

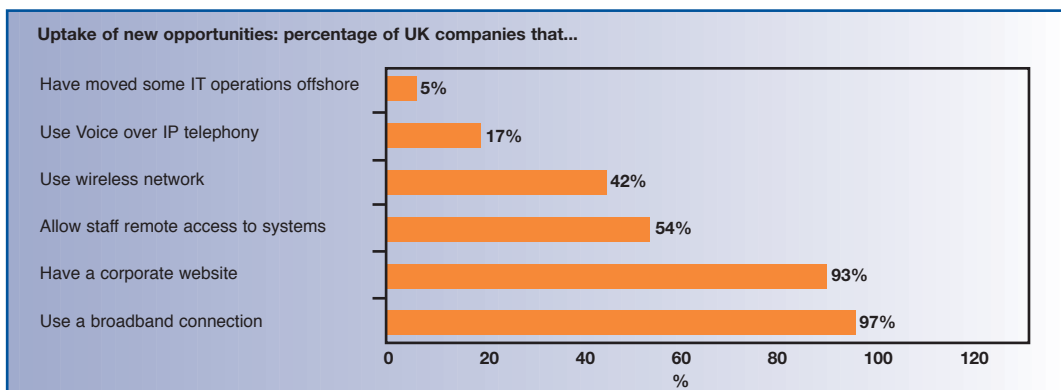
# Information Security Breaches Survey

# 2008

**The PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Information Security Breaches Survey of UK businesses, carried out every two years, is the UK's leading source of information on security incidents suffered by businesses, both large and small. Here we give a summary of the findings of the 2008 survey**

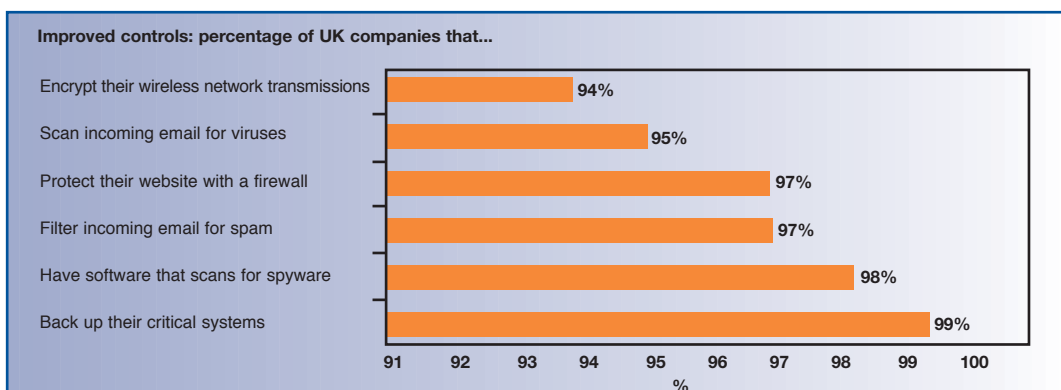
UK businesses are rapidly grasping the opportunities provided by new technology. They are increasingly using the internet to reach their customers and to

enable their staff to be more mobile. Their IT activities now extend beyond traditional physical network boundaries.

