



# Data Security for Employers in the Era of AI, Remote Work, and Ransomware

# Today's Webinar Host



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Marketing Director

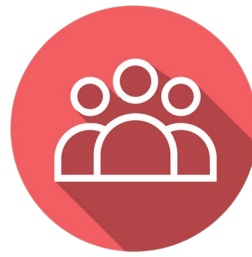
ComplianceHR

## Simplify the complexity of employment law



### **PolicySmart™**

Create and maintain an up-to-date and legally compliant employee handbook



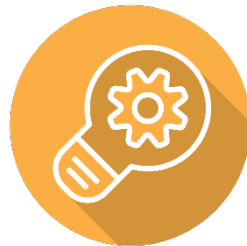
### **Navigator Independent Contractor**

Remove risk in determining Independent Contractor status



### **Navigator Overtime**

Determine if an employee is exempt or non-exempt



### **The Reference Center**

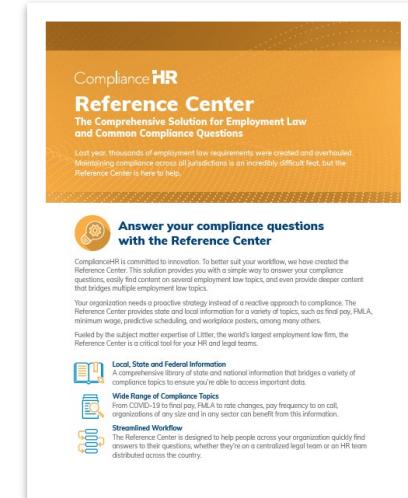
A Comprehensive Solution for Employment Law and Common HR Compliance Questions



### **The Document Center**

Efficiently generate state and federal compliant documents throughout the employee lifecycle

# Our Most Popular Solutions



## PolicySmart provides you with:

- Federal and state-compliant templates
- Innovative compliance timeline
- Handbook policy checklists
- Automated twice monthly legal update emails

## The ComplianceHR Reference Center provides you with:

- Local, state and federal information
- Streamlined workflows
- Wide range of compliance topics
  - Leave, final pay, FMLA, minimum wage, and more

When coupled, these two solutions provide you with comprehensive compliance program support



# Presented By



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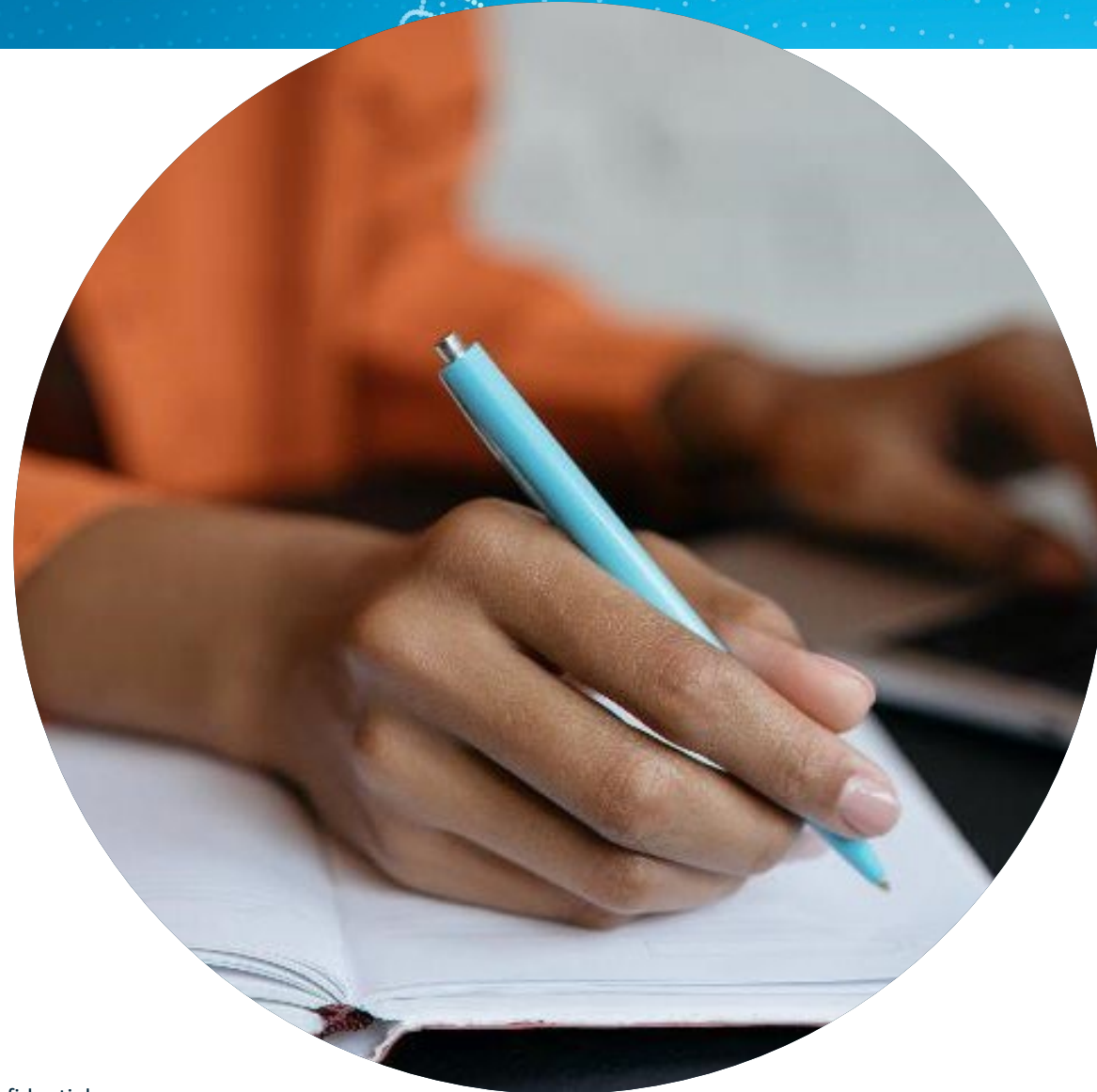


