Global Digital Trust Insights Survey 2021

Cybersecurity comes of age

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Cybersecurity comes of age
Five moves to get to the next level

Just decades after coming out from under IT’s wing, the cybersecurity profession has matured. Since the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was granted the first US patent for a cryptographic communication system in 1983, the industry has grown by leaps and bounds — with a long list of growing pains.

Armed with the insight and foresight that only experience and wisdom can provide, cyber stands at a critical, pivotal and exciting time for the industry and the organizations and people it serves. Our findings from the Global Digital Trust Insights 2021 survey of 3,249 business and technology executives around the world tell us what’s changing and what’s next in cybersecurity.

No longer solely reactive — although it is that — cybersecurity has become more thoughtful and forward-thinking, with the knowledge and technologies to stop attacks before they start.

No longer technology-focused — although tech is very much in the picture — security leaders are working closely with business teams to strengthen and increase the resilience of the organization as a whole. As a result, cyber is leveling the playing field with attackers, pushing back and fending off as never before.

The timing couldn’t be better. Recent shifts in business models have prompted many enterprises to speed up their digitization programs. CEOs and boards are turning to their CISOs for help increasing their resilience and creating business value.

Technology is maturing, too, simplifying cybersecurity’s work and integrating it with the business as a whole. Digital solutions are adding layers of protection and continuously monitoring systems automatically for a simpler, more integrated approach to security.

CISOs are able to take the long, strategic view needed from them now. When spot fires are not demanding their attention, security managers are able to let their imaginations roam, for more creative solutions.
Reset your cyber strategy, evolve leadership for these new times
Business transformations are more sweeping and rapid

In the pandemic’s first three months, CEOs report, their organizations digitized at surprising speed, advancing to year two or three of their five-year plans. The future is now: digital health, industrial automation and robotics, enhanced ecommerce, customer service chat bots, virtual reality-based entertainment, cloud kitchens, fintech, and more.

The health crisis and economic recession have stoked further change, according to our Global DTI 2021 survey: 40% of executives say they’re accelerating digitization — perhaps taking on business strategies they hadn’t imagined before.

Their digital ambitions have skyrocketed. Twenty-one percent are changing their core business model and redefining their organizations (the “redefiners”), while 18% are breaking into new markets or industries (the “explorers”). Both categories have doubled since our survey last year.

Doing things faster and more efficiently is the top digital ambition for 29% of executives (“efficiency seekers”), while 31% are modernizing with new capabilities (“modernizers”). More than one-third — 35% — say they’re speeding up automation to cut costs, which is no surprise at a time when revenues are down.

Businesses are changing...

Accelerated digitalization for growth
- 40%

Permanent, full-time remote work for more workers
- 39%

Larger weight on the quality on IT and telecommunications infrastructure in location decisions
- 37%

Accelerated automation for cost-cutting
- 35%

Continuously updated resilience plans and tests
- 33%

...and their ambitions are rising...

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Source: PwC Global Trust Insights Survey 2021, October 2020; base 3,249
Q: Which of the following changes are most likely to be impacts of the COVID-19 experience in your industry?

Q: What is the primary aspiration for your enterprise-wide, technology-driven business transformation or major digital initiatives?

Source: PwC Global Trust Insights Survey 2021, October 2020; base 3,249
New times call for a resetting of cyber strategy

New technologies and business models — and the fast pace of adoption — bring new risks. But, like the high-powered brakes on a racecar, cybersecurity makes high-speed digital change a lot safer.

Nearly all (96%) say they’ll adjust their cybersecurity strategy due to COVID-19. Half are more likely now to consider cybersecurity in every business decision — that’s up from 25% in our survey last year.

Savvy CISOs are in step with the vision and goals of their enterprise as a whole, not just IT. “One of our key jobs is to engage with our partners throughout the organization that will help us achieve our objectives. If I haven’t created a culture where people want to engage and proactively come to security rather than shy away from us, I don’t think we’ll be able to get there,” said Katie Jenkins, CISO, Liberty Mutual.

