



# PROTECTING PAYMENTS FROM FRAUD

NEW CHALLENGES FOR U.S. COMPANIES



## CRAIG JEFFERY

Founder & Managing Partner, Strategic Treasurer

## ALEXA COOK

Consultant, Strategic Treasurer



### WHAT.

A review of the processes and controls to protect payments.



### WHEN.

Tuesday, February 23, 2021  
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM EST



### WHERE.

Live Online Presentation



This presentation is provided by Strategic Treasurer for Fiserv.

# ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

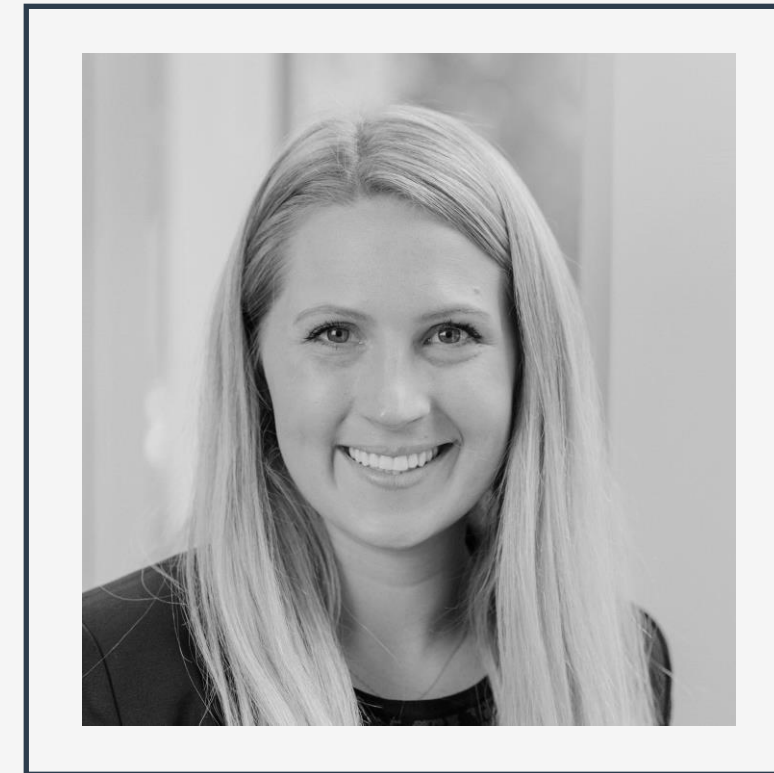
GET TO KNOW TODAY'S SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS



## CRAIG JEFFERY

Craig Jeffery formed Strategic Treasurer in 2004 to provide corporate, educational, and government entities direct access to comprehensive and current assistance with their treasury and financial process needs.

His 30+ years of financial and treasury experience as a practitioner and as a consultant have uniquely qualified him to help organizations craft realistic goals and achieve significant benefits quickly.



## ALEXA COOK

Alexa brings a wealth of knowledge to clients based on her domestic and global background in financial reporting, forecasting, cash management, compliance, bank fee analysis, technology solutions, connectivity, and more.

Alexa worked at a Fortune 500 automotive company and managed a full-blown technology implementation and a multilateral netting program that spanned across more than 30 countries with six different currencies. She was also selected for the company's leadership fast-track and tasked with an expatriate assignment in Germany, where she worked alongside leadership in a manufacturing plant. Alexa received a Bachelor of Science in Finance, followed by an MBA from Oakland University in Rochester, MI.

# TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

## KEY AREAS OF FOCUS & ANALYSIS

With fraud on the rise and payment processes scattered throughout different departments, a treasurer must function as the 'superintendent' of payment security, overseeing the policies, controls and practices others are putting into action.



### FRAUD IN CONTEXT

Recent statistics on treasury fraud.



### PROACTIVE

Preparing for payment and fraud attacks before they strike.



### PROTECTION

Activities receiving focus during the COVID-19 crisis.



### EFFECTIVE TRAINING

Training and cross-training your team at all levels domestically and globally.



### LEVERAGING TECH

Responding to the vulnerabilities.



### LOOKING AHEAD

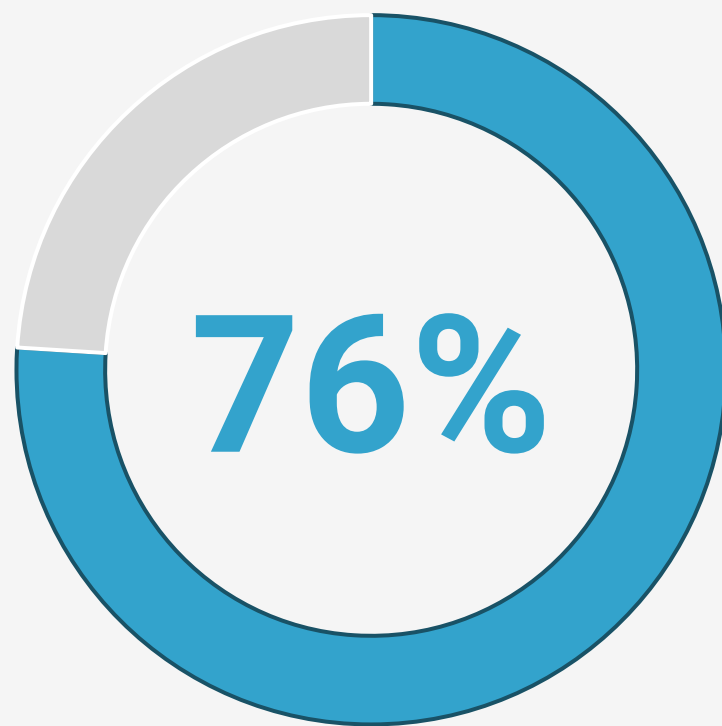
Best practices, training and plans.