**JIN  
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# Agenda

- Human Element of Data Security
- Getting the Right People in the Door
- Onboarding
- Access Management and Updates
- Ongoing Training
- Enhanced Monitoring
- Data Breach Preparedness
- Offboarding



- 
- **76%** of data breaches caused at least in part by insiders
    - **90%** are mistakes
    - **10%** are malicious

# Human Element of Data Security







# Data Security Legal Requirements and Risks

- **“Reasonable” data security a negligence standard**
  - **> Half** of states require “reasonable” data security by statute
  - **All states** require data breach notifications
- **Sectoral laws and standards:** HIPAA, finance, education, payment cards
- **2025 data breach settlements:**
  - 5 state AG settlements, averaging **\$685K**
  - 10 settlements for HIPAA data breaches, averaging **\$620K**
  - 4 multi-million dollar settlements, one at **\$45M**

# Cost of a Data Breach

- **Average cost of a data breach:**  
\$4.88 million in 2024 (\$9.36M in U.S.)
  - \$1.6M – detection, remediation, and investigation
  - \$1.5M – lost business cost
  - \$1.4M – post-breach response
  - \$.4M – notification
- **CEOs often lose their jobs after a major data breach**

*IBM Cost of a Data Breach Report, 2024*







# Getting the Right People in the Door



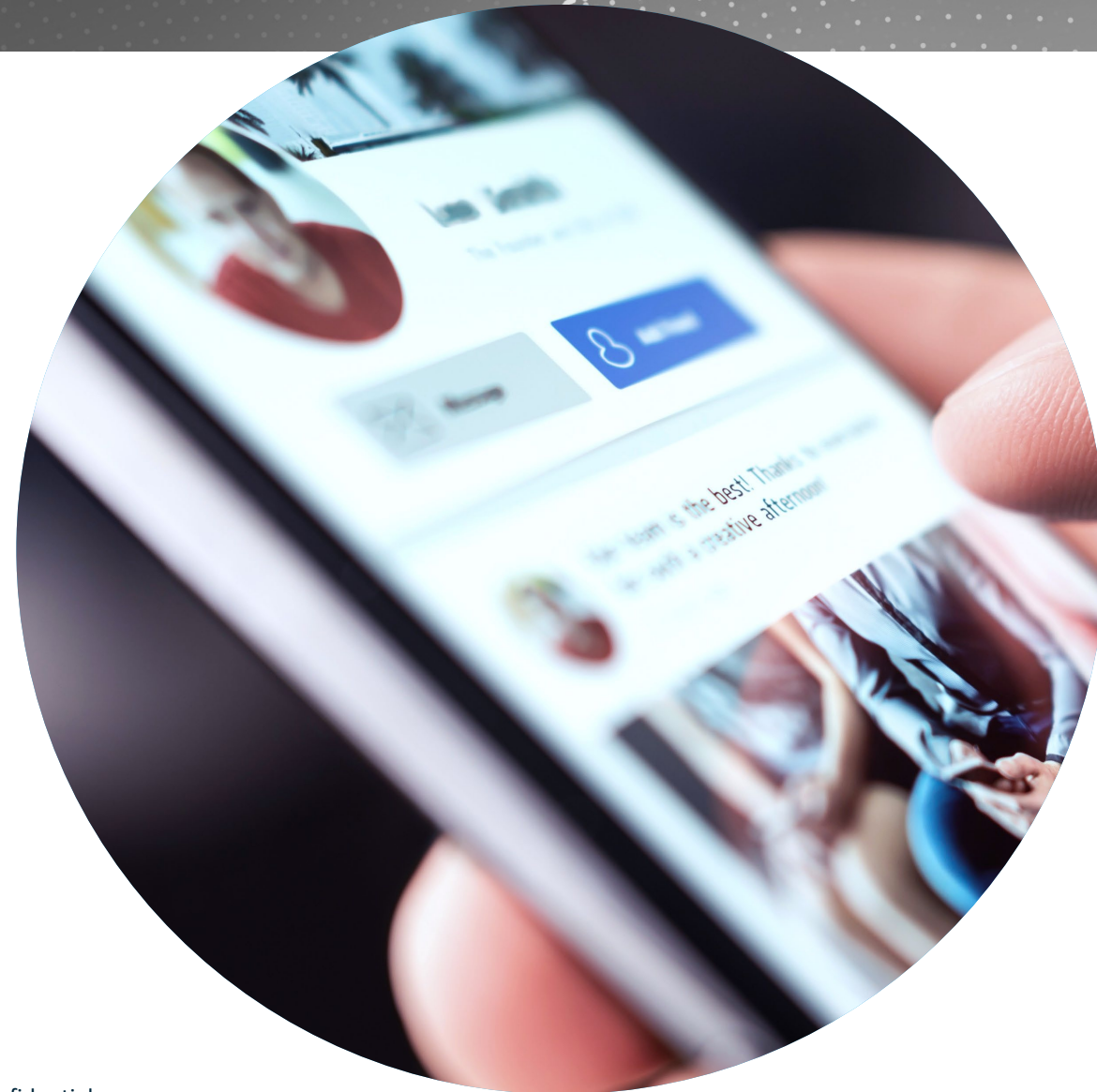
# Background Screening

- **Imposters/Bad Actors:** changes in hiring practices over time may have created opportunities for imposters/bad actors
- **“Old School” vs. “New School”**
- **Balance:** consider balance that works for business



# Background Screening (Cont'd)

- **Formal Social Media/“Adverse Media” Screening**
  - Typically search common media platforms for categories identified by the employer
  - May have other attendant risks (e.g., disparate treatment claims)
  - May find things “traditional” background checks may not
- **Newer “Identity Verification” Products**
  - Many variations, investigate offerings/ promised functionality





# Background Screening (Cont'd)

- **Common “Misses”**
  - Not having a federal criminal records search
    - “Federal Criminal” vs. “National Criminal Database”
  - Missing that employee used different PII for screening than during hiring or onboarding process







# Onboarding



# Concrete and Actionable

- **Confidentiality Agreements:**  
Legal recourse to regain sensitive data
- **Training:**
  - What exactly are the risks?
  - What data exactly should they protect?
  - How exactly to protect that data?
- **Encompass the Full Workforce:**
  - Temps, interns, vendor workers, etc.,
  - Bear in mind misclassification risks





# Access Management and Updates



# Access Rights

- **Establishing access rights at the outset**
  - Setting access by team/role vs. job function vs. per-employee
  - Differences for internal databases vs. vendors
- **Updating rights and role changes/termination**
  - Managing proper timing for changes
- **Is this a job for IT, HR, or someone else?**

