

Wavestone Cyber Benchmark

2025 Edition

What is the market maturity?

June 2025

WAVESTONE



Wavestone Cyber Benchmark: an in-depth analysis of the level of cybersecurity maturity

Based on NIST Cybersecurity framework and ISO 27001/2, the **W-CyberBenchmark**, our **360 assessment approach**, goes further and provides:



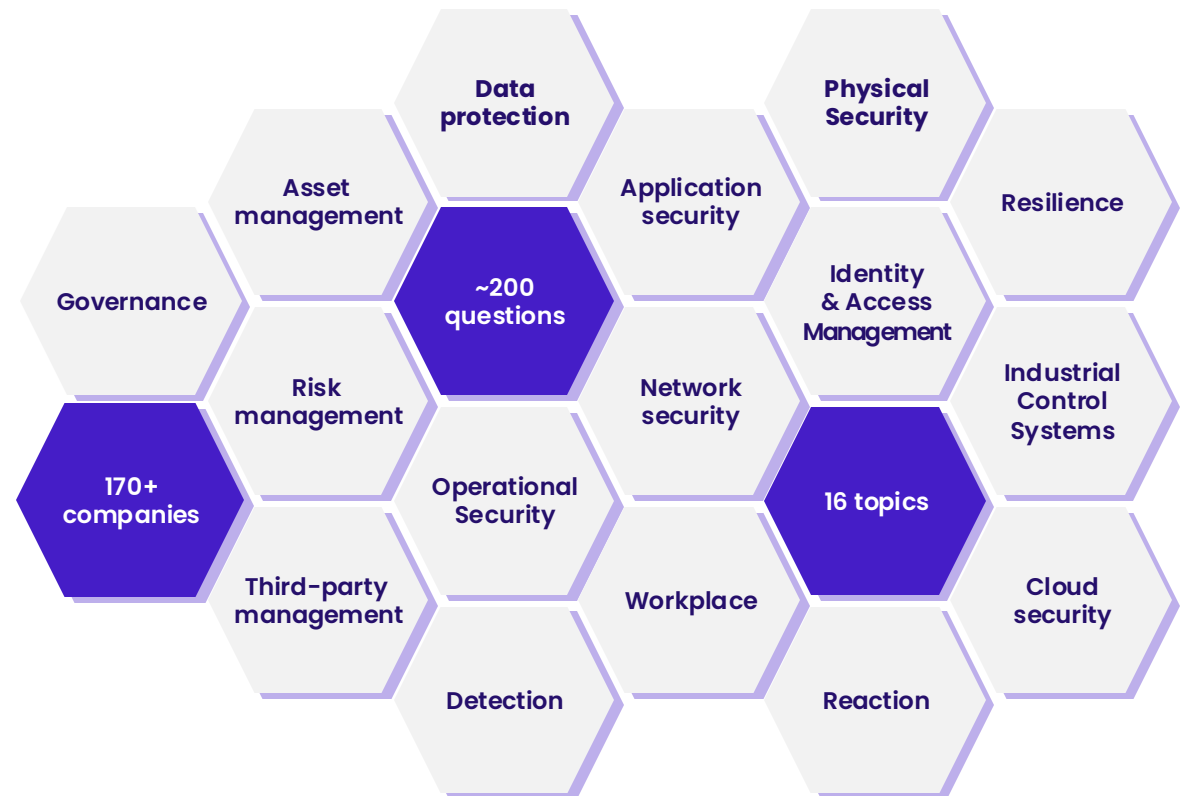
A comprehensive approach with an **organizational** and a **technology** maturity **assessment**



An assessment that takes into account the **complexity of organizations** that have different entities with different maturity levels



A benchmark vision: **170+ Wavestone customers** have already completed the assessment over the past years, presenting more than 7 millions employees



