Malwarebytes

SMBs rise to challenges
during COVID-19

100
SMB organizations

Malwarebytes surveyed more than **100 SMB organizations that have between 100 and 1,249 employees** to see how the pandemic—and its resulting mass migration to working from home (WFH)—impact security operations.

Despite smart maneuvering by some SMBs, like those that provided cybersecurity trainings focused on WFH threats, many are navigating rocky cybersecurity waters.

With the right guidance, though, SMBs will learn that cybersecurity resilience is more than possible, even with limited budgets, dispersed IT teams, and countless, new remote workers. In fact, cybersecurity is directly within reach.

Mass move to WFH

Nearly three-fourths **(72%)** moved more than **61%** of employees to a work-from-home model and, overall, SMBs evaluated their own readiness for the transition to WFH with an average score of **7 out of 10**.

72%
61%
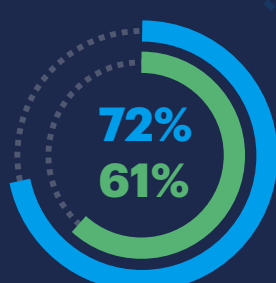
Smart response

SMBs rose to the occasion to protect their businesses and their employees, as **55%** said they provided cybersecurity trainings focused on the specific cybersecurity threats of WFH, and **57%** said they performed a cybersecurity and online privacy analysis of newly deployed software tools. Good moves.

55%
57%
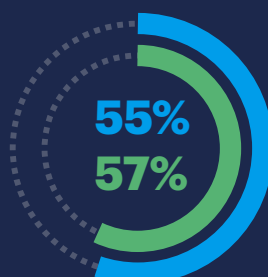
WFH security challenges

Despite feeling—and in many cases, being— prepared to adopt WFH, **47%** faced challenges in finding the right cybersecurity tools for WFH protection, and **62%** had difficulty training employees on how to most securely and compliantly work at home.

47%
62%
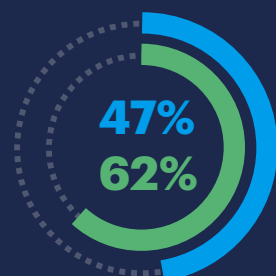
Malware attacks

Nearly one-third **(28%)** paid unexpected expenses to address a malware attack, and **22%** suffered a security breach due to a remote worker.

28%
22%
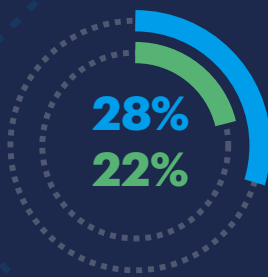
Future disconnect

When asked about future plans, more than half **(54%)** said they would adopt a more permanent WFH model. However, only **38%** plan to deploy an antivirus solution that can better handle a more dispersed, remote workforce.

54%
38%
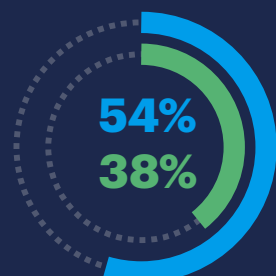
Productivity gains a boost

With nearly **40%** reporting that employees slightly to significantly increased their productivity, SMBs are enjoying an unexpected benefit from the WFH initiative, showing how resilient employees can be in the midst of changes to their work routine.

40%
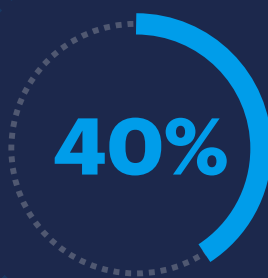
Weakened security posture

Amidst the productivity gains, though, over one-third **(35%)** believe their organization's level of security is now slightly to significantly less secure with employees working from home. With **41%** of responses, the primary concern is inadequate cybersecurity protections for employees' personal networks and devices.

35%
41%
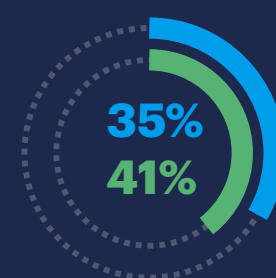
Better resilience

The answers are clear: With measured decreases in security posture coupled with more employees WFH who have, amidst trying times, increased their productivity, your employees and your organization deserve the best. Roll out permanent WFH models that include mandated cybersecurity reviews of new products and consider deploying an antivirus solution that can protect a distributed workforce.