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NETWRIX SURVEY:

70% of Companies Invest in Vulnerability Assessment Primarily to Be Proactive Rather than to Ensure Compliance

ONLY 10% of respondents implemented their vulnerability assessment solution due to a previous or upcoming audit.

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The survey shows that continuous scanning for known vulnerabilities is a popular approach for proactively securing an IT environment. Technology teams implement these tools to proactively identify, prioritize and manage risks to the business. Only 8% of respondents who don't own a solution say they do not require one. This shows that vulnerability management is widely considered a must-have.
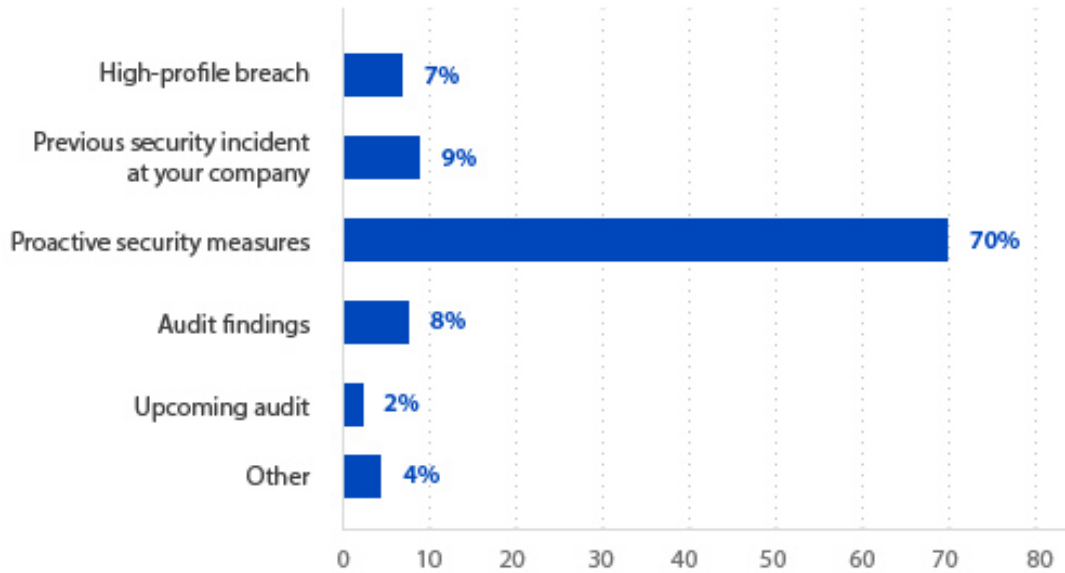
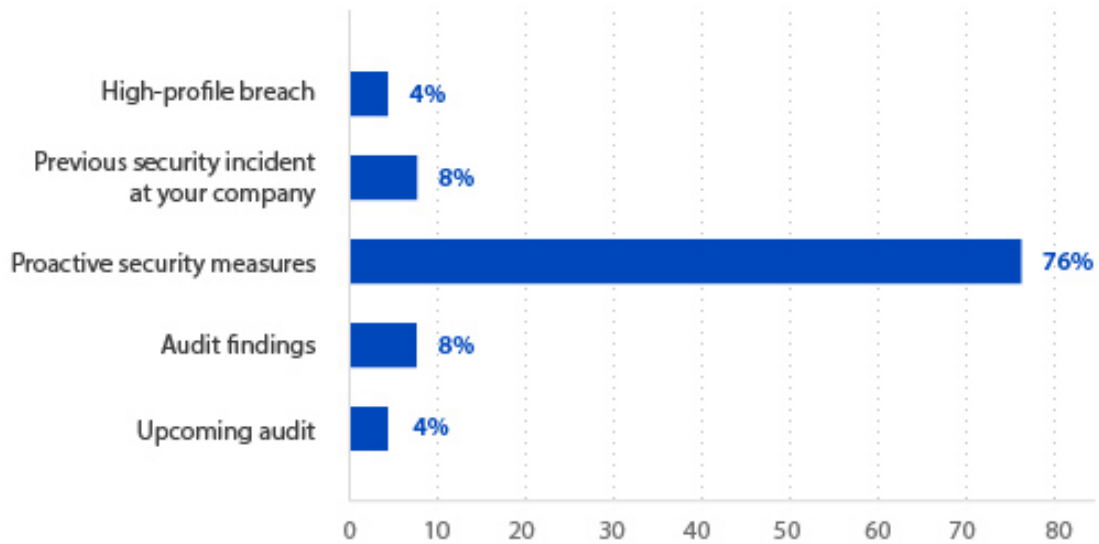**Joe Dibley**
Security Researcher at Netwrix

Netwrix asked 720 IT pros all over the world how they assess vulnerabilities in their IT infrastructure. The survey found that 70% of organizations have a vulnerability assessment tool, either deployed internally or provided as a third-party service. Most of those respondents (70%) said the primary reason for purchasing the tool was the need for proactive security measures; 76% of those who do not yet own a vulnerability assessment tool and plan to acquire one in the near future chose the same key driver – to be secure proactively.