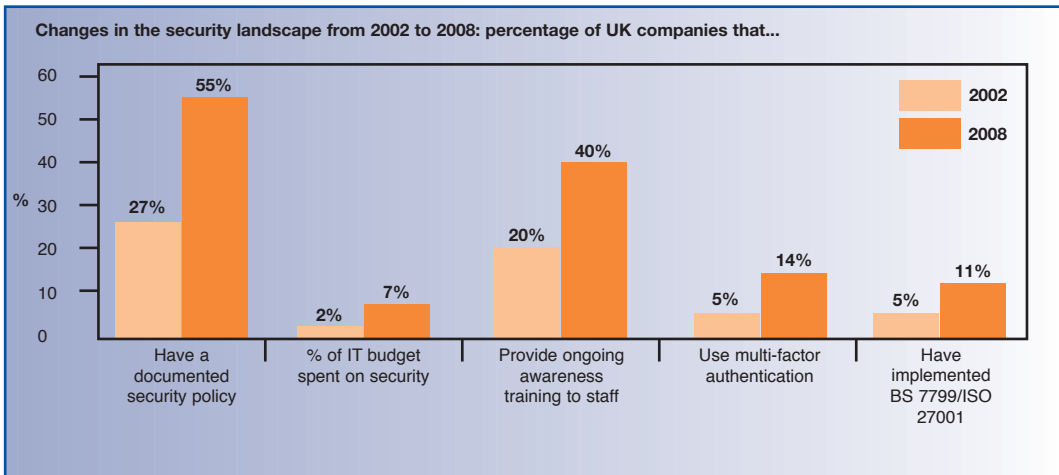


The larger the company, the more likely it is to have adopted these business practices. All of these practices have increased significantly over the past two years, and the trend is likely to continue. For example, it is estimated that 30% of companies will be using Voice over IP telephony by the end of 2008.

This increase in mobility and flexibility, of course, brings with it new dangers. And security issues are just as relevant to small businesses as to large companies – all have to comply with data protection legislation. And it is clear that businesses are investing more in their security.



Over the last six years, the security landscape has changed dramatically.



### Reported incidents

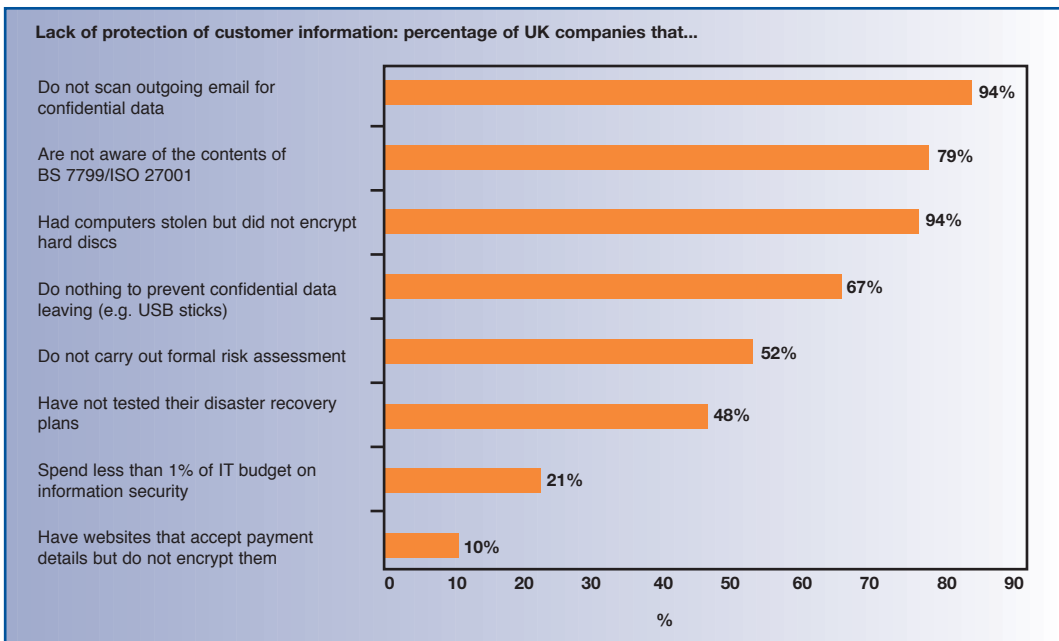
Incident statistics are almost certainly understated. For example, companies that carry out risk assessment are four times as likely to detect identity theft as those that do not. Bearing this in mind, the survey found that, for companies of 250-500 staff:

- ▶ 72% had a security incident in the past year
- ▶ There were 15 incidents, on average
- ▶ The average cost of the worst incident in the year was between £90,000 and £170,000

However, there are some interesting findings, with the news not all bad. There has been a striking decline in virus infections, although unauthorised access by outsiders is not declining and is four times as high as in 2000.

### Big exposures

Confidential information is increasingly at risk, especially in large businesses. The survey revealed some worrying statistics on practices in UK businesses – arguably the worst being that 67% of companies do nothing to prevent confidential data leaving the premises.



The PwC survey makes five recommendations to companies to protect their business in a changing world:

1. Understand the security threats you face, by drawing on the right knowledge sources.
2. Use risk assessment to target your security investment at the most beneficial areas.
3. Integrate security into normal business behaviour, through clear policy and staff education.
4. Deploy integrated technical controls and keep them up to date.
5. Respond quickly and effectively to breaches, e.g. by planning ahead for contingencies.