

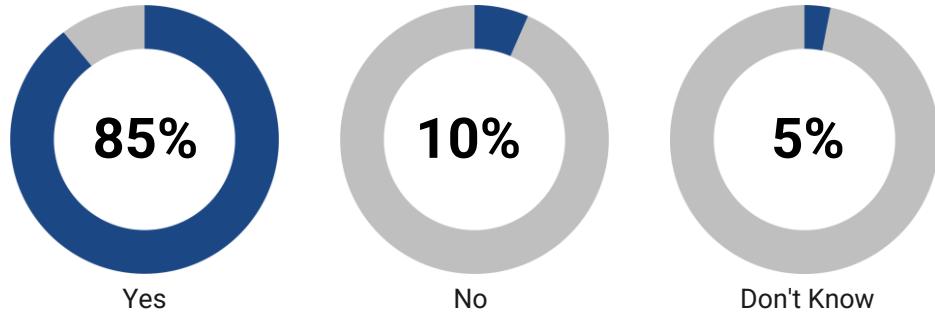


## Securing Federal Applications

Modern development demands robust application security measures, but as government agencies develop new means of interacting with citizens and stakeholders, how ready are they to meet this demand? With an ever-growing volume of data and applications, across an ever-expanding attack surface, government agencies face enormous potential for exploitation of vulnerabilities. How have organizations employed application security practices to mitigate these risks? In September 2023, GovExec's Insights & Research Group worked in partnership with HCLSoftware to poll a random sample of federal government employees to answer this question and more.

### Inclusion of Application Security

Is application development being considered in your organization's overall security initiatives?

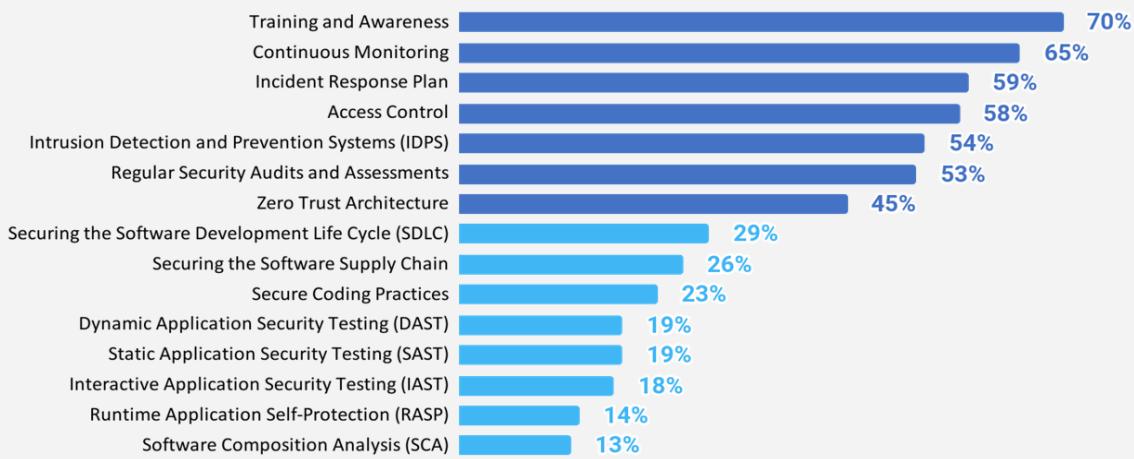


**85%**

say they are considering application security as part of their overall security initiatives. While a vast majority are considering application security, one in ten are not and remain vulnerable.

### Methods of Protecting Data

Which of the following is your organization currently using to protect application data?



**7 in 10**

are using training and awareness and continuous monitoring to protect their application data

**Over half**

are using incident response plans, access control, IDPS and regular security assessments



## Implementation

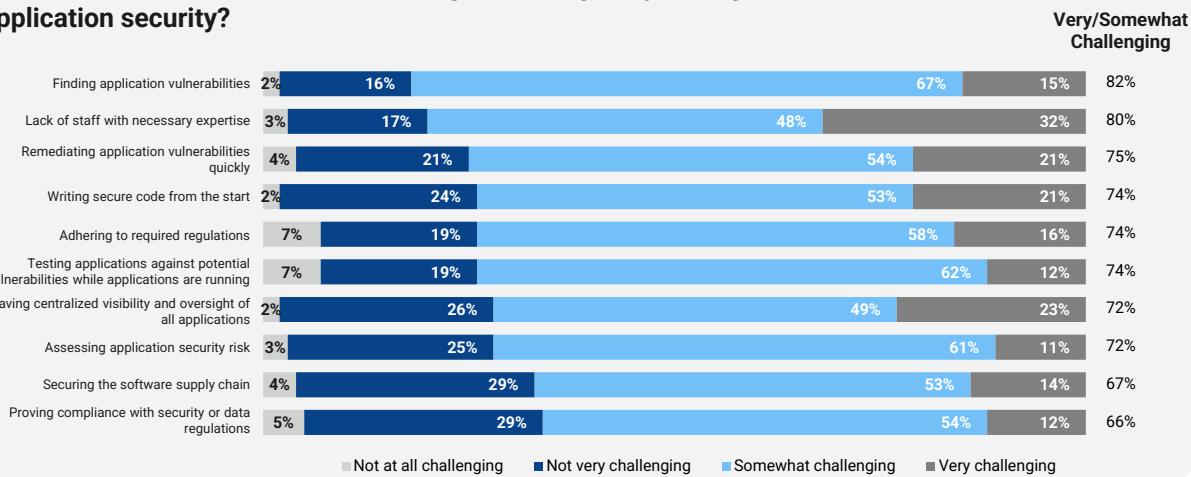
To what extent has your organization pursued application security initiatives?



**62%**  
say they have integrated some form of application security while a sixth of respondents are aware of application security but have not yet implemented solutions or addressed it

## Challenges

To what extent are each of the following a challenge to your organization's application security?



**8 in 10**  
cite finding application vulnerabilities and the lack of staff with necessary expertise as challenging obstacles to application security



## HCLSoftware's Perspective

Bad actors continually seek software vulnerabilities they can exploit. It's challenging to continually scan applications for potential misconfigurations or code defects. The task often requires dedicated security expertise, and agency IT teams already have a full workload just maintaining system security and investigating alerts.

Continuous monitoring can be even more challenging for federal agencies that manage multiple homegrown applications throughout their software development lifecycle. Software development is an evolutionary process, making it difficult to manage Zero Trust-level security amid numerous application iterations.

HCLSoftware technology has a long history of expertise and experience working in federal government environments. Our products, including our HCL AppScan solution, have been proven and battle-tested and are constantly updated with features and capabilities that meet today's IT requirements. We are committed to helping government organizations meet not just today's threats and demands, but also whatever comes next.

## Methodology

GovExec's Insights & Research Group deployed a 4-question poll to a random sample of 100 federal government employees involved in their organization's selection and/or management of firms that provide application security, solutions and services. The poll was fielded in September 2023.

### About the Insights & Research Group

As GovExec's research division, the Insights & Research Group (IRG) is dedicated to advancing the business of government through analysis, insight, and analytical independence. An extension of Government Executive's 50 years of exemplary editorial standards and commitment to the highest ethical values, the IRG studies influential decision makers from across government to produce intelligence-based research and analysis.

### About HCLSoftware

HCLSoftware is a division of HCL Technologies (HCL) that operates its primary software business. We develop and deliver technology in the areas of enterprise security, customer experience, digital transformation, and secure DevOps. We offer solutions for our U.S. Federal Government customers that are TAA compliant and available through a variety of contracts with our partners.