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2023
Hybrid Security Trends Report

Additional Findings for the Small Organizations Sector

CLOUD ADOPTION

More than two-thirds (68%) of small organizations (under 100 employees) have a hybrid IT architecture. The remaining 32% are either only on premises or only in the cloud, which is higher than among organizations of all sizes (27%). What's more, only 45% of the small organizations that are currently exclusively on-premises plan to adopt cloud technologies, compared to 69% among respondents overall.

IT Architecture: Small Organizations

22%
On-premises only

68%
Hybrid

10%
Cloud only
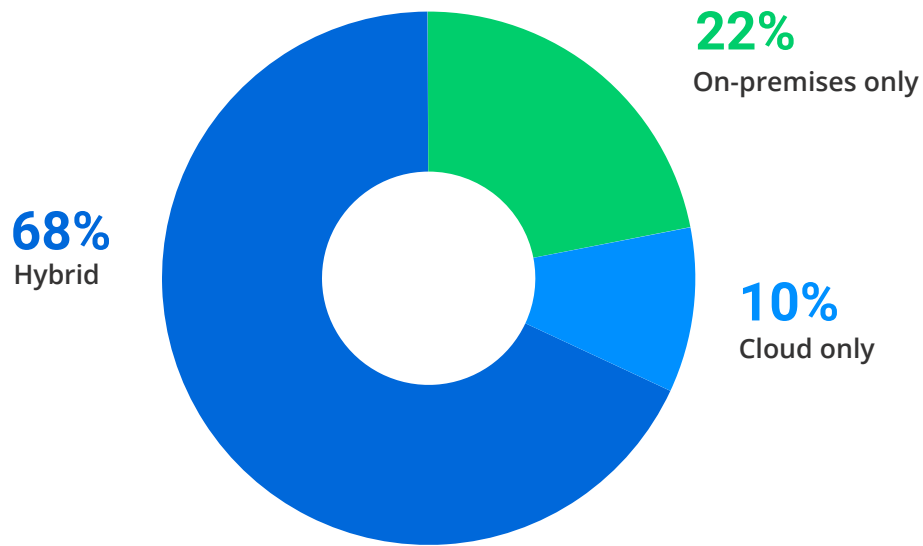
> On one hand, there are a lot of cloud-native small businesses, born when cloud was already an integral part of the IT landscape. On the other hand, many small organizations made significant investments into their on-premises infrastructure and simply might not have the budget to migrate to the cloud.

Dirk Schrader
VP of Security Research at Netwrix

IT PRIORITIES

The three main IT priorities are the same for organizations of all sizes, including small businesses: data security, network security and cybersecurity awareness among employees. When we asked IT pros what they would do to improve the security posture of their organization if they had a chance to decide on their own, their top choice was IT staff training.

How IT Pros at Small Organizations Would Improve Security

Provide more or better training to IT staff

47%

Improve privileged access management

46%

Provide more or better training to business users

41%

> Small organizations usually do not have a dedicated security professional; instead, their IT team — sometimes a single sysadmin — must take care of both systems and data security. In such circumstances, it is essential to reduce infrastructure complexity to streamline security processes.

Dirk Schrader
VP of Security Research at Netwrix

> In addition, small organizations can consider outsourcing security-related tasks to a managed service provider (MSP) or managed security service provider (MSSP). This approach not only eliminates the need to hire additional internal IT talent but can also reduce the cost of maintaining security software. For example, if a new compliance requirement arises, the MSP can make the necessary changes once, implement them across their customer base, and share the cost of the customization among those clients.

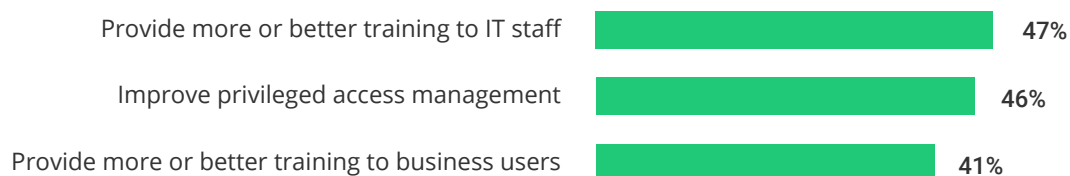**Dmitry Sotnikov**
VP of Product Management at Netwrix

SECURITY CHALLENGES

All organizations, regardless of size, are a target for cybercriminals. The most common security incidents are the same for small organizations and for respondents overall: phishing, ransomware and user account compromise.

However, smaller organizations usually have less resources and experience with which to address security threats. Indeed, lack of budget is the top security challenge that small companies say they face.

Biggest Security Challenges for Small Organizations

Provide more or better training to IT staff	47%
Improve privileged access management	46%
Provide more or better training to business users	41%

50% of small organizations have a cyber insurance policy or plan to purchase one within 12 months to defray the impact of cyberattacks.

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Cost efficiency is top of mind for small organizations. To improve their security posture, these organizations may want to seek out solutions with tiered pricing, so they can start with a smaller number of licenses and scale up as they reap the benefits of the tool. In addition, partnering with a vendor that offers multiple solutions is a way to get a larger discount for using several tools.

Dirk Schrader

VP of Security Research at Netwrix

ABOUT THE REPORT

The report is brought to you by Netwrix Research Lab, which conducts industry surveys among IT pros worldwide to discover important changes and trends. For more reports, please visit www.netwrix.com/research

ABOUT NETWRIX

Netwrix makes data security easy. Since 2006, Netwrix solutions have been simplifying the lives of security professionals by enabling them to identify and protect sensitive data to reduce the risk of a breach, and to detect, respond to and recover from attacks, limiting their impact. More than 13,000 organizations worldwide rely on Netwrix solutions to strengthen their security and compliance posture across all three primary attack vectors: data, identity, and infrastructure.

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