# THE CURRENT STATE OF FRAUD

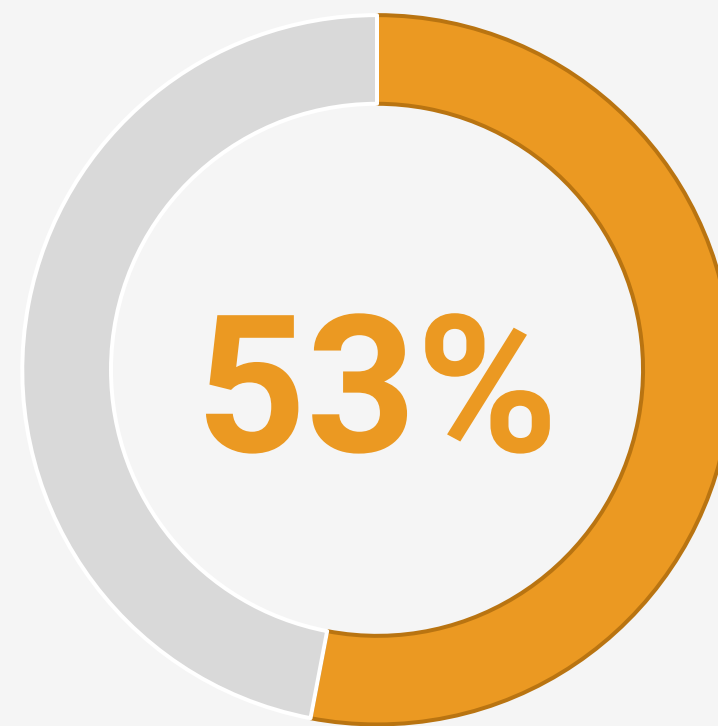
NOT AS SECURE AS WE THINK WE ARE

“ I am convinced that there are only two types of companies: those that have been hacked and those that will be. And even they are converging into one category: companies that have been hacked and will be hacked again. ”

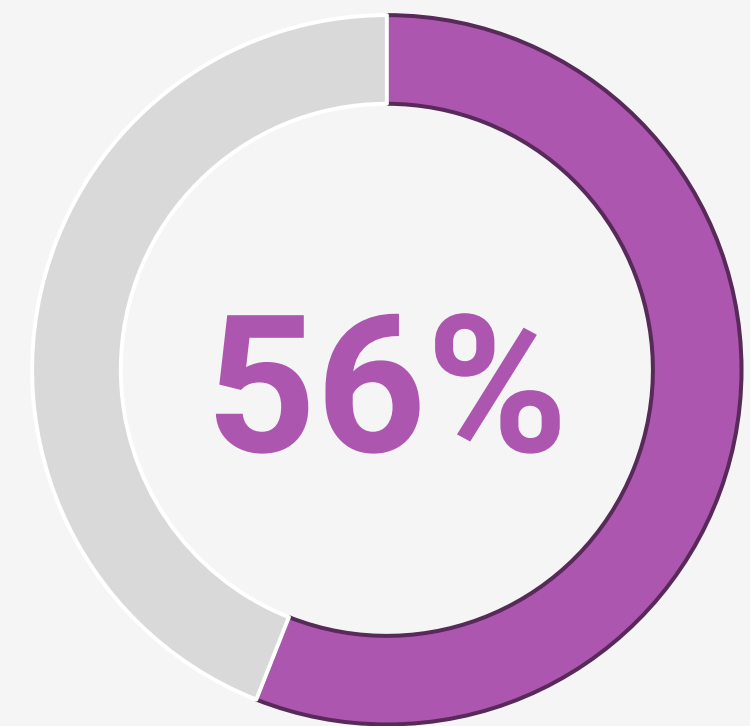
- Robert Mueller, Former FBI Director



Felt the threat level of fraud had increased or significantly increased in the past year.



Companies had experienced fraud over the course of the past year.



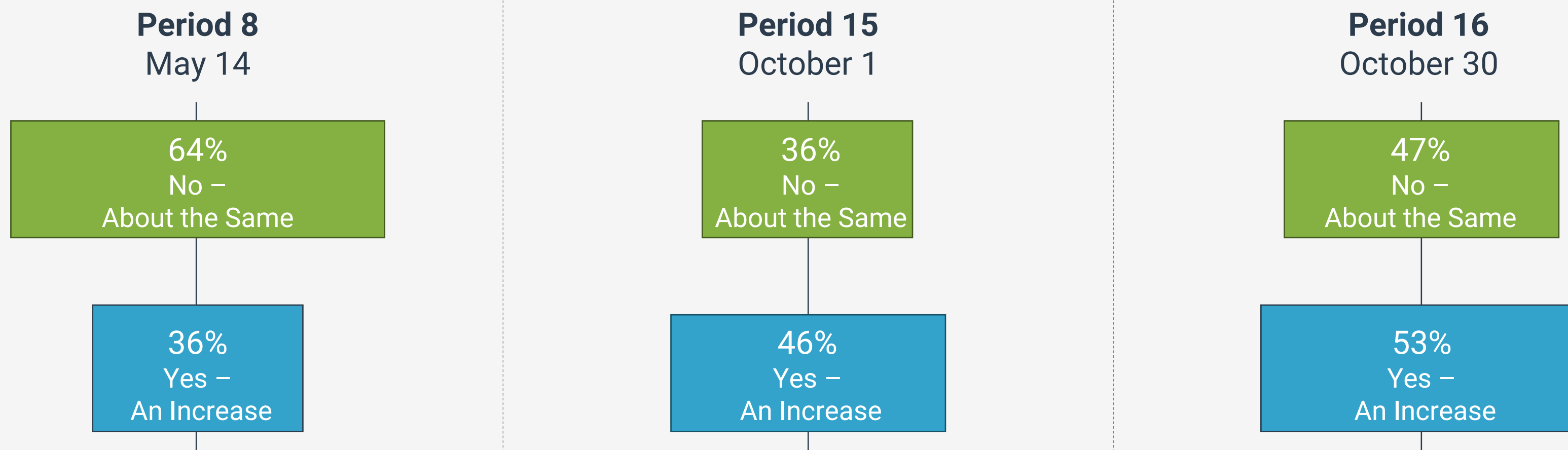
Stated that they were in a better or significantly better position regarding fraud compared to the prior year.

# POLL QUESTION

# FRAUD ON THE RISE

## MEASURING FRAUD THROUGHOUT THE PANDEMIC

**MANY SAW FRAUD INCREASE IN THE PANDEMIC.** The Global Recovery Monitor Survey is an ongoing survey of the impact of COVID-19 and response of treasury. Respondents were asked if their organization had seen a change in attempts of fraud or cyberfraud at various points throughout the pandemic.



# CRIME PAYS

## AND CRIMINALS ARE NOT GIVING UP

Automation has helped criminals scale their attempts and improve their success rates.



### Business Email Compromise (BEC)

9 out of 10 firms experienced attempts, with 18% experiencing a loss.



