Insights & Research Group

# Flash Poll

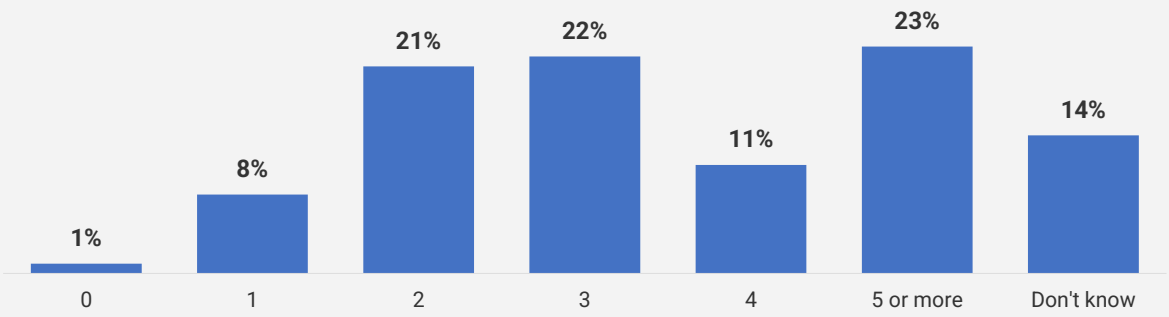
Underwritten by HCLSoftware Federal

# Federal Network Security at the Endpoint

As the cybersecurity goals of the federal government evolve, are agencies ready to meet their organization's needs? Are government IT professionals comprehensively monitoring endpoint security as cyber threats evolve to attack all network vulnerabilities? How have organizations planned for or begun implementing endpoint 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 100 federal government employees to answer these questions and more.

## Tools in Use for Endpoint Security

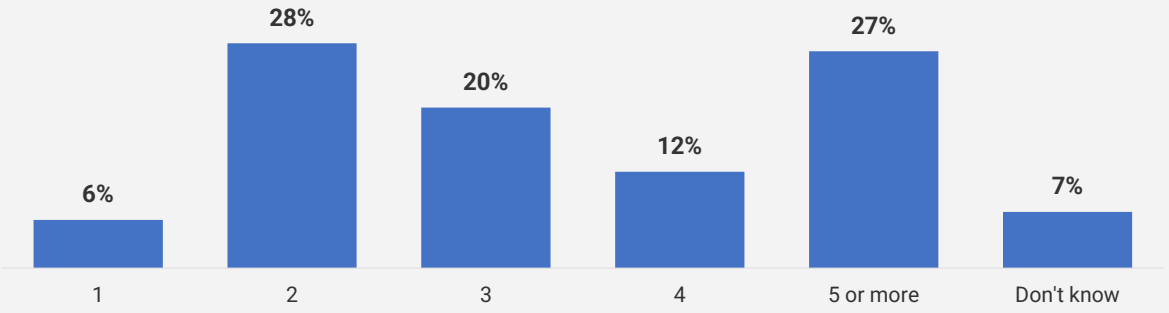
**How many tools does your organization currently use to ensure its endpoints are secure?**




**Over half** say they are **using 3 or more tools** for endpoint security with **14%** of all respondents unaware of how many endpoint security tools their organization is using

## Operating Systems Accommodated

**How many different operating systems does your organization accommodate in its IT environment?**




**6 in 10** are **accommodating three or more operating systems**

**9 in 10** are **accommodating at least two operating systems amplifying potential vulnerabilities to endpoint security**

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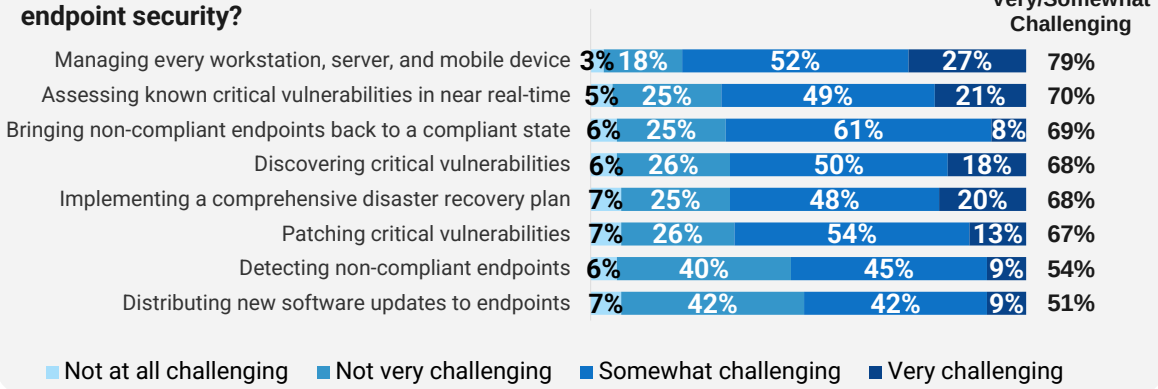
## Practical Challenges

**To what extent are each of the following challenges for your organization's endpoint security?**




**Managing every workstation, server, and mobile device during its entire lifecycle** is the top-mentioned challenge to endpoint security with **more than one quarter** rating this as very challenging and **over half** citing it as somewhat challenging

## Compliance Challenges

**What compliance mandates present your team with the toughest compliance challenges?**


Note: Multiple Responses Allowed

**Nearly half** cite **FISMA** and the **Federal Zero Trust Strategy** as the most challenging compliance mandates for their teams to conform with regulations

## HCLSoftware's Perspective

Agencies need a comprehensive security approach that protects data and people — from application to endpoint — and enables IT security teams to rapidly understand and manage security risks. Speed and flexibility are must-have characteristics given the sophisticated threat landscape and the ongoing security skillset shortages affecting all government organizations. They deserve a best-in-class cybersecurity program that provides dynamic security and easier management – no matter the number of disparate tools or operating systems in place. The right software partner understands the issues impacting government agencies and has the deep expertise and experience to address them.

HCL BigFix has long supported federal organizations on large initiatives such as the Continuing Diagnostics and Mitigation (CDM) program. It's a comprehensive solution for agencies and is aligned with the NIST 800-207 compliance standard. We have also introduced a new function to support the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's Known Exploited Vulnerabilities catalog (KEVs).

HCLSoftware works with government organizations to develop comprehensive approaches that align their cybersecurity missions and modernize their IT environments — from embedding Zero Trust practices and solutions to implementing DevSecOps. The poll results show that 79 percent of agencies find managing every endpoint a challenge. That's why government organizations must work with a trusted partner, one with a proven track record in the public sector.

## 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 endpoint 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.