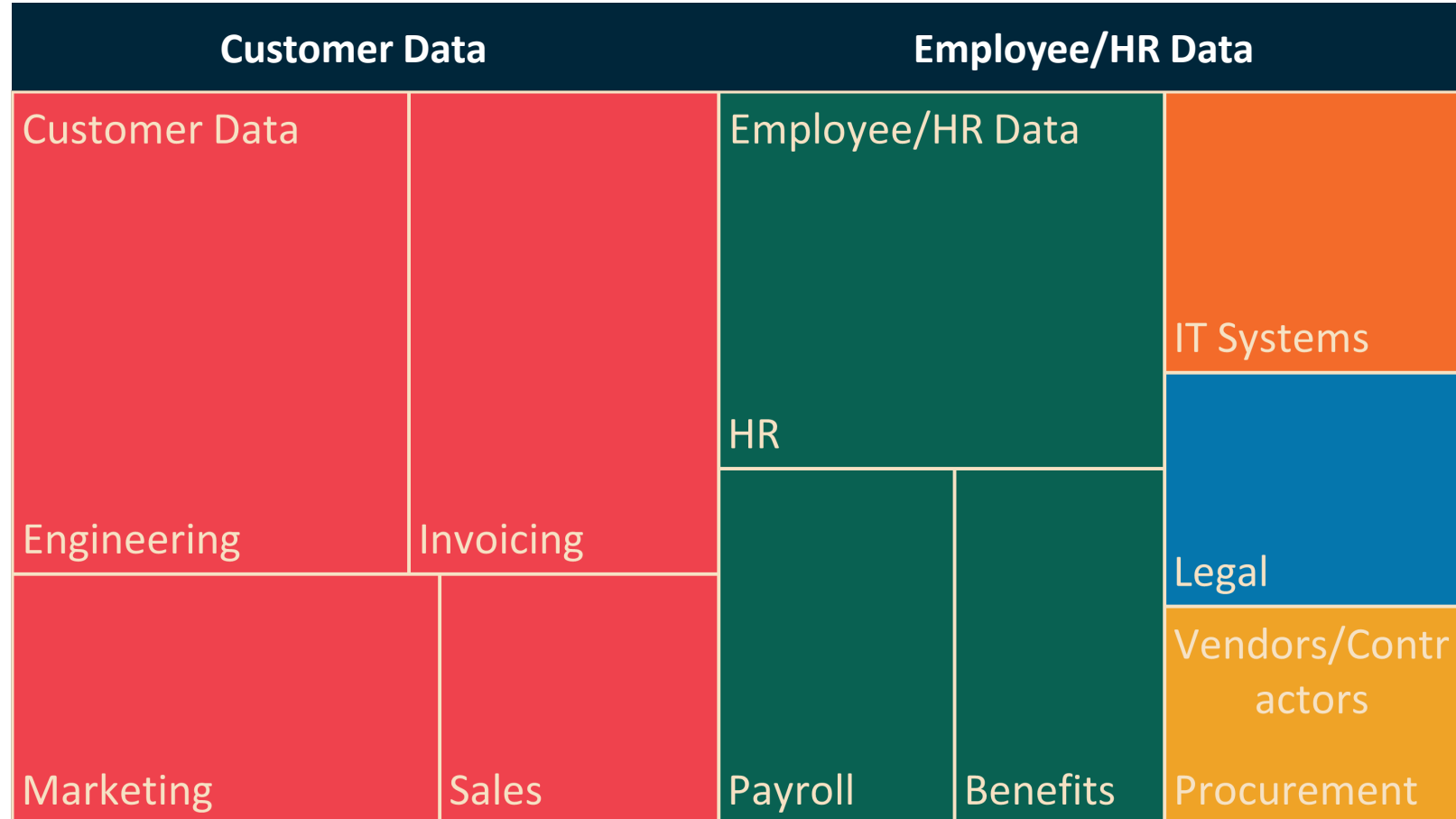




# Data Mapping

- **Breach Response:** Breaches involving unmanaged data:
  - \$790,000 higher average cost
  - 64 days longer average response time
- **Other Benefits**
- **Techniques:**
  - AI, automated mapping tools, mapping via metadata
  - People-driven mapping

*IBM Cost of a Data Breach Report, 2024*





# Ongoing Training and Awareness



# New Risks, Human or Not

- Phishing and other social engineering accounted for **over 4,000** data breaches in 2024
- **Generative AI threats by bad actors...**  
AI-generated text in phishing emails has doubled between 2023-2025
- **...And by employees:** 15% (and rising) of employees regularly use GenAI tools on work devices — Use personal accounts over 70% of the time

*Verizon Data Breach Investigations Report, 2025*



# Changing (and continued) Threats

- **What do 2025's phishing scams look like?**
  - Less misspellings or awkward language, and fewer princes
  - Relationship and location-specific pretexting (*e.g.*, job offers too good to be true)
- **Other social engineering attacks:**
  - Prompt bombing for multi-factor authentication
  - Bait websites and ads
- **Misdelivery, inadvertent disclosure, and other mistakes remain an ongoing risk**

