



# MANAGING APPLICATION SECURITY

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2017 Application  
Security Survey  
by Security Compass

MARCH 21, 2017

PRESENTED AT:



CONFIDENTIAL.

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# ABOUT THE SURVEY



## PURPOSE

To discover how large, complex organizations manage application security.

## WHO

Most respondents were large multinational companies earning >\$1 billion USD in annual earnings (n = 28).

## THE RESULT

Aggregated insights, industry trends, and best practices that illuminate how large corporations manage application security.



A person wearing a dark suit and a tie with a small anchor pattern is holding a white coffee cup on a saucer. The image is dimly lit and has a blue tint. The text "KEY FINDINGS" is overlaid in the center in a bold, orange font.

## KEY FINDINGS



## THREE KEY BUSINESS TRENDS



**INCREASING  
SPEED  
OF BUSINESS**

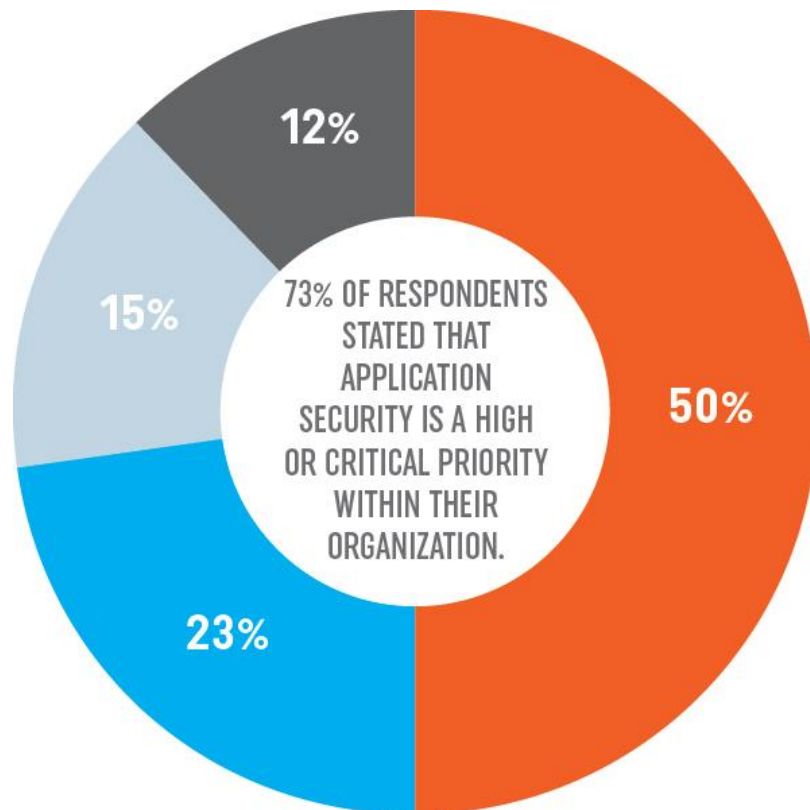


**INCREASING  
SOPHISTICATION  
OF RISK MANAGEMENT**



**INCREASING  
PRESSURE ON  
COST CONTROL**

