State of the State 2022:
Cybersecurity in State and Local Government

MeriTalk surveyed 100 state and local government (SLG) IT decision-makers to understand how organizations are utilizing cyber advancements to meet the needs of a digitally dependent population.

Underwritten by:
Invicti · KEEPER Cybersecurity Starts Here · Recorded Future · servicenow

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Innovation Requires Informed Implementation

91%
of **SLG IT decision-makers** say their organization's pace of cybersecurity improvements has increased over the past year

Still, 81%
of organizations face a **cyber knowledge deficit**, and **75%** feel their organization understands the overall cyber objective but not the steps to achieve it

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Data Privacy Looms Large

88%
feel an **individual's data privacy** is a national security issue,

yet only **36%**
would grade their current data security practices an **"A"** in building citizen trust

What's holding organizations back from adequate data protection?

#1 Lack of skilled personnel

#2 Outdated technology

#3 Lack of visibility into shadow IT

94%
say **improved digital literacy** is key to effective cyber defense

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Must-Have Measures

Most essential cyber measures for SLG?

#1 Data backup and restore **(59%)**

#2 Multi-factor authentication **(56%)**

#3 Enterprise-wide cybersecurity training **(53%)**

Plus, 88% say **application security** is vital to reducing their overall attack surface

Top tech for the next five years?

#1 Modern identity systems **(58%)**

#2 Automated risk monitoring for third-party software **(52%)**

#2 Security, Orchestration, Automation, and Response (SOAR) solutions **(52%)**

The Case for Combined Forces

71%
credit the cyber EO's call for a **Software Bill of Materials (SBOM)** with improving application security capabilities

91% agree **information sharing before, during, and after ransomware attacks** must be mandatory across public and private sectors

Additional opportunities for collaboration:

#1 Threat information sharing **(52%)**

#2 Shared services and data standards **(41%)**

#3 Active threat hunting **(37%)**

Learn more about how state and local governments are working to improve data protection and application security:

https://www.meritalkslg.com/study/state-of-the-state/