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Research Report

Abstract:

Threat Intelligence and Its Role Within Enterprise Cybersecurity Practices

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Introduction

Research Objectives

In order to assess how enterprise organizations are collecting, processing, analyzing, and operationalizing their threat intelligence programs, ESG surveyed 304 IT and information security professionals representing enterprise-class (1,000 employees or more) organizations in North America. All respondents were involved in the planning, implementation, and/or daily operations of their organization's threat intelligence program, processes, or technologies**.**

The survey and overall research project were designed to answer the following questions about:

- Threat intelligence programs
    1. Do enterprise organizations have threat intelligence programs in place?
    2. If so, how are they structured and funded?
    3. How mature are these programs?
    4. What are the primary objectives for threat intelligence programs?
- Threat intelligence knowledge and opinions
    1. Do security professionals have adequate threat intelligence skills?
    2. If not, where are the knowledge gaps?
    3. What is driving threat intelligence program strategy?
    4. What are the biggest threat intelligence challenges for organizations?
- The organization(s) responsible for threat intelligence programs
    1. Which groups are responsible for threat intelligence programs today? Do multiple groups participate in these programs?
    2. Who reviews threat intelligence and for what purposes?
    3. What do organizations actually do with the threat intelligence they collect, process, and analyze?
- Endpoint security technologies
    1. What types of internal and external threat intelligence data are organizations collecting?
    2. How do they select external threat feeds and services?
    3. Is threat intelligence data integrated with other security and IT technologies?
    4. Are security professionals aware of threat intelligence standards? If so, are these standards important?
- Threat intelligence sharing
    1. Are organizations sharing threat intelligence today? If so, is this a regular or ad-hoc occurrence?
    2. Are organizations willing to share internally-derived threat intelligence with the US Government? If so, what types of programs and assurances would they want from Washington?

Survey participants represented a wide range of industries including financial services, manufacturing, business services, communications and media, and government. For more details, please see the *Research Methodology* and *Respondent Demographics* sections of this report.

Research Methodology

To gather data for this report, ESG conducted a comprehensive online survey of IT and information security professionals from private- and public-sector organizations in North America (United States and Canada) between February 27, 2015 and March 10, 2015. To qualify for this survey, respondents were required to be IT professionals directly involved in the planning, implementation, and/or daily operations of their organization's threat intelligence program, processes, or technologies. Respondent organizations also needed to currently be using external threat intelligence as part of its threat intelligence program.

After filtering out unqualified respondents, removing duplicate responses, and screening the remaining completed responses (on a number of criteria) for data integrity, we were left with a final total sample of 304 IT and information security professionals.

Please see the *Respondent Demographics* section of this report for more information on these respondents.

Note: Totals in figures and tables throughout this report may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

