



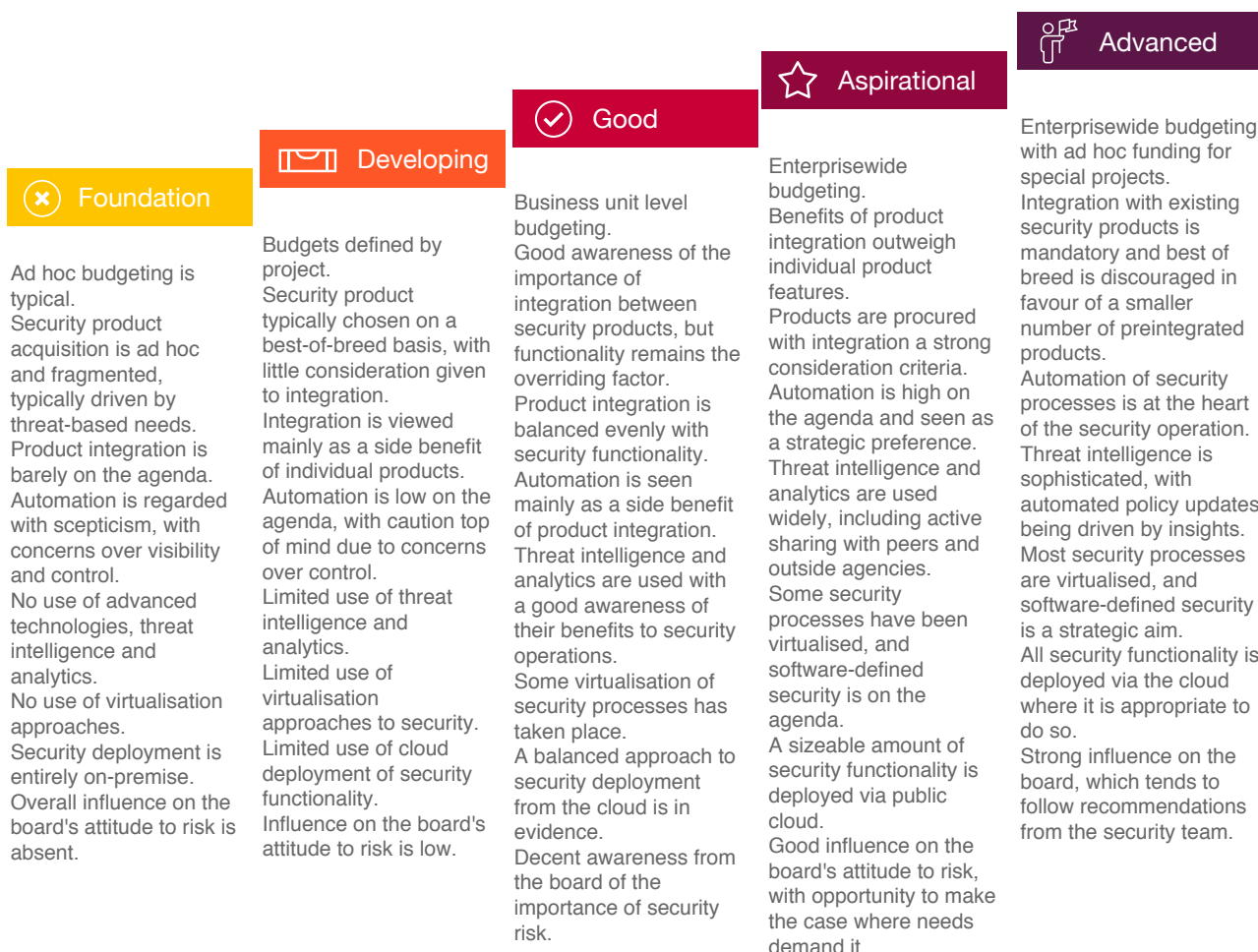
## MANAGING SECURITY OPERATIONS: TOWARDS INTEGRATION AND AUTOMATION

Sponsored by BT and McAfee

### 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.

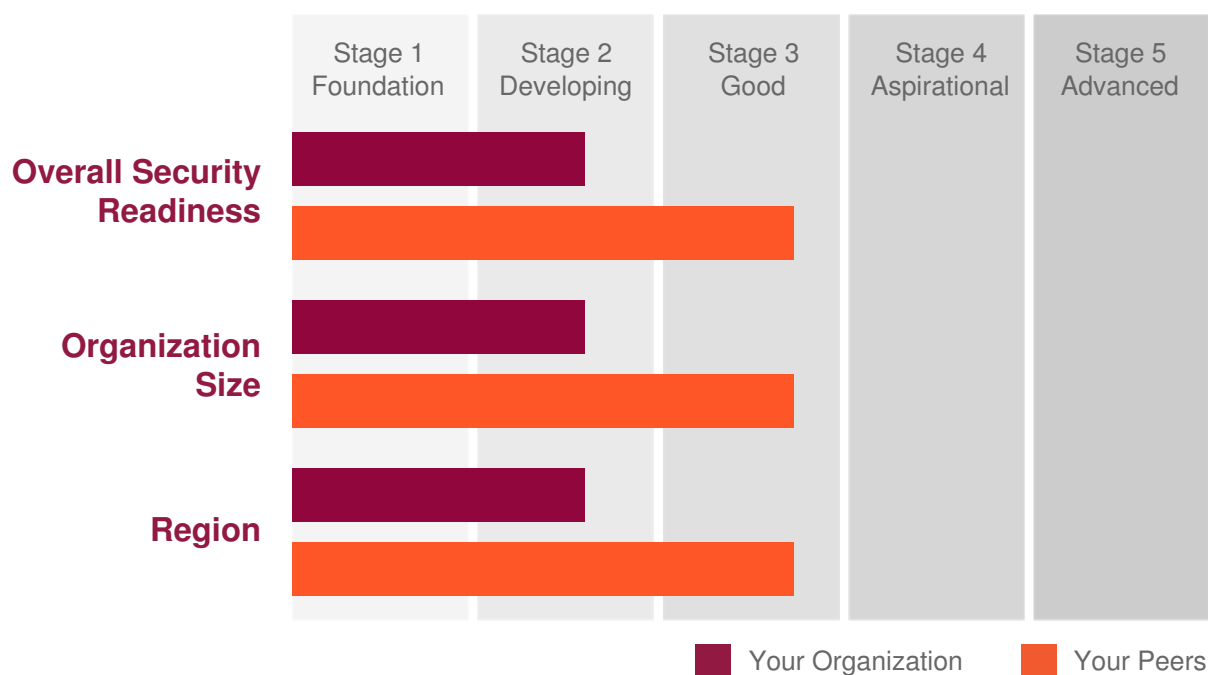
IDC scored individual responses and created a comparison framework, built on grouping organisations into five different levels of operational readiness based on their approach to security strategy as well as management and process automation, as seen in Figure 1. Organisations don't have to be at the 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.



## Overall Results

Based on your responses, you are placed within **32%** of companies overall in the readiness group of **Stage 2: Developing**, which is the **2nd** level out of five.

Figure 2: IDC Security Operational Readiness Assessment Results



## Overall Summary

Compared to the best in class capabilities, your organisation is:

- 1 level behind the global leaders
- 1 level behind the leaders in companies of the same size

### Your performance in more detail

This assessment tool was designed to help establish your organisation's IT security operational readiness to cope with the evolving threat landscape that impacts digital businesses, both today and in the future. We looked at the following key areas:

- Security Integration
- Security automation
- Unified Intelligence

Your performance in each area is compared to your peers in Figure 3 on the following page.

## IDC Security Response Readiness by Capability



## How to get ahead

No matter what level you are at, there are certain areas that are continuing to evolve and are worth focusing on above all else

- **Integration** — focusing on security product integration, for enhanced visibility across the security estate
- **Automation** — exchanging threat information between products and updating policy decisions with minimal human supervision
- **Advanced technology** — utilising the latest technologies to improve detection and remediation
- **Advanced deployment approaches** — prioritising cloud deployments and thus benefitting from specialist security resource at scale, regular maintenance and state-of-the-art updates, with minimal downtime

## Improvements to Integration and Automation

### Moderate

You have started your integration journey and are seeing some benefits of automation, albeit most likely within small groups of products. The next step is a holistic integration and automation strategy, and your best approach is to select a platform that provides a wide range of easy-to-implement integrations. The greatest benefits of integration and automation come through a completely integrated architecture, but you are likely to have a security estate composed of products from multiple vendors. So an open platform architecture is essential.