...and so are their cyber strategies

Cybersecurity and privacy baked into every business decision or plan

- 50%

New process of budgeting for cyber spend or investments

- 44%

Better and more granular quantification of cyber risk

- 44%

More frequent interactions between CISO and the CEO or boards

- 43%

Greater resilience testing for more low-likelihood, high-impact events

- 43%

No change due to COVID-19

- 4%

Don’t know/unsure

- 1%

Source: PwC Global Trust Insights Survey 2021, October 2020; base 3,249
Q: Which of the following changes are most likely to be impacts of the COVID-19 experience on cybersecurity in your industry?
One of our key jobs is to engage with our partners throughout the organization that will help us achieve our objectives. If I haven’t created a culture where people want to engage and proactively come to security rather than shy away from us, I don’t think we’ll be able to get there.

—Katie Jenkins
CISO, Liberty Mutual
CISOs are evolving to the needs of business

New times also call for new CISO leadership modes. Forty percent of executives say they need the CISO to be a transformational leader (20%) or an operational leader and master tactician (20%).

These roles are encompassing and call for the multifaceted expertise that CISOs have built. The transformational CISO leads cross-functional teams to match the speed and boldness of digital transformations with agile, forward-thinking security and privacy strategies, investments, and plans. The operational leader and master tactician is a tech-savvy and business-savvy CISO who can deliver consistent system performance, with security and privacy throughout the organization and its ecosystem amid constant and changing threats.

Some CISOs already inhabit these roles, and are exhibiting four qualities most prized by executives: strategic thinking (38%), the ability to take smart risks (38%), leadership skills (36%), and ability to recognize and nurture innovation (34%).

From cybersecurity to digital trust

It’s a critical juncture for cybersecurity and CISOs. A business-driven cyber strategy is the important first step for business and security leaders amid sweeping, rapid business digitization. This reset not only defines the expanding role of the CISO, it also affects the way the organization sets cyber budgets, invests in security solutions, plans for resilience, and enhances its security organization. It determines whether CISOs may grow to become stewards of digital trust, able to lead their organizations securely into the new era with strategies to protect business value and to create it.

Source: PwC Global Trust Insights Survey 2021, October 2020: Base 3,249
Q: What is the primary role your organization’s CISO needs to play to help your organization achieve its growth and strategic objectives in the next two years?
2 Rethink your cyber budget to get more out of it
Cyber budgets will rise for half of the businesses surveyed

Fifty-five percent of technology and security executives in our Global DTI 2021 survey plan to increase their cybersecurity budgets, with 51% adding full-time cyber staff in 2021 — even as most (64%) executives expect business revenues to decline. Clearly, cybersecurity is more business-critical than ever before.

Still, 26% will need to do more with less, and 13% will have to make do with static budgets.

“The circumstances we find ourselves in with the economy are putting a lot of pressure on security organizations to make sure that the investments we're making are efficient and high-value,” says Katie Jenkins, CISO, Liberty Mutual.

Getting the most value for every cybersecurity dollar spent becomes more critical as entities digitize: every new digital process and asset becomes a new vulnerability for cyber attack.

More are increasing cyber budgets than decreasing them in 2021

Source: PwC, Global Digital Trust Insights Survey 2021, October 2020; base 3,249
Q: How is your cyber budget changing in 2021? base 1,414
The circumstances we find ourselves in with the economy are putting a lot of pressure on security organizations to make sure that the investments we’re making are efficient and high-value.

—Katie Jenkins
CISO, Liberty Mutual
Most executives lack confidence in the budgeting process

More than half (55%) of business and tech/security executives lack confidence that cyber spending is aligned to the most significant risks. Or that their budget funds remediation, risk mitigation and/or response techniques that will provide the best ROI (55%). Or that budgets provide the resources needed for a severe cyber event (55%). Or that the process monitors the cyber program’s effectiveness compared to expenditures (54%).

Cyber budgets could — and should — link to overall enterprise or business unit budgets in a strategic, risk-aligned, and data-driven way, but 53% lack confidence that their current process does this.

And with regard to preparedness for future risks, executives are not confident that cyber budgets provide adequate controls over emerging technologies (58%).

