

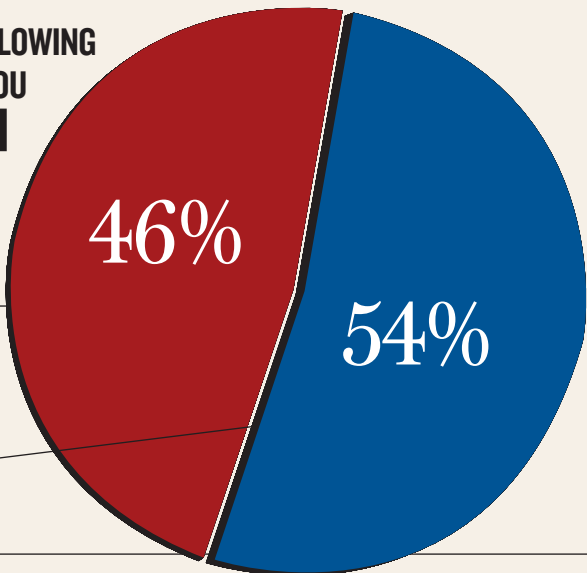
Feds split on FISMA's effectiveness

GCN surveyed 122 readers by e-mail, including 83 who work for civilian or Defense agencies, on the impact of the data breaches and the Federal Information Security Management Act.

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS DO YOU AGREE WITH MOST?

FISMA is a paperwork exercise and doesn't help secure systems.

FISMA is making federal agency IT systems more secure.



HOW COULD CONGRESS BEST SUPPORT THE GOALS OF FISMA? Choose up to three

Require stronger language in contracts in connection with IT security	46%
Require agencies to perform a review of all IT assets	32%
Give CIOs more authority	30%
OMB should improve FISMA	27%
Require agencies to inform the public about data breaches sooner	25%
Other	15%
Don't know	10%
They shouldn't do anything	6%

WHICH TECHNOLOGIES BEST ADDRESS YOUR SECURITY NEEDS? Choose two

DATA ENCRYPTION	THREE-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION
64%	23%
DIGITAL CERTIFICATION	BETTER PASSWORD MANAGEMENT
38%	38%
BIOMETRIC CONTROLS	OTHER
22%	8%

WHICH OF THE STATEMENTS DO YOU AGREE WITH MOST? OMB'S MEMO REQUIRING ENCRYPTION OF HANDHELD DEVICES AND OTHER SECURITY SAFEGUARDS... Choose up to three

...has made a difference in security at my agency	35%
Not familiar with the requirements	23%
...has not made a difference at my agency	22%
My agency already had most of these safeguards in place	20%

DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING:

	AGREE	DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW
The Privacy Act needs to be updated	68%	16%	16%
Guidance from NIST helps my agency secure its IT systems	51%	23%	26%
Vendor products help meet FISMA requirements	39%	25%	36%
Commercial products need to better address FISMA concerns	70%	7%	23%

WHICH BEST DESCRIBES THE TYPE OF ORGANIZATION FOR WHICH YOU WORK

Federal government — Civilian agency	50%
Federal government — Defense Department	21%
Government contractor	16%
State and local government agency	6%
Supplier/Integrator/Industry services employee	3%
Other (Please specify)	3%

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES YOU OR YOUR IT TEAM FACE IN 2007 IN SECURING INFORMATION SYSTEMS? Choose up to three

Lack of adequate funding	51%
Technical skills of workforce	38%
FISMA	35%
Management buy-in	26%
Incorrect/confusing laws or regulations	23%
Managing the contractor workforce	22%
User training	22%
Strengthening security provisions in contracts for acquisition of hardware and software	20%
Other	9%

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS DO YOU AGREE WITH MOST? THE DATA BREACHES IN 2006...

...helped raise the level of management buy-in for implementing new security measures

...have not translated into material changes concerning security issues at my agency

...have elevated attention to IT security issues at my agency

