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MERITALK STUDY SHOWS 81 PERCENT OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES USING BIG DATA ANALYTICS TO CUT CYBERSECURITY BREACHES

Ninety Percent of Agencies Using Big Data Say it's Improved Cybersecurity

Alexandria, Va., August 29, 2016 – [MeriTalk](#), a public-private partnership focused on improving the outcomes of government IT, today announced the results of its new report, “[Navigating the Cybersecurity Equation](#).” The study, underwritten by [Cloudera](#), reveals that 81 percent of Feds say their agency is using big data analytics for cybersecurity in some capacity – 53 percent are using it as a part of their overall cybersecurity strategy and 28 percent are using it in a limited capacity. However, breaches continue to afflict agencies with 59 percent of Feds reporting their agency deals with a cybersecurity compromise at least once a month due to their inability to fully analyze data.

It’s clear that Feds are struggling to stay afloat. Eighty-eight percent of Federal agencies face challenges drawing cybersecurity intelligence from data and the majority says the task has become more difficult in the past two years. Fewer than half of those using big data analytics for cybersecurity (45 percent) say they trust their efforts to be highly effective. Feds stated the following as top challenges:

- Sheer volume of cybersecurity data is overwhelming (49 percent)
- Agencies don’t have the right systems in place to gather the cybersecurity information they need (33 percent)
- Information is no longer timely when it makes it to cybersecurity managers (30 percent)

As a result, more than 40 percent of their data goes unanalyzed. In addition to obvious budget issues, Feds' efforts are hindered by: lack of skilled personnel (40 percent), potential privacy concerns (27 percent), and lack of management support/awareness (26 percent).

“Internal and external cybersecurity threats will continue to evolve daily and we need to unlock the power of the data in order to regain the advantage,” said Rocky DeStefano, Cybersecurity Subject Matter Expert, Cloudera. “Agencies need complete visibility into the data across their enterprise. These teams also need the ability to flexibly analyze that data in a meaningful timeframe so they can detect advanced threats quickly, identify the impact and reduce the associated risk. Accelerating investment in the platforms necessary to collect and analyze this data is critical to the success of these programs.”

Federal agencies that effectively use big data analytics see improvements in cybersecurity. In fact, 84 percent of big data users say their agency has successfully used big data analytics to thwart a cybersecurity attack and 90 percent have seen a decline in security breaches – malware (50 percent), insider threats (47 percent), and social engineering (46 percent) – as a result of using big data analytics. Agencies see the value big data provides – 94 percent of Feds have plans to invest in big data analytics in the next two years with top planned investments in technology infrastructure (61 percent), hardware (52 percent), and business intelligence tools/analytics (52 percent).

“Agencies face a perfect storm of cybersecurity threats,” said Steve O’Keeffe, founder, MeriTalk. “When you're headed into troubled waters, you need a weather forecast. Big data provides agencies with the visibility to ensure they don't end up the river without a paddle.”

“Navigating the Cybersecurity Equation” is based on an online survey of 150 Federal IT managers to examine how agencies are using big data and advanced analytics to better understand cybersecurity trends and mitigate threats in July 2016. The report has a margin of error of $\pm 7.97\%$ at a 95% confidence level. To download the full report, please visit <https://www.meritalk.com/study/navigating-the-cybersecurity-equation/>.

About MeriTalk

The voice of tomorrow's government today, MeriTalk is a public-private partnership focused on improving the outcomes of government IT. Focusing on government's hot-button issues, MeriTalk hosts [Big Data Exchange](#), [Cloud Computing Exchange](#), [Cyber Security Exchange](#), and [Data Center Exchange](#) – platforms dedicated to supporting public-private dialogue and collaboration. MeriTalk connects with an audience of 115,000 government community contacts. For more information, visit www.meritalk.com or follow us on Twitter, @MeriTalk. MeriTalk is a [300Brand organization](#).