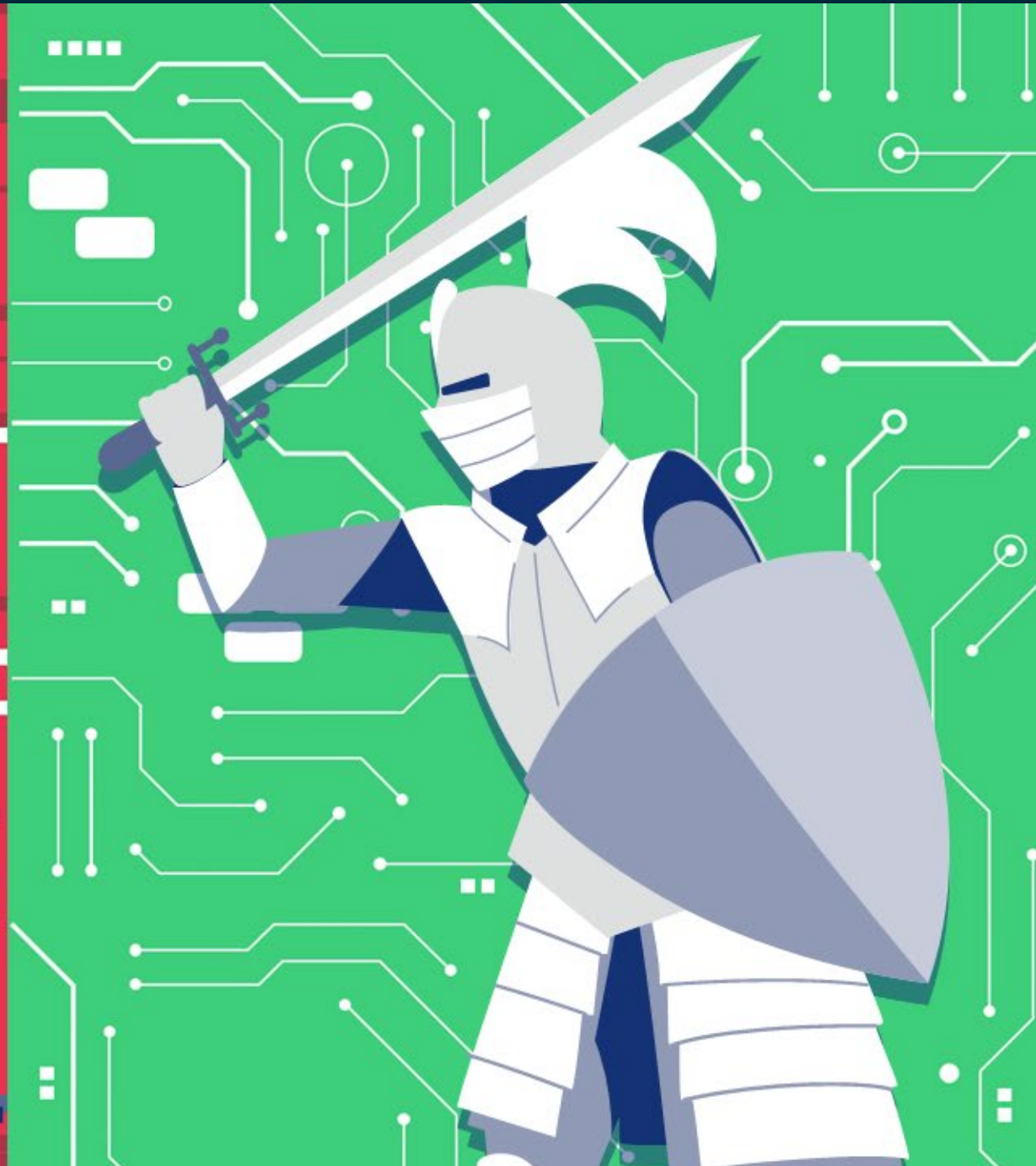
# Re-Worked Training Methods

- **Recognition *and* response:** Employees spot phishing scams four times as often after training...but not often enough
- **Combined approach:**
  - Interactive Training and Engagement
  - Evaluations and Testing
  - Protocols for Transferring Data
  - Responsible AI Use