With confidence lagging in the process used to fund cybersecurity, executives say it’s time for an overhaul. Forty-four percent say they’re trying new budgeting processes, and considering how best to convince the CEO and board to assign needed funds. Nevertheless, more than one-third strongly agree that organizations can strengthen their cyber posture while containing costs — thanks to automation and rationalization of tech.

Confidence in current cyberbudgets and processes is low today

(Percentage of respondents who are not ‘very confident’)

Our cyber budget/process is:

Linked to overall enterprise or business unit budgets in a strategic, risk-aligned, and data-driven way

53.2%

Includes process monitoring the effectiveness of our cyber program against the spending on cyber

54.4%

Allocated towards the most significant risks to the organization

54.8%

Focused on remediation, risk mitigation, and/or response techniques that will provide the best return on cyber spending

55%

Integrated with decisins on capital requirements needed in the event of a severe cyber event

55.4%

Adequate digital trust controls over emerging technologies for security, privacy, and data ethics

58%

Source: PwC, Global Digital Trust Insights Survey 2021, October 2020; base 3,249

Q: Regarding your organization’s current cyber budget and processes, how confident are you with regard to the following?
Putting a dollar amount on cyber risk is a must

Cyber managers can do more with less, but to do so they need to quantify cyber risk and use the information to make smart choices that protect the business’s security, privacy, and cash flow.

Seventeen percent of the executives in our Global DTI survey have quantified cyber risks, and are realizing benefits from doing so. For instance, a highly acquisitive company that quantifies cyber risks can evaluate deal opportunities faster and more systematically. A financial institution that handles millions of transactions a day can do daily and weekly threat and vulnerability assessments — staying alert to the performance of underlying controls and any need to reallocate resources.

Cyber risk quantification is not for the faint-hearted, with many obstacles in the way: lack of a widely accepted model, lack of people who understand cyber and risks from a business lens, and lack of scalability. Nevertheless, nearly 60% are beginning to quantify risks or have implemented at scale. And nearly everyone else (17%) plans to begin risk quantification within the next two years.

Raising confidence in budget decisions

The economics of cybersecurity has long focused on the cost side (compliance, updating capabilities, and so on). This must change. The cyber strategy reset — considering cybersecurity in every business decision — means connecting cyber budgets to overall enterprise or business unit budgets in a strategic, risk-aligned, and data-driven way.
3 Invest in every advantage to level the playing field with attackers
New technologies turning the tables on cybercrime

Innovation is changing the cybersecurity game, giving new advantages to defenders and leveling the playing field with attackers. Cyber startups are hot: in the past decade, some two dozen have attained IPO or M&A values of $1 billion, 10 of them in the last two years, according to CB Insights.

And the existing array of cyber solutions has matured, enabling a shift to Zero Trust architectures, real-time threat intelligence, security orchestration and automation, advanced endpoint protection, identity and access management, and other advanced technologies — prompted in large part by a threefold growth in cloud services.

Early switchers have taken advantage of these developments. But, more important, they’re investing in the classic digital transformation trifecta — people, processes, and technologies — to close the wide lead that attackers have long held.

In our Global DTI 2021 survey, we looked at 25 new cybersecurity approaches and practices (see chart) and tracked the measures on which organizations say they’ve made significant progress.

New approaches and mindsets of the early switchers

A minority — between 15% and 19% — of executives say they’re already benefiting from some of these new practices. This is the group we call, “early switchers.”

Executives from large organizations ($1B+) are more likely to report benefits from making a strategic shift (their “cybersecurity team collaborates more with the business side in delivering business outcomes”); switching to advanced technologies (“investing in advanced technologies to improve the effectiveness of my organization’s cyber defense and security detection capabilities”); and restructuring operations (“reducing the cost of cyber operations via automation, rationalisation and/or other solutions.”)