### Ransomware

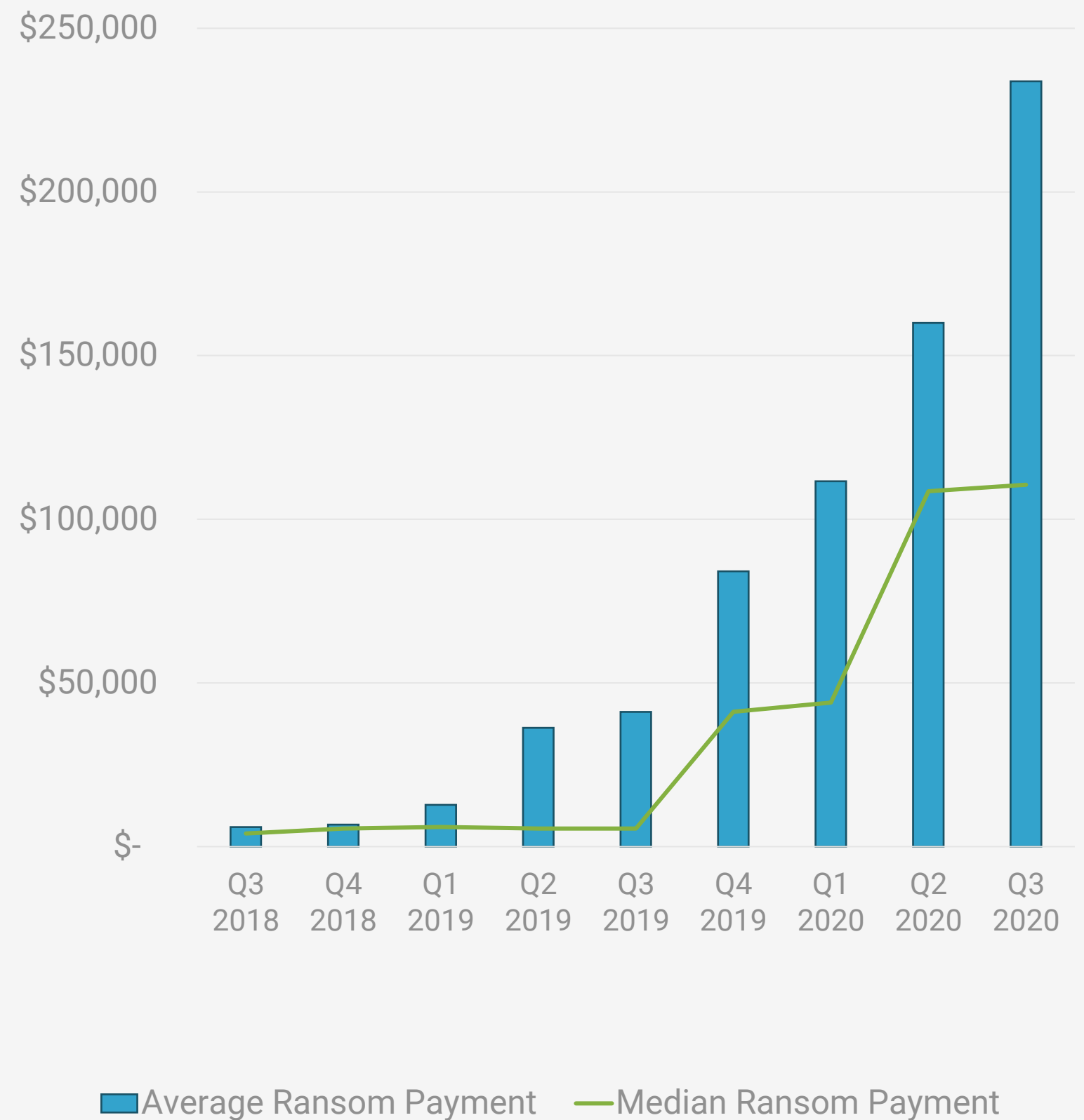
Over a quarter of firms experienced attempts, with 19% incurring a loss.



### System Level Fraud

About a third of firms experienced attempts, with 20.5% incurring a loss.

Ransom payments increase by more than a third in one quarter.