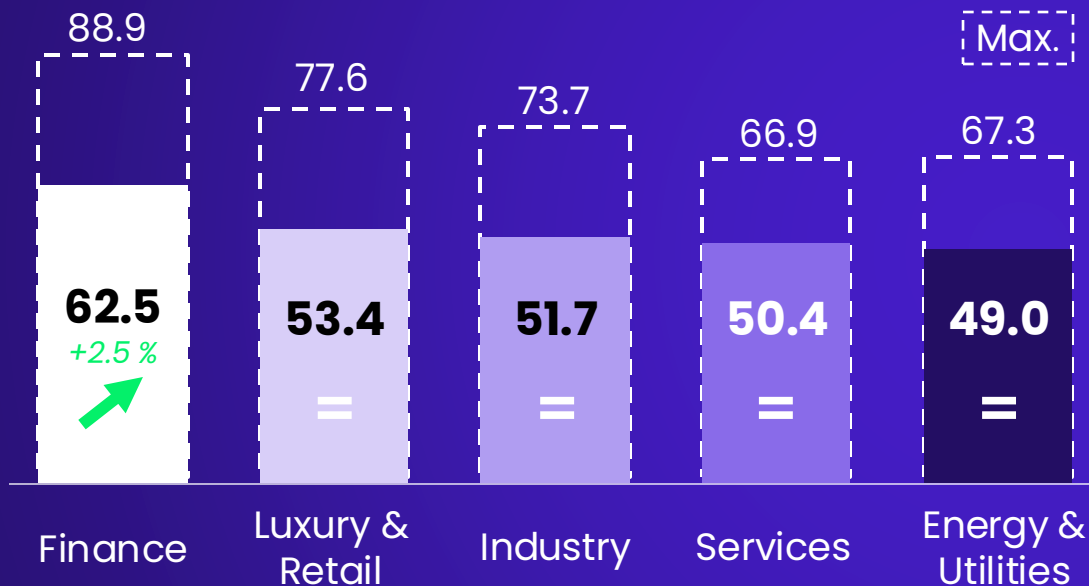
How mature are large organizations?



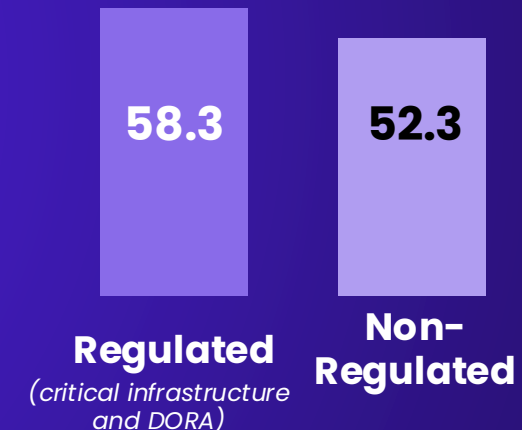
Overall maturity for large organizations is still increasing **(+1 point since 2024)**, but the pace is slowing down

*Companies with a turnover over \$1B (100+ org.)

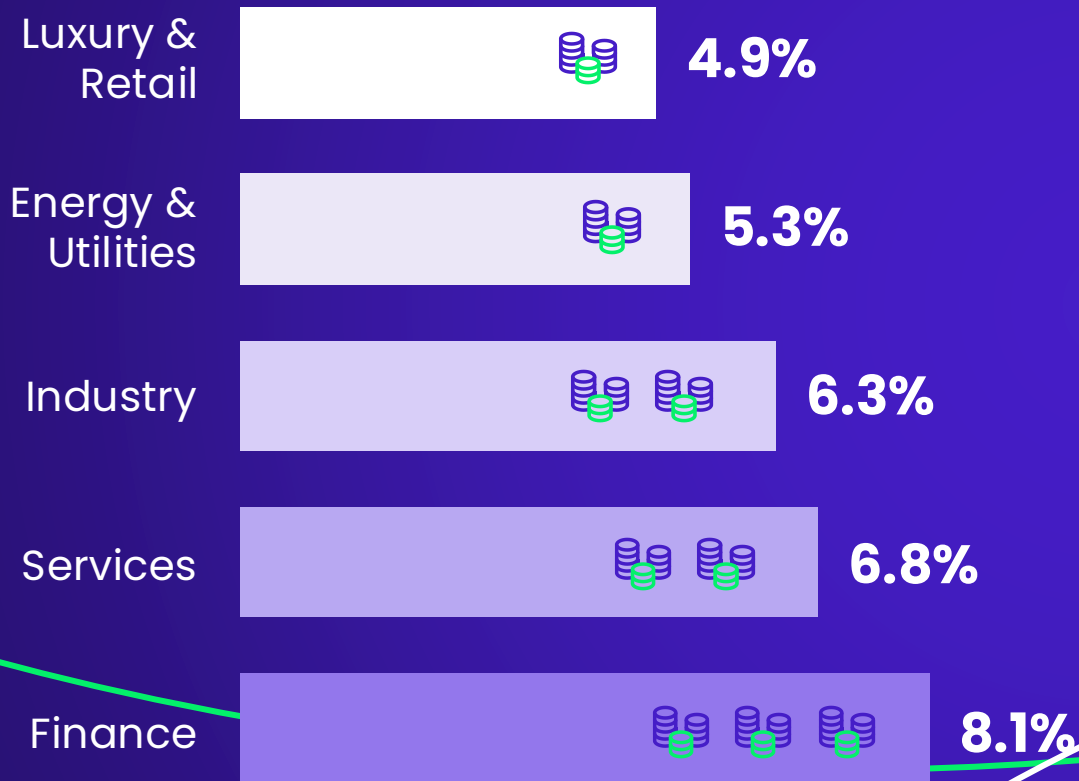
Financial sector is well ahead in overall maturity