Executives from the largest organizations ($10B+) are more likely to report gains from using security models and technologies such as Zero Trust, managed services, virtualization, and accelerated cloud adoption.
Businesses are moving to new approaches and thinking to improve cybersecurity

**People**
- Improve the security function’s skills set
  - Realizing benefits from implementation: 19%
  - Implemented at scale: 29%
  - Started implementing: 29%

- Cybersecurity team to collaborate more with the business side in delivering business outcomes
  - Realizing benefits from implementation: 18%
  - Implemented at scale: 27%
  - Started implementing: 29%

- The CISO’s greater alignment with and influence on strategy through interactions with other executives
  - Realizing benefits from implementation: 17%
  - Implemented at scale: 26%
  - Started implementing: 29%

**Capabilities and processes**
- Embedding security and privacy business initiatives
  - Realizing benefits from implementation: 18%
  - Implemented at scale: 30%
  - Started implementing: 29%

- Managed services (e.g., managed security services, managed detection and response services)
  - Realizing benefits from implementation: 18%
  - Implemented at scale: 28%
  - Started implementing: 29%

- Enterprise-wide information governance model
  - Realizing benefits from implementation: 17%
  - Implemented at scale: 29%
  - Started implementing: 28%

- Quantification of cyber risks
  - Realizing benefits from implementation: 17%
  - Implemented at scale: 29%
  - Started implementing: 30%

- Better quantify cyber risks
  - Realizing benefits from implementation: 17%
  - Implemented at scale: 28%
  - Started implementing: 29%

- Unify the reporting across the organization on cyber risks
  - Realizing benefits from implementation: 17%
  - Implemented at scale: 27%
  - Started implementing: 29%

- Tie cybersecurity investments and spending to tangible business metrics or outcomes
  - Realizing benefits from implementation: 17%
  - Implemented at scale: 26%
  - Started implementing: 28%

- Move beyond business continuity planning to cyber resilience
  - Realizing benefits from implementation: 16%
  - Implemented at scale: 29%
  - Started implementing: 28%

- Opt-in to opt-out privacy
  - Realizing benefits from implementation: 16%
  - Implemented at scale: 27%
  - Started implementing: 28%

- Move to real-time processes such as threat intelligence, fraud detection, critical asset inventory, etc.
  - Realizing benefits from implementation: 16%
  - Implemented at scale: 28%
  - Started implementing: 28%

**Technology**
- Invest in advanced technologies for my organization’s cyber defense and security detection capabilities
  - Realizing benefits from implementation: 17%
  - Implemented at scale: 27%
  - Started implementing: 29%

- Reduce the cost of cyber operations via automation, rationalization and/or other solutions
  - Realizing benefits from implementation: 15%
  - Implemented at scale: 25%
  - Started implementing: 28%

**Architecture**
- Integrated cloud security+network security
  - Realizing benefits from implementation: 18%
  - Implemented at scale: 29%
  - Started implementing: 29%

- Border-less, de-perimeterized architectures
  - Realizing benefits from implementation: 15%
  - Implemented at scale: 27%
  - Started implementing: 27%

- Zero trust
  - Realizing benefits from implementation: 15%
  - Implemented at scale: 25%
  - Started implementing: 26%

**Automation**
- Real-time monitoring of effectiveness of security controls
  - Realizing benefits from implementation: 19%
  - Implemented at scale: 28%
  - Started implementing: 29%

- Modern identity and access management
  - Realizing benefits from implementation: 19%
  - Implemented at scale: 29%
  - Started implementing: 29%

- Visualization
  - Realizing benefits from implementation: 18%
  - Implemented at scale: 28%
  - Started implementing: 27%

- Modern data discovery, management, and governance
  - Realizing benefits from implementation: 18%
  - Implemented at scale: 28%
  - Started implementing: 30%

- Security orchestration and automation
  - Realizing benefits from implementation: 18%
  - Implemented at scale: 27%
  - Started implementing: 29%

- Accelerated cloud adoption
  - Realizing benefits from implementation: 17%
  - Implemented at scale: 23%
  - Started implementing: 29%

- Application of artificial intelligence in cyber defense
  - Realizing benefits from implementation: 17%
  - Implemented at scale: 25%
  - Started implementing: 28%

Source: PwC, Global Digital Trust Insights Survey 2021, October 2020: base 3,249

Q: To what extent is your organization investing in the following ways to improve the management of cybersecurity risks in your organization over the next 2 years?
Overall, the 3,249 survey respondents reported making ‘significant progress’ over the past three years on an average of six measures, signaling better risk management, greater resilience, increased stakeholder trust, or faster digital transformation. The top outcomes — reported by 43% of executives — are improved customer experiences, quicker responses to incidents and disruptions, and better prevention of successful attacks.

