# IDC Security Operational Readiness Assessment





### **Executive Summary**

Thank you for completing the IDC Security Assessment, sponsored by BT and McAfee. This assessment has been developed to provide companies with comparative information regarding the operational maturity of their security functions, backed up by independent research developed and carried out by IDC. The survey collected responses from security influencers or budget holders across 450 organisations globally to understand the differences between companies when it comes to security technologies, integration and manageability, and steps towards automation.

IDC scored individual responses and created a comparison framework, built on grouping organisations into five different levels of operational readiness based on their approach to security strategy as well as management and process automation, as seen in Figure 1. Organisations don't have to be at the top of the scale to start seeing benefits. Any improvement can bring about tangible benefits to IT and the business by increasing agility, resilience and innovation through better confidence to adjust strategy to meet changing market conditions.

## × Found

Ad hoc budgeting is typical Security product acquisition is ad hoc and fragmented, typically driven by threat-based needs. Product integration is barely on the agenda. Automation is regarded with scepticism, with concerns over visibility and control No use of advanced technologies, threat intelligence and analytics. No use of virtualisation approaches. Security deployment is entirely on-premise. Overall influence on the board's attitude to risk is absent.

### Developing

Budgets defined by project. Security product typically chosen on a best-of-breed basis, with little consideration given to integration. Integration is viewed mainly as a side benefit of individual products Automation is low on the agenda, with caution top of mind due to concerns over control. Limited use of threat intelligence and analytics. Limited use of virtualisation approaches to security. Limited use of cloud deployment of security functionality Influence on the board's attitude to risk is low.



#### Good

Business unit level budgeting. Good awareness of the importance of integration between security products, but functionality remains the overriding factor. Product integration is balanced evenly with security functionality. Automation is seen mainly as a side benefit of product integration. Threat intelligence and analytics are used with a good awareness of their benefits to security operations Some virtualisation of security processes has taken place. A balanced approach to security deployment from the cloud is in evidence. Decent awareness from the board of the importance of security

risk.



Enterprisewide budgeting. Benefits of product integration outweigh individual product features. Products are procured with integration a strong consideration criteria. Automation is high on the agenda and seen as a strategic preference. Threat intelligence and analytics are used widely, including active sharing with peers and outside agencies. Some security processes have been virtualised, and software-defined security is on the agenda. A sizeable amount of security functionality is deployed via public cloud. Good influence on the board's attitude to risk, with opportunity to make

the case where needs

demand it.

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Enterprisewide budgeting with ad hoc funding for special projects. Integration with existing security products is mandatory and best of breed is discouraged in favour of a smaller number of preintegrated products. Automation of security processes is at the heart of the security operation. Threat intelligence is sophisticated, with automated policy updates being driven by insights. Most security processes are virtualised, and software-defined security is a strategic aim. All security functionality is deployed via the cloud where it is appropriate to do so. Strong influence on the board, which tends to follow recommendations from the security team.