Regulations have a major impact on maturity



Cybersecurity spending remains **mostly stable** in large organizations



Average IT budget percentage dedicated to **cybersecurity***

6.4%

2024 : 6,6%

Range

First quartile
3.0%

Last quartile
8.1%

**Taking into account that budget percentages can vary a lot depending on previous investments and current build VS run balance*

Cyber teams are **still growing**

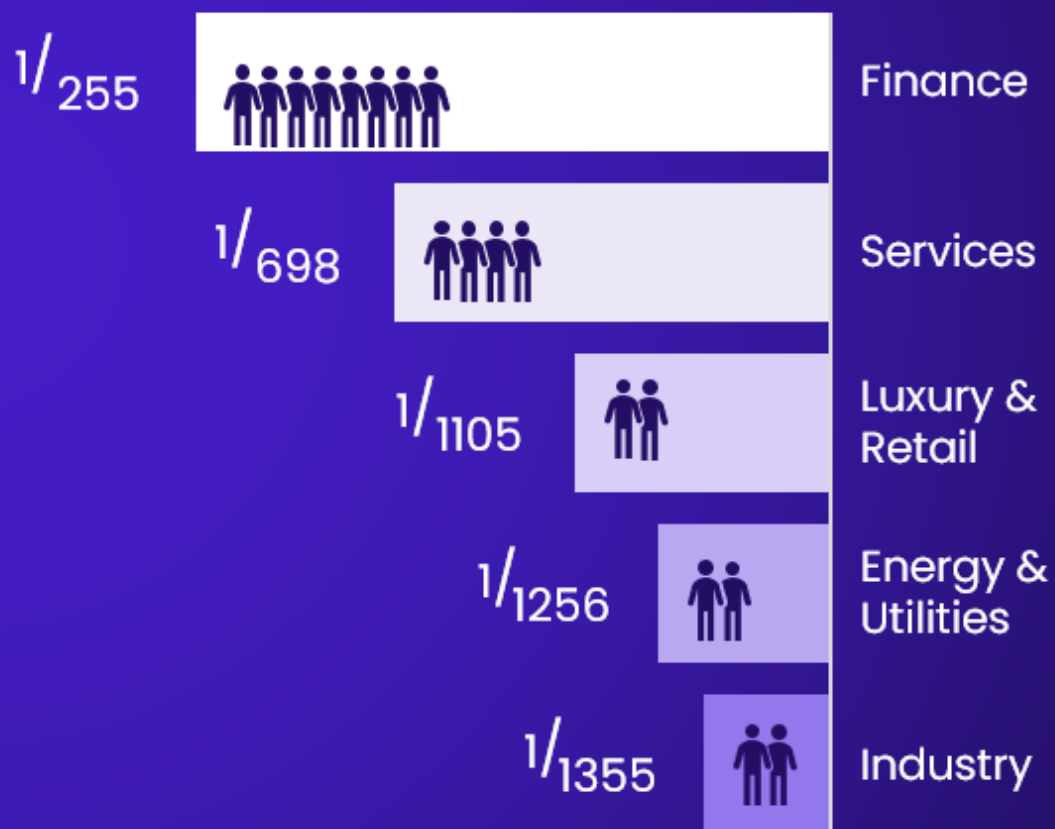
Average **FTE**
dedicated to cybersecurity
per employee in large organizations*

