

SURVEY

The IT & Security Landscape for 2020 and Beyond and the Role of Zero Trust



Executive Summary

The Gigamon EMEA Zero Trust Survey was born out of the idea that perceptions surrounding Zero Trust are changing and attracting increased interest. Typically, Zero Trust held negative connotations due to its 'never trust, always verify' message – the idea being that employee productivity would be hindered. However, our survey opposed this theory, with **87 percent** of those who had started on their Zero Trust journey reporting that adopting the framework has improved their productivity.

What's more, the current economic climate has significantly changed working practices, creating new challenges and an increase in security threats – something **84 percent** decision makers reported – and Zero Trust is now being viewed as a strategic approach to help alleviate this additional burden.



97 percent of respondents who had started their Zero Trust journey stated that the framework has or could help their business as it deals with the current global situation.

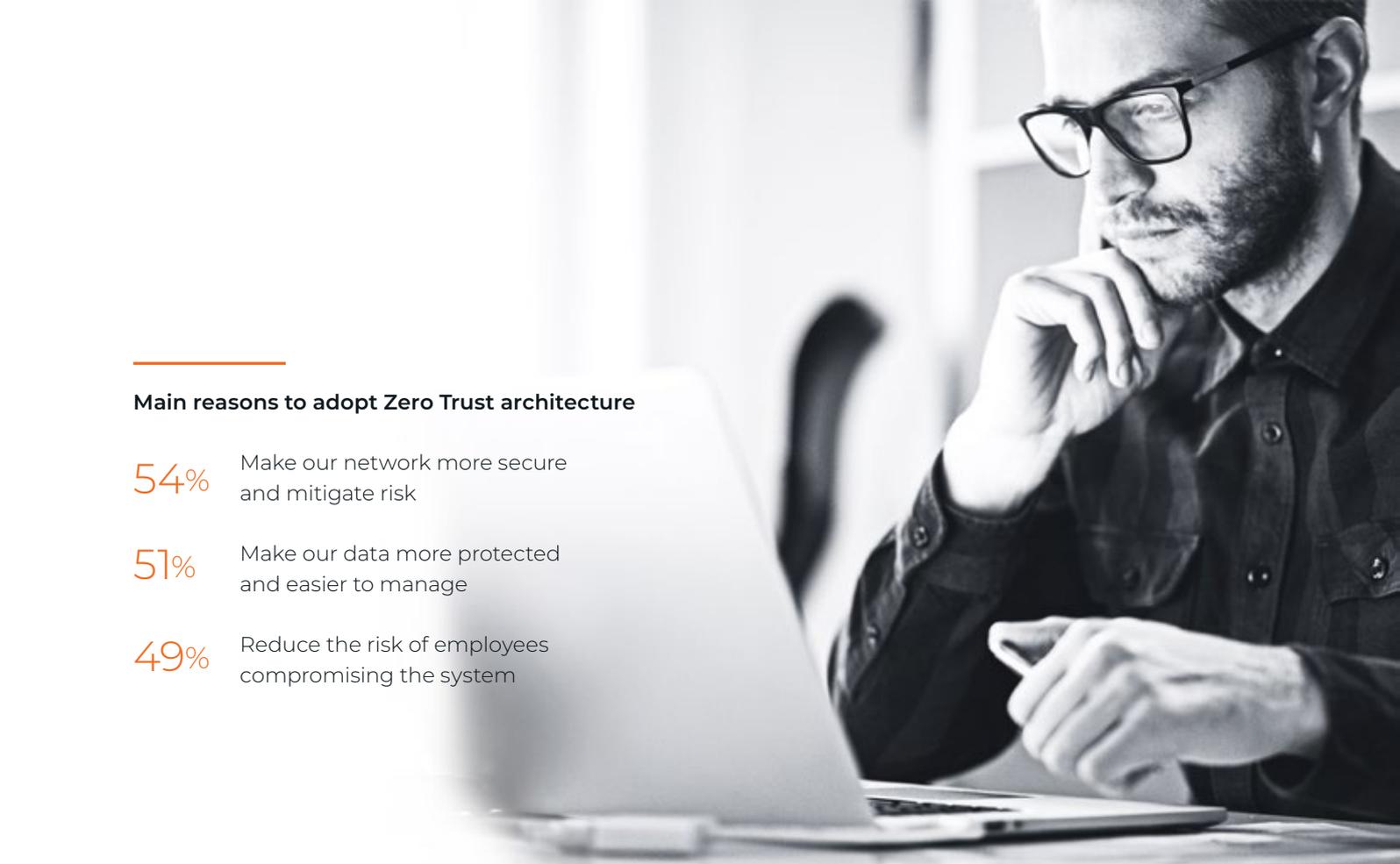
The survey collated the responses of 500 IT and security decision makers across the UK, France and Germany, and supported our hypothesis that Zero Trust is a force for good. More and more companies are delving into the concept of Zero Trust and starting on their own journeys towards adopting this architecture. As such, comprehensive awareness of the framework is growing.



The survey found that **89 percent** of respondents had a high awareness of Zero Trust.

As adoption therefore increases – **76 percent** of those who had a high awareness of Zero Trust were adopters or potential adopters – so does the awareness of its benefits, and adopters are proof that a Zero Trust framework is a competitive advantage for businesses, rather than a necessary evil.

The main reason for adopting Zero Trust architecture is increased security – with **54 percent** stating that the reason they started or are looking to start a journey towards Zero Trust is to secure the network and mitigate risk. With the network constantly evolving, Zero Trust doesn't assume that any user or device is safe based on pre-existing credentials, but instead scrutinises asset behaviour and only grants access to the network and its resources based on this information.



Main reasons to adopt Zero Trust architecture

54% Make our network more secure and mitigate risk

51% Make our data more protected and easier to manage

49% Reduce the risk of employees compromising the system

Protecting data and making it easier to manage was the second most cited reason for adopting Zero Trust architecture at **51 percent**. It's impossible to monitor what you can't see, so companies need a clear view of everything that is happening on their network in order to adopt a Zero Trust framework. Finally, **59 percent** cited that they started adopting Zero Trust to reduce the risk of employees compromising the system.

This 'New Normal' is providing Zero Trust the opportunity to prove its value, as businesses adjust their practices and processes to cope with the changing landscape. Cybercriminals are looking to take advantage of fluid working as employees must protect their corporate network from home. Interestingly, company culture and employee behaviour were both a motivator behind starting on a Zero Trust journey and a barrier.

Shadow IT and employee education were cited as top challenges facing respondents, signalling that businesses may look to adopt Zero Trust to minimise the insider threat. Conversely, **65 percent** of respondents who decided not to adopt the framework cited wrong company culture as the top reason behind this decision and getting employees on board was named the most important thing to have in place before starting the journey towards Zero Trust.

In this challenging time, businesses must continue to transform in order to uphold security and remain competitive. With Zero Trust, IT and security teams can ensure their organisation stays secure without compromising productivity or user experience.

[Read the full survey report to find out more.](#)



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