*Verizon Data Breach Investigations Report, 2025*









# Enhanced Monitoring

# Growing Use of AI Security Tools

*IBM Cost of a Data Breach Report 2024*



27%

of organizations surveyed  
in 2024 using AI extensively  
for data security



10%

increase from  
prior year



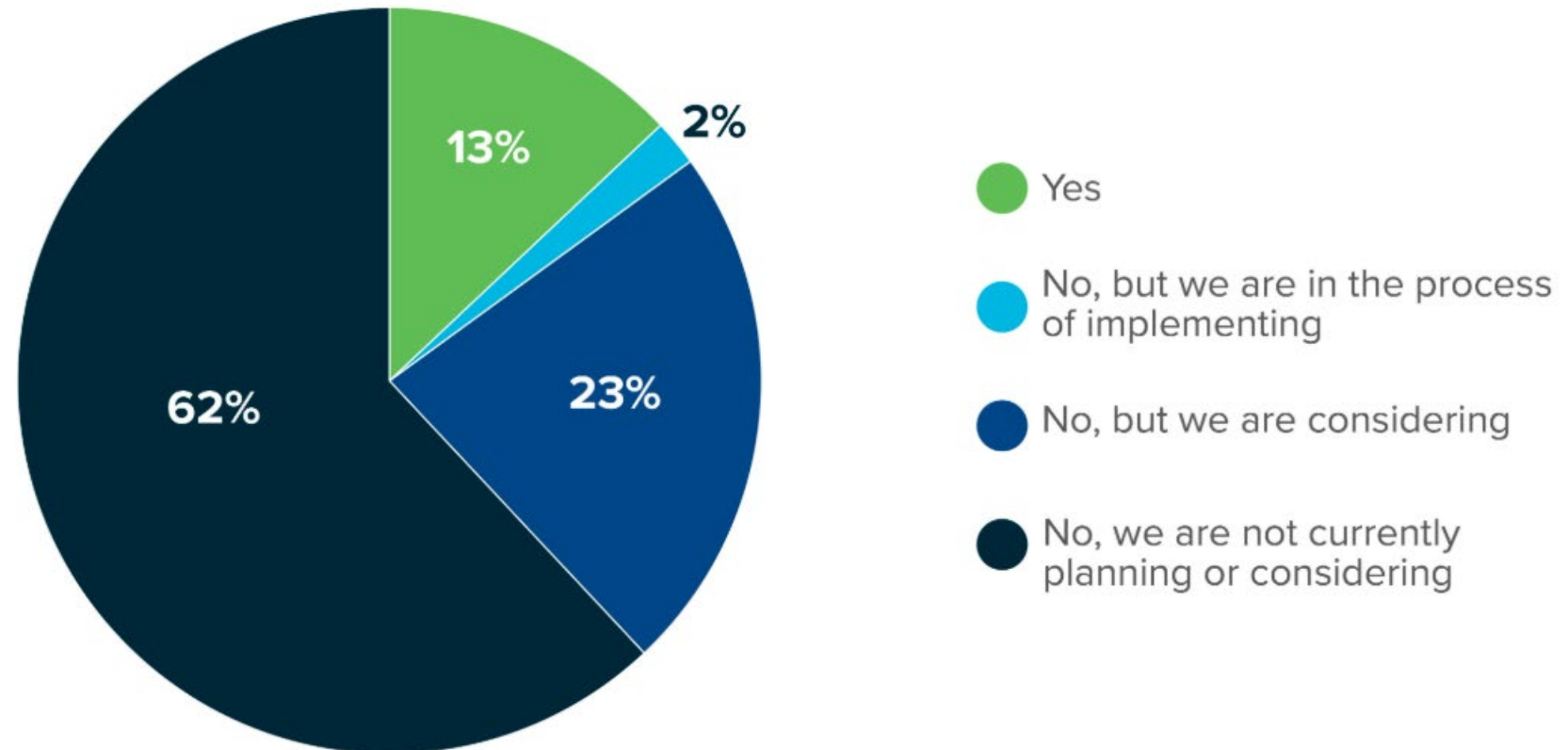
\$1.9m

Amount by which  
extensive use of AI  
appeared to reduce the  
costs of a data breach



# Littler AI Survey 2025

Does your organization use AI technology to help track or monitor employee activity and/or performance?



# New AI Security Tools

- **Anomalous activity detection:** detect a baseline and alert the IT department of anomalous activity
  - **Darktrace:** identifies a “pattern of life” for every device and user in a network
  - **Vectra AI:** analyzes all network traffic, focus on privileged users
- **GenAI detection:**
  - Review sites visited



# New AI Security Tools

- **Classification mismatch:** Reviews the content of folders against classification
- **Individual monitoring:**
  - *E.g.*, Zenguide: identifies individuals who take “risky actions” and intervenes with guidance
- **Phishing analysis:**
  - Detects spikes in emails from an email account
  - Proofpoint: realtime analysis of phishing risks

Be careful: **possible impersonation** detected

- **Possible impersonation:** The sender's domain, "@firstcorp-mail.com", looks like "firstcorp.com", which your organization interacts with
- **Sense of urgency:** Common technique used in email fraud
- **Financial request:** Common technique used in email fraud

[Report and Delete](#)

[Release to Inbox](#)

# Privacy Risks of AI Data Security Tools

- **Wiretap laws:** prohibit interception of communication without consent