But an elite group of early switchers — those who report realizing benefits from 20 or more of the 25 new practices — say they have made significant progress on at least 12 outcomes.

On the other hand, those who haven’t yet shifted to new practices report significant progress on only two or three outcomes.

These findings suggest that investing in every advantage in technologies, processes and the capabilities of your people is critical to making meaningful headway against attackers. And it underscores the importance of having a CISO who can serve as transformational leader or operational leader/master tactician.

**The greater the transformation, the higher the odds of significant progress**

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**Progress on cybersecurity goals in the past three years** (indexed scores)

- **74% Better risk management**
  - Less burdensome employee experience
  - Lower costs of compliance
  - Lower costs of managing risks

- **77% Greater resilience**
  - Faster response times to disruptions
  - Lower downtime and associated costs
  - Increased prevention of successful attacks

- **76% Greater trust**
  - Higher customer loyalty
  - Improved net promoter score
  - Greater compliance with regulations
  - Improved confidence of leaders

- **76% Business enablement**
  - Accelerated entry into new markets
  - Expedited launch of new products
  - Improved customer experience
  - Improved employee experience
  - More successful transformations

Source: PwC, Global Digital Trust Insights Survey 2021, October 2020: base 3,249
Q: How much progress has your organization made in cybersecurity in the past three years?
Cloud security is the next big switch

Companies are rapidly moving their operations (75%) and security (76%) to the cloud. They’re doing away with static, inherently insecure legacy systems in favor of more dynamic, nimble integrated cloud/network systems that are secure by design.

CISOs who transition their organization to the cloud are able to build in hygiene mechanisms from the beginning — in automated ways. They’re also able to eliminate friction from the system and simplify service delivery to their customers.

More than a third (35%) of executives strongly agree that moving to the cloud is foundational for the next generation of business solutions for their organization. And 36% strongly agree that new solutions exist to secure cloud infrastructures better than they have ever been in the past.

Small and medium-size organizations can also modernize

Larger organizations with more resources are applying new technologies and mindsets to turn the tables on attackers. But as the technologies become more affordable and the models refined, small and medium-sized enterprises can benefit as well.
Build resilience for any scenario
The threat outlook for the next year

In these uncertain times, businesses want certainty. Forty percent of executives in our Global DTI 2021 survey plan to increase resilience testing to ensure that, if a disruptive cyber event occurs, their critical business functions will stay up and running.

The likelihood of cyberattack is greater in 2020 than ever before. The year has brought a surge in intrusions, ransomware, and data breaches, along with an increase in phishing attempts.

We asked executives to rank the likelihood of cyber threats affecting their industry, and the impacts on their organizations, over the coming year. IoT and cloud service providers top the list of ‘very likely’ threat vectors (mentioned by 33%), while cyber attacks on cloud services top the list of threats that will have ‘significantly negative impact’ (reported by 24%).

Threats, actors, and events: relative likelihood and impact

Q: In your view, what is: (a) the likelihood that these threat vectors are going to affect your industry in the next 12 months, and (b) the extent of impact, if it were to happen, on your organization?
Q: In your view, what is: (a) the likelihood of these events occurring in your industry in the next 12 months, and (b) the extent of impact, if it were to happen, on your organization?
Q: In your view, what is: (a) the likelihood of a major and successful attack from these threat actors in your industry in the next 12 months, and (b) the extent of impact, if there was a successful attack, on your organization?
Relatively high-likelihood, high-impact threats

More and faster digitization means an increase in digital attack surface and potential for harm to the business. Most likely to occur in the next year and potentially most damaging, survey respondents said, are attacks on cloud services, disruptionware affecting critical business services (operational technology), and ransomware. **Are your investments addressing these threats?**

Fifty-five percent say it’s likely or very likely that their cloud service provider will be threatened in the next year, 45% say the impact would be negative or very negative. Fifty-seven percent deem an attack on cloud services to be likely, and 59% say the impact would be negative or very negative. A similar number (56%) rate a ransomware attack likely or very likely over the next year, and 58% say the consequences would be negative or very negative.