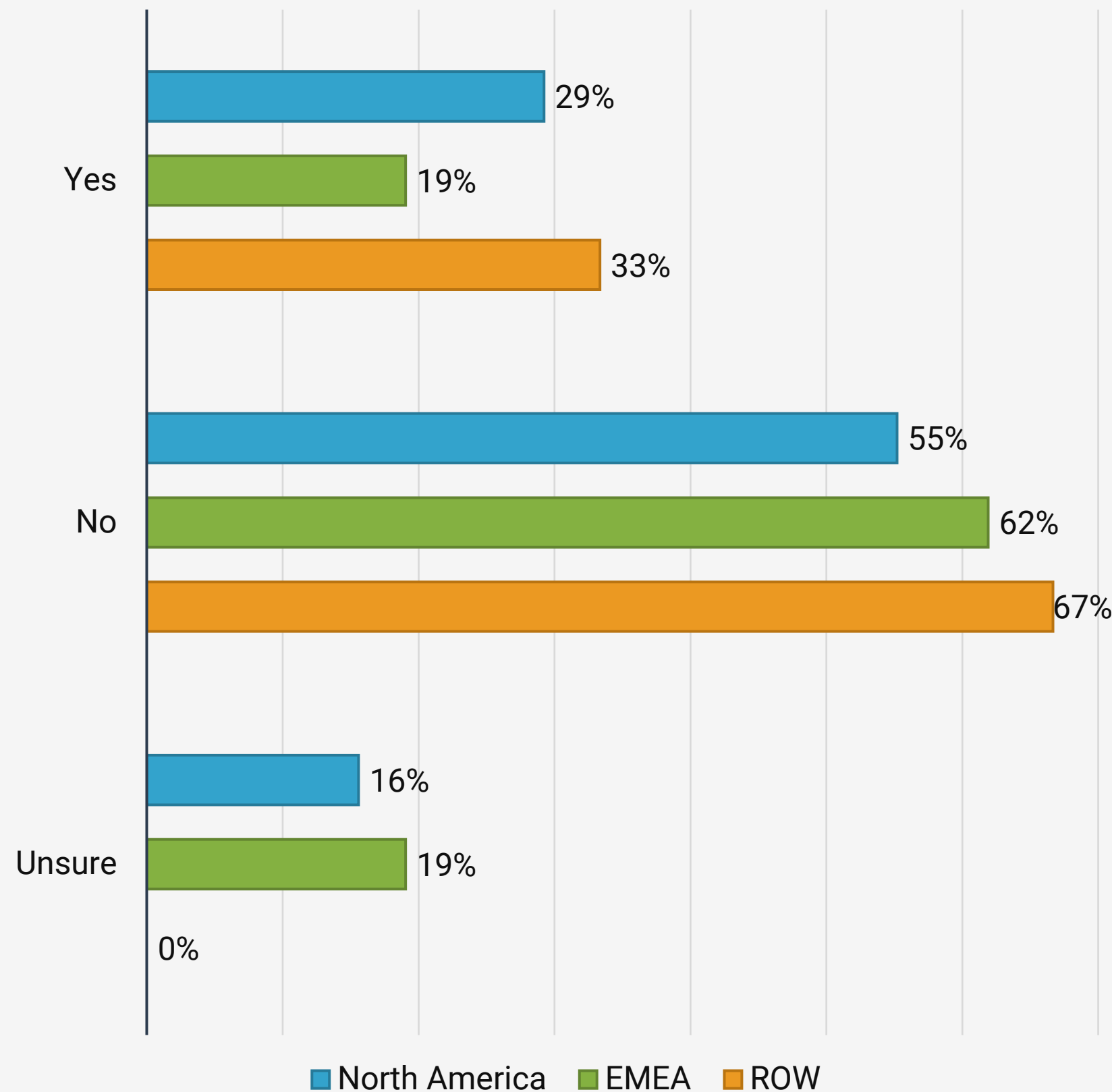




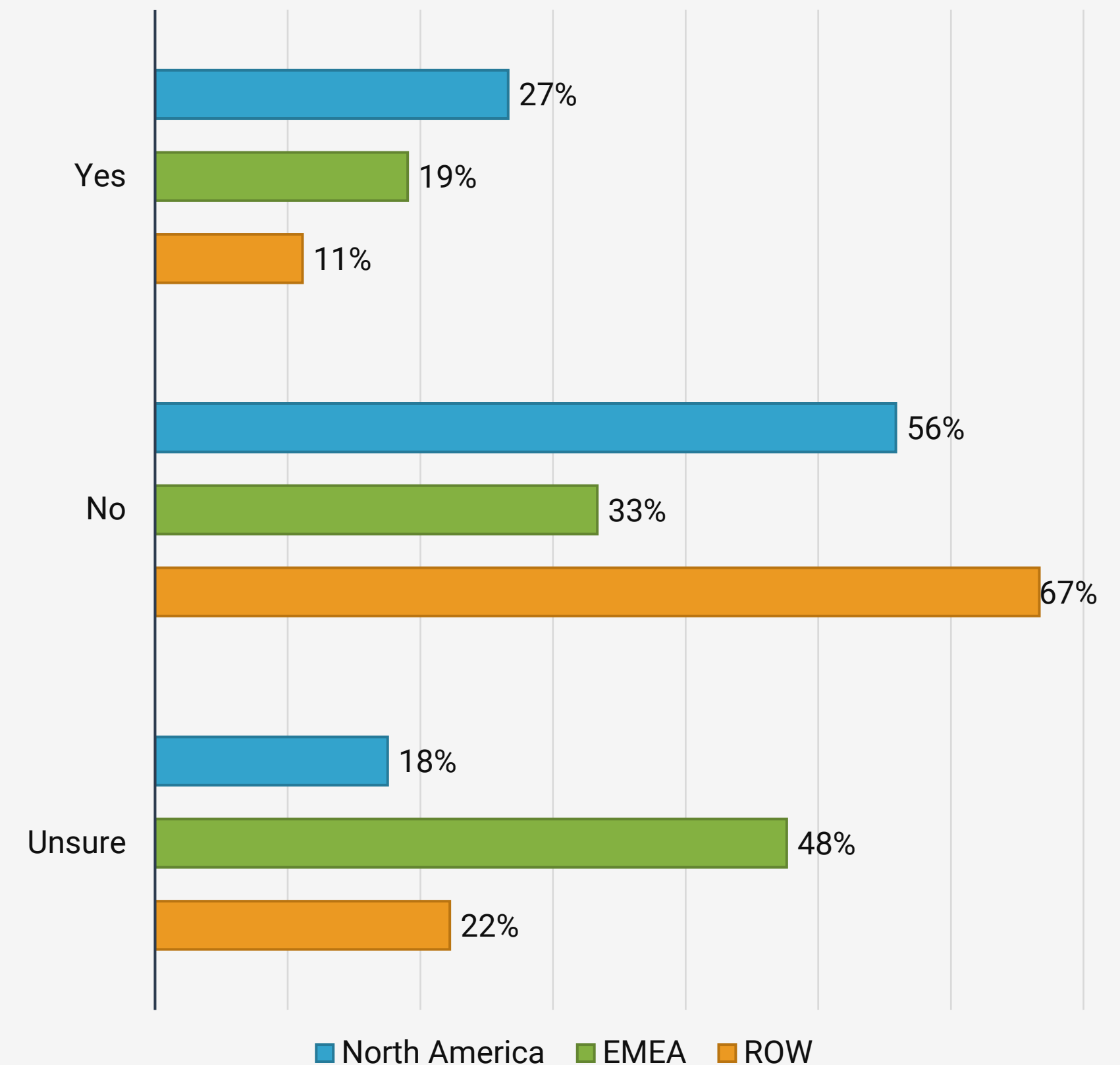
# THE PAYMENT HAS LEFT THE BUILDING

## SOME GET LUCKY

» Do you utilize a payment monitoring solution that will detect potentially fraudulent payments BEFORE they leave the building?



» Have you had a prior ACH or Wire Fraud that left the building?