- **Biometrics / location data:** increasing state laws
- **Common law of privacy:** provide notice
  - User-level surveillance
  - Websites visited – even when using personal internet service?
- **International data protection laws:**
  - EU/UK disfavors reviewing “personal” folders or use of resources
  - Carefully tailor risk against intrusion, even with notice



# Tips on Reducing Risks

- **Understand the technology:**
  - What data, where collected, how collected, and why
- **Employee communications:** transparency, purpose, and any benefits
- **Consider what to do with findings:** education, discipline?
- **International:**
  - Documented data protection impact assessments
  - Either prohibit personal use or take care in monitoring personal use
  - Reduce intrusion: anonymization, limit access
  - Communications with labor representatives

# Role of Human Resources

- **Monitoring tools are expensive:**  
both \$ and system resources
- **HR can help to tailor the monitoring**
  - Locations of sensitive data
  - Focus on times on employee unrest
    - Lay-offs / terminations
    - Mergers / acquisitions
    - Restructuring
- **Malicious insider attacks are the most expensive and damaging**



# Ongoing Background Screening

- Can be useful if anything for public perception following an incident
- Generally permissible (outside of drug testing), as long as procedures followed (no need for “good cause”)
- Does not have to be “everyone”
- Some employers use annual background recurring screening, others ongoing “monitoring”
  - Monitoring sometimes used for direct employment decisions, other times through security team to take protective measures sort of employment decisions

