

IT Key Metrics Data 2023: IT Security Measures — Practitioners Guide to Establish a Baseline

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Initiatives: [Technology Finance, Risk and Value Management](#); [Security Operations](#)

Use the Security section of the IT Budget Tool to evaluate your organization versus the published Gartner content to assist with fact-based decisions and drive improved business value.

Overview

Key Findings

- Organizations often want to assess whether their expenditure on IT security matches industry norms. However, the circumstances each organization finds itself in are unique, and each defines the IT security budget differently.
- CISOs unable to articulate the true security expenditure of their organizations will be unable to assert whether all necessary security functions are being met and therefore unable to defend and grow their existing budget to defend against a growing cybersecurity risk.
- IT Budget tool is an interactive online survey that allows you to input your organization's data and provide a personalized comparison report in return.
- IT Key Metrics Data serves as a directional indicator of overall spending and staffing levels but does not reflect unique business requirements or objectives, which drive IT complexity and demand.

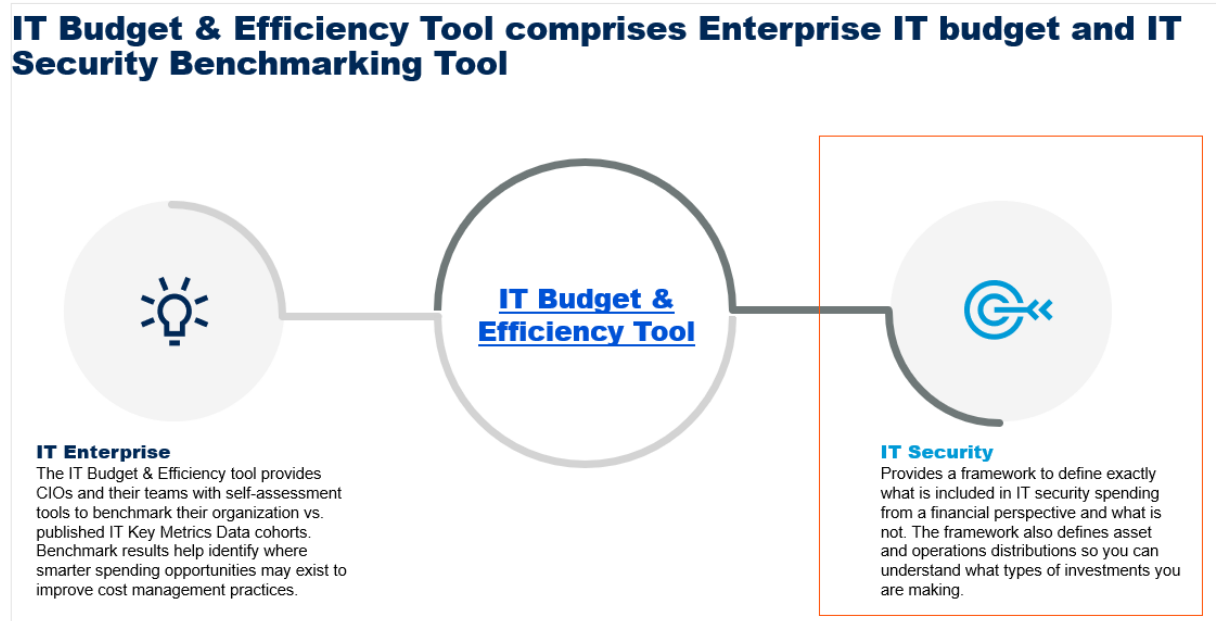
Alternatively, download the guide to [Gartner IT Budget](#)

[IT Security: Practitioners Guide](#)

Recommendations

IT Budget & Efficiency tool comprises enterprise & IT security sections.

Figure 1: IT Security in IT Budget Tool



Gartner.

Figure 2: Overview of the tool



Gartner.

1. Leverage the [Gartner IT Budget](#)
2. Review the [Framework Definitions](#)

- 3. Schedule an [inquiry](#) to review your results or address alignment questions

Analysis

How Does the Tool Help?

Provides a framework to define exactly what is included in IT security spending from a financial perspective and what is not. The framework also defines asset and operations distributions so you can understand what types of investments you are making. This in turn can pinpoint areas of overinvestment and underinvestment.

Provides peer reference data relative to total IT spending, employees, and revenue.

Sets a baseline for IT security spending and allows the conversation to focus on facts rather than opinions.

[Download the excel spreadsheet](#)

How Does it Work?