1/1016

↑ +7% vs 2024

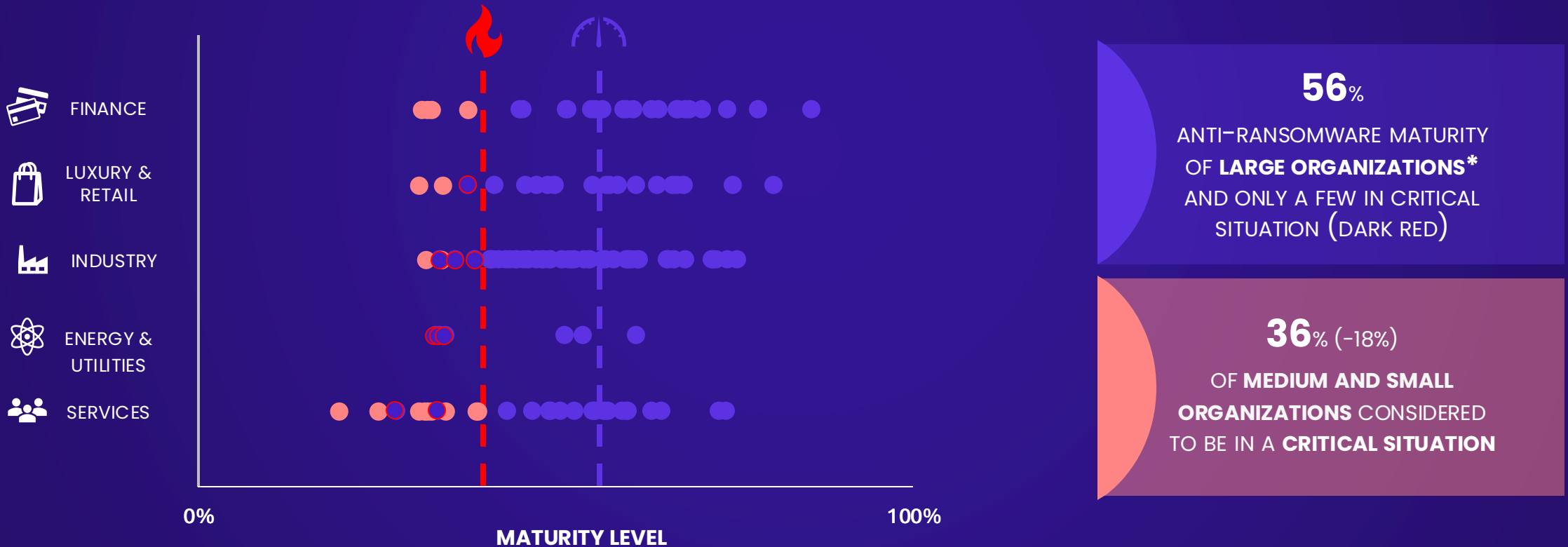
2024 : 1/1086

Sector differences remain significant



How does the market stand against the latest **cyberattacks**?

Based on the latest **cyberattacks managed by CERT-Wavestone**, we have selected 29 anti-ransomware measures and assessed our customers' maturity on (attack entry point protection, crisis management, backups, red button...)

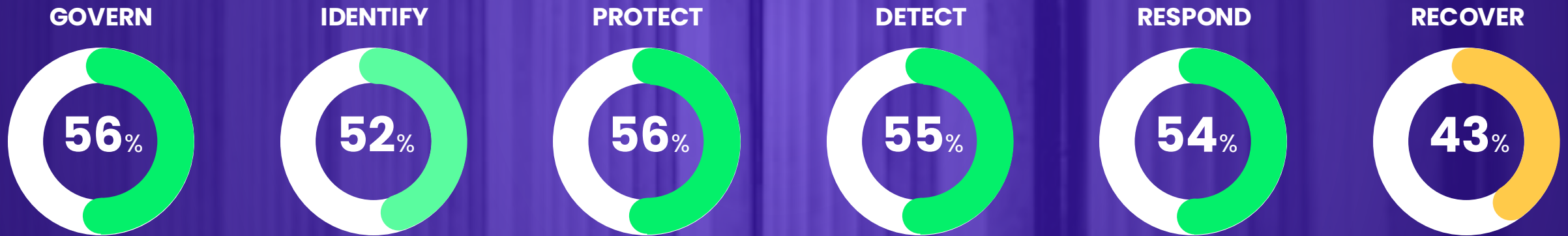


56%
ANTI-RANSOMWARE MATURITY
OF **LARGE ORGANIZATIONS***
AND ONLY A FEW IN CRITICAL
SITUATION (DARK RED)

36% (-18%)
OF **MEDIUM AND SMALL
ORGANIZATIONS** CONSIDERED
TO BE IN A **CRITICAL SITUATION**

*Companies with a turnover over \$1B (100+ org.)