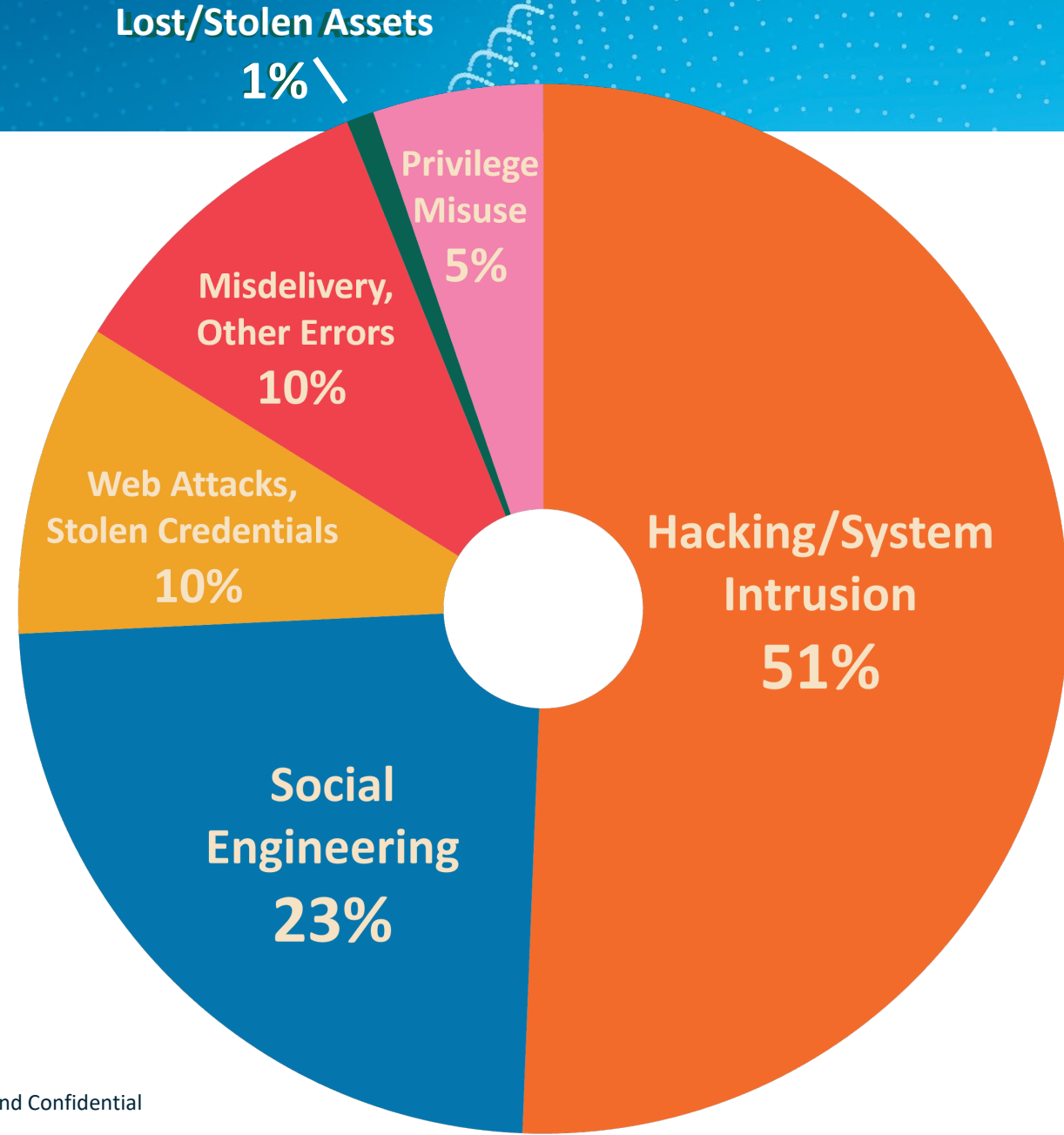




# Data Breach Preparedness

# Data Breach Landscape

- Malicious and negligent insiders still account for the lion's share of all data breaches
- Employee/HR Data is the costliest category of data in a breach



*Verizon Data Breach Investigations Report, 2025*  
*IBM Cost of a Data Breach Report, 2024*

