

CxO Trust Newsletter - June 2022

Zero Trust Progress

Hillary Baron, Senior Technical Director - Research, CSA

John Yeoh, Global VP of Research, CSA

The concept and principles of Zero Trust have existed for over a decade. However, in recent years it has become increasingly popular due to a combination of factors, including the rapid rate of digital transformation, the increased need for remote work, and the US government's executive order. Yet, there is to date still a lack of shared vocabulary and definitions to provide a baseline to work from. Along with its rampant use in marketing, this has created some confusion in the industry about what Zero Trust actually is.

To better understand the current industry's understanding, perceptions, and adoption of Zero Trust, CSA's [Zero Trust Advancement Center](#) (ZTAC) conducted a [survey](#) for security executives and practitioners. The goal of the survey was to shed light on where organizations stand in terms of their Zero Trust strategies, pain points, vendor needs, management requirements/oversight, technical considerations, legacy challenges, adoption rates, and stakeholder involvement. Specifically, respondents were asked to evaluate the:

- Maturity and level of priority Zero Trust has within their organization
- Benefits and drivers toward adopting Zero Trust
- Challenges and barriers to adopting Zero Trust
- Investments needed to support the Zero Trust strategy

The survey received over 800 responses from IT and security professionals from various organization sizes and locations, including 219 C-level executives. It is the first installment of a multi-part survey that will be conducted this year. Among the report's key findings are:

- 80% of C-level executives have Zero Trust as a priority for their organizations
- 94% are in the process of implementing Zero Trust strategies
- 77% are increasing their spend in Zero Trust over the next 12 months
- Over half (52%) of organizations implemented their Zero Trust strategy post-pandemic

In the coming months, further analysis of the results will be released, including a C-level perspective on the responses to the survey, additional context into the technical and business barriers, and augmentation of organizational Zero Trust strategies with current industry solutions. This report will help define guidance in access management, policy enforcement, Zero Trust scaling issues, and other challenges identified by practitioners in the survey. CSA is looking to learn where C-level executives are in terms of their Zero Trust strategies, pain points, vendor needs, management requirements/oversight, technical considerations, legacy challenges, adoption rates, and stakeholder involvement.

This survey and the report to follow will provide a clear picture of the current state of Zero Trust in the industry and what to expect in the future. For more details, download the initial report [here](#).