

# 2024 Cyberthreat Defense Report

## Executive Brief

Platinum Sponsor



### Survey Demographics

- ◆ Responses from 1,200 qualified IT security decision makers and practitioners
- ◆ All from organizations with more than 500 employees
- ◆ Representing 17 countries across North America, Europe, Asia Pacific, the Middle East, Latin America, and Africa
- ◆ Representing 19 industries

*“We added a question to our survey about factors that would improve job satisfaction among IT security staff, potentially improving recruiting and retention. The item selected most often was “cybersecurity training and certification,” cited by 51.9% of respondents.”*

– 2024 CDR

CyberEdge Group’s tenth anniversary edition **Cyberthreat Defense Report** provides a penetrating look at how IT security professionals perceive cyberthreats and plan to defend against them. Based on a survey of 1,200 IT security decision makers and practitioners conducted in November 2023, the report delivers countless insights IT security teams can use to better understand how their perceptions, priorities, and security postures stack up against those of their peers.

### Notable Findings

- ◆ **AI predicted to benefit security teams more than threat actors.** Survey respondents think artificial intelligence will help both security teams and threat actors in many ways, but most think either security teams will benefit more or that both will benefit equally.
- ◆ **Hiring cybersecurity professionals is still a major issue.** The hiring gap is closing – but only slowly. Demand continues to far outstrip supply in all major job roles.
- ◆ **Training improves job satisfaction.** “Cybersecurity training and certification” was selected as the #1 factor to improve job satisfaction (and presumably employee retention and recruiting) in the IT security organization.

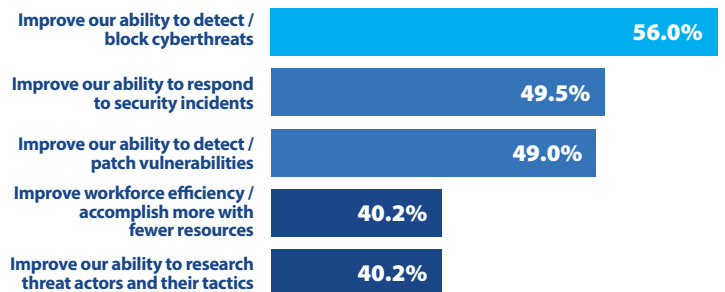
### AI is taking center stage

Artificial intelligence technologies are being incorporated into a very wide range of security solutions. Security teams are looking at AI as a force multiplier that will make them more productive and effective.

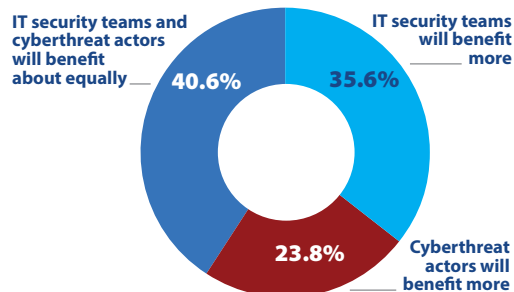
But survey respondents also expect AI to be deployed in many ways to find vulnerabilities and defeat cybersecurity measures.

Who will be helped more? Most respondents said with IT security teams would benefit more or that both sides would benefit about equally.

#### Positive outcomes from AI for security teams



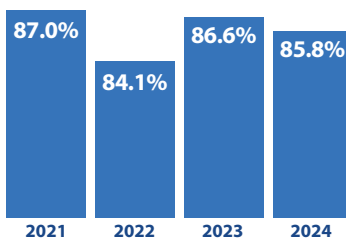
#### Who will benefit more from AI?



