Feeling the pressure

Information security leaders share insights
in the face of accelerating change

IBM

In a hyper-connected world, information security is becoming more important and demanding. Threats are more diverse and mature than ever, driven by greater exposure and new technologies. Information security has risen to a boardroom level. Those charged with protecting the organization are feeling the pressure.

Security is too often focused on technical issues and reactive crisis management. Today, the organization needs to go farther and make security a strategic priority – an enabler of innovation and value, not just a cost of doing business.

"We are talking to a lot of business units more and more proactively – building really good partnerships."

– US, Media

This strategic shift requires a new breed of security leader, one with a clear voice in the C-suite and the power to drive meaningful change. To help lay the groundwork, the IBM Center for Applied Insights is conducting research to help define the role of these leaders, whether they're Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs), CIOs or other security professionals.

Research to show the way forward

We set out to answer some fundamental questions to give you insight into what is – and what will be – expected of security leaders:

- What pressures are they feeling?
- How are they assessed on their ability to improve business operations?
- How much time is spent on business versus technical issues?
- Are their responsibilities and authority evolving in step with the changing landscape?
- How are security functions expanding to address new challenges?

To answer these and other questions, we enlisted the help of professionals who live and breathe security every day. We interviewed IT and business leaders from around the world and across many industries to get their take on what they currently face and what they expect to see in the near future.

"More of the business is being bet on what we're doing [in security]."

– UK, Banking

This real-world insight is part of our deep methodology. We combine qualitative and quantitative research with practical guidance from experts and IBM's best practices. The result is a new perspective on the evolving role of security leaders.
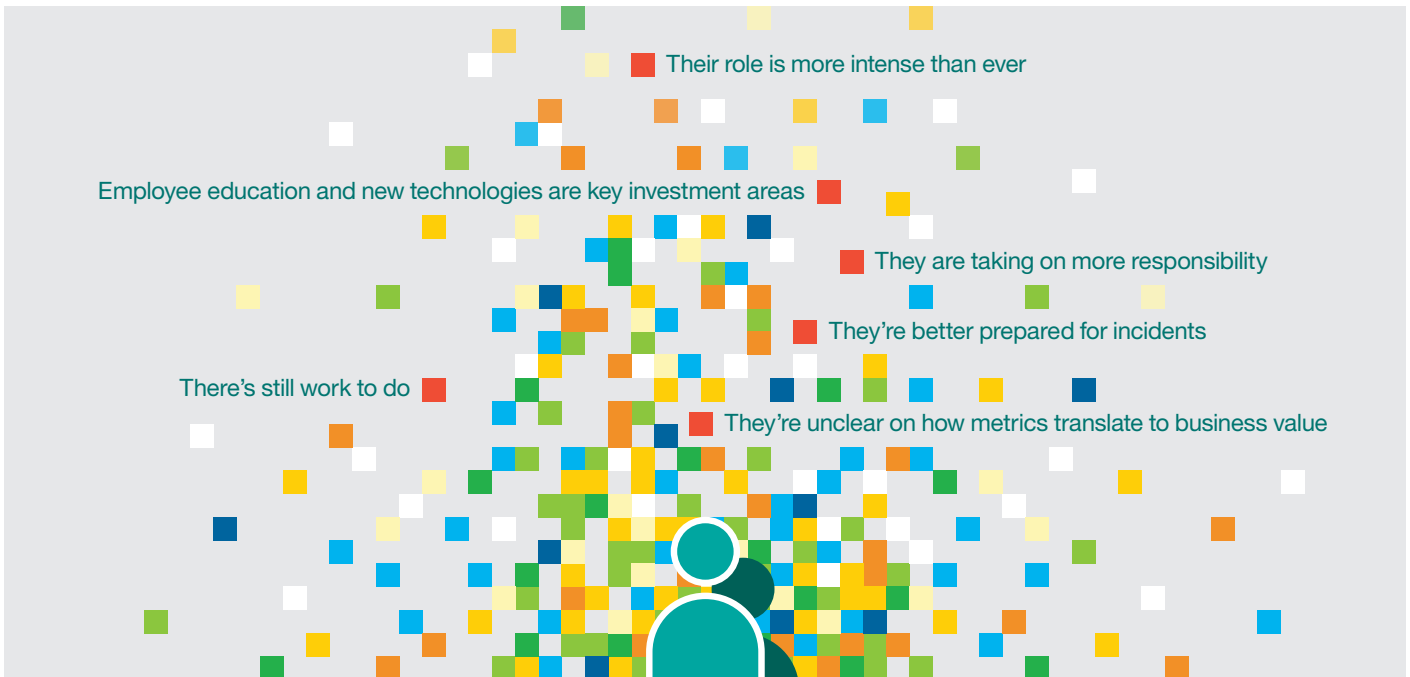
Find out more

The results of our research will soon be available in a detailed report, the latest in a portfolio of insights and thought leadership to help you rise to the challenges of a complex security landscape. To make sure that the insights reach you, visit **ibm.com**/smarter/cai/security.