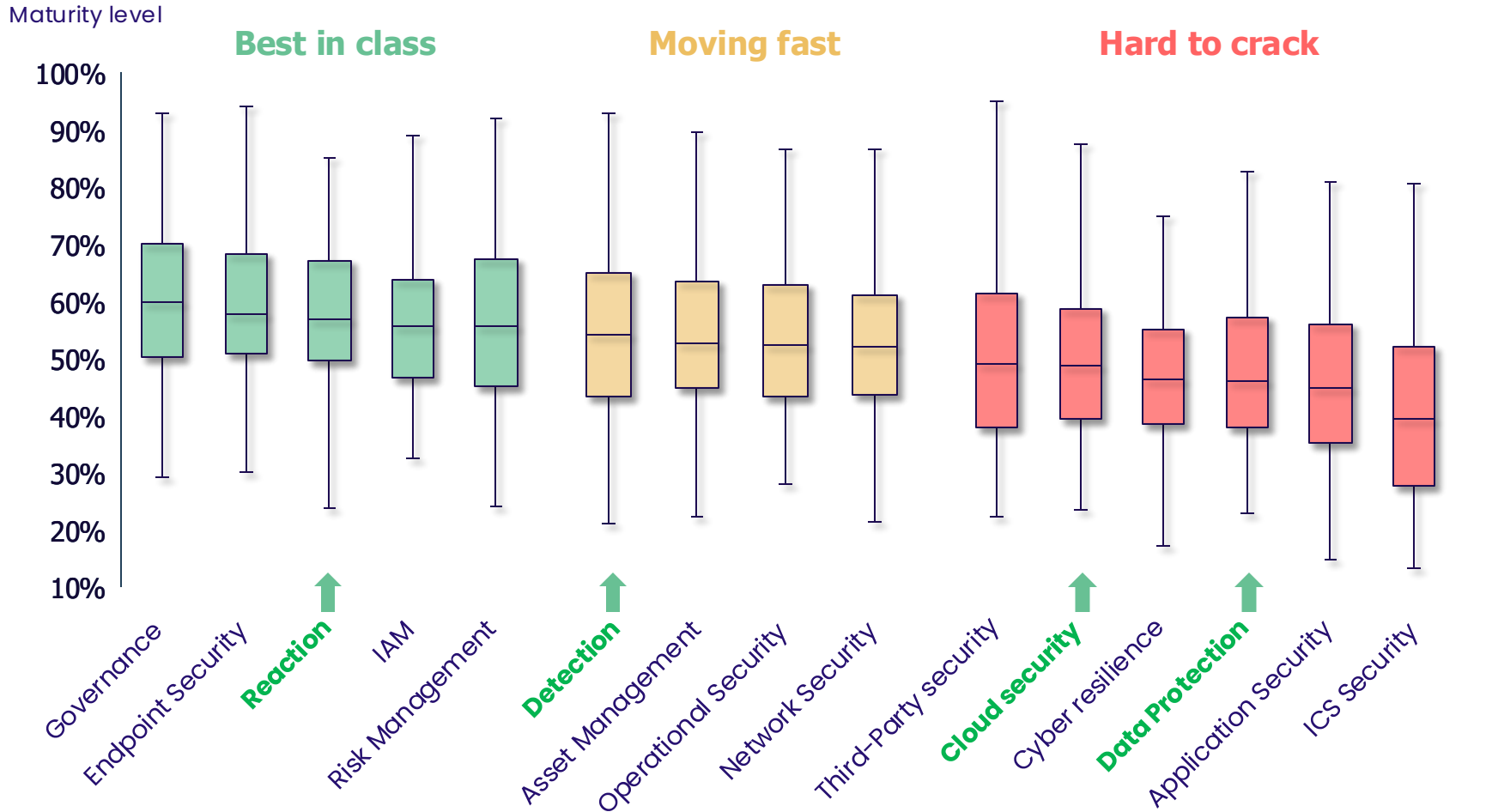
What is the market **MATURITY** in adopting the new **NIST Cybersecurity** Framework?*



The **high consistency** across the **NIST CSF 2.0 pillars** highlights the **significant cybersecurity investments** made in recent years. The only exception is the "**Recover**" pillar, which lags behind in **crisis management** and **resilience capabilities**—though the **financial sector stands out** with a higher maturity level (58%)

Global overview on cyber topics

Large organizations' performance on key cyber topics in our 2025 CyberBenchmark



Legend

↑ Topic that advanced in importance from last year

Box plot view of maturity score for every topic: Minimum / 1st quartile / Median / 3rd quartile / Maximum

Reaction

Incident response capabilities have shown measurable improvement (+3%) primarily driven by enhanced coordination between business units and strengthened crisis preparedness measures.

Detection

Detection capabilities continue to improve (+4%) demonstrating increased efficiency particularly within large organizations. Significant progress has been observed in monitoring critical environments (e.g., Active Directory) and log coverage has expanded although business log analysis remains a complex challenge.

Cloud

Cloud security has improved (+3%) supported by more secure deployment practices particularly through CI/CD pipelines and reinforced control over administrator privileges via automated review mechanisms.