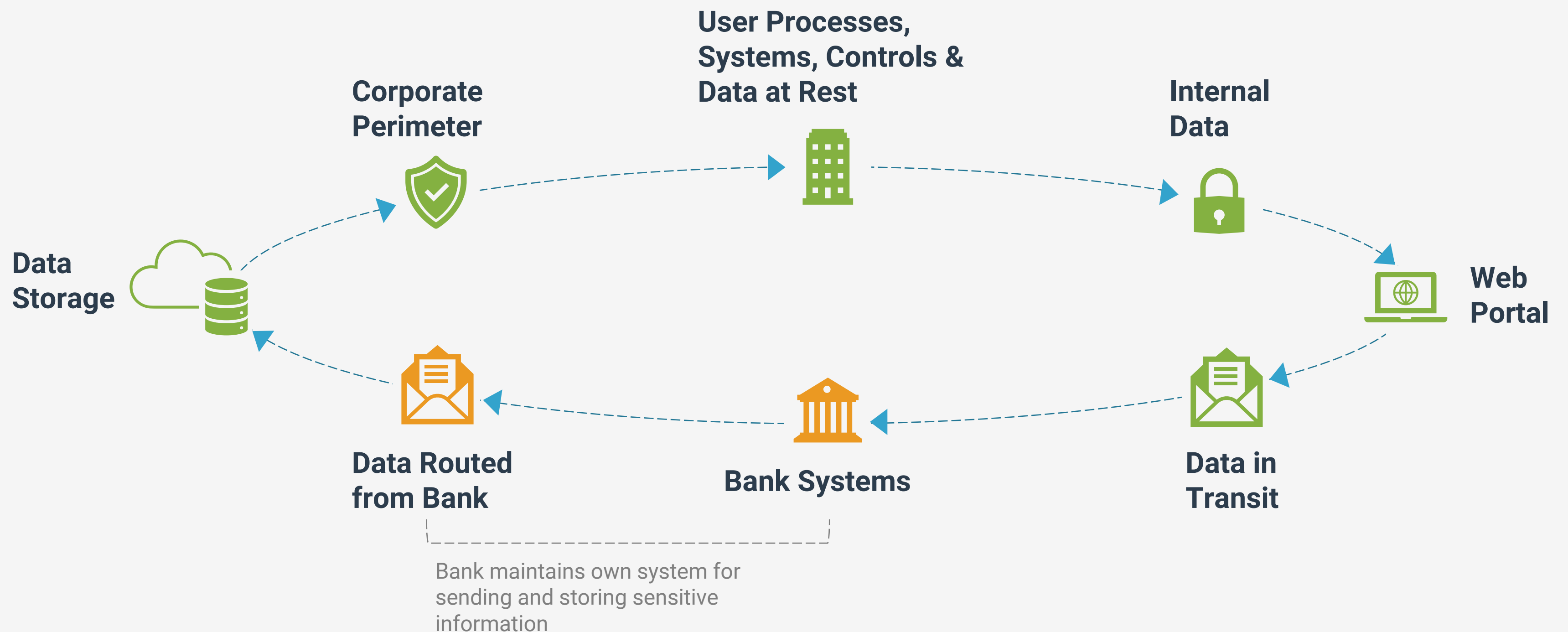




# RISK IN PAYMENT TECHNOLOGY

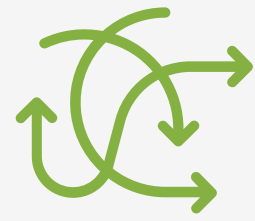
## SECURITY COMPONENTS

The complex defense required by every increasing exposure cannot be solved simply with more people and more compensating controls, as this is both difficult to accomplish and inadequate in its effects. Instead, treasury must work to drive the complexity into consistent and efficient processes. This is where the TMS can step in.



# CYBERCRIMINAL METHODOLOGY

TODAY'S CRIMINAL OPERATES EFFICIENTLY



## PERSISTENT

Constantly adjusting their attack methods until they find an angle that is successful.



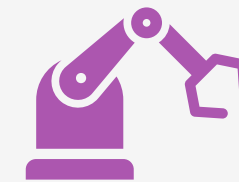
## SOPHISTICATED

Attempts are increasingly more convincing and better executed with intricate technology.



## TARGETED

Broad tactics are still being utilized, but activities are also being tailored to identify weaknesses and penetrate vulnerable individuals.



## AUTOMATED

Use software to increase efficiency and effectiveness by continually probing targets and uncovering weaknesses.



## ADAPTIVE

They are not abandoning their tried-and-true methods, but they are consistently adding new methods and adjusting to be most effective.

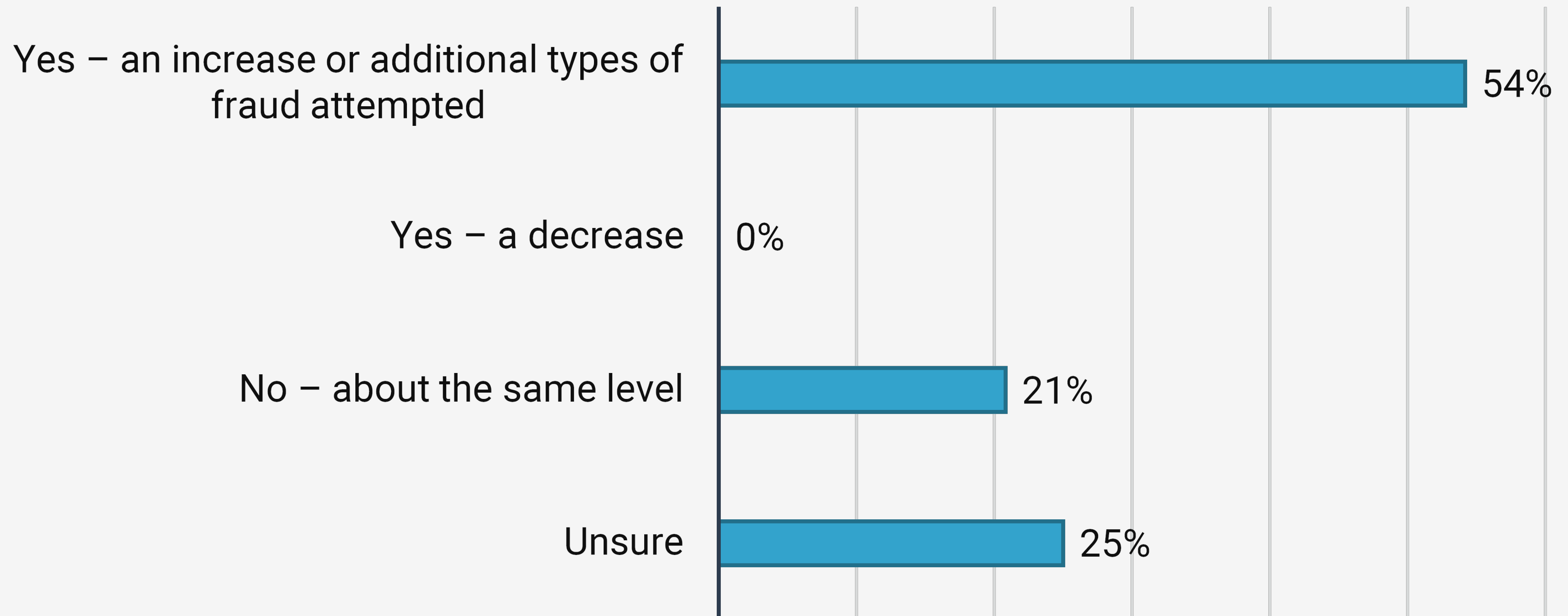


## PATIENT

They will watch for the ideal time to strike and are willing to steal encrypted data today with the confidence that technological advances will allow for an eventual payout.