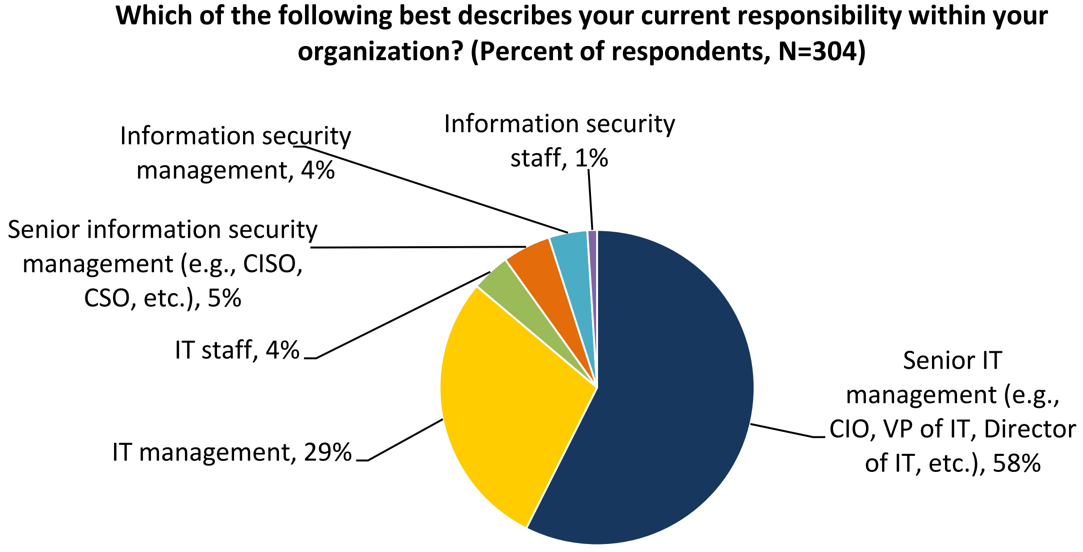
Respondent Demographics

The data presented in this report is based on a survey of 304 qualified respondents. The figures below detail the demographics of the respondent base, including individual respondents' current job functions, as well as respondent organizations' total numbers of employees, primary industries, and annual revenues.

Respondents by Current Job Function

Respondents' current job function within their organizations is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Survey Respondents by Current Job Function

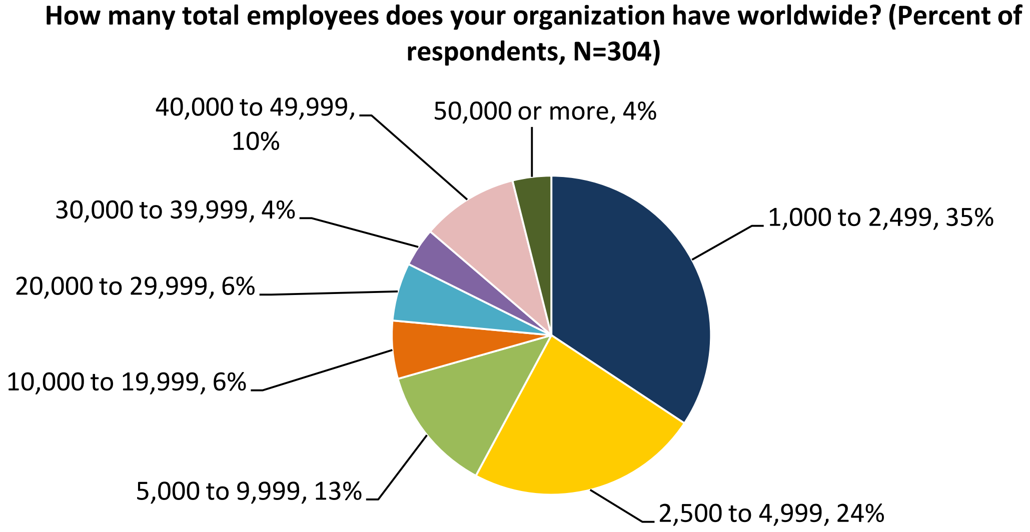


Source: Enterprise Strategy Group, 2015.

Respondents by Number of Employees

The number of employees in respondents' organizations is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Survey Respondents by Number of Employees



Source: Enterprise Strategy Group, 2015.

