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Accelerating secure application development

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EMA™
IT & DATA MANAGEMENT RESEARCH,
INDUSTRY ANALYSIS & CONSULTING

Application security is a cornerstone of growth

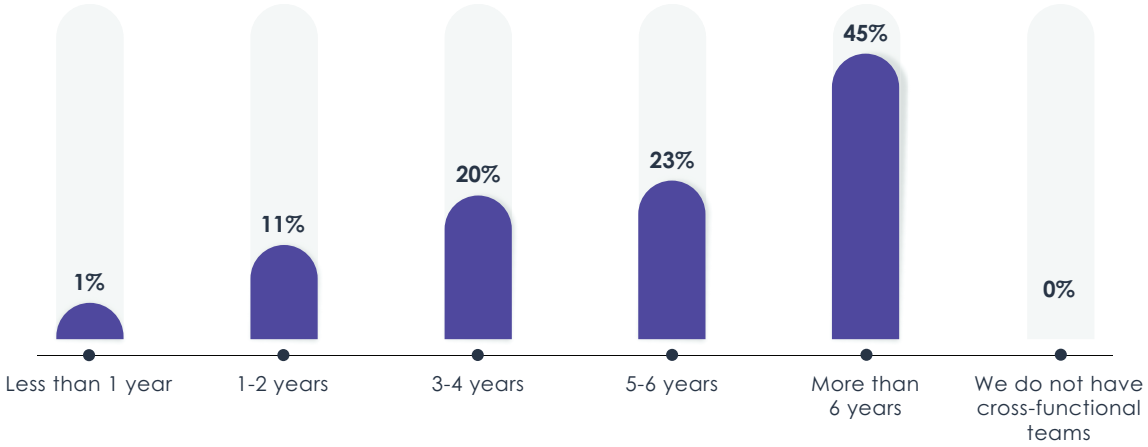
In response to customer expectations for secure, always-on app experiences, digital transformations across development, operations, and delivery are on the rise. Alongside the need to push code faster, high-profile breaches and newly discovered vulnerabilities are reaching mainstream audiences more often, which also positions security as a top priority. To underscore this, a growing number of significant global data security regulations have been implemented in the EU and several US states, including California, Colorado, Utah, and Virginia, each with a goal of protecting user privacy. With fast delivery for secure apps driving user loyalty, teams are elevating security concerns by leveraging open-source and third-party code to speed development while adopting cross-functional frameworks that share automated visibility and built-in security controls for risk detection and prioritization.

To better understand the relationship between business outcomes that are dependent on rapid application development and user privacy, EMA surveyed a global audience of technologists across a variety of sectors. Survey responses form the basis of this research brief and lend insights to discovering the correlations between cross-functional teams and developer velocity and ensuring security across application lifecycles.

Security-focused, cross-functional teams

To remain competitive, companies must address consumers' desire for fast, reliable app experiences. As such, adoption of microservices and cloud-native development options are on the rise. While these architectures are effective at addressing the need for speed, they tend to add complexity when issues arise, which illuminates the importance of sharing tools across application development teams. Survey results reveal that most organizations implemented DevOps six or more years ago. This fact reveals a focus on eliminating silos that plague application development to enable shorter coding timeframes. However, if code is pushed faster without a priority on security, the consequences can be disastrous. Respondents agree that DevOps has been widely accepted and that DevSecOps and DataOps will follow suit with the greatest growth over the next 12-14 months, signaling another fundamental maturity leap toward collaboration.

How long has your organization had cross-functional teams (for example, DevOps)?



Data point: How long has your organization had cross-functional teams?

- 45% have had DevOps teams in their AppDev environment for 6+ years

Listed are common cross-functional teams. Which cross-functional teams are you currently seeing, do you plan to implement in the 12-24 months, or do you have no future plan to implement?

	DevOps	DevSecOps	NetSecOps	SecOps	GitOps	NetOps	BizDevOps	NoOps	DataOps
Currently seeing	73%	38%	21%	30%	19%	31%	24%	15%	43%
Future planning (12-24 months)	15%	35%	37%	31%	37%	35%	30%	32%	32%
No future plans	12%	27%	42%	39%	44%	33%	46%	53%	25%

Data point: Cross-functional teams you see, are planning for in the future, or have no plans to implement

- 73% see DevOps teams in their app environments
- 38% have DevSecOps integrated
- DevSecOps and DataOps are expected to see the greatest growth (12-24 mo)

