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75% of Organizations Strengthen Their Cybersecurity Posture by Conducting Regular Access Reviews

Another **15%** plan to implement this measure within 3 years.

Netwrix, a cybersecurity vendor that makes data security easy, asked 590 IT pros whether and how they review user access permissions. The survey found that 90% of organizations either already periodically review access entitlements or plan to start doing so within 3 years.

Does your organization conduct periodic review of user access rights?

10%

15%

— Yes

— No, but plan to start doing it in 1-3 years

— Don't do and don't plan to do

75%
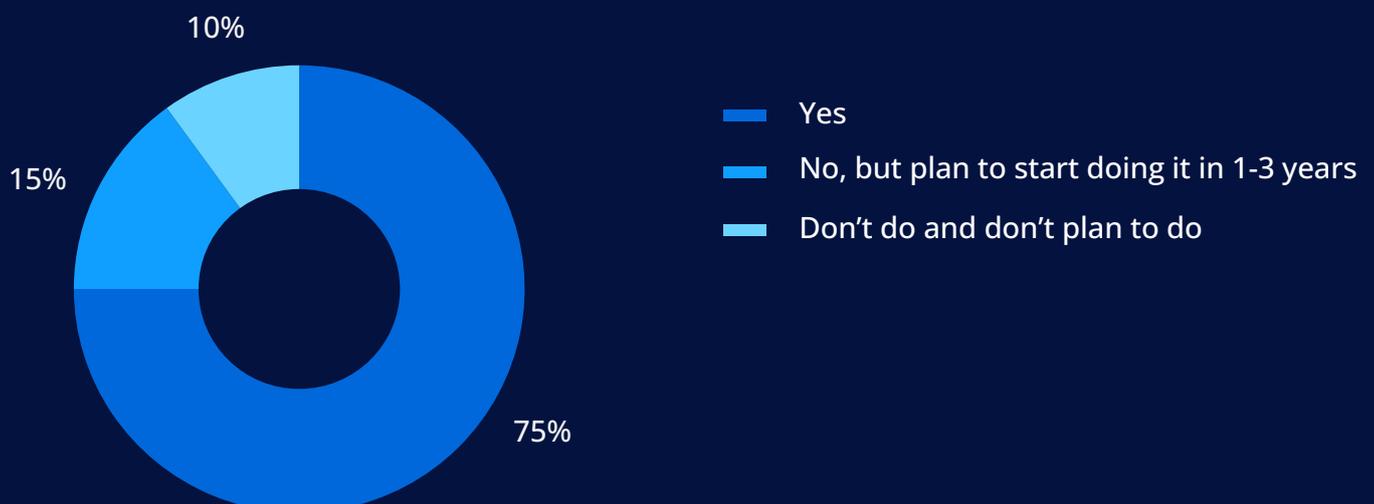
However, most respondents (81%) admit that they perform access reviews manually.

> "
> Manual review is the most unreliable and time-consuming way of keeping permissions up to date. An email or instant message from some department head confirming access rights usually satisfies neither internal nor external auditors. Moreover, this approach increases the chance of human error — it's too easy to forget about someone's answer or miss the email altogether.
>
> **Joe Dibley** | Security Researcher at Netwrix

Moreover, in 41% of organizations, IT teams review user access rights not only manually but on their own, without involving business users at all.

> "
> IT teams generally are not in a position to know exactly who needs what access to which IT resources. As a result, the organization not only does fail to properly enforce least privilege, but the helpdesk is overwhelmed by requests from business users and data owners to update access rights.
>
> **Joe Dibley** | Security Researcher at Netwrix

How do you perform entitlement reviews now?