Data protection

Data protection has also advanced (+4%) over the past year. Organizations are actively monitoring for potential data leaks on the internet and are enhancing personal data safeguards to align with international regulatory frameworks such as GDPR resulting in improved coverage and compliance.

What TO EXPECT in the years to come?

Current maturity:



5 key topics from 2025

Detection: a constantly evolving challenge

56%

Maturity of **detection** capabilities by **large organizations** rose significantly (+4% compared to 2024)*

Percentage of large organizations that have implemented each specific practice:

A Solid Foundation

86%

Configure rules to **trigger alerts** in case of **abnormal activity**

86%

Collect and analyze infrastructure logs

77%

Regularly analyze the configuration of **Active Directory (AD)**

Ongoing Challenges

48%

Collect and analyze business application logs

22%

Create **custom detection** scenarios to identify advanced threats

... taking into account the arrival of AI solutions

Cloud security: steady increase

51%

Cloud security continues to make progress in **2025**, reaching a maturity of **51%** among large organizations (**+3%** compared to **2024**)*

Cloud administration

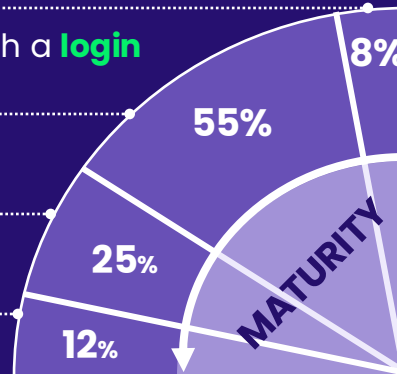


Cloud console accessible **from anywhere** with a **login and password**

Multi-factor authentication (MFA) for administration accounts

Administrators must connect through a **bastion**

No admin or **Just-in-Time** admin



Roles & responsibilities

70%

of large organizations have a Cloud security manager

37%

of large organizations have clearly defined roles & responsibilities with Cloud Providers

Opportunities and challenges



CSPM (Cloud Security Posture Management) solutions and the challenge of **scaling up and putting the responsibility outside cyber teams**



CNAPP (Cloud-Native Application Protection Platform) solutions and the challenge of **converging existing security tools**

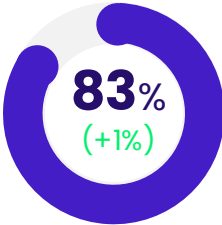


Cloud Erasure resilience scenario and the challenge of **rebuilding a Cloud IS** from scratch

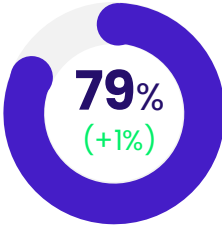
Cyber Resilience: a strategic ambition still hard to achieve

Cyber resilience remains a **complex subject** (+1.5% compared to 2024, except in **Finance +3.5%** based on the same sample than last year)*, as **few organizations** are truly prepared to maintain their business in the event of a **major attack**

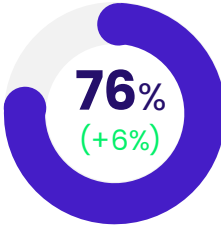
Percentage of large organizations that have implemented each specific practice:



