Pulse and Cisco surveyed 100 IT and security executives who have an XDR solution to understand the importance of the role it plays in their organization. As digital transformations continue and remote work becomes the norm, organizations are looking to improve their security posture without further straining resources. Extended detection and response (XDR) is an approach that can streamline security operations and reduce response time, while allowing security teams to focus on other critical tasks. Most look for integration capabilities that improve security priorities and efficiency.

Over three-quarters (78%) of respondents agree that their XDR solution has freed them of work, allowing them to spend 5-7 hours on routine tasks. Over half (56%) believe their XDR solution helps reduce the cost of a data breach. A majority (60%) of executives say they use between two and four vendors as part of their XDR solution.

When asked about the impact of the capabilities listed within their XDR solution on their security posture, most respondents agree that they have been able to improve their security posture significantly. When asked about the extent to which they agree or disagree with the statement: "I have seen a quantifiable improvement in the productivity of my team since implementing an XDR solution," 69% of respondents agree. When asked about the extent to which they agree or disagree with the statement: "My XDR solution helps reduce the cost of a data breach," 51% of respondents agree.

Most executives agree that they have seen a reduction in analyst effort since implementing an XDR solution (82%). When asked how much money they estimate they save annually by consolidating their XDR services into fewer vendors, 73% estimate savings between $25,001-$50,000. Roughly half of the respondents (48%) believe it takes between 10 and 20 hours per week to respond to threats. A majority (60%) of executives say they use between two and four vendors as part of their XDR solution.

When asked to rank their top three XDR components from most important to least important, respondents ranked automation tasks, and ability to focus on other critical tasks as the top 3 key positives. They also agreed that their XDR solution has freed them from work, allowing them to spend 5-7 hours on routine tasks. Over half (56%) believe their XDR solution helps reduce the cost of a data breach. A majority (60%) of executives say they use between two and four vendors as part of their XDR solution.