While you are there, explore key security issues through some of our other work. The latest is *Security Essentials for CIOs* – an ongoing series of articles written by Kris Lovejoy, IBM Vice President for IT Risk.
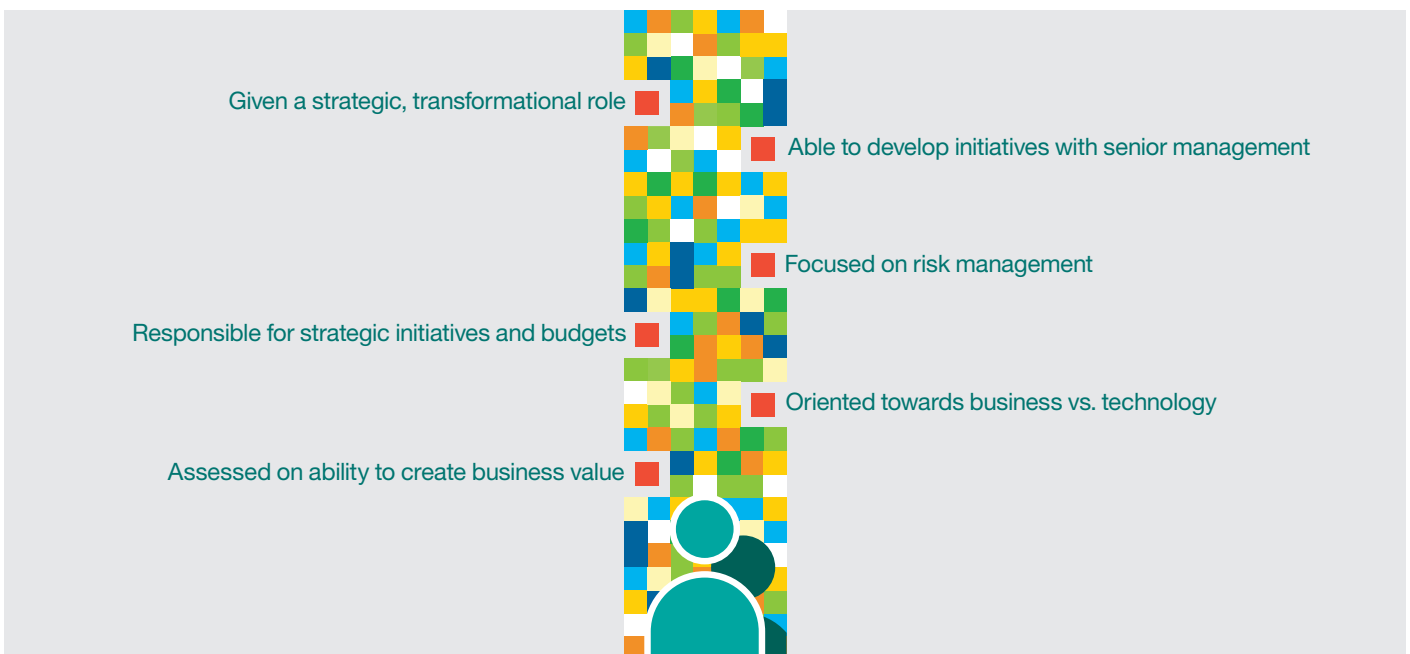
"Security will be more of something that top management can't afford to ignore."
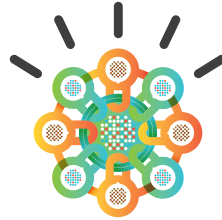
–Japan, Transportation

Your peers have told us…

Their role is more intense than ever

Employee education and new technologies are key investment areas

They are taking on more responsibility

They're better prepared for incidents

There's still work to do

They're unclear on how metrics translate to business value

Tomorrow's information security leader will be…

Given a strategic, transformational role

Able to develop initiatives with senior management

Focused on risk management

Responsible for strategic initiatives and budgets

Oriented towards business vs. technology

Assessed on ability to create business value

About the IBM Center for Applied Insights

The IBM Center for Applied Insights integrates deep industry and analytical expertise to help chart the course to new value for clients. The Center develops research and tools with pragmatic guidance and tangible outcomes to provoke organizations to action.

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