Navigating the Cybersecurity Equation

Agencies are struggling to stay afloat in Federal cybersecurity data. Are there calmer waters ahead? MeriTalk surveyed 150 Federal cybersecurity professionals to examine how agencies are using big data and advanced analytics to better understand cybersecurity trends and mitigate threats.

Underwritten by: **cloudera**

Big Data is on the Rise*

81% of Feds are using big data analytics for cybersecurity efforts, including...

53% who say it's built into their overall cybersecurity strategy
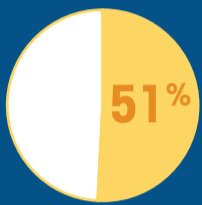
Feds are using big data to:

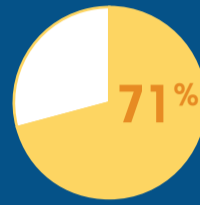**55%** detect vulnerabilities in the IT environment

54% detect that a breach is currently happening

51% Correlate and analyze data from multiple sources

51% of Feds use behavioral analytics

71% have some form of continuous diagnostic capabilities

But Breaches are Breaking Down the Floodgates

45% of Feds using big data for cybersecurity say their efforts are "highly effective"

59% of Feds say their agency deals with a cybersecurity compromise at least once a month due to their inability to fully analyze data

And Feds are Struggling to Stay Afloat

Top challenges are:

01 The sheer volume of cybersecurity data is overwhelming (49%)

02 Agencies don't have the right systems in place to gather the cybersecurity information they need (33%)

03 The information is no longer timely when it makes it to cybersecurity managers (30%)

In fact, Feds estimate more than **40%** of their data goes unanalyzed

In addition to budget issues, Feds' efforts are hindered by:

- Lack of skilled personnel (40%)
- Potential privacy concerns (27%)
- Lack of management support/awareness (26%)

FINANCE

Calm Waters Ahead

Federal agencies that effectively use big data see improvements in cybersecurity:

93% of Feds believe CDM is improving government-wide security

84% of big data users say their agency has successfully used big data to thwart at least one cybersecurity attack

90% of big data users have seen a decline in security breaches as a result of using big data analytics. Most commonly in:

50% Malware | 47% Insider threats | 46% Social engineering
(e.g., phishing, spear phishing threats via social networks)

To download the full report, please visit:
https://www.meritalk.com/study/navigating-the-cybersecurity-equation/

*This is a significant increase in big data use from 2013, when just under one in four agencies reported launching a big data initiative (MeriTalk's Smarter Uncle Sam: The Big Data Forecast)