# IMPORTANCE OF APPLICATION SECURITY

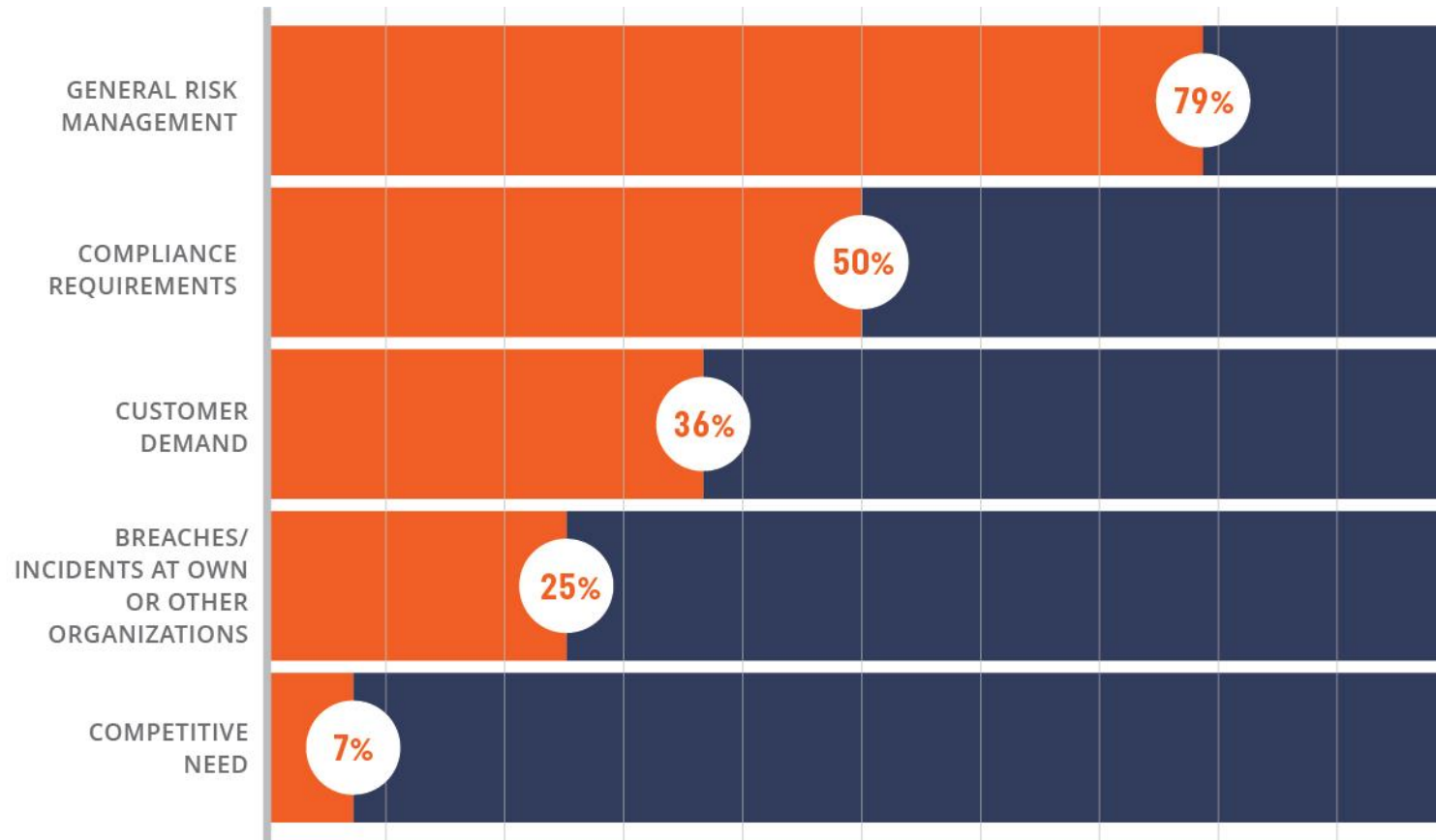


- IT IS CRITICAL/ALWAYS A TOP PRIORITY
- IT IS CURRENTLY A HIGH PRIORITY (E.G. BECAUSE OF AN AUDIT DEFICIENCY)
- IT IS THE SAME PRIORITY AS OTHER PARTS OF INFORMATION SECURITY (E.G. INCIDENT MANAGEMENT, NETWORK SECURITY, ETC.)
- IT IS NOT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT COMPARED TO OTHER AREAS

**73%**

of respondents stated that application security is a high or critical priority within their organization.

# KEY DRIVERS OF APPLICATION SECURITY



**79%**

of respondents stated that general risk management was the key driver for their organization's application security.

# HOW BROAD IS YOUR ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT FOR APPLICATION SECURITY?



## FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS



## INDEPENDENT SOFTWARE VENDORS



## OIL & GAS



## ALL OTHERS

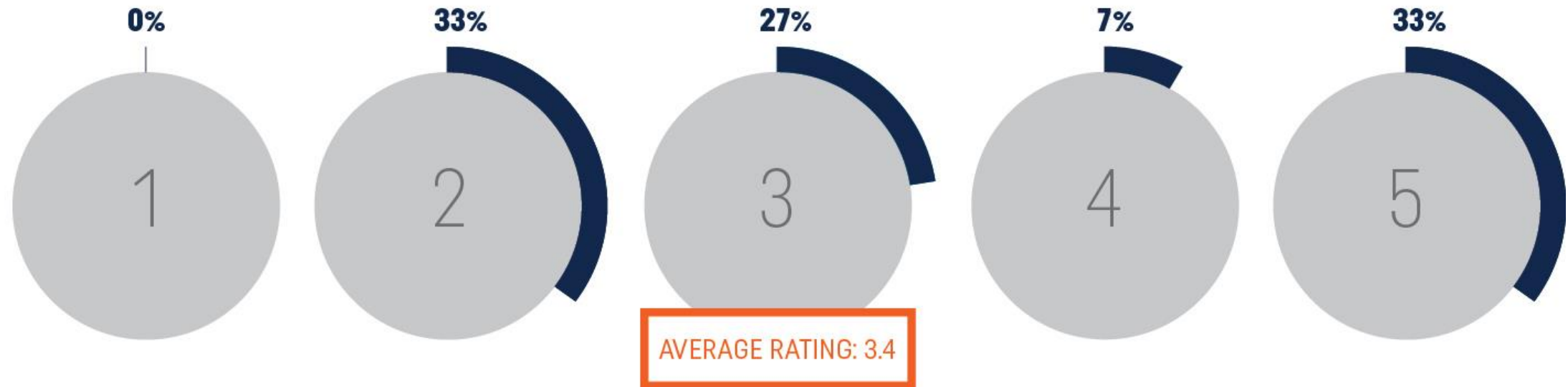


1 = NO SUPPORT  
5 = SUPPORT ACROSS THE BOARD

# SECURITY AWARENESS TRAINING ADOPTION BY DEVELOPERS ACROSS THE ORGANIZATION



(1 = NO TRAINING, 5 = ALL DEVELOPERS ARE TRAINED)