Technology companies are attuned to the threats on cloud services: more executives in the technology, media, and telecommunications industry (TMT) assign “very high” likelihood to such threats.

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**Source:** PwC, Global Digital Trust Insights Survey 2021, October 2020; base 3,217

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**A1. Threat Vectors in the next 12 months**

- Hacktivist/hacker
- Cyber criminal
- Cyber attack on cloud services
- Ransomware breach
- Disruptionware attack on critical business services

**A2. Events in the next 12 months**

**A3. Major and successful attacks from these threat vectors**

**Source:** PwC, Global Digital Trust Insights Survey 2021, October 2020; base 3,217
Relatively low-likelihood, high-impact threats

Next, we come to a cluster of threats considered low-likelihood, high-impact. Business leaders have been wrong before, however: in the World Economic Forum's Global Risk Report 2020, ‘infectious diseases’ was deemed an unlikely threat. We can’t predict the future; we can only plan for it. **Have you tested resilience plans for a wider range of threats?**

In this category are disinformation attacks (54% likelihood and negative impact) and threats sponsored by nation-states (48% likelihood, 51% negative impact) and competitors (53% likelihood, 56% negative impact). Executives in industrial manufacturing, financial services (FS) and TMT are particularly attuned to nation-states as threat actors.

Organizations have much to do to develop enterprise resilience, according to our study of resilience last year and a September 2020 poll of risk executives. Going forward, a key factor for most organizations will be the orchestration of separate business continuity, disaster recovery, and crisis management functions in most organizations.
Relatively high-likelihood, low-impact threats

Relatively high in likelihood but lower in impact are ever-present threat vectors, such as attacks via IoT (65% likelihood, 44% negative impact) and cloud providers as well as those posed by third parties (49% likelihood, 52% negative) and social engineering (63% likely but negative impact for just 49%). Health industry executives are particularly concerned about the impact of attacks via third parties.

**Good cyber hygiene is imperative to stave off these threats.** Talent and tools that harness data in real time to detect threats and respond to them are progressing rapidly.

How ready are you for the coming threats?

More executives in FS, TMT, and health industries think misinformation and ransomware are very likely to occur in the next year. Executives in energy, utilities, and resources are more likely to predict a significant negative impact from almost all threats.

If you were to draw up a likelihood-impact grid containing the cyber threats, actors, and events your organization faces, what would it look like? How is your cyber spending allocated to address these?

And how would the cyber risks compare against the other threats your organization faces? “Aggregating information security risk and comparing it to all the various other risks that exist within the organization is powerful, and it’s how organizations should look at enterprise risk,” says Adam Mishler, CISO, Best Buy.

More than three-quarters of executives in our Global DTI 2021 survey say that “assessments and testing, done right, can help them target their cybersecurity investments.”
Aggregating information security risk and comparing it to all the various other risks that exist within the organization is powerful, and it’s how organizations should look at enterprise risk.

—Adam Mishler
CISO, Best Buy
5 Future-proof your security team
Wanted: 3.5 million people for 2021 cybersecurity jobs

More than half (51%) of executives in our Global DTI 2021 survey say they plan to add full-time cybersecurity personnel over the next year. More than one-fifth (22%) will increase their staffing by 5% or more.

Top roles they want to fill: cloud solutions (43%), security intelligence (40%), and data analysis (37%). Cloud security and security analysis are among the skills that a joint ESG and ISSA survey cited as being in shortest supply.

Hiring managers face tough competition in the cyber labor market. The most recent studies indicate that, in the US alone, 50% fewer candidates are available than are needed in the cyber field. Globally, some 3.5 million cybersecurity jobs are expected to go unfilled in 2021.

More than half of businesses are expanding their cybersecurity teams

Source: PwC, Global Digital Trust Insights Survey 2021, October 2020; base 3,249
Q: How is headcount for your cybersecurity team changing in the next 12 months?

