

The Real Impact of Covid-19

on the Cybersecurity Front Line

On a mission to discover Covid-19's impact on the security front line of large organisations in the UK, the SASIG and ESET ran a poll of the SASIG membership to understand their readiness, their response, and the future legacy of the pandemic.

The SASIG membership is made up of 4,500+ cybersecurity front-liners with direct responsibility for online security at 2,000+ organisations from all sectors, public and private.

sasig

eSET

How prepared were we for Covid-19?

Almost half

of businesses had pandemic business continuity measures in place pre-Covid

Over 80%

of businesses had a remote working strategy and plan in place pre-Covid

3 out of 4

security leaders believed their procedures and plans were effective in tackling Covid

72%

of security leaders rated the readiness of their organisation to respond to crises as "prepared".



How was the transition to remote working?



3/4

of businesses have more than half of their workforce working remotely during Covid-19

50%

of businesses have over three-quarters of their workforce working remotely during Covid-19



The **increased cybersecurity risk caused by the human factor** was identified as the biggest challenge created by the need for remote working.

"The human factor in cybersecurity has long been discussed at our meetings as one of the main issues facing businesses across the UK. This research reinforces the point that human error, ignorance, omission and occasional malicious behaviour are the root concerns of many organisations."



Martin Smith MBE
Chairman & Founder
The SASIG

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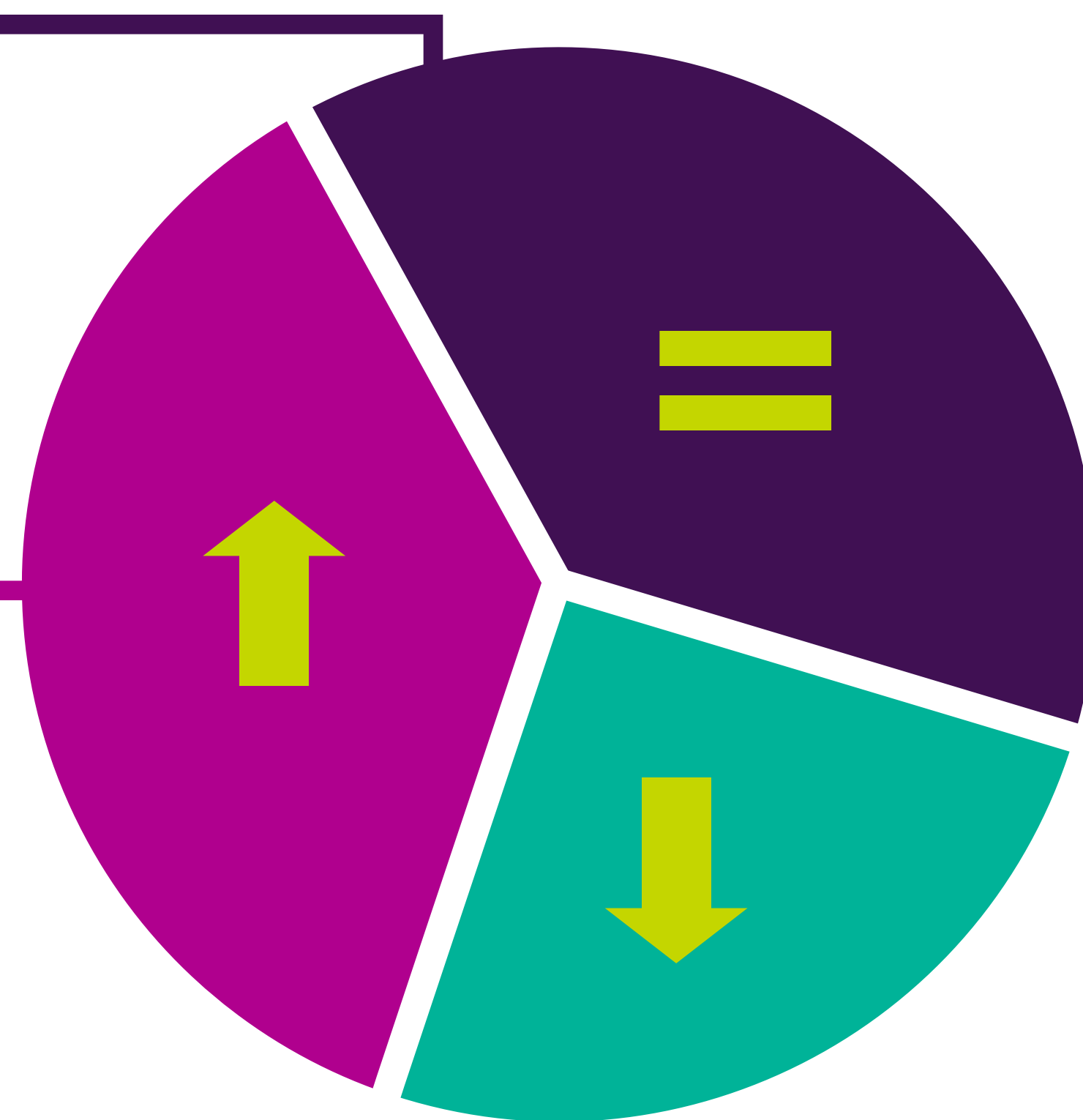
How will the pandemic affect IT security budgets?

