

46%

of organizations believe they have a **problematic shortage** of cybersecurity skills



ESG Insight

ESG has been one of several organizations tracking the cybersecurity skills shortage and sounding the alarm for many years. While a few tactical programs have attempted to address this shortfall, ESG doesn't see this as a long-term solution. Alarming, the situation appears to be getting much worse—so much so that ESG now believes that the growing cybersecurity skills shortage represents a national security risk. Simply stated, demand for trained and experienced cybersecurity professionals far exceeds supply. Since most countries lack a comprehensive cybersecurity education and training strategy, large organizations will be forced to battle highly sophisticated and well-organized cyber-adversaries with limited cybersecurity skills and staffs.

Original survey question:

In which of the following areas do you believe your IT organization currently has a *problematic* shortage of existing skills?

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Survey respondents:

633 senior IT decision makers at midmarket and enterprise organizations in North America, Western Europe, and Asia-Pacific

Source: ESG Brief, [Cybersecurity Skills Shortage: A State of Emergency](#), February 2016.