19%

41%

40%

- Manually right-size permissions based on IT team knowledge only
- Send permission reports to reviewers and apply changes based on their responses
- Data owners review permissions using a dedicated access review solution

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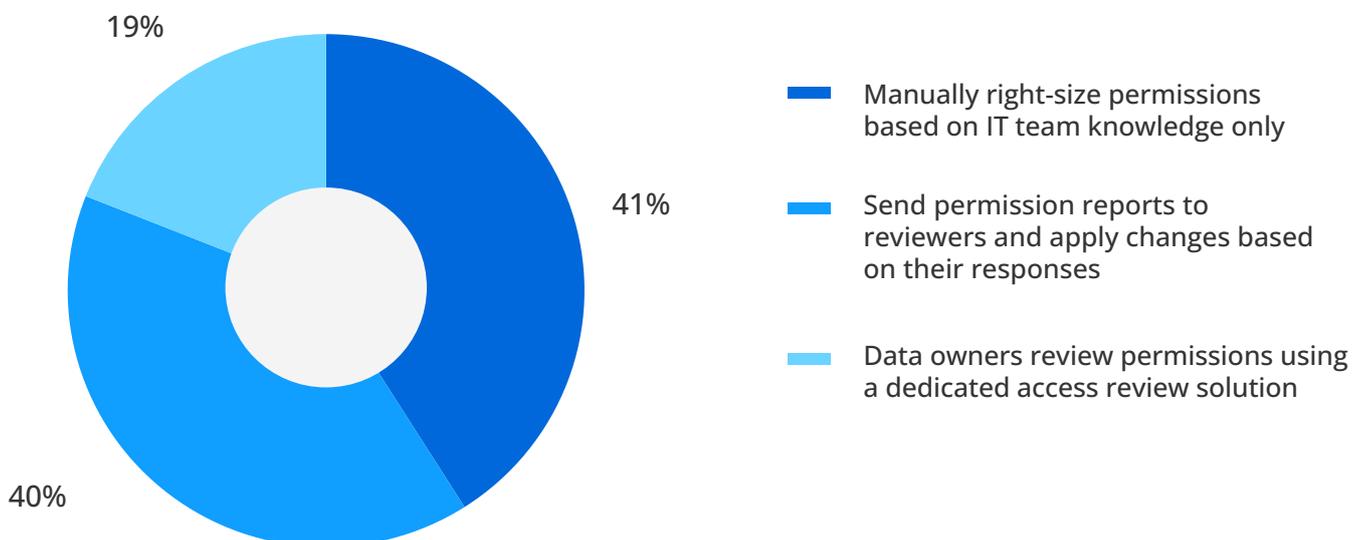
The respondents who already have a dedicated tool for reviewing user access rights were then asked what they consider to be the biggest benefit of that solution. 49% of them named risk reduction and 28% chose time-savings.

> " Automating access reviews reduces cybersecurity risks directly, by ensuring regular update of users' rights — and indirectly as well: Eliminating manual tasks frees up IT teams to focus on other critical activities, like investigating security incidents before they turn into breaches.
>
> **Joe Dibley** | Security Researcher at Netwrix

What do you consider to be the biggest benefit of a dedicated entitlement solution?

Benefit	Percentage
Risk reduction	49%
Time savings	28%
Compliance ensurance	21%
Other	2%
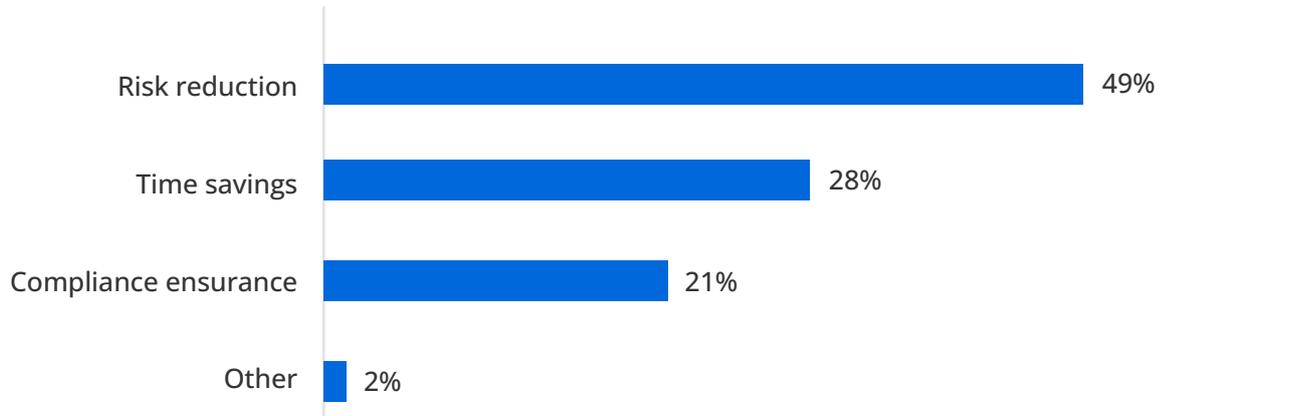
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Access review conducting by organization size

