SUPERCHARGED SECURITY for Hybrid and Multi-cloud Environments to Fuel Business Growth

Enterprise Strategy Group by TechTarget

Organizations today are under pressure to digitally transform and optimize productivity and innovation, and they need security that supports their workloads across hybrid and multi-cloud environments. Cisco can help organizations modernize their security program to protect applications no matter where they reside, while supporting faster development and business growth.

The Need for Security to Support Applications Across Distributed Environments

Organizations are increasingly leveraging public cloud infrastructure to utilize state-of-the-art computing platforms without worrying about underlying infrastructure or maintenance. At the same time, they need to support their applications in on-premises environments. This makes it challenging for security teams to support the move to cloud services and to manage workloads that are distributed across multiple cloud platforms and on-premises environments.

TODAY

Percent of production applications/workloads running **on public cloud services (i.e., IaaS and PaaS),** **49%**

Percent of production applications/workloads running **on on-premises infrastructure,** **51%**

0% 100%

24 MONTHS FROM NOW

Percent of production applications/workloads running **on public cloud services (i.e., IaaS and PaaS),** **53%**

Percent of production applications/workloads running **on on-premises infrastructure,** **47%**

0% 100%

“A majority (63%) of organizations use **three or more** cloud service providers (CSPs)."

*- **Melinda Marks,** Practice Director, Cybersecurity, Enterprise Strategy Group*

Security tops the list of challenges faced by working with multiple CSPs, followed by issues of scale and ensuring application availability and performance.

31% Meeting security expectations

30% Managing different APIs

29% Integrating continuous integration/continuous delivery (CI/CD)

26% Network interconnect availability/differences

26% Implementing a consistent deployment methodology

For cloud migrations, security is a top concern, followed by cost and time.

25% Meeting security expectations

25% Meeting cost expectations

25% Time and cost of learning different architectures

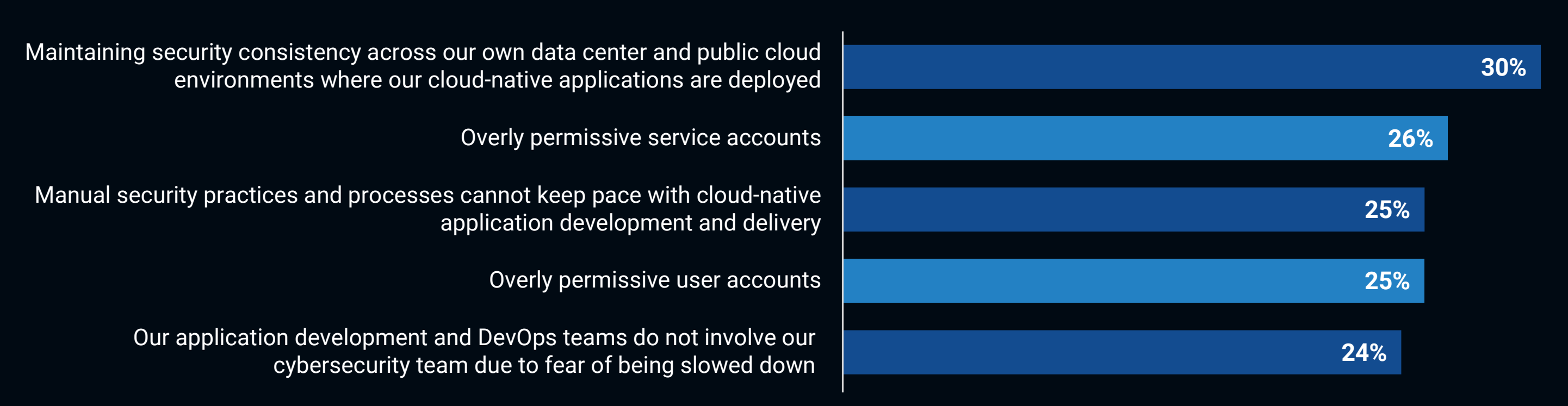
24% Network interconnect availability/differences