1% Don’t know
4% Decrease by 5% or more
12% Decrease by less than 5%
22% Increase by 5% or more
31% Stay the same
29% Increase by less than 5%
Hire for 21st-century skills: digital, business, and social skills

In their new hires, more than 40% of executives are looking for analytical skills (47%), communication skills (43%), critical thinking (42%) and creativity (42%). Shaping the future of cybersecurity — one that is in step with the business — means hiring the people who are ready to work collaboratively with others to tackle new, as-yet-undiscovered problems and analyze information.

These in-demand qualities correspond with the expanded role of the CISO as not merely a tech leader, but one who works with colleagues in the C-Suite and the business side to add value overall.

“Works well with others” is an increasingly important trait for advancement in cyber. CISOs used to look for the person who knew the most about how to configure a firewall or identity and access management, for example. Not anymore. They’ve realized that those skills could be taught a whole lot easier than executive skills. Good communications, good analytical thinking, and the ability to step outside the process and imagine new and better ways to do it — those soft skills are harder to teach.

To attract this new breed of cybersecurity professionals, organizations find the following to be most effective: flexibility, compensation, and training and “cutting-edge projects, technology, and work environment.” Tuition support ranks high with employees in the technology, media, and telecommunications industry, as well.

New hires need to have digital skills, business acumen, and social skills

Digital building blocks

- Cloud solutions: 43%
- Security intelligence: 40%
- Data analysis: 37%
- Data management: 36%
- Specific technology specialties (e.g., AI, IoT, blockchain, etc.): 33%
- Networks (e.g., configuration, protocols): 32%
- Financial and risk analysis: 31%
- Software development and QA: 31%
- Computer programming: 31%
- Privacy specialties (e.g., privacy engineering): 29%
- Systems (e.g., privacy engineering): 29%

Business enablers

- Analytical skills: 47%
- Project manager: 40%
- Communicating data: 35%
- Digital design: 35%
- Business process acumen: 33%

Social skills

- Communication: 43%
- Creativity: 42%
- Critical thinking: 42%
- Collaboration: 41%
- Adaptability: 40%
- Emotional intelligence: 33%
- Persuasion: 28%

Source: PwC, Global Digital Trust Insights Survey 2021, October 2020; base 3,249

Q: Which of the following skills are you looking for in your new hires in the next 12 months?
**Hire from within: upskilling 2.0**

Enterprises feeling the pinch of the cybersecurity skills gap may find much talent in their own backyards. Organizations are hiring from within, offering upskilling to increase current employees’ skills in the same key areas they’re hiring for: digital skills, business acumen, and social skills.

Organizations should challenge long-held beliefs about training, and design their programs to be people-powered, business-led, and results-oriented. This approach, which we call upskilling 2.0, uses techniques such as gamification to increase participation, improves effectiveness and recall by having students apply their newfound knowledge to challenges they face on the job, and rewards progress toward tangible business outcomes.

Executives set a good example: almost three-quarters (72%) of technology/security executives report spending three or more hours per week on work-related learning, and more than one-third (36%) devote more than seven hours per week to learning. Taking courses toward certification and taking online classes are top ways that executives say they keep pace with fast-evolving developments in tech and cyber, after networking with peers nationally.

### Keeping up with technologies requires significant personal investment in learning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time per Week</th>
<th>Tech/Security Respondents</th>
<th>Business Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More than 10 hours</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7–10 hours</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3–6 hours</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1–2 hours</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A few hours per month</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A few hours per quarter</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A few hours per year</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: PwC Global Trust Insights Survey 2021, October 2020: base 3,249
Q: How much time do you personally devote to learning new things in the technology field that improve the way you do your job?
Tech/Security Respondents Only base: 1,623

Q: How much time do you personally devote to learning new things in the technology field that improve the way you do your job?
Business Respondents only base: 1,626
Access talent through managed services models

Other organizations may not have the resources to compete for cyber talent in this tough market. In such cases, using a reputable managed security services model can help provide companies with a diverse, readily available, highly skilled workforce. The best managed services providers continually invest in hiring, credentialing, and upskilling. They may also have apprenticeship programs that provide their staff with a range of experiences in different industries.

