

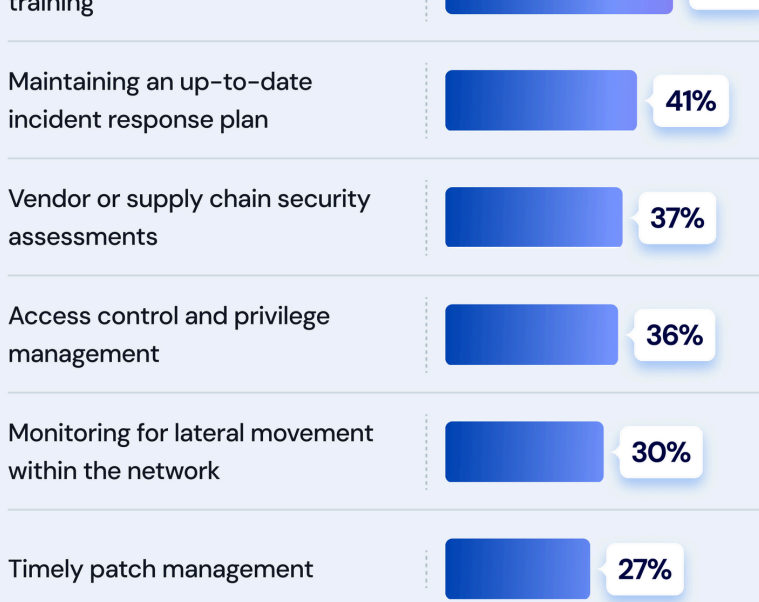


Key Findings

The State of Cyber Hygiene Fundamentals

Despite record cybersecurity investment, many organizations still struggle with the fundamentals. Inconsistent patching, access control, and vendor oversight continue to expose even well-resourced teams to avoidable risk. Swimlane surveyed 500 IT and security decision-makers across the U.S. and U.K. to uncover why core cyber hygiene remains a challenge and how organizations are addressing the human factors at the heart of the problem.

The Top Cyber Hygiene Struggles

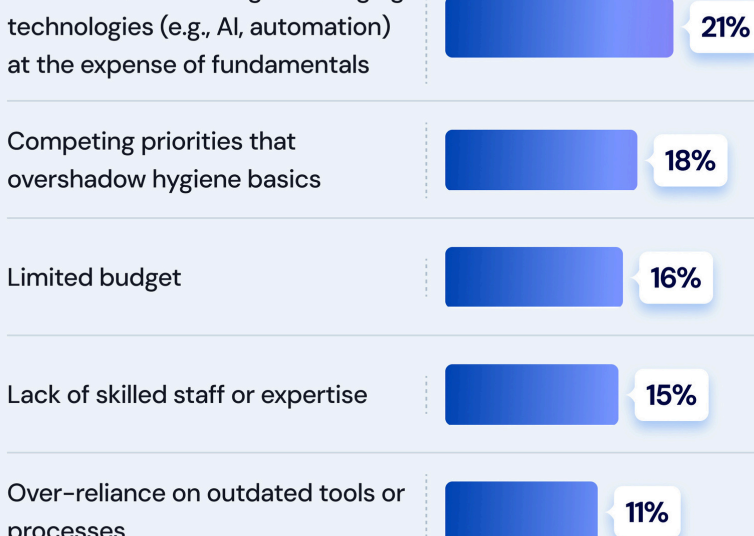


Competing Boardroom Priorities

Only 32% of organizations say cyber hygiene ranks among their C-suite's top three priorities, despite its ability to serve as a catalyst for improving top-priority initiatives.



Roadblocks to Cyber Hygiene



The Cyber Fundamentals that Fail

Even as security technology advances, critical cyber hygiene practices like patching, access control, and vendor risk management remain inconsistent across organizations.



27%

27% apply patches for critical vulnerabilities within 24 hours



33%

33% audit privileges continuously; 41% audit quarterly



36%

36% continuously assess third-party risk post-onboarding

Weak Hygiene Causes Breaches



66%

66% of organizations had at least one security incident last year



92%

Nearly all organizations (92%) say stronger cyber hygiene could have prevented incidents

AI and Automation Strengthen Cyber Fundamentals



84%

84% say AI and automation improve cyber hygiene



64%

64% say AI initiatives increase focus on fundamentals



41%

41% say expanding AI usage would improve their program

Mastering the basics starts with consistency, visibility, and speed. Agentic AI automation helps teams strengthen hygiene, reduce risk, and respond faster, protecting your organization from the inside out.

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