26% Time and effort moving apps/data between multiple public cloud services

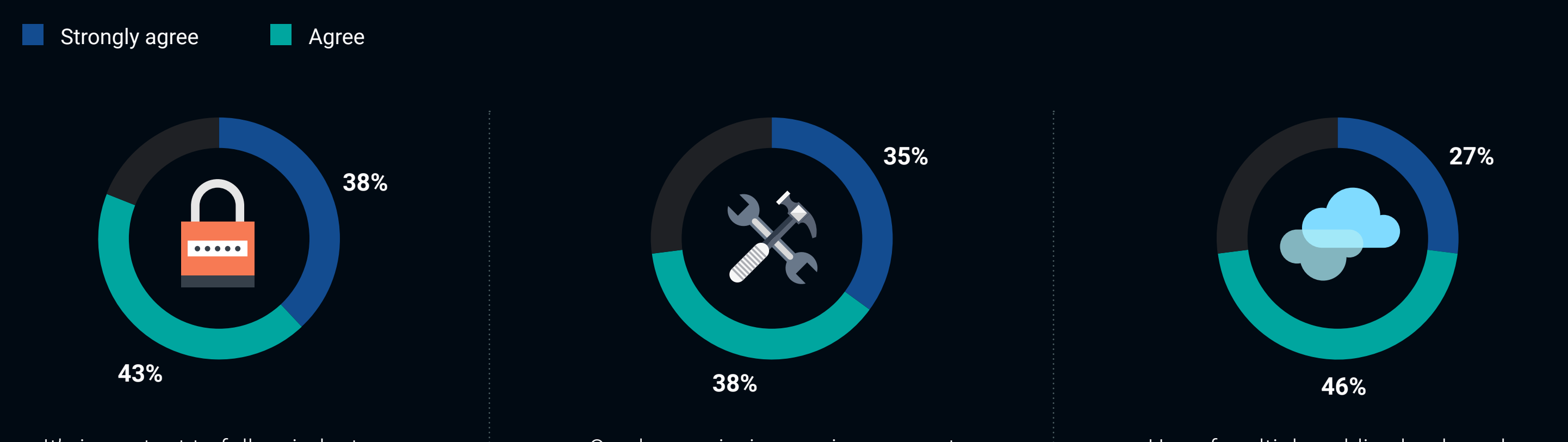
Effective Security Strategy to Support Growth

Security teams want to enable growth and innovation instead of blocking it. These current pressures demand effective security risk management and protection for applications across environments. This has been challenging as teams work to adapt their programs to support the increased growth and scale of applications across environments.

The biggest cloud security challenges are around consistency, permissions, and scale.



Top 3 challenges managing security across environments.



It’s important to follow industry-defined security best practices to improve our security posture

Overly permissive service accounts introduce significant security and compliance risk

Use of multiple public clouds makes it challenging to maintain consistent security posture across environments

Moving From Multiple, Siloed Tools to a Higher-efficacy Solution

Organizations are also currently challenged using too many separate security tools that are difficult and time-consuming for their teams. Instead, they should look for an approach that consolidates security tooling and provides visibility and monitoring of all applications across environments with one interconnected, dynamic framework. This increases security team efficiency and effectiveness with context across assets for faster security operations to mitigate risk and respond quickly to threats.

Multiple tools in use for asset inventory.