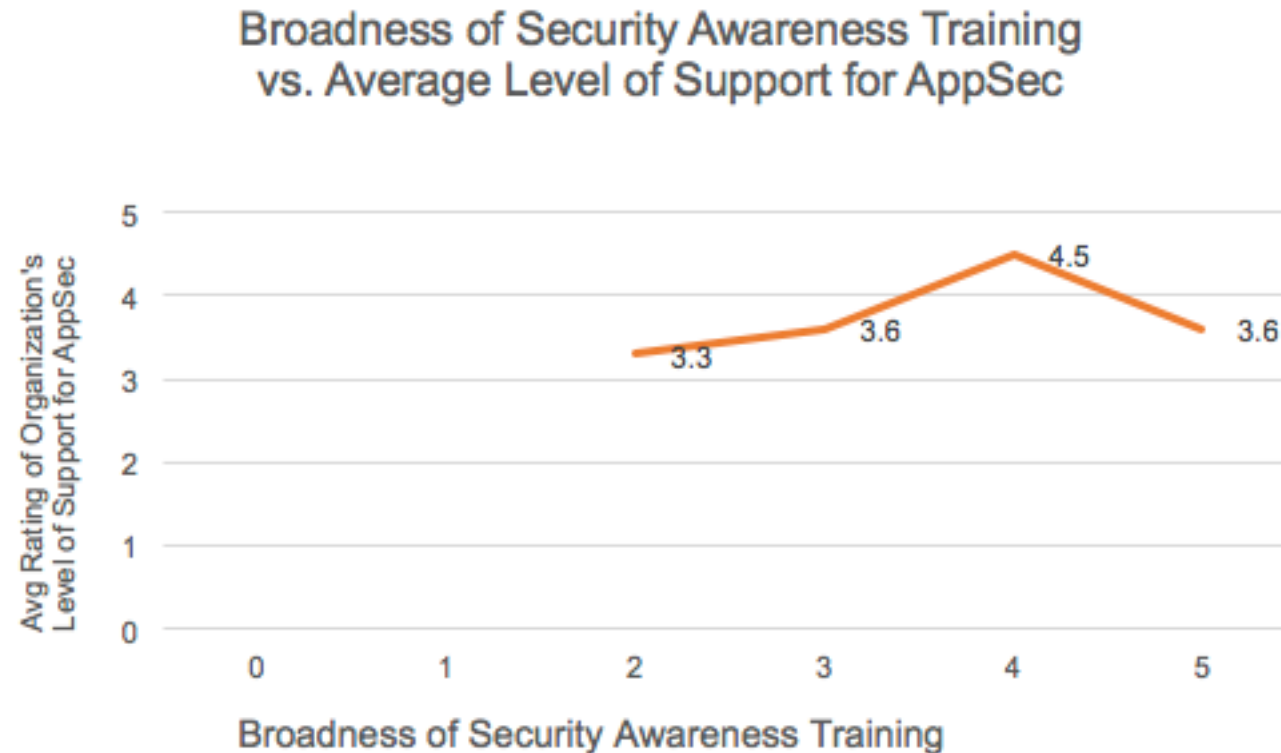


## Average Rating by Industry:

Financial Institutions	3.5
Independent Software Vendors	3.5
Oil & Gas	3.3

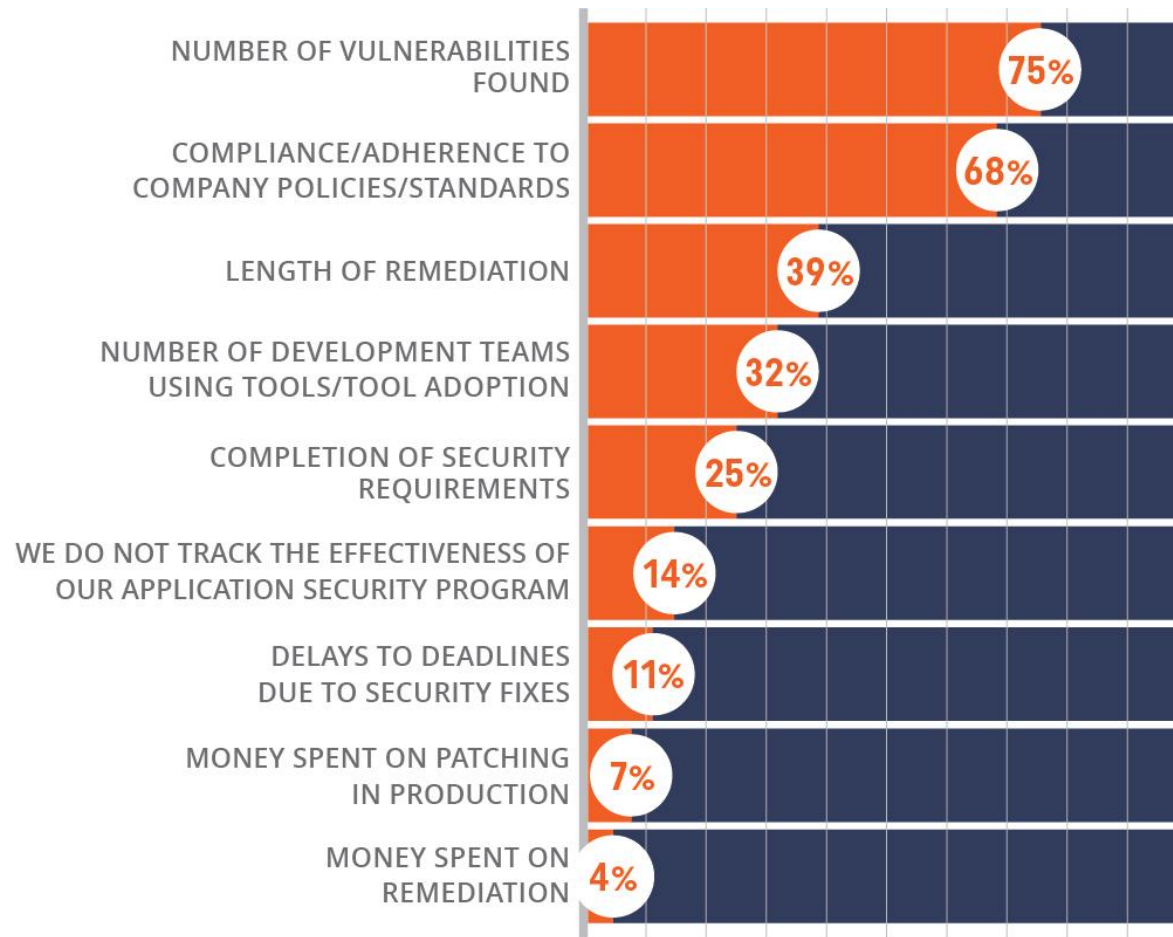


# CORRELATION BETWEEN SECURITY AWARENESS TRAINING & SUPPORT FOR APPSEC



In general, respondents with a higher level of support for AppSec across the organization show a broader adoption rate of security awareness training, although a larger sample size can confirm this.