are covered by a **cyber insurance policy**

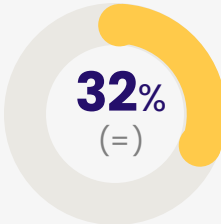


conduct crisis management exercises at least every two years

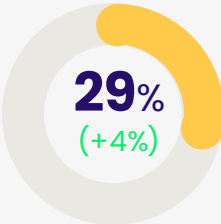


regularly conduct **restoration tests** in accordance with their backup policy

Despite the progress, certain areas still need strengthening



deploy **degraded mode processes** tailored to users and critical functions



assess **dependencies across each business chain** at a global level

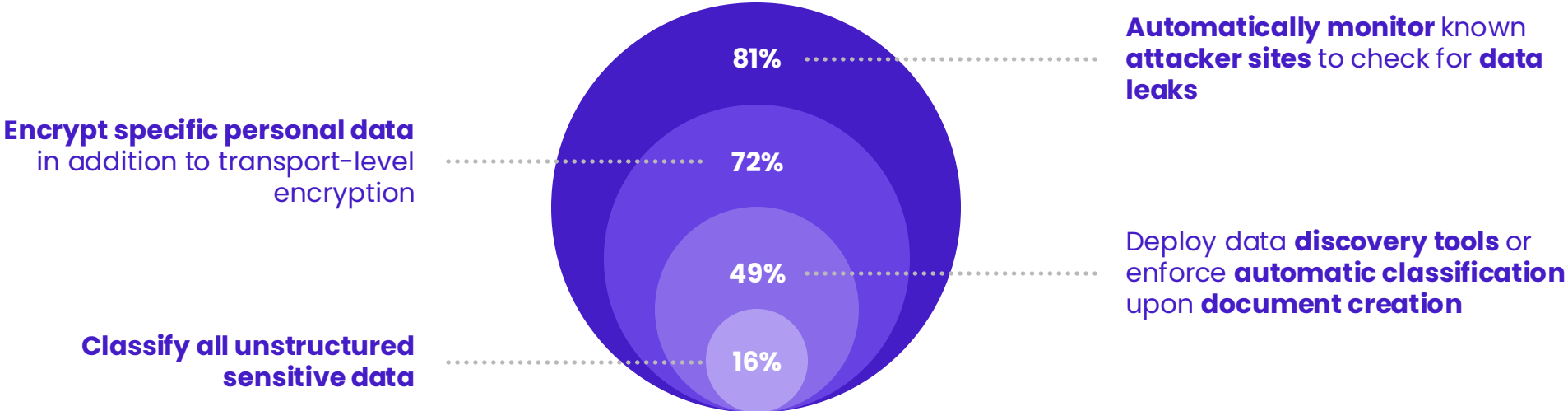
*Companies with a turnover over \$1B (100+ org.)

Data Protection: stronger controls, safer futures

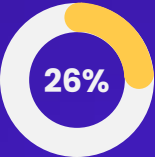
48%

Data protection has become a **strategic priority** for organizations (+4% compared to 2024)* which reflects **growing awareness of information security risks** and **artificial intelligence needs**

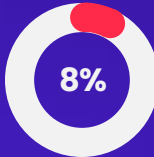
Percentage of large organizations that have implemented each specific practice:



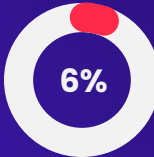
Main challenges to be overcome with the arrivals of AI solutions?



Deployment of mechanisms to detect non-compliance



Implementation of a DLP solution with advanced, customized static rules



Deployment of a dedicated team for information security data sanitization

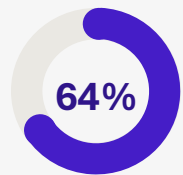
*Companies with a turnover over \$1B (100+ org.)

Securing a critical asset: artificial intelligence

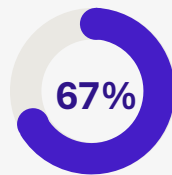
Based on 20 large organizations, here is a **deep-dive on how organizations are acting to secure AI use cases**

AI governance and risk identification is already a thing ...

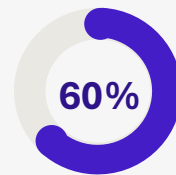
...but the journey has just started for complete maturity



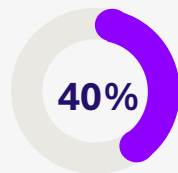
Have an **AI security policy**



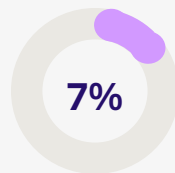
Give clear **go/no go decision** at AI project risk review



Identified a team to assess **AI projects compliance**

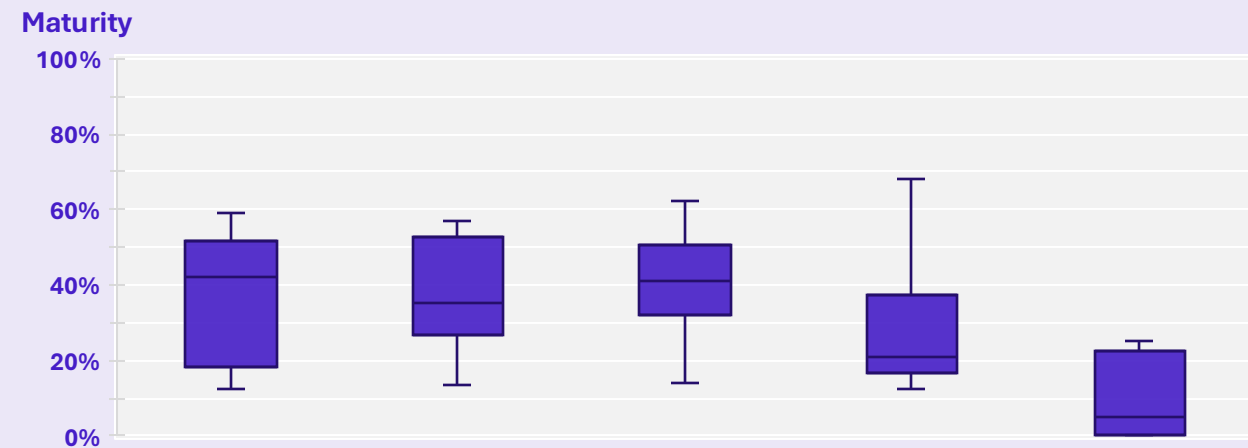


40% of clients **adapted their Third-Party assessment methodology** for AI vendors