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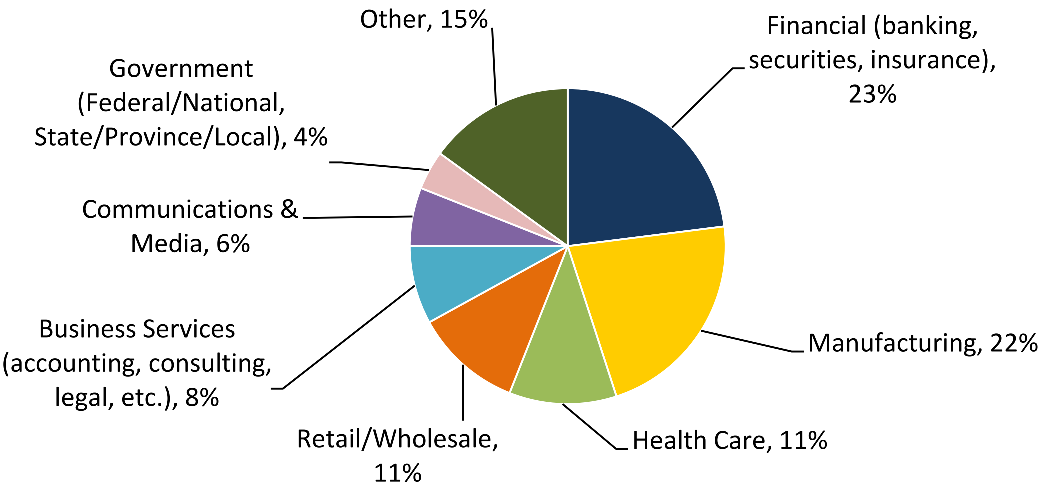
Respondents by Industry

Respondents were asked to identify their organizations' primary industry. In total, ESG received completed, qualified responses from individuals in 19 distinct vertical industries, plus an "Other" category. Respondents were then grouped into the broader categories shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3. Survey Respondents by Industry

What is your organization's primary industry? (Percent of respondents, N=304)



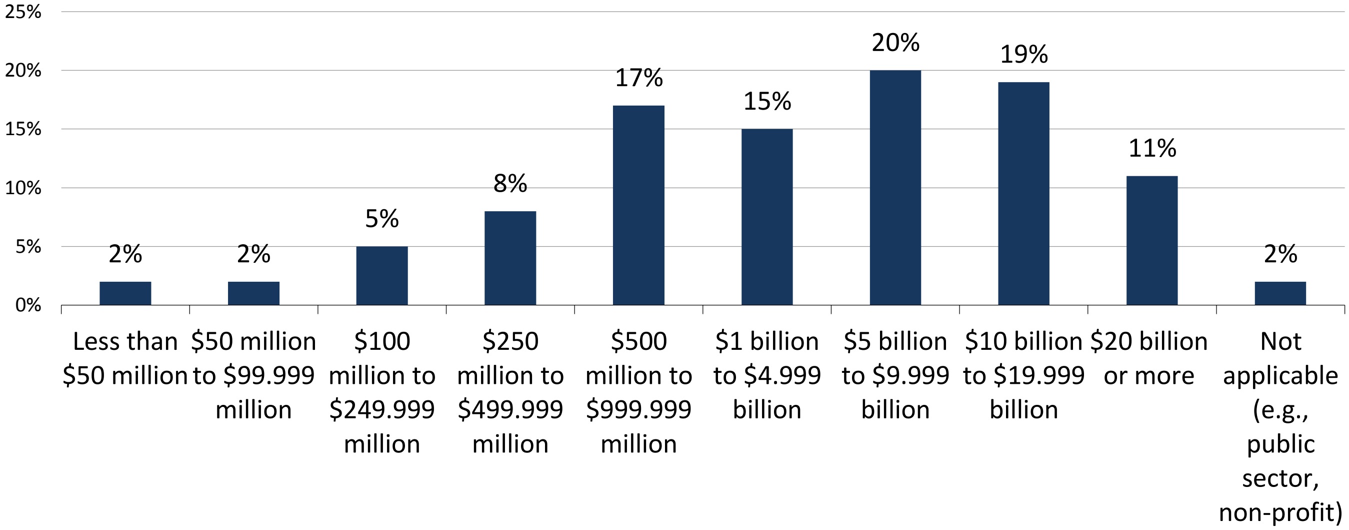
Source: Enterprise Strategy Group, 2015.

Respondents by Annual Revenue

Respondent organizations' annual revenue is shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4. Survey Respondents by Annual Revenue

What is your organization's total annual revenue ($US)? (Percent of respondents, N=304)



Source: Enterprise Strategy Group, 2015.

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