# TRACKING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF AN APPLICATION SECURITY PROGRAM



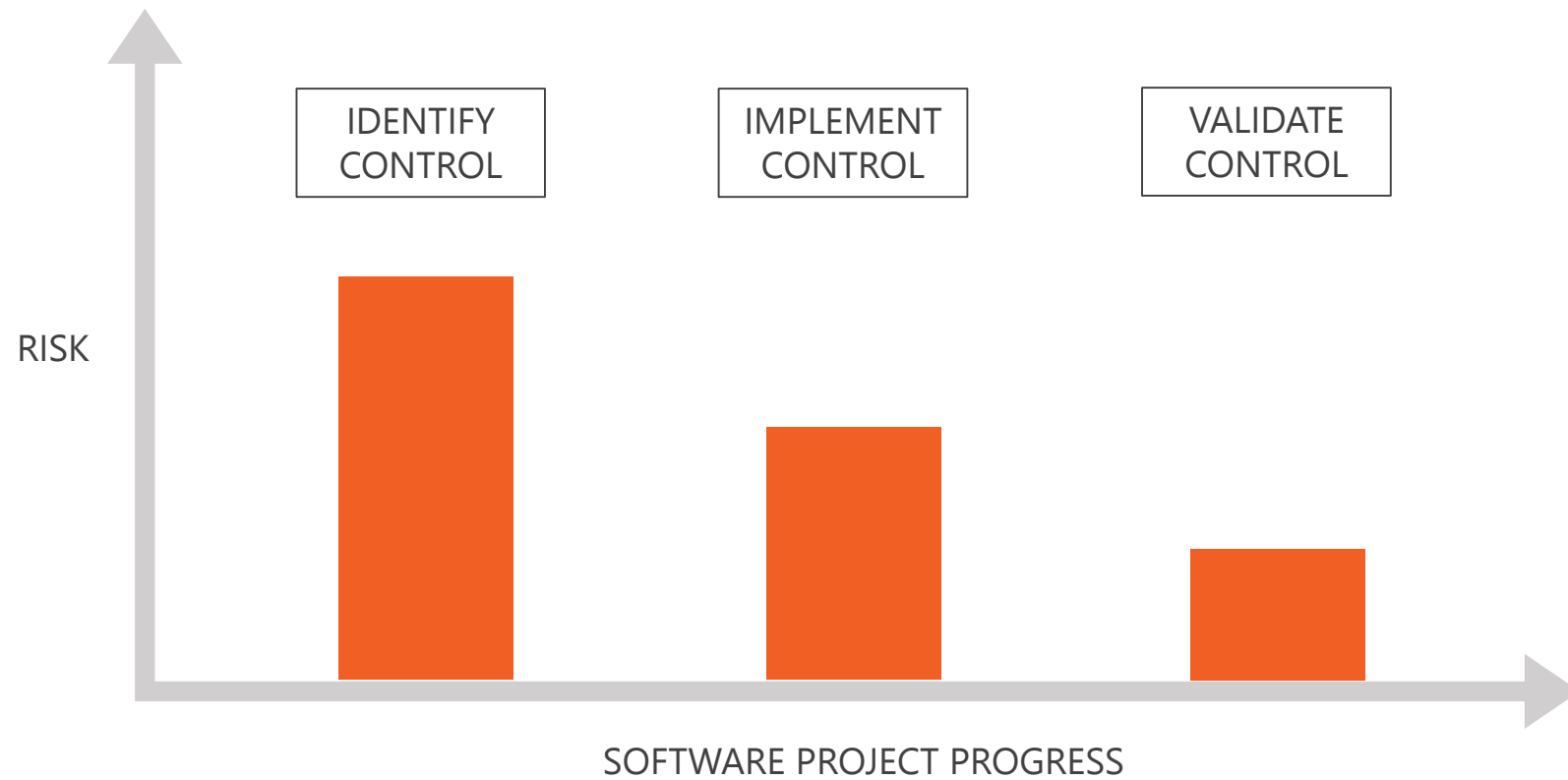
## 75%

of respondents stated that the number of vulnerabilities found was a key metric used to track the effectiveness of their application security program.

## ONLY 4%

of respondents stated that they used the amount of money spent on remediating vulnerabilities as a key metric to track the effectiveness of their application security program.