Small (1-150 employees)
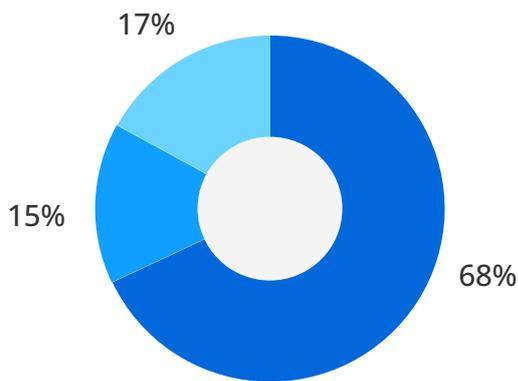
17%

15%

68%

- Yes, we periodically review user access right
- No, but plan to start doing it in 1-3 years
- Don't do and don't plan to do

Medium (151-2000 employees)
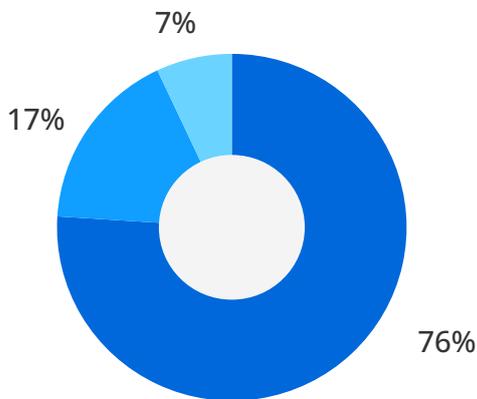
7%

17%

76%

- Yes, we periodically review user access right
- No, but plan to start doing it in 1-3 years
- Don't do and don't plan to do

Large (2000+ employees)
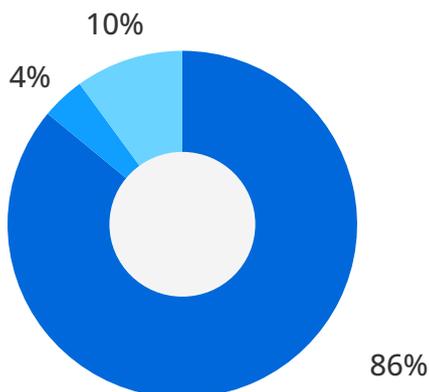
10%

4%

86%

- Yes, we periodically review user access right
- No, but plan to start doing it in 1-3 years
- Don't do and don't plan to do

ABOUT THE ANALYTICAL NOTE

The report is brought to you by Netwrix Research Lab, which conducts industry surveys among IT pros worldwide to discover important changes and trends. For more reports, please visit www.netwrix.com/go/research

ABOUT NETWRIX

Netwrix makes data security easy by simplifying how professionals control sensitive, regulated and business-crit-ical data, regardless of where it resides. More than 11,500 customers worldwide rely on Netwrix solutions to secure sensitive data, realize the full business value of enterprise content, pass compliance audits with less effort and expense, and increase the productivity of IT teams and knowledge workers.

Founded in 2006, Netwrix has earned more than 150 industry awards and been named to both the Inc. 5000 and Deloitte Technology Fast 500 lists of the fastest growing companies in the U.S.

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