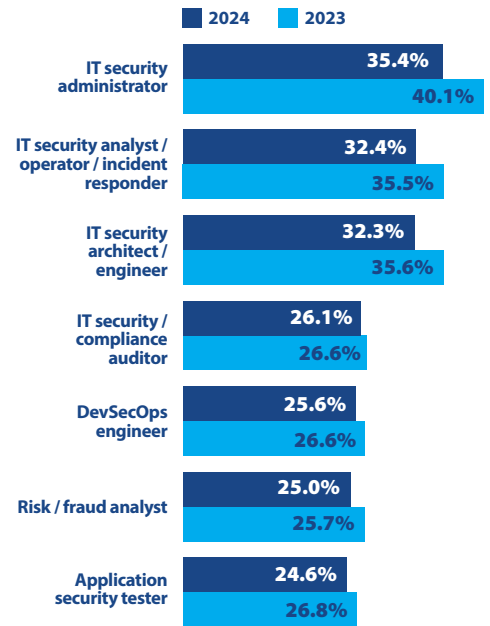
## The Hiring Gap is Closing – But Slowly

The security skills shortage is persistent, widespread, and consequential. Survey data indicates that the shortage of skilled IT security personnel eased a touch over the last 12 months. The percentage of organizations experiencing a shortfall in at least one role fell slightly, from 86.6% to 85.8%. However, that's still high. A similar picture emerges when we look at specific jobs. The percentage of organizations with open spots eased a little, but for every role between a quarter and just over a third of organizations have openings they can't fill.

Percentage of organizations experiencing a shortfall of skilled IT security personnel in at least one role



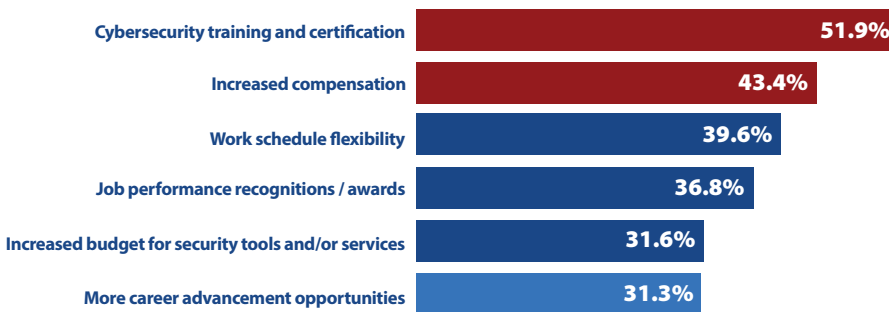
Cybersecurity skills shortage by role



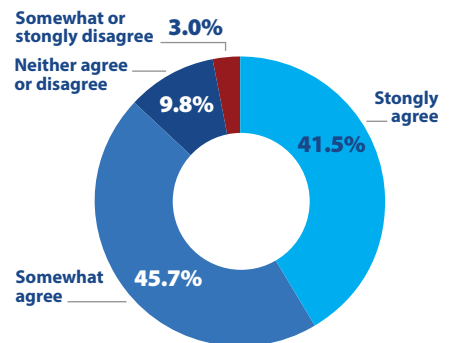
## Training and Certification Help

“Cybersecurity training and certification” was selected as the #1 factor that would improve job satisfaction (and presumably employee retention) in the IT security organization. Almost nine of ten survey respondents agreed IT security training has “helped me better protect my organization and/or my customer’s critical assets.”

Factors that would improve job satisfaction in the IT security organization.



Agreement with the statement: “Classroom and/or online IT security training have helped me better protect my organization and/or my customers’ critical assets.”



## Complimentary Report

Download a copy of the full 2024 Cyberthreat Defense Report at: <https://cloud.connect.isc2.org/cyberthreat-defense-report>.

## About ISC2

ISC2 is an international nonprofit membership associate focused on inspiring a safe and secure cyber world. Best known for the acclaimed Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP®) certification, ISC2 offers a portfolio of credentials that are a part of a holistic, pragmatic approach to security. Our association of candidates, associates and members, more than 600,000 strong, is made up of certified cyber, information software and infrastructure security professionals who are making a difference and helping to advance the industry.



## About CyberEdge Group

CyberEdge Group is an award-winning research and marketing consulting firm serving the diverse needs of information security vendors and service providers. Headquartered in Annapolis, Maryland, with 40+ consultants based across North America, CyberEdge works with approximately one in every five IT security vendors and service providers. For more information, visit [www.cyber-edge.com](http://www.cyber-edge.com).