# RISK REDUCTION

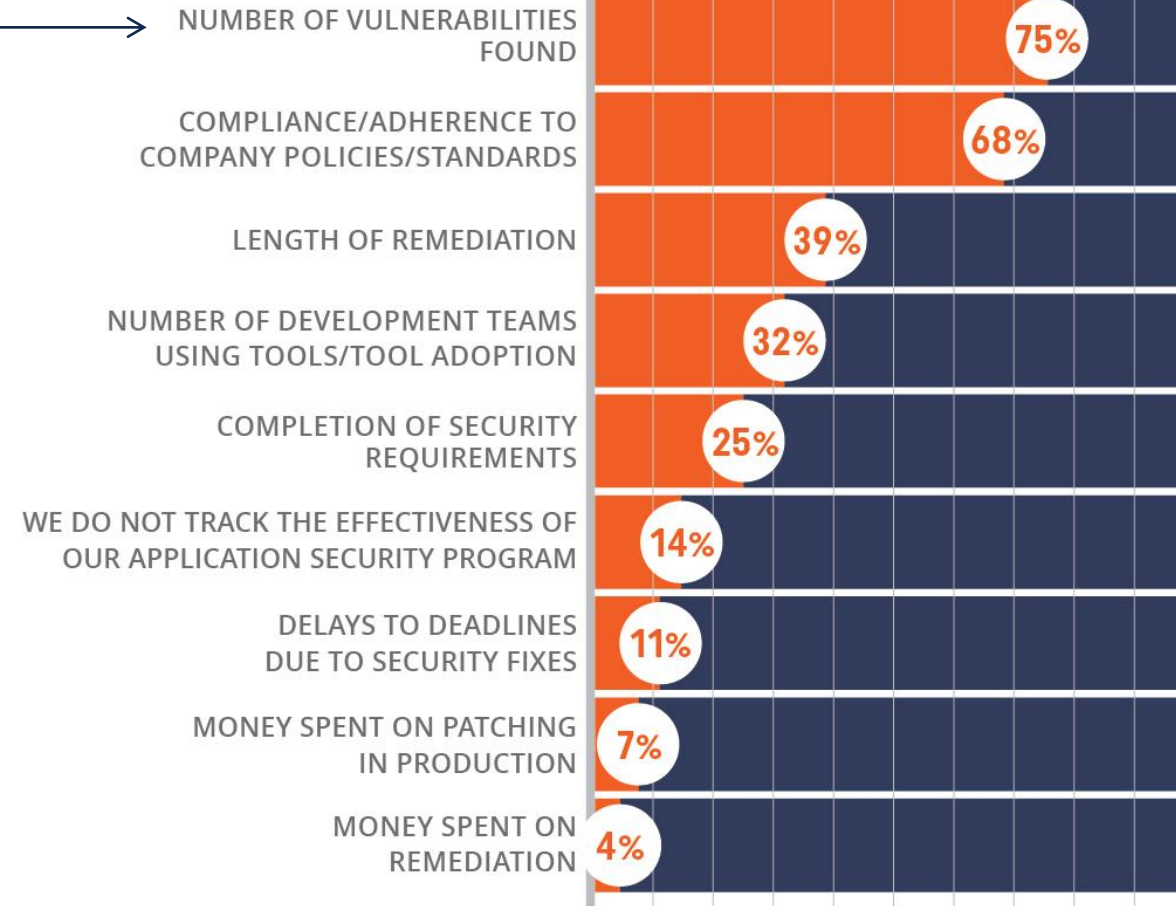




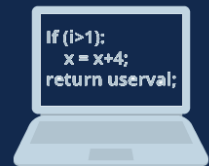
# TRACKING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF AN APPLICATION SECURITY PROGRAM