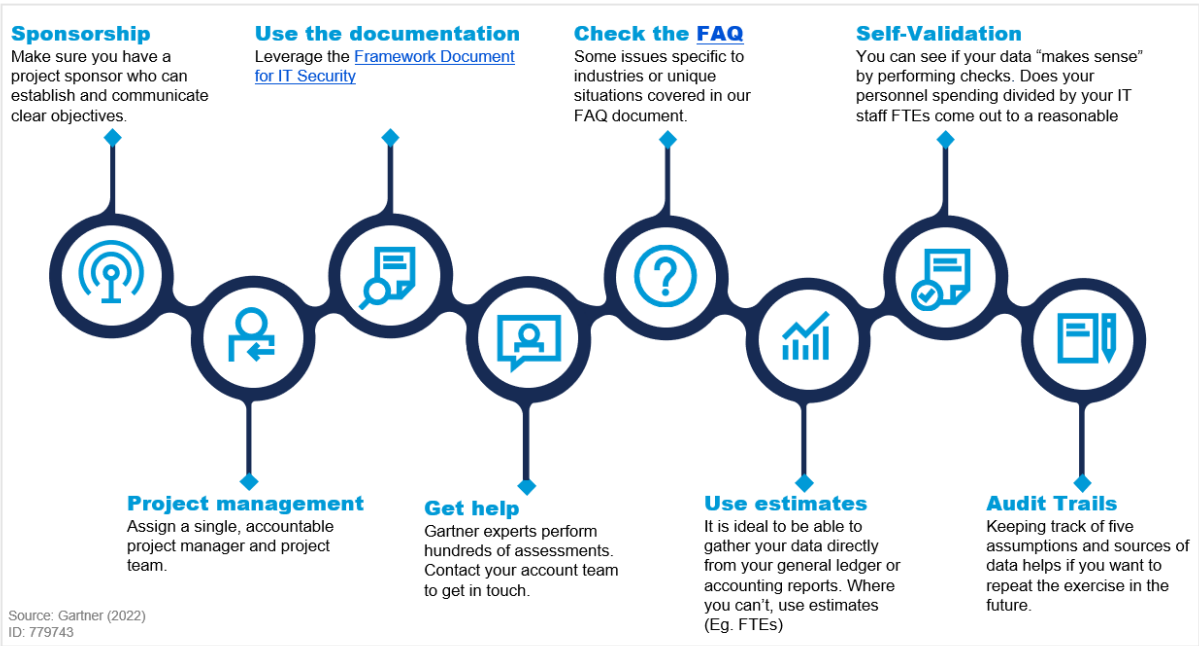
Figure 3: Recommended journey for IT Security baseline



How Difficult Will it Be?

The level of difficulty depends on your ability to gather data and the size of your organization, but there are some best practices.

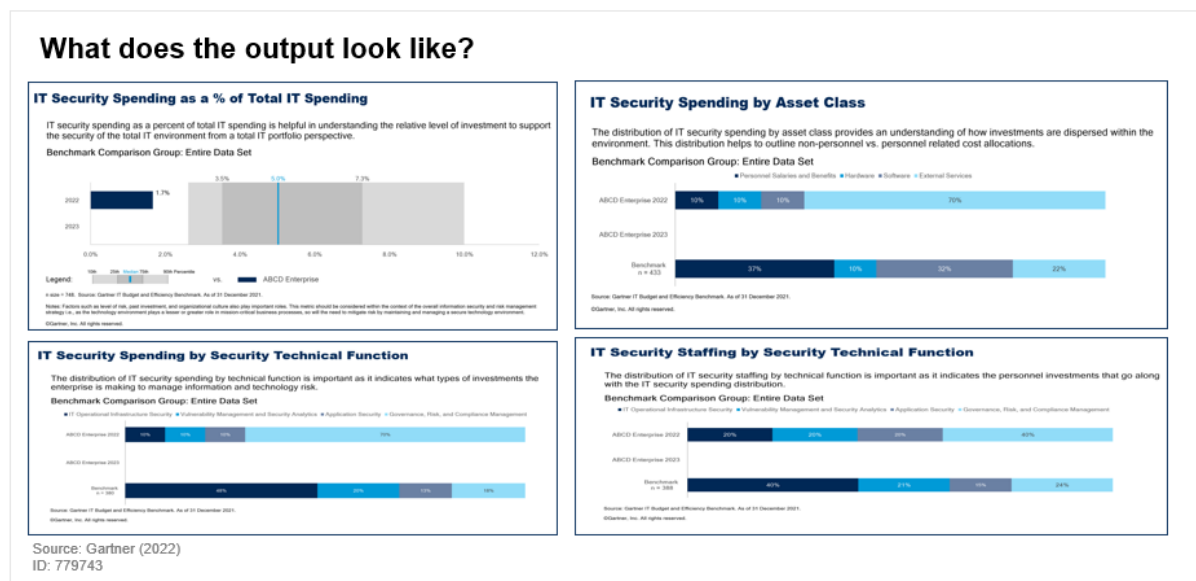
Figure 4: Best practices while using the Tool



Check the FAQ: Check our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document.