In the past several years, companies have become more security-focused, with widely-covered incidents like Colonial Pipeline and Solar Winds making the consequences of breaches more evident to everyone, not just the IT department. As a result, CISOs and CIOs have been able to secure approval for increases in their cybersecurity budgets. In the Gartner® 2021 CIO Agenda Survey, cybersecurity was the top priority for new spending, with 61% of the more than 2,000 CIOs surveyed increasing investment in cyber/information security this year.[1]

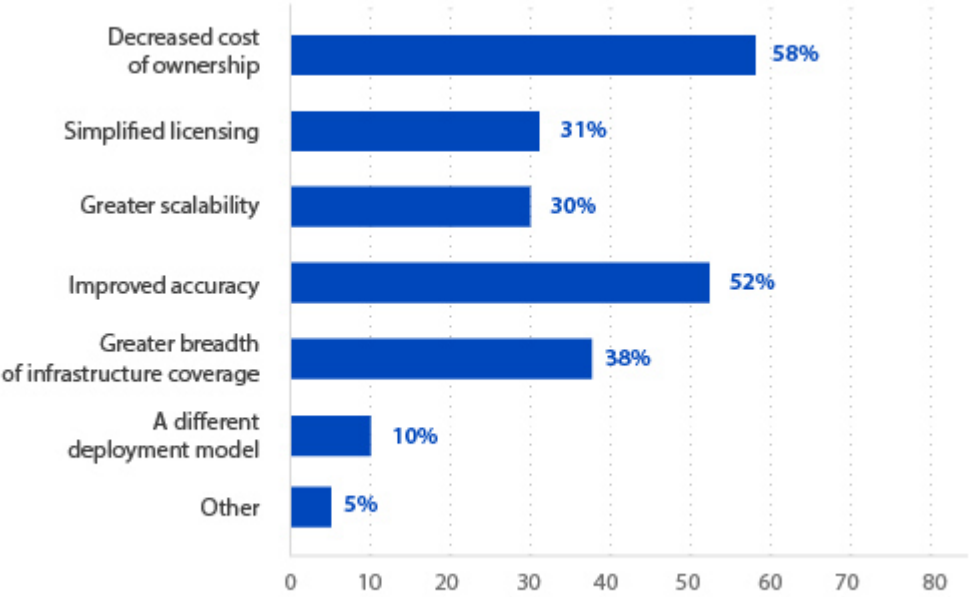## Which of the following was the main reason your organization acquired a vulnerability assessment solution?

Category	Percentage
High-profile breach	7%
Previous security incident at your company	9%
Proactive security measures	70%
Audit findings	8%
Upcoming audit	2%
Other	4%

Which of the following is the main reason for your organization to consider purchasing a vulnerability assessment solution?

Category	Percentage
High-profile breach	4%
Previous security incident at your company	8%
Proactive security measures	76%
Audit findings	8%
Upcoming audit	4%

While budget is top of mind for 58% of respondents, more than half (52%) said they would consider changing to a new solution if it would reduce the volume of false positive alerts. Some respondents even left comments like, "will not sacrifice performance and accuracy for $$".

"Every false positive finding takes time away from a security-focused team member. Many technology teams are already overloaded far beyond 100%, so lots of false positive notifications can lead to alert fatigue and burnout," commented **Joe Dibley.** "In addition, 38% of respondents said they would consider changing tools to gain greater breadth of infrastructure coverage, which shows that organizations are gaining a greater understanding that they need to protect not only their servers but also their switches, storage and other infrastructure-related items."

What would encourage your organization to change its current vulnerability assessment solution?

Category	Percentage
Decreased cost of ownership	58%
Simplified licensing	31%
Greater scalability	30%
Improved accuracy	52%
Greater breadth of infrastructure coverage	38%
A different deployment model	10%
Other	5%

ABOUT THE ANALYTICAL NOTE

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/go/research

ABOUT NETWRIX

Netwrix makes data security easy by simplifying how professionals control sensitive, regulated and business-crit-ical data, regardless of where it resides. More than 11,500 customers worldwide rely on Netwrix solutions to secure sensitive data, realize the full business value of enterprise content, pass compliance audits with less effort and expense, and increase the productivity of IT teams and knowledge workers.

Founded in 2006, Netwrix has earned more than 150 industry awards and been named to both the Inc. 5000 and Deloitte Technology Fast 500 lists of the fastest growing companies in the U.S.

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