Have established measures and adapted **tooling to detect and defend** against **malicious prompts** and other **identified threats**

GOVERN	IDENTIFY	PROTECT	DETECT	RESPOND
39%	39%	40%	29%	9%



There is no **'Recover'** pillar, as there is no **dedicated recovery specialization for AI.**

NIS 2: How mature is the market with French security requirements ?



Large organizations achieve **80% maturity** in relation to the **NIS 2 French draft framework**

Everyone will have to work, even those who were the most mature



Organization **100% compliant** with NIS 2 French draft requirements



A large majority of clients must make **significant efforts**, mainly **due to the scope expansion**

Building on NIS 2: Key Priorities for Organizations



Enhance **Third Party Risk Management**




Ensure **Resilience**



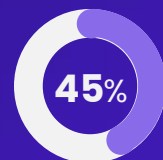
Strengthen **Asset management**



Meet **Administration requirements**

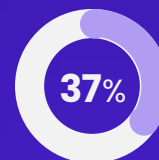

Main hard-to-crack topics

Systems secure maintenance



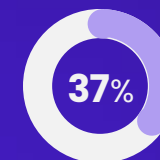
maintain a **centralized CMDB**

Third-party management



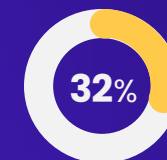
regularly **audit their critical suppliers**

Administrative IT systems



set up **dedicated admin workstations**

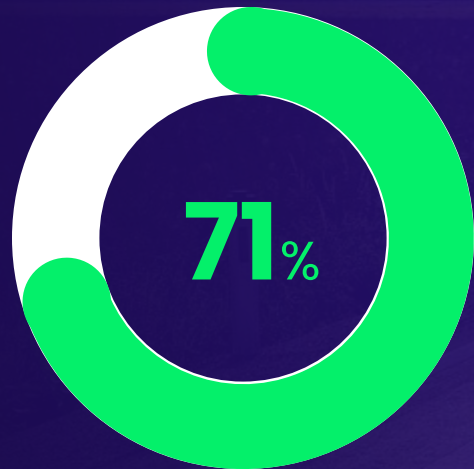
Crisis management and BCP/DRP



test **major scenarios on the most critical functions**

The need to address **emerging and innovative** topics

Many companies are **starting to reach a high level** of maturity against the international standards

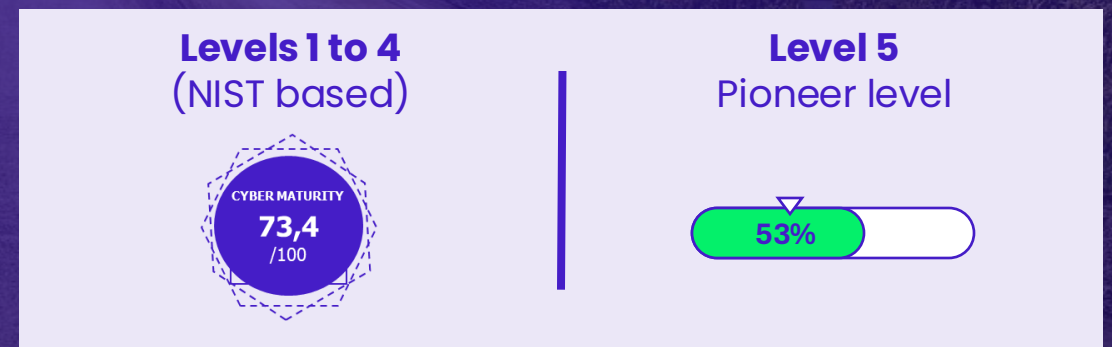


Average maturity score of TOP 10 companies in our cyber benchmark

A need to cover the new and innovative topics

- Quantum Cryptographic
- AI security
- Just-in-time / Just enough
- API based
- Quantification
- Security Data Hub
- Culture change
- Digital twin
- AI for cyber
- Platformization

Introduction of a new maturity level for pioneers

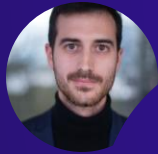


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