

## Most Businesses Had A Cloud Related Security Incident In The Last Year



More than 80% of organizations have experienced a cloud-related security incident over the past 12-month period, according to research from Venafi. Almost half of those organizations reported at least four incidents over the same period.

Companies are rapidly undergoing digital transformation to the cloud. Organizations in the study currently host 2 in 5 applications in the cloud, however that figure is expected to reach 3 in 5 over the next 18 months. Despite those rapid changes, more than half of all organizations said they consider the risk of security incidents higher in the cloud, compared with on-premises environments.

The operational and security concerns that emerge from moving to the cloud include hijacking of accounts, ransomware, data privacy issues and nation-state attacks. Organizations most commonly encountered security incidents during runtime, unauthorized access and misconfigurations. Because of the dynamic and distributed nature of cloud infrastructure and its increased attack surface, it's easier for malicious actors to exploit image misconfigurations and vulnerabilities before security teams have a chance to discover and address them. There are a number of ways a misconfiguration or vulnerability could become compromised, and a multitude of ways that such an attack could propagate within the environment.

“Attackers are now on board with businesses’ shift to cloud computing,” Kevin Bocek, VP of security strategy and threat intelligence at Venafi, said in a blog post. “The ripest target of attack in the cloud is identity management, especially machine identities.” Responsibility for maintaining cloud security has also shifted within organizations, as 25% of enterprise security teams are the most likely to manage cloud security. Operations teams accountable for cloud infrastructure account for 23%, followed by collaborative teams and DevSecOps.

It’s frustrating, but also understandable when you look at what a challenge it is to find and retain security talent in this market. The hands to do the work are not there. It really is the perfect storm: a vicious and evolving threat, an architecture that was built for another era, and a lack of talent and experience in critical disciplines like security, cloud, and networking. Hank Schless, senior manager, security solutions at Lookout, said the cloud offers scalability and the ability to create interconnected services for smoother workflows. However, Schless said this also means that one misconfiguration can have magnified ramifications across multiple systems.