## VALIDATE CONTROL



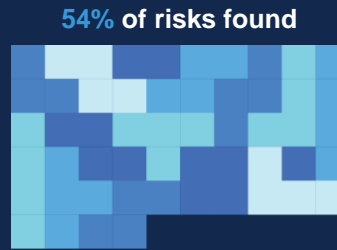
# 46% OF APPLICATION-LEVEL RISKS ARE NOT COVERED BY SAST & DAST TOOLS



Source Code



SAST & DAST

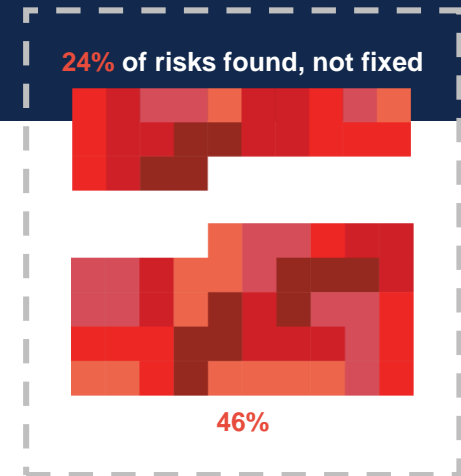


Remediation

54% remediation rate



30% of risks found & fixed  
average time to remediation = 316 days



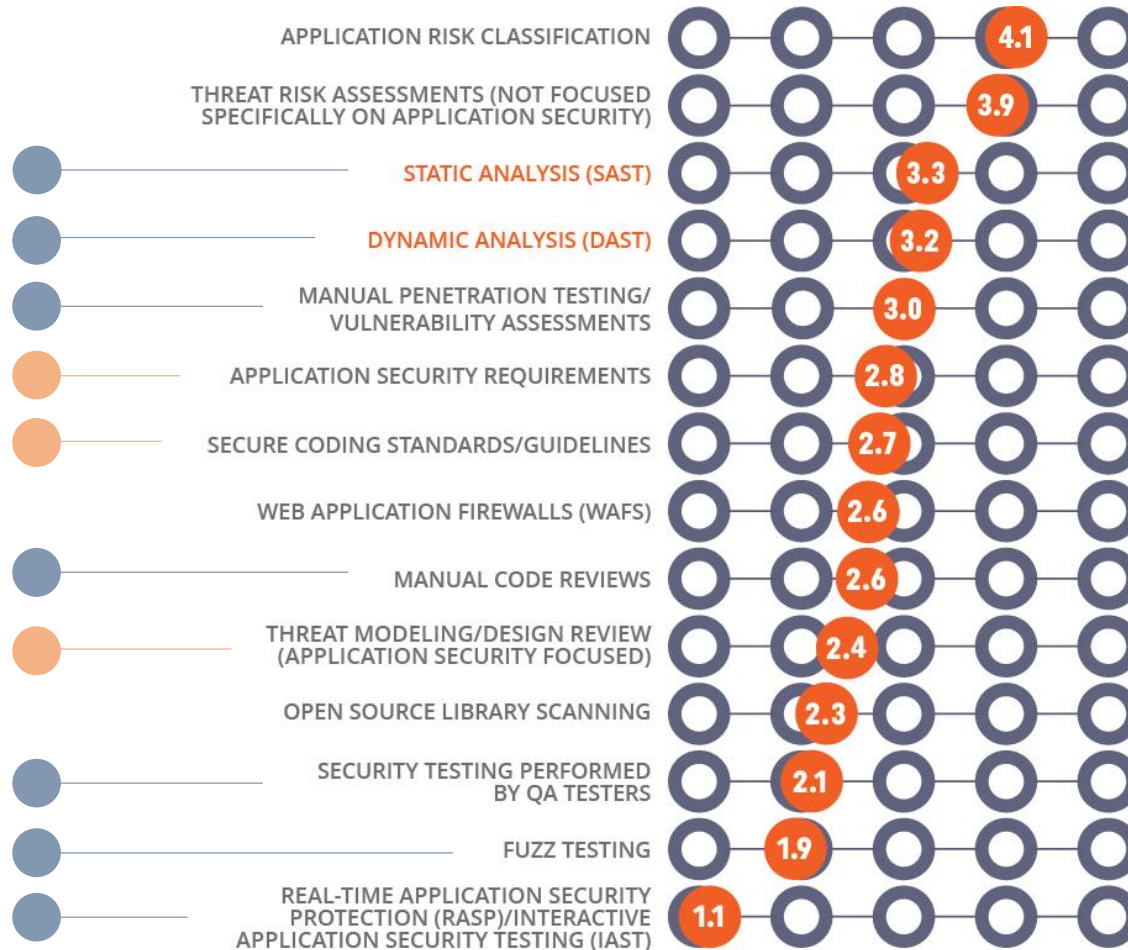
46%

70% of risks **unaddressed**



46% of risks are not found

# KEY SECURITY ACTIVITIES PERFORMED



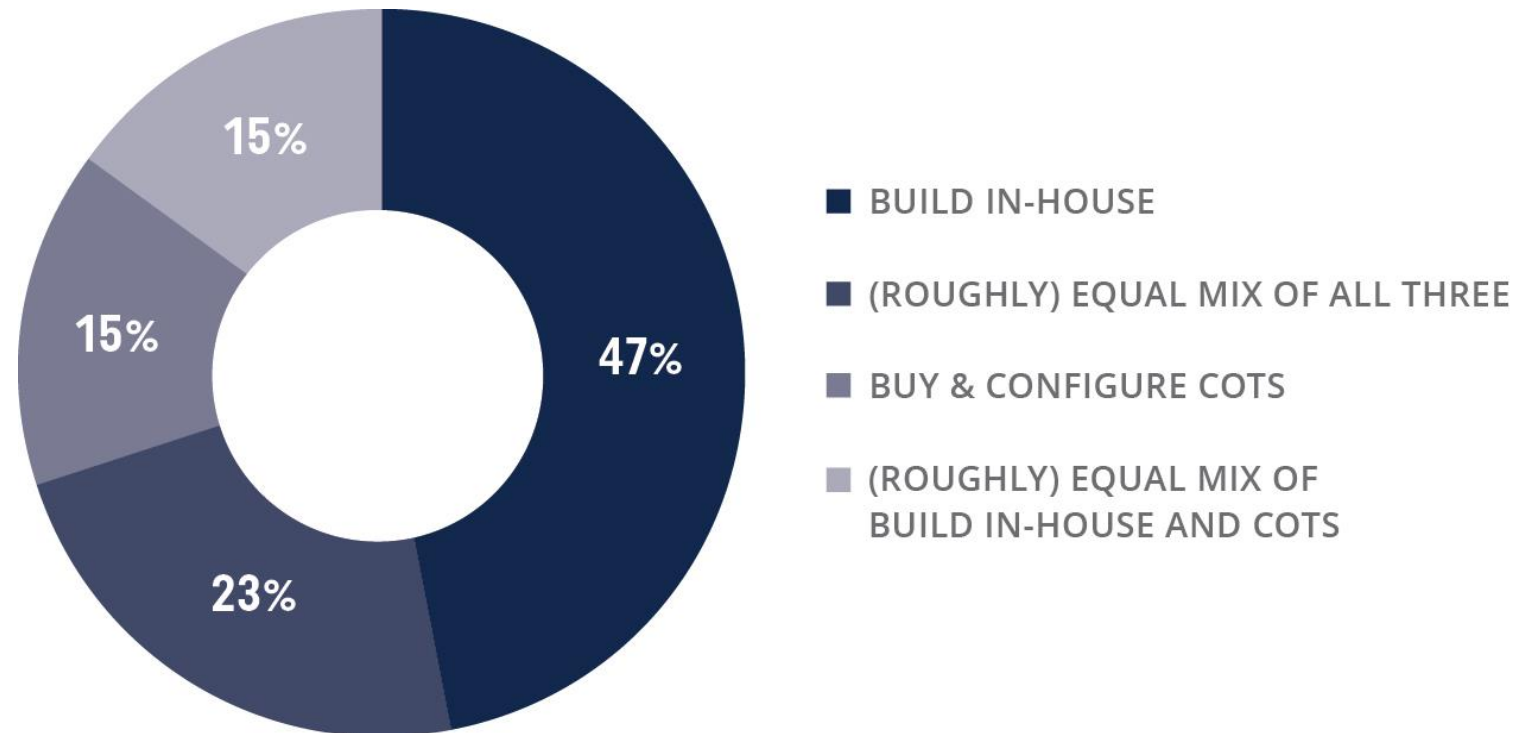
1 = WE DON'T PERFORM THIS ACTIVITY  
5 = PERFORMED ON ALL APPLICATIONS

● Shift-Left Activities  
● Testing Activities

What activities are you doing that are not listed here?



## DO YOU PRIMARILY BUILD IN-HOUSE OR BUY THIRD-PARTY SOFTWARE?



## ENSURING THE SECURITY OF THIRD-PARTY VENDORS



of respondents stated that they provide detailed application security requirements as part of their contracts with third-party software vendors.

ONLY  
19%

of respondents stated that they perform threat modelling or other design-level analysis of third-party software.

# A FRAMEWORK FOR APPLICATION SECURITY



## STRATEGY

- DRIVERS & GOALS
- METRICS & GOVERNANCE
- ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