# POLL QUESTION

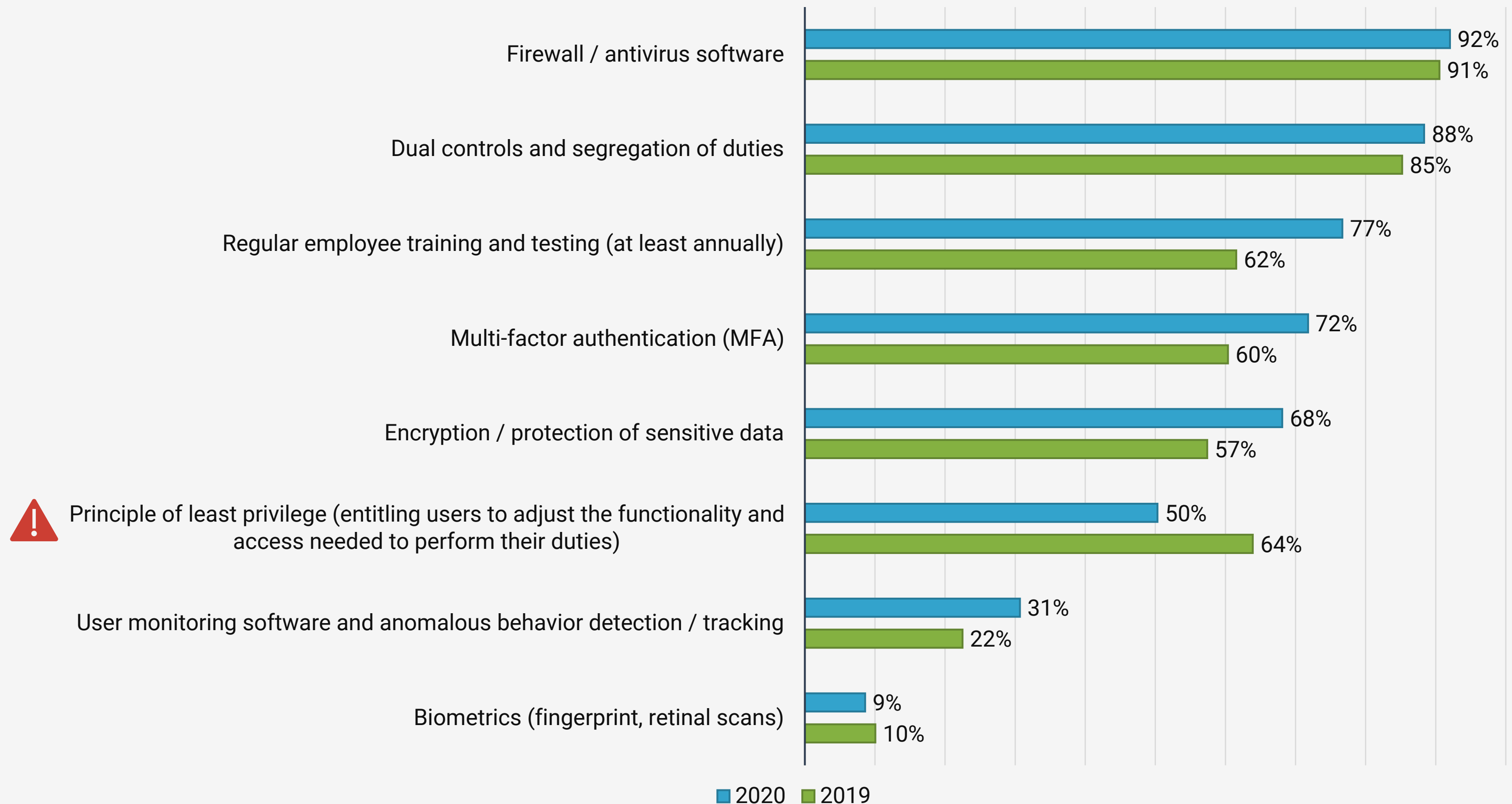
**Has your organization seen a change in attempts of fraud or cyberfraud since the start of COVID-19?**



# CONTROLS

## GROWING USE, BUT ROOM FOR WIDER ADOPTION

What controls does your organization have in place to prevent fraud / cyber-attacks?



# WHAT DOES PAYMENT SECURITY INCLUDE?

- An efficient and effective treasury security framework provides coverage at every juncture throughout treasury’s day-to-day workflows and operations.
- This includes a robust “perimeter,” as well as encryption of data when it is in transit and ensuring that vendors and business partners are adhering to stringent security procedures as well.
- Both human and technology components should be evaluated so that systems are kept secure and staff know how to identify fraud and what to do in the event of a breach.

## Internal Files in Transit

Data accessed through a cloud or SaaS solution should only be available to recognized/verifiable users, and protected via VPN/SFTP connections.

## CLOUD-BASED STORAGE

Most data centers in use today have received SSAE 18 (SOC 1 & SOC 2) certifications, meaning they are annually inspected and approved by an independent third-party.

## BANK INFORMATION

Payment details and statements routed from a bank are typically encrypted using the bank’s security components.

## CORPORATE PERIMETER

Corporates must protect information used within their perimeter through the installation of robust firewalls and anti-virus protection, as well as regular staff training and testing on new fraud and security developments.

## BANK SECURITY

Banks typically provide and manage their own security components for sending and storing payment details and client information.

## Files in Transit

To protect information in transit, common industry practices include hashing payment totals, use of e-signatures to lock payment details, and use of VPN or SFTP secure connections.

## INTERNAL SYSTEMS

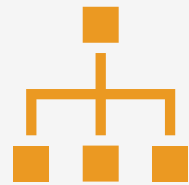
Entry to a company’s internal systems, including TMS and Aggregator portals, should be secured using a “multifactor” approach, such as username/password combination coupled with a unique USB or key fob.



