



THOUGHT  
LEADERSHIP

News and critique for security  
and risk professionals

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## Thought Leadership - November 2023



Does security culture  
trump strategy when it comes  
to facilitating excellence?

### The role of organisational culture in the success or failure of security

Today the latest report from the Security Research Initiative is published – 'The importance of Security Culture in Facilitating Security Excellence'.

The aim of the research was to explore the challenges of building a strong security culture in today's world and to assess how the security sector is responding.

The research is based on the views of security professionals from both in-house and contract positions, as well as other security experts, collected via an online survey and in-depth interviews. There were a number of key findings:

Security culture is very important to a successful security operation, at least as important as leadership, objectives and strategy

Sixty percent of respondents said culture is at least as important as strategy

Security culture and organisational culture are linked, according to interviewees

Security professionals do not believe workforces are sufficiently engaged with security in most organisations

The barriers to engagement need to be overcome – this would involve gaining senior level 'buy-in', more financial investment, overcoming the negative perception of security, creating more effective security messages, overcoming complacency, and recruiting better quality security staff and management

Respondents agreed that the key to overcoming these barriers is more effective communication of the value of security

The Security Research Initiative is sponsored by the security sector (buyers and suppliers) and involves an annual study. The sponsors of this report were [Interr](#), [M&S](#), [Mitte](#), [OCS](#), [PwC](#), [SIA](#) and [Sodexo](#). Eighteen years worth of reports are made available free of charge in order to provide a more informed information base about the workings of the security sector. The initiative is supported by leading security associations: [ADS](#), [ASIS UK Chapter](#), [BSIA](#), [IFPO UK](#), [IPSA](#), [Syl](#) and [The SASIG](#).

Read:

[More about this research and download Security Research Initiative reports for free](#)  
[About the Security Research Initiative](#)



## Winners of the 2023 Tackling Economic Crime Awards revealed!

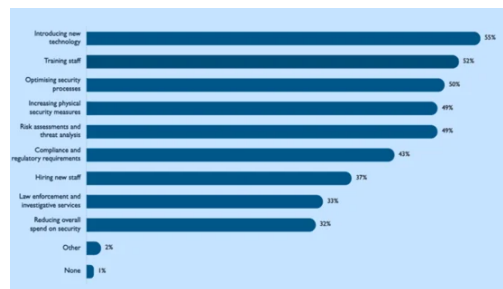
The fifth Tackling Economic Crime Awards (TECAs) event, sponsored by [altia](#), took place at Novotel London West on 1 November 2023.

More than three hundred financial crime professionals gathered to celebrate the very best from across the sector with dinner and a presentation event hosted by former Commissioner of the City of London Police, Ian Dyson QPM DL

TECAs founder Professor Martin Gill commented "The TECAs event is a true celebration to acknowledge and recognise the fantastic work that is taking place within the industry and all those that were nominated should feel very proud"

Read:

[Winners of 2023 Tackling Economic Crime Awards Announced](#)  
[About the TECAs](#)



## Technology dominates future vision for physical security – report

Chief security officers (CSOs) are prioritising technological solutions to their physical security risks, according to the World Security report 2023.

Based on an online survey of nearly 1800 CSOs, the report found that CSOs want their physical security operations to react at speed and with accuracy, and they expect artificial intelligence (AI) to play a role in this.

However, nine out of 10 CSOs said shifting to a technology-led security system is challenging, the top two barriers being the cost to implement and the cost to maintain technology. The third, not insignificant, challenge is lack of skills in the security workforce to operate the technology and lack of internal skills to implement it.

Despite their concerns about physical security, nine out of 10 CSOs said that company leaders are more concerned about cybersecurity than physical security, although they acknowledge that there are links between the two. Overall, 46% of respondents said they expected security budgets to increase significantly.

**What do you think?** What are the drivers of security in your organisation? What are the challenges that your organisation faces in shifting your workforce to more technological solutions?

**Read:** [www.worldsecurityreport.com](http://www.worldsecurityreport.com)

### **Do you understand your organisation's API risk?**

Application Programming Interface (API) may not sound like a very exciting topic of conversation, but they are widely used and considered at high risk of cyber attack, so it pays to understand your organisation's API security risk.

APIs are a set of software protocols that allow one application to talk to another and are commonly used to facilitate access to data, user authentication and remote resource manipulation. Common threats include database attacks, denial of service, broken authentication and exposing sensitive data. Organisations can be exposed to risk either through providing an API for third-party access or using one.

There has been a surge in worldwide use of APIs and a consequent increase in attacks, making API security an increasing priority in the boardroom, according to the Google Cloud 2022 API Security Research Report.

**What do you think?** Does your organisation understand the extent of its API security risk? Is your organisation prepared for an API security breach?