## Improvements to Security Strategy

### Weak

Security is likely to be regarded as a cost in your organisation. There is little strategic placement of security in the consciousness of business. How to change this? A good first step is to focus on operational effectiveness, where gains are likely in both the efficiency of processes and in achieving more predictable costs. Board influence is vital in the medium to longer term, so measuring security operations is essential in order to communicate good performance in business terms.

## Improvements to Unified Intelligence

### Weak

#### *Threat Intelligence*

You may be using threat intelligence products today, but these are likely to be straightforward feeds from third-party sources. This is fine as far as it goes, but greater benefits come from having managed threat intelligence, possibly from a specialist provider or (even better) a managed services provider that can provide better contextual information, as well as benefiting from insight from multiple organisations. Make sure you look at sharing threat intelligence, with peers and outside agencies, but understand that in order to get the greatest benefits this sharing must be bidirectional.

You can improve the effectiveness of your security operation by applying more advanced security capabilities. High on your list should be using cloud-based security solutions to secure both on-premise infrastructure and public cloud services. These are now mature and can substantially increase your security posture: the idea that cloud is inherently insecure is out of date. DDoS protection is regarded as a standard capability today, so consider commissioning a service to deliver better availability assurance.



## Essential Guidance

## Hello

Security is a continually evolving set of processes and technologies. The challenge is to keep your security operations up to date with changes in the threat landscape as well as the demands from business to support digital transformation programmes and compliance obligations. The demands on security operations are unlikely to ease any time soon. More will be expected of you, but budget and resource increases are unlikely to rise in line.

As you seek to continually improve your security operations there are a number of important considerations to keep in mind:

- Security is now a strategic priority for businesses. It therefore must be aligned to business strategy, and the executive must be adequately and appropriately informed of risks as they emerge and change. Security should be positioned as a business enabler, so work hard at communicating the risks and benefits in terms members will understand.
- An ad hoc and fragmented approach to security technology acquisition is not appropriate for the demands of a modern security operations team. Solutions exist today that enable an integrated and ballistic security architecture that provides both the visibility across the entire estate and the control and management tools to assess security posture. Automation follows integration, and this is essential if security operations are to deliver better efficiency and effectiveness within the prevailing resource constraints.
- Innovation in the security world has for too long largely been in the domain of the attacker. This balance is now being restored, and a plethora of new technologies have emerged over the past five years that offer capabilities that drive security to new heights. Many of these new technologies can be deployed in the cloud, and even more through managed security services, helping organisations to maintain a security operation that is state of the art.





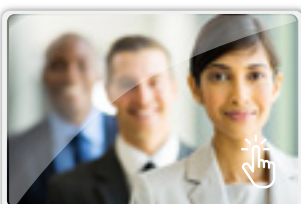
## INDUSTRY-LEADING PROTECTION AGAINST NEW AND DYNAMIC THREATS

A Security Incident and Event Management System (SIEM) can help you understand what is happening real time on your networks, detect and highlight malicious activity, threats and attempted hacks before they become an issue. A SIEM, configured and integrated with your network and IT infrastructure, can be used not just to improve situational awareness, but also as a platform to orchestrate and automate responses and to stop attacks well before they become serious breaches.

BT and McAfee have joined forces to gather, analyse and share the latest intelligence, so that protective controls can be updated in real-time. This allows organisations to close the gap between detection and protection. Our partnership means you get access to the latest technology and security intelligence at competitive prices. Together we offer intelligent SOC and SIEM capabilities as a managed service across Europe, able to support customers worldwide. Our joint solutions contain McAfee's dynamic endpoint, Data Loss Prevention, SIEM and associated technologies.

We offer the combined benefits of McAfee's visibility and management of endpoints, currently protecting over 188 million endpoints, alongside BT's heritage in customers' managed security operations and unique carrier-level insight. With BT's 2500+ security specialists on hand, you benefit from expertise in the latest technologies and 24x7x365 cover.

From our 14 global Security Operations Centres we provide a centralised monitoring of your SIEM, giving you the information you need to respond proactively and our highly scalable service can meet the needs of all sizes of organisation – from those organisations with a few sites and hundreds of devices though to global organisations with many thousands of devices that need monitoring.



Get in touch with a  
BT/McAfee Expert



Book a  
showcase visit



Download the  
datasheet