# PROTECTING AGAINST FRAUD

## LOCKING THE GATE

Many security elements of the payment process touch on payables, receivables and banking. To ensure an appropriate level of care finance must be thoughtful with their: banking structure, bank account management process, services from banks, and controls they manage. These must be properly established and maintained.



### ACCOUNT ARCHITECTURE

- Intentional Organization
  - Concentration Account
  - Header Account
    - Collection Accounts
    - Disbursement Accounts
    - Operating Accounts



### BANK ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT

- Tracking
  - Every Bank Account
  - Every Signer
- Top Level Controls
  - Debit Filters
  - Vendor Verification
  - Banking Services



### SERVICES & CONTROLS

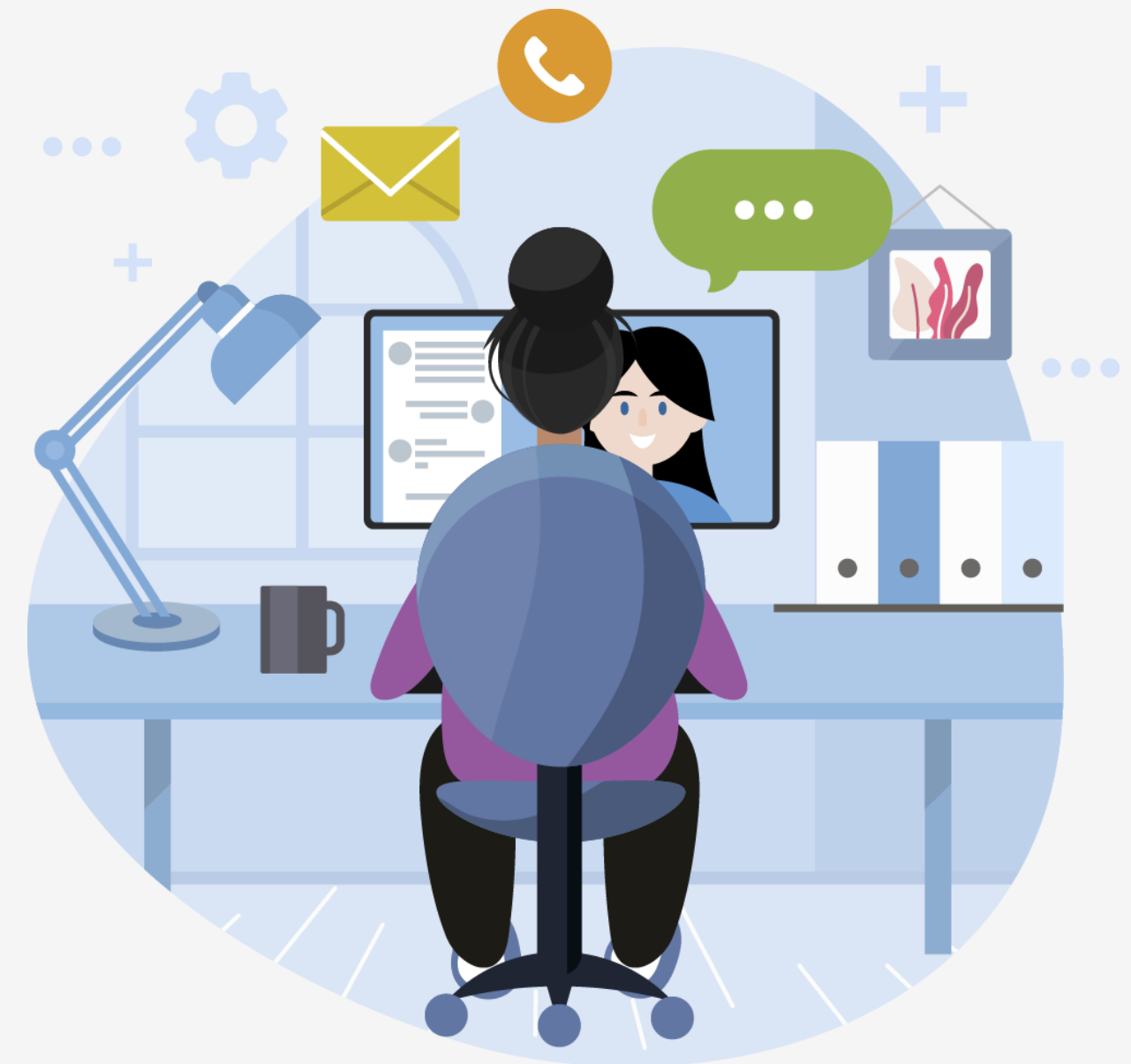
- Account and Transaction Level
  - Allow & Block Lists
  - Debit Filters and Blocks
  - Positive Pay/Payee Match
  - ACH Positive Payment / Electronic Pre-Authorization
  - Confirmation services
- Reconciliation (daily)
- Visibility
- Automated Detection Processes

# PROTECTION IN A WFH ENVIRONMENT

A CHANGE SOME WERE NOT FULLY PREPARED FOR

## ACTIVITIES RECEIVING FOCUS DURING COVID-19

- The completeness of Business Continuity Plans and security framework were immediate concerns in the mass transition to work from home (WFH).
- 81% of respondents indicated that projects HAVE been reconsidered due to the current crisis. Of those with reconsidered projects, 40% were increasing their attention to Payment Process / System Security. Another 28% were increasing their Payment Security Training.
- The importance of cross-training became very evident with concerns of multiple team members becoming sick or being out caring for ill family members. Deepening the bench strength is needed in many organizations.
- Managing staff responsibility in a WFH environment and accessing all necessary IT applications from home were two challenges identified by about half of respondents.





# TRAINING PAYOFF

## INVESTING IN THE HUMAN ELEMENT



### THE PAYOFF: LOWER LOSS

There are several strong correlations between lower losses and organizations who train their employees on payment fraud, controls and cyberfraud. These firms have a dramatically lower frequency of reported losses than their non-trained peers. For those that DON'T train their employees, here is the factor for losses:

- ✓ **1.5x** Payment Diversion Fraud
- ✓ **2x** ACH fraud
- ✓ **2.5x** System Level Fraud (system takeover)
- ✓ **4x** Business Email Compromise
- ✓ **4x** Bank Mandate Fraud
- ✓ **5x** Cyberfraud/Malware
- ✓ **5x** Ransomware

# LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY

CRIMINALS ARE USING IT – SO  
SHOULD YOU

Treasury doesn't need to fully understand all the technical details behind a system, but they do need a comprehensive understanding of major factors.