Summary of Results

Figure 5: Sample Report



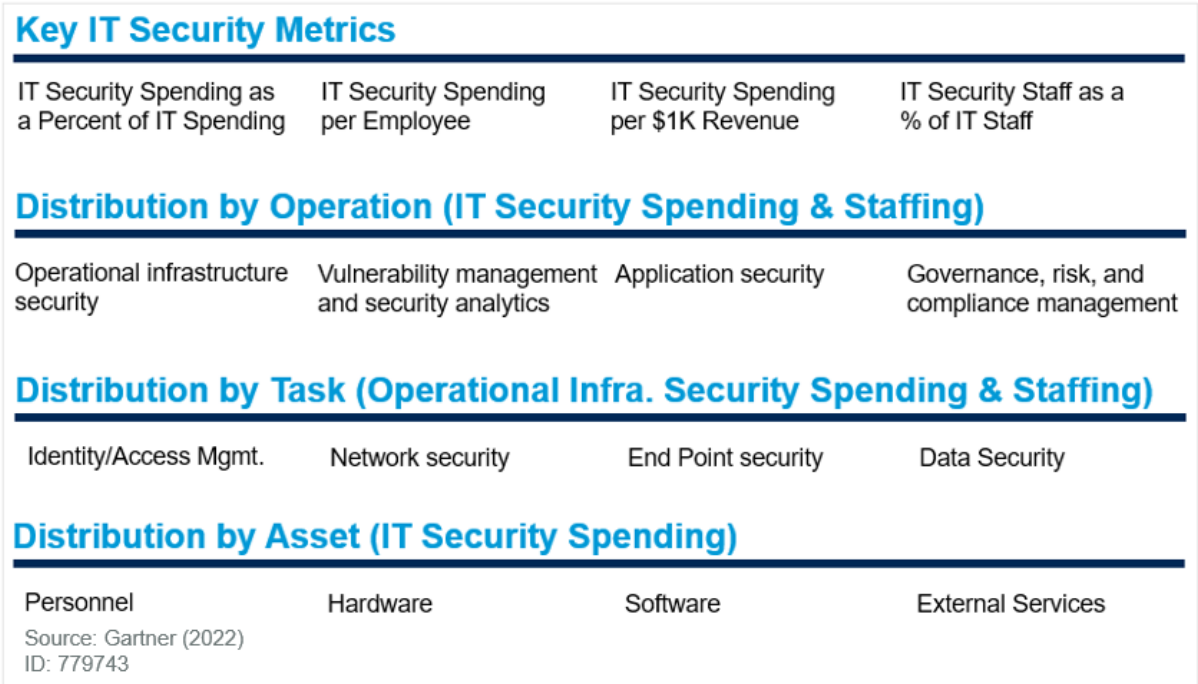
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The output of the report contains top level metrics and distributions.

Each of these metrics shows security spending/staffing relative to specific workload factors. It is not unusual for an organization to be higher than the average on one and lower on another. It is important to understand that the published averages are not targets, and decisions of “good” or “bad” performance should not be based on these metrics. With security the most important thing is to understand your level of risk and the economics of actions taken to reduce that risk. Those trade-offs should be done in conjunction with business management.

The top-level metrics are a good place to start your analysis, but it’s important to go beyond them to understand what drives cost. That is where the distribution metrics come in.

Figure 6: IT Security Metrics and distributions



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Understanding these distributions can help guide discussions around trade-offs among traditional measures such as firewalls (Operational Infrastructure), more advanced methods (Vulnerability Management and Security Analytics), and management oversight (Governance, Risk, and Compliance). It’s always important to understand the metrics with your own environment in mind. Organizations without investments in custom application development may not need to spend as much on Application Security.

The same type of analysis can be done with the asset distribution. Here the trade-offs are among personnel, hardware, software and external services.

Additional offerings

Leverage the [Gartner IT Budget Tool](#) to generate a comparison report of your IT metrics vs. published industry metrics on an ongoing basis.

Additionally, access your organization in other business towers using:

[End-User Services & Application Portfolio Budget & Efficiency Tool](#)

[IT Key Metrics Data Comparison Tool: Data Center & Network](#)

Connect with Us

To learn more about Gartner IT Key Metrics Data tools contact your account executive or write to us at inquiry@gartner.com.

Recommended by the Authors

Some documents may not be available as part of your current Gartner subscription.

[IT Score for Security & Risk Management](#)

[Predicts 2022: Consolidated Security Platforms Are the Future](#)

[Cybersecurity Leadership Primer for 2022](#)

[Top Trends in Cybersecurity 2022](#)

[IT Cost Optimization, Finance, Risk and Value Primer for 2022](#)

[Five Board Questions That Security and Risk Leaders Must Be Prepared to Answer](#)

[How to Design a Security Champion Program](#)

[Security Program Management 101 – How to Select your Security Framework](#)

Document Revision History

[IT Key Metrics Data 2022: IT Security Measures – Practitioners Guide to Establish a Baseline - 16 December 2021](#)

[IT Key Metrics Data 2021: IT Security Measures – Practitioners Guide to Establish a Baseline - 18 December 2020](#)

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