**Read:** [Google Cloud 2022 API Security Research Report](#)



### **Hope is not a strategy, says cybersecurity attitudes report**

October was the 20th anniversary of Cybersecurity Awareness Month – were you aware of that? The National Cybersecurity Alliance marked the occasion with another “Annual Cybersecurity Attitudes and Behaviors Report”.

Twenty years is a long time in technology, and along with the evolution and revolutions in hardware and software, we have witnessed an exponential increase in the cybersecurity risk. Unfortunately, we have not seen a corresponding change in people's behaviour – at least not fast enough and consistently enough to counter the cyber threat.

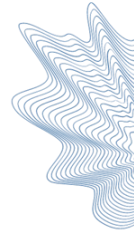
This report seeks to understand why people, whether they are risk-takers or rule-followers, behave as they do, and how that contributes to the overall security risk profile.

**What do you think?** Do we understand how to positively influence users' security habits and the organisational security culture? What does the evidence show about training versus nudging? What does the evidence suggest about technology versus education, and is there a happy medium?

**Read:** [Oh Behave! The Annual Cybersecurity Attitudes and Behaviors Report 2023](#)



**University of  
Sunderland**



## Police recognise university's ongoing commitment to Secured Environments

The University of Sunderland has achieved the prestigious Secured Environments award for a second time, by demonstrating its commitment to good security management. The award was presented to the University on 3 October 2023 by Superintendent Rob Bosson of Northumbria Police.

To achieve the Secured Environments award, the University underwent a thorough audit of its security processes and procedures, as well as consultation with staff, to verify that it was following six key principles to maximise the security of staff, students and visitors.

Secured Environments was developed through the partnership of Police Crime Prevention Initiatives and Perpetuity Research and Consultancy International Limited (PRCI). Secured Environments locations include landmark buildings, shopping centres, universities, halls of residence, land estates and business premises.

**What do you think?** Does your organisation meet the six principles of Secured Environments? Would your staff and customers benefit from a Secured Environments audit?

**Read:**

[More about the University of Sunderland's award Secured Environments](#)



## United Nations report on Da'esh highlights terror group's role in conflict zones

Terrorist groups such as Da'esh continue to be a significant threat in conflict zones and neighbouring states, witnesses told the UN Security Council recently, but one official cautioned that force alone cannot fix the problem without a clear underlying strategy.

Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, presented the Secretary-General's seventeenth report on the threat posed by Da'esh to international peace and security. He warned that the Da'esh affiliate in the Sahel is becoming increasingly autonomous and intensifying attacks.

He spotlighted progress in targeting Da'esh finances and leadership cadres. However, he said, "force alone cannot lead to changes in the conditions conducive to terrorism", noting that it can fuel more violence and aggravate grievances exploited by terrorists.

**Read:**

[Terrorist Groups Remain Significant Threat in Conflict Zones, Neighbouring States, Senior Official Tells Security Council, Noting Force Alone Can Exacerbate Matters](#)

[Seventeenth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL \(Da'esh\) to international peace and security](#)



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Institute of Criminology**

## Australian report covers range of criminology topics

The Australian Institute of Criminology has published a compendium of 20 of its recent studies covering a range of its research priorities, including Indigenous over-representation in the criminal justice system, transnational serious and organised crime, domestic and family violence, sexual violence, online sexual exploitation of children, and cybercrime.

Read: [Crime & justice research 2023 | Australian Institute of Criminology](#).



## How exposure to firearms violence in US varies by race, sex and age

Despite increasing attention to the burden of firearms on health and mortality in the US, exposure to firearm violence over the life course is not well understood, particularly exposure to nonfatal firearm violence, according to a recent study.

The academics found that the likelihood of being shot, seeing someone shot, or living near firearm violence varied significantly by race, sex, and date of birth during the past three decades.

The extreme fluctuation in lethal violence in the US over the past three decades means the experiences of people born in successive decades can be quite different, the effects of which are not well understood.

Read: [Inequalities in Exposure to Firearm Violence by Race, Sex, and Birth Cohort From Childhood to Age 40 Years, 1995-2021](#)

World Excellence Awards Calendar				
Event	Entries Open	Entries Close	Finalists Announced	Awards Presentation
UK OSPAs	Entries are closed.	Entries are closed.	December 2023	22nd February 2024
Southeast Asia OSPAs	Entries are closed.	Entries are closed.	Finalists Announced!	10th November 2023
Canada OSPAs	Entries are closed.	Entries are closed.	9th November 2023	30th November 2023
New Zealand OSPAs	3rd November 2023	30th January 2024	3rd March 2024	5th April 2024
Ireland OSPAs	27th November 2023	20th February 2024	26th March 2024	17 May 2023
Cyber OSPAs	Entries are Open!	6th February 2024	12th March 2024	23rd April 2024
SSEAs	Entries are Open!	1st February 2024	11th March 2024	30th April 2024

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