**Where and How Your Payment Data Is Saved**



**The Methods for Processing Your Payments Data**



**The Shape Your Data Takes When Processed**



**Who Has Permission to Approve and Release Payments**



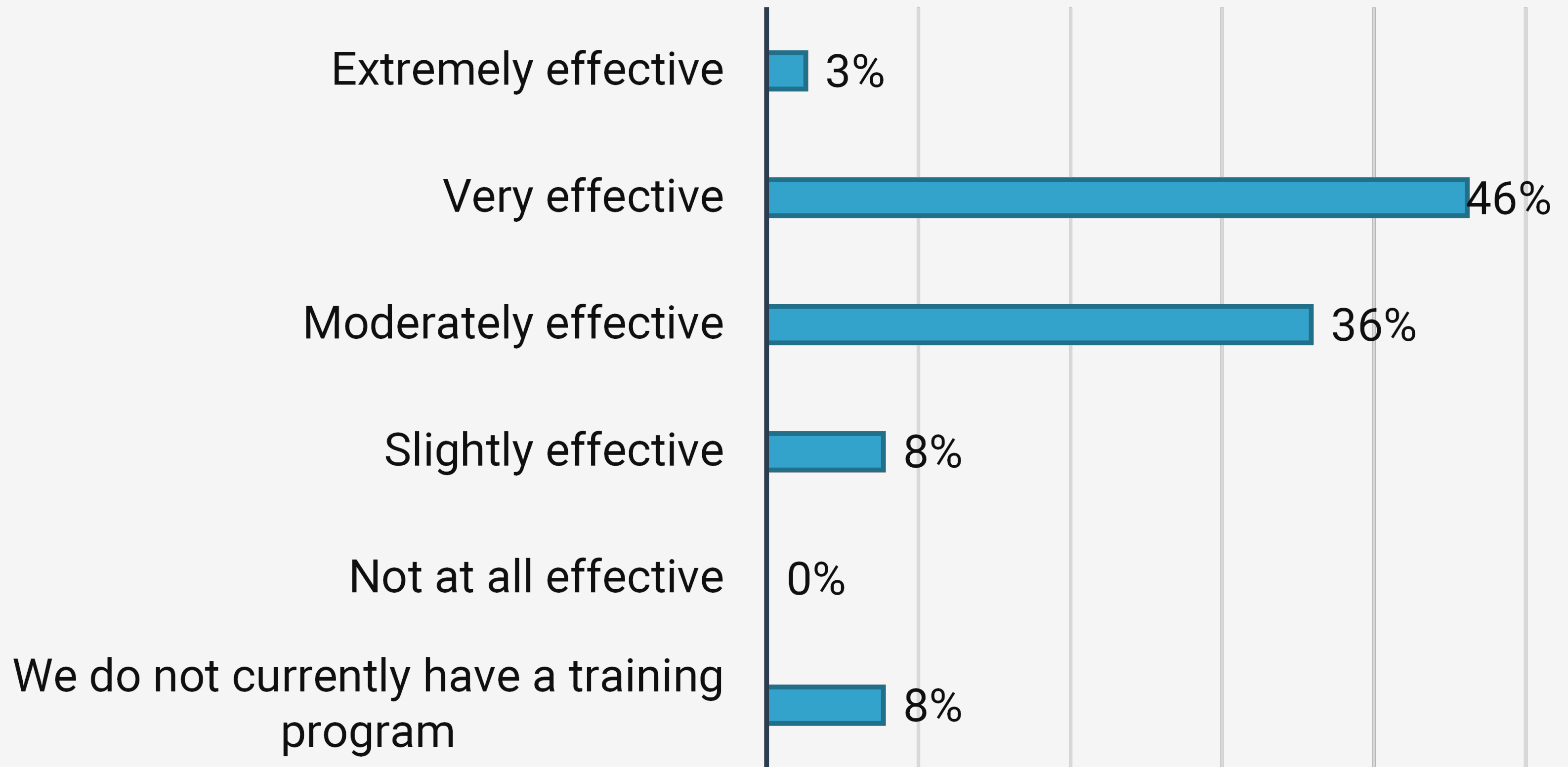
**Who Has Access to Your Payments Data**



**How You Can Control Who Receives a Payment**

# POLL QUESTION

**How would you rate the effectiveness of your security, fraud and payment training?**










# DON'T IGNORE THE HUMAN ELEMENT








TECH CAN ONLY DO SO MUCH

**TECHNOLOGY VS. HUMAN SECURITY COVERAGE.** While many organizations have begun placing a closer emphasis on their technology security components, there has been less headway made in the area of human (staff/personnel) security training and awareness. Given the prevalence of BEC schemes and other criminal tactics that count on human error and confusion to provide payouts, the human element of security must be given further attention, particularly within the corporate realm.

## Technology Security Components

-  Firewall & Antivirus
-  Multifactor Authentication
-  User Monitoring Tools
-  Biometrics
-  Encryption
-  Tokenization
-  SAML 2.0

## Human Security Components

-  Security Training
-  Employee Testing
-  Whistleblower Policy
-  Clean Desk Policy
-  Dual Controls
-  Segregation of Duties
-  Principle of Least Privilege

# TAKE-AWAYS

IDEAS AND POINTS TO BRING BACK TO THE OFFICE



## FOCUS ON TRAINING

- Learn more about the methods and techniques used by criminals
- Train and test staff on threats – too easy to forgo in the WFH environment



## ASSESS PAYMENT PROCESSES

- Identify all exposure points within your organization
- Examine other exposure points with external parties



## PLAN & IMPLEMENT

- Address security issues
- Layering your defenses so multiple blocks must be overcome for fraud to succeed



## BENCHMARK YOUR SECURITY

- Evaluate your security to ensure it is up to date with leading practices
- Rinse and Repeat. Reexamine every 12-24 months



# LET'S CONNECT

DON'T LET THE LEARNING END HERE...  
CONTACT US WITH ANY FUTURE QUESTIONS

Thank you for your interest in this presentation and for allowing us to support you in your professional development. Strategic Treasurer and our partners believe in the value of continued education and are committed to providing quality resources that keep you well informed.



## STRATEGIC TREASURER

Craig Jeffery, CCM, FLMI  
*Founder & Managing Partner*

✉ [craig@strategictreasurer.com](mailto:craig@strategictreasurer.com)

Alexa Cook,  
*Consultant*

✉ [alexa@strategictreasurer.com](mailto:alexa@strategictreasurer.com)



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