## EXECUTION

### IN-HOUSE

- TRAINING
- REQUIREMENTS & DESIGN
- TESTING

### THIRD PARTY

- PROCUREMENT
- SECURITY QUESTIONNAIRES
- REQUIREMENTS
- TESTING

## KEY

- RESPONDENTS NEED IMPROVEMENT
- RESPONDENTS ARE AVERAGE
- RESPONDENTS ARE STRONG



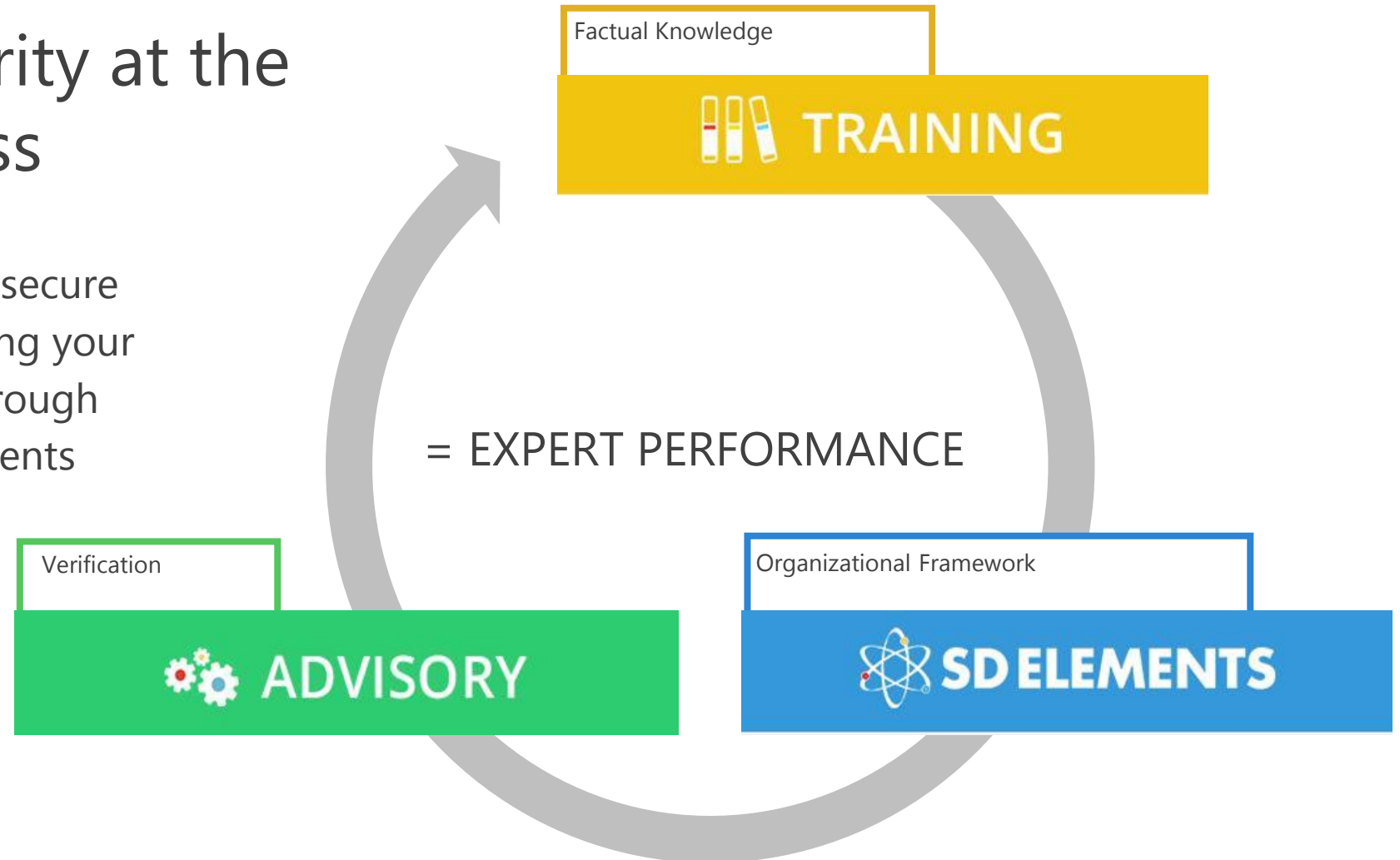
## KEY TAKEAWAYS



- 1 Require your vendors to have a higher standard for secure SDLC (e.g. ISO 27034 or vBSIMM or Microsoft's SDL)
- 2 Data about vulnerabilities is being unaddressed - keep this data in mind, communicate this to emphasize secure SDLC
- 3 Follow 3 steps for assurance - identify, implement & validate

# Application Security at the Speed Of Business

Our goal is to help you build secure software by seamlessly unifying your application security needs through eLearning, Security Requirements and Verification.



# Security Compass BU Overview



## TRAINING

Our Secure Software Professional Suites provide business relevant security courses to help your staff champion security and defend your organization's most valuable software.



## SD ELEMENTS

SD Elements automates software security requirements based on your project's technology, business and compliance drivers. SD Elements eliminates security vulnerabilities in the most cost effective way, before scanning begins.



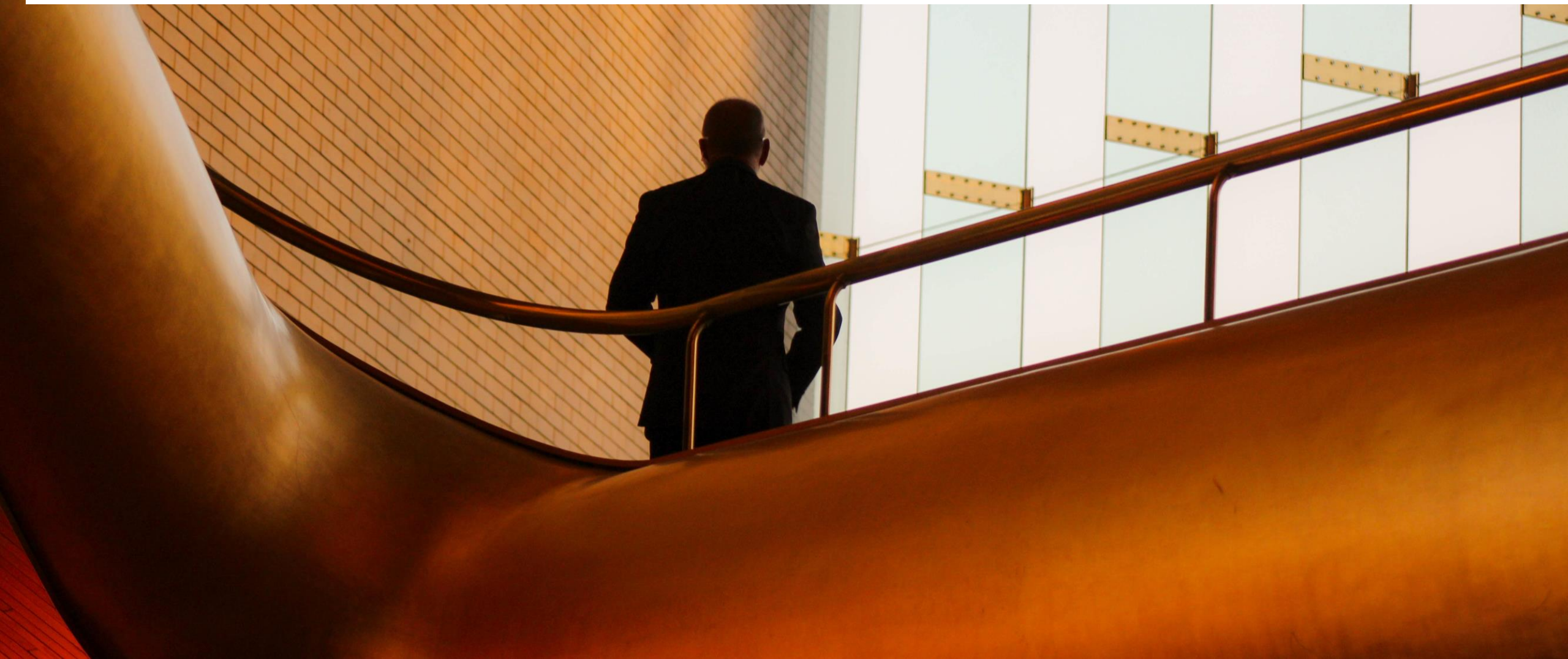
## ADVISORY

Our advisors understand your unique business requirements and provide services that advise on unique needs while focusing on driving strategic security goals.

For a copy of the full report, please visit:

<https://www.securitycompass.com/managingapplicationsecurity2017/>

Or email us at [info@securitycompass.com](mailto:info@securitycompass.com)





**Security Compass is a leading application security firm specializing in solving root application security problems for Fortune 500 companies. Our goal is to help clients build secure software by seamlessly unifying their application security needs through advisory services, training products, and security requirement software.**

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