52% IT asset management systems

40% Cyber asset attack surface management technology

37% Endpoint security

34% Network scanning

33% Cloud security posture management tools

33% Endpoint management

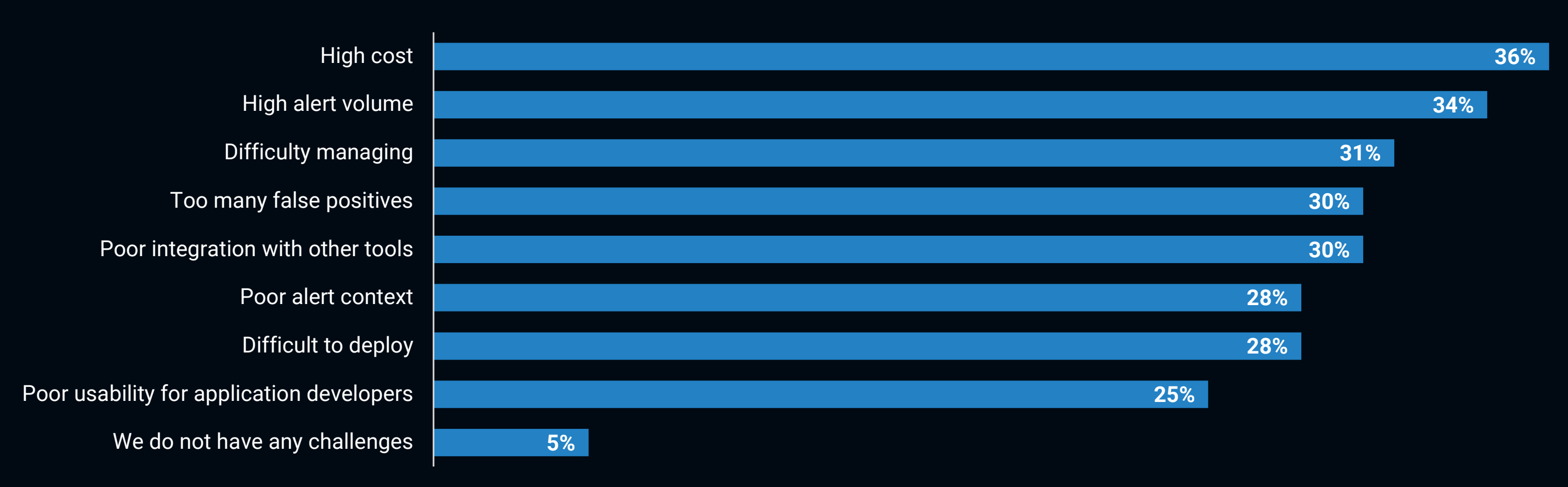
32% Vulnerability scanning/assessment tools

26% Network access controls

26% Configuration and patch management

25% External attack surface management platform

Tool-related challenges from using multiple web application protection solutions.



Top 4 management-related challenges from using multiple security tools across different environments.

45% Each security technology demands its own training, implementation, management, and operations, straining my organization’s resources

36% It is difficult to get a complete picture of our security statususing many disparate security technologies

33% The security staff has to aggregate results from independent security technologies, making overall security operations complex and time-consuming

30% My organization doesn’t have enough staff or skills to manage our security technologies appropriately

Organizations require an effective way to manage security across environments with consistency of processes and controls to protect applications no matter where they reside so security teams can scale to support increased productivity and growth.

Key Elements for Program Effectiveness

Pervasive visibility across environments into all assets (network, applications, and clouds) to gain an accurate picture of the overall security posture.

Context to drive remediation efficiency with risk scoring for efficient prioritization of vulnerability findings across environments to drive the needed remediation actions that can have the highest impact on mitigating risk.

Consolidated, consistent security controls to consistently apply policies and security frameworks to workloads across environments.

Comprehensive workload protection that safeguards traffic across the network, clouds, and VPCs, with consistent and accurate macro- and micro-segmentation across environments to stop unauthorized lateral movement to protect applications and data.

The Cisco Cloud Protection Suite delivers a modern application security approach with end-to-end security for hybrid and multi-cloud application environments. From bare-metal to cloud-native infrastructure, the suite provides customers with holistic application security, safeguarding workloads across environments, both on-prem and in the cloud.

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Learn More

Source: Enterprise Strategy Group Complete Survey Results, *Distributed Cloud Series: The State of Infrastructure Modernization Across the Distributed Cloud,* August 2023.
Source: Enterprise Strategy Group Research Report, *Cloud Entitlements and Posture Management Trends,* April 2023.
Source: Enterprise Strategy Group Research Report, *Security Hygiene and Posture Management Remains Decentralized and Complex,* July 2023.
Source: Enterprise Strategy Group Complete Survey Results, *ESG/ISSA Cybersecurity Process and Technology Survey,* June 2022.