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40% stated that the crisis will have **no effect** on their IT security budget

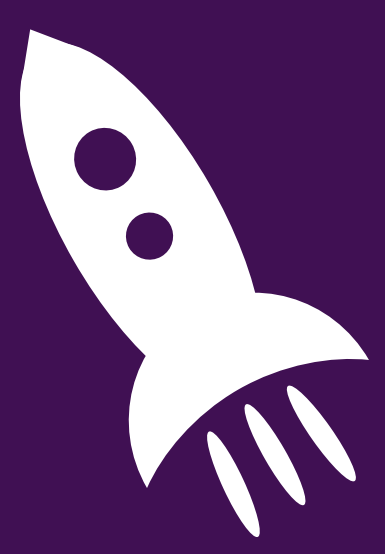
34% stated that the crisis will result in an **increased** IT security budget

26% stated that the crisis will result in a **decreased** IT security budget

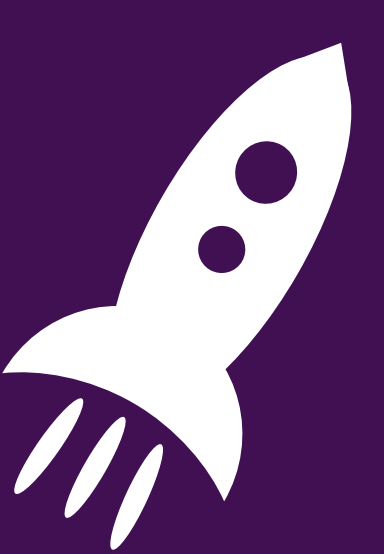


3/4

of businesses expect between **+25%** and **-25%** impact on their IT security budget



Will the changes become the new standard?



2/3

of businesses plan to keep 25-75% of the installed changes

Senior IT leaders believe the changes that will remain will be changes to:



Internal workflows & processes



Digital transformation & automation

Malcolm Tuck
Managing Director
ESET UK



"It is clear that there is some post Covid economic uncertainty, with analysts predicting Enterprises in some sectors to weather any European recession but with more challenging times for SMBs. Overall, the security market should remain more or less unaffected albeit with IT spending predicted to grow more slowly from original forecasts."



About the research



sasig

The SASIG provides cybersecurity professionals with safe spaces to network and learn, and currently presents a daily showcase of online presentations, panel sessions and networking events to its membership. Find out more about joining the SASIG at thesasig.com



97 respondents from the SASIG membership completed the survey 28 May - 15 June. 2 out of 3 respondents are from enterprise organisations of >1,000 employees, with more than half from large enterprises of >3,000 employees.

eSET

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