# Business-Wide Breach Preparedness

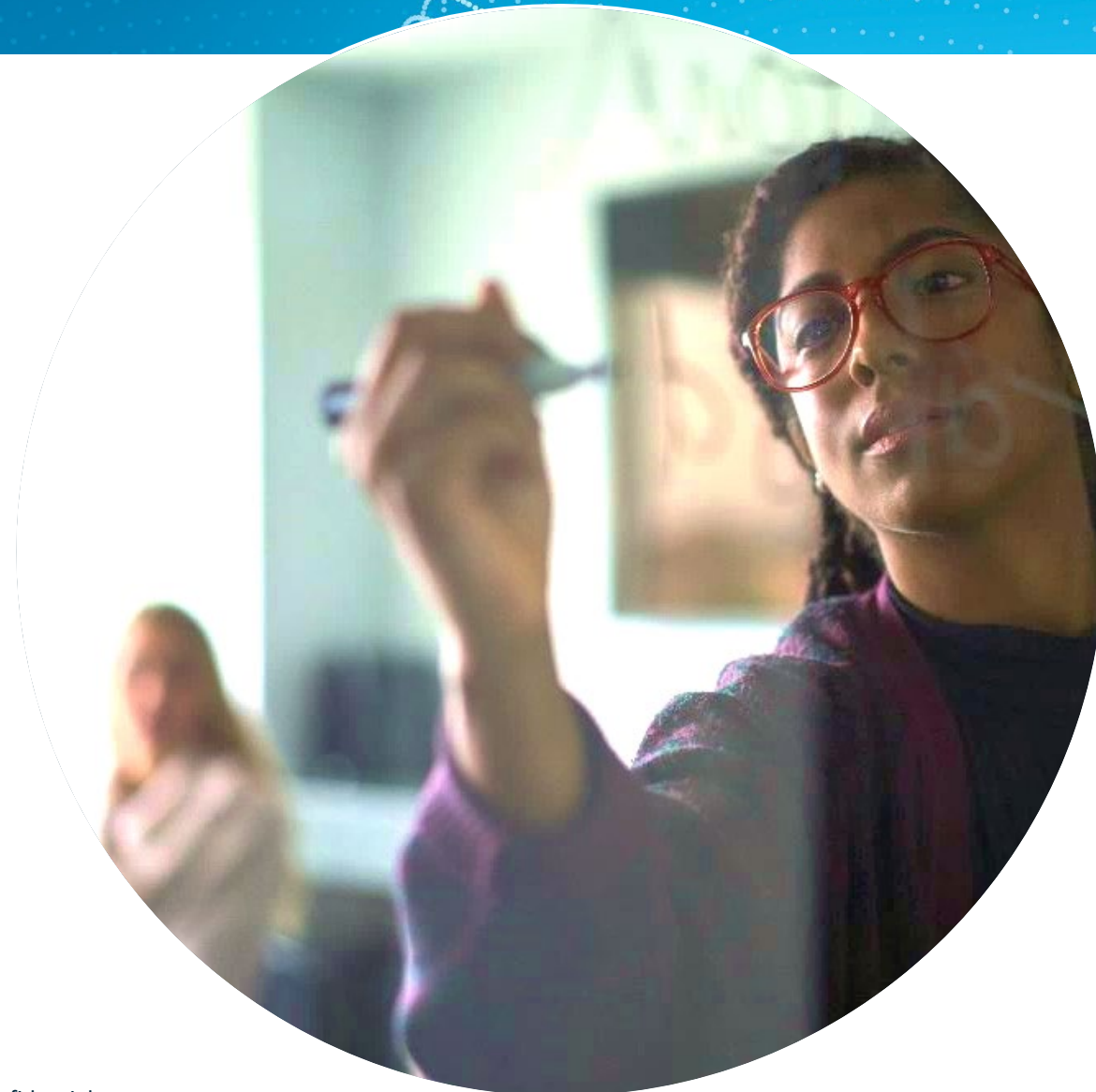
## 1. Business Continuity/Incident Response Procedures

- Communicating with key stakeholders and the workforce
- Backup plans for business operations

## 2. Multi-Factor Authentication/Passphrase Management

## 3. Data Retention and Purge Rules

## 4. Vendor Management and Third-Party Storage







# Offboarding

# Offboarding Risks

*DTEX 2023 Insider Risk Investigations Report*



12%

of employees took **sensitive IP** with them  
when they left an organization, including



>50%

take **non-sensitive IP**  
(such as presentations and templates)

# Data Security and Offboarding

- **Technical Review**
  - Review for emails/downloads of company data
  - Check for suspicious activity
- **Terminate Data Access**
  - Turn off access to accounts
  - Wipe MDM contains on personal devices
- **Offboarding Meeting**
  - Confidentiality agreement reminder
  - Return equipment
  - Ask about retained company data





# Sign Up for a Demo

## ComplianceHR Demo & Free Trial:

<https://compliancehr.com/webinar-demo/>

### Three ways to sign up for a demo:

1. Reply “Yes” to the on-screen poll
2. Visit our website: Compliancehr.com
3. Email our team at [demo@compliancehr.com](mailto:demo@compliancehr.com)

### Benefits of a custom demo:

- Discuss your organization’s requirements/challenges
- Review Navigator Suite Solutions
- Share compliance methodologies

#### Resources

[Compliance HR - Demo & Free Trial](#)

[State-by-State CLE Guide](#)

[BeaconLive - How to Access Certificates](#)

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# Questions?

This information provided by Littler is not a substitute for experienced legal counsel and does not provide legal advice or attempt to address the numerous factual issues that inevitably arise in any employment-related dispute. Although this information attempts to cover some major recent developments, it is not all-inclusive, and the current status of any decision or principle of law should be verified by counsel.





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