of +23 points since 2023), including 35% (+18 points) who have formally integrated it into their security strategy.

Adapting security solutions and processes to digital transformations remains the main challenge for the future of cybersecurity (55%).

CISOs continue to show confidence in their companies' ability to take into account cybersecurity issues (73%) and to face cyber risks (68%).

In fact, cyber risk is included in the risk mapping of almost all companies (98%), 70% of which rank it among the TOP3 risks.

Despite these risks being very much on companies' minds, forecasts of increases in the number of staff allocated to protection against cyber risks are in decline this year (28%, -7 points for an increase in the budget allocated to governance of protection against cyber risks, and 34%, -13 points for operational cybersecurity of protection against risks). Similarly, the desire to acquire new technical solutions and increase budgets is in decline this year.

At the same time, 77% of CISOs are involved in their company's CSR initiatives, notably through the promotion of a culture of cybersecurity (57%) and regulatory compliance (51%).



Appendices

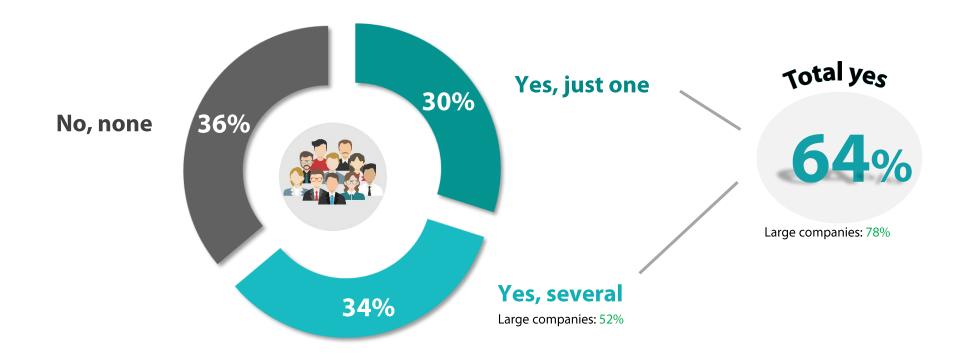




2/3 of companies have integrated work-study students this year, including 1/3 who recruited several.



New question in 2024 Q44: In the last 12 months, have you integrated any work-study students? *Base: all*





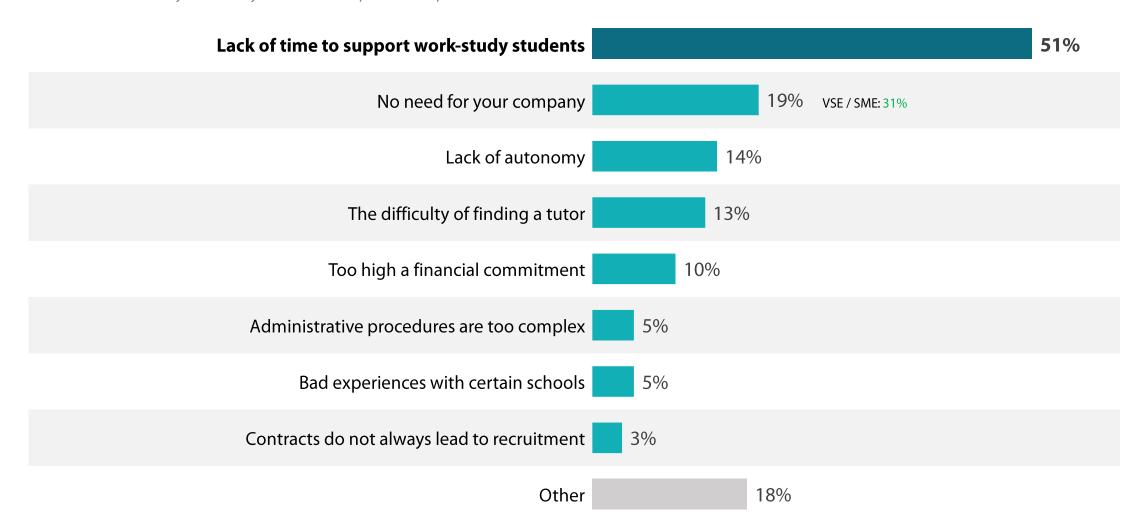


For those who have not recruited alternants, lack of time is the main obstacle to taking action.

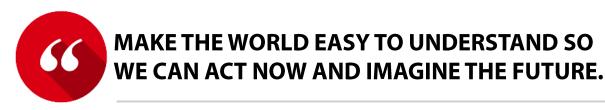


New question in 2024 Q45: Why haven't you recruited any work-study students?

Base: have not recruited any work-study students - multiple answers possible







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The pleasure they derive from providing answers to the questions they ask themselves, reducing uncertainty about the decisions to be made, tracking relevant insights and co-constructing solutions for the future, feeds all the projects they work on.

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