Managed services platforms — networks, the cloud, data, analytical tools, visualization, machine learning — are constantly evolving. By moving to a managed services model, an organization can avoid not only technology investment costs but also the risks that legacy technology poses, including the need for constant upgrades.

An overwhelming majority — nearly 90 percent — of executives use or plan to use managed services. Eighteen percent say they’re already realizing benefits from managed services, while 49% are starting to use them, and 18% plan to do so in the next two years.
About the survey
About the survey

The 2021 Global Digital Trust Insights is a survey of 3,249 business, technology, and security executives (CEOs, corporate directors, CFOs, CISOs, CIOs, and C-Suite officers) conducted in July and August 2020. Fifty-five percent of respondents are executives in large companies ($1 billion and above in revenues); 15% are in companies with $10 billion or more in revenues. Female executives make up 28% of the sample.

Respondents operate in a range of industries: Tech, media, telecom (22%), Retail and consumer markets (20%), Financial services (19%), Industrial manufacturing (19%), Health (8%), and Energy, utilities, and resources (8%).

Respondents are based in various regions: Western Europe (34%), North America (29%), Asia Pacific (18%), Latin America (8%), Eastern Europe (4%), Middle East (3%), and Africa (3%).

The Global Digital Trust Insights Survey is formally known as Global State of Information Security Survey (GSISS).

PwC Research, PwC’s global Centre of Excellence for market research and insight, conducted this survey.
Job title

- Net: Tech/security respondents: 50%
- Net: Business respondents: 50%
- Net: C-suite: 27%
- Net: Non C-suite: 73%

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/President/Managing Director: 21%
Chief Information Security Officer: 10%

Source: PwC, Global Digital Trust Insights Survey 2021, October 2020: base 3,249
Q: Choose the title that best describes your role.
### Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>North America</strong>—29%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Latin America</strong>—8%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Asia Pacific</strong>—18%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>China &amp; Hong Kong</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>India</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Africa</strong>—3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>East Africa (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania)</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Southern Africa</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Zimbabwe)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>West Africa (Nigeria, Ghana)</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eastern Europe</strong>—4%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Middle East</strong>—3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bahrain</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Qatar</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UAE</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Western Europe</strong>—34%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>France</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: PwC, Global Digital Trust Insights Survey 2021, October 2020: base 3,249

Q: In which country do you primarily work?
Industry

Sector | Industry
Technology, media & telecommunications 22% | Technology 15%
Base: 717 | Communications 4%
Enterprise & media 4%
Retail & consumer 20% | Financial services 19% | Retail 5%
Base: 644 | Base: 625 | Forest, paper & packaging 5%
Transportation & logistics 4%
Consumer goods 4%
Hospitality & leisure 3%
Industrial manufacturing 19% | Banking & capital markets 8%
Base: 617 | Private equity 4%
Asset & wealth management 4%
Insurance 4%
Healthcare 8% | Engineering & construction 6%
Base: 264 | Industrial manufacturing 6%
Automotive 4%
Aerospace, defense & security 3%
Energy, utilities & resources 8% | Healthcare 5%
Base: 253 | Pharmaceuticals & life sciences 3%
Energy, incl. oil & gas 4%
Power & utilities 4%
Government/public services 4% | Government/public services 4%
Base: 129

Source: PwC, Global Digital Trust Insights Survey 2021, October 2020: base 3,249
Q: Within which industry does your company mainly operate?
Employee size and gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employee Size</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 100 employees</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101–500 employees</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>501–1,000 employees</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,001–5,000 employees</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,001–10,000 employees</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,001–50,000 employees</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50,001–80,000 employees</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80,001–100,000 employees</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100,001 or more employees</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Don't know: 0%

Net: Less than 1,000: 32%
Net: 1,000–less than 50,000: 54%
Net: 50,000–less than 100,000: 9%

Female—28%
Male—71%
Prefer not to say & other <1%

Source: PwC, Global Digital Trust Insights Survey 2021, October 2020: base 3,249
Q: How many employees does your organization have globally?
Q: What is your gender?