Cross-functional teams: a choice and a commitment

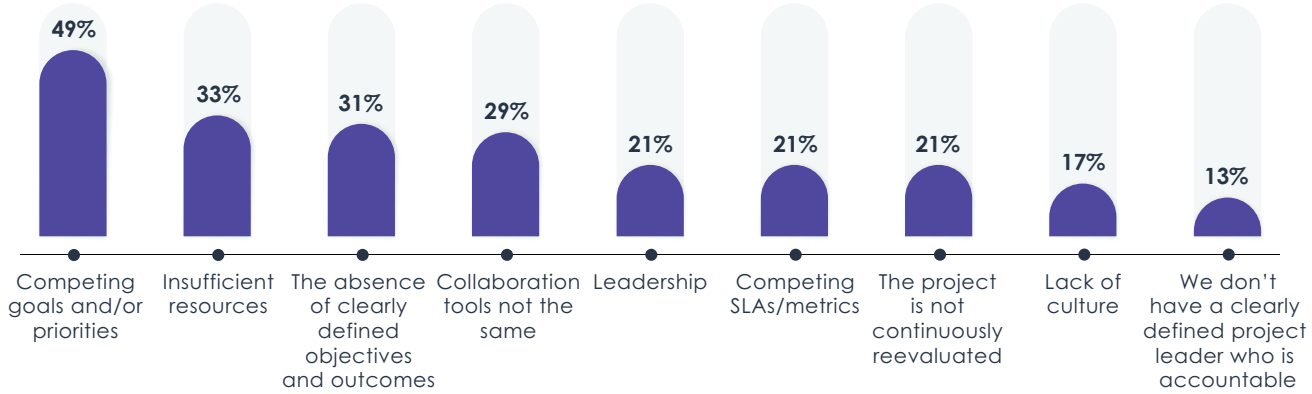
The lack of available resources to meet business demands is a common thread that plagues companies of all sizes. Beyond that shared struggle, research shows that larger, more established companies experience greater challenges in eliminating silos and creating a collaborative, cross-team framework. This is likely due in part to how silos in larger organizations create difficulties with transparency needed for optimal team alignment on common goals that impact business outcomes. To complicate these challenges, application development teams of large organizations typically leverage multiple tools that may or may not be used for communicating between roles, responsibilities, and priorities, which can cause disconnects. Inversely, newer companies and those built on a digital foundation typically have integration and collaboration built into their culture from the start. Therefore, having a strategy that embraces collaboration, responsibilities, and priorities across teams in a unified platform is critical at this juncture.

What is the greatest challenge that's creating silos within the organization?

Data point: What is the greatest challenge that's creating silos in the organization?

- Competing goals and priorities (nearly 33%)
- Responsibilities are in separate tools (25%)

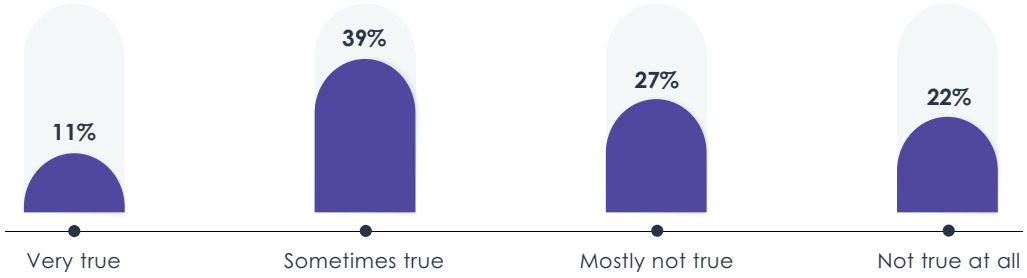
What are the challenges of implementing cross-functional teams in your organization?



How to get siloed teams on the same page

The ability to protect users' privacy is a differentiator in determining whether organizations are set up to succeed or doomed to fail. With half of the survey respondents admitting that application security is an afterthought, the potential for disaster is real. However, that does not make eliminating silos less of a challenge, especially as pressure to meet user and business demands for app performance and security awareness grows. For organizations that feel they're getting by just fine without cross-functional teams, the steps between developing a strategy and implementing it can seem like a distraction. The key to overcoming this challenge is first aligning development teams across the business, then working toward supporting a more collaborative culture (focused on information and shared priorities) that permeates the organization. Another valuable approach is to identify a shared, customer-facing goal that touches all development roles and use that to measure success. For example, security serves as a strong foundation to align teams because everyone, in every role, should have a security-first mindset in order for the brand to remain competitive.

How true is this statement within your organization: Security is usually an afterthought in our application delivery ecosystem.



Data point: What are the challenges of implementing cross-functional teams?

- Competing goals and strategies (49%)
- Insufficient resources (33%)

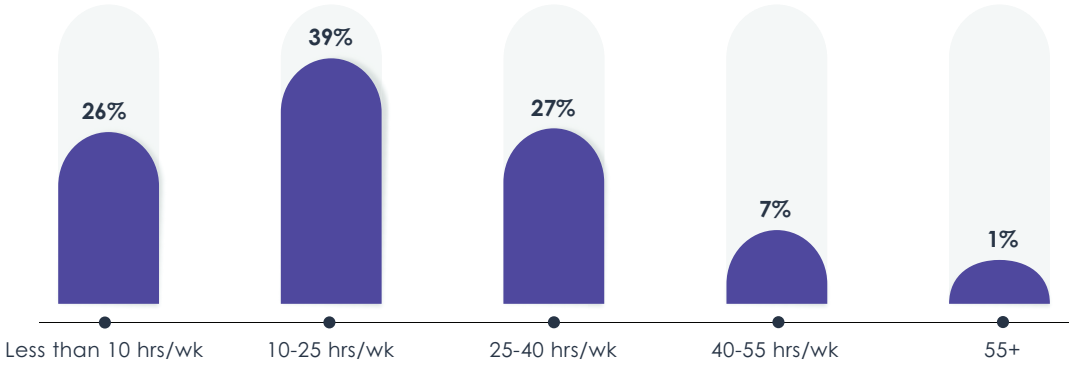
Data point: Security is usually an afterthought in our app delivery ecosystem. True?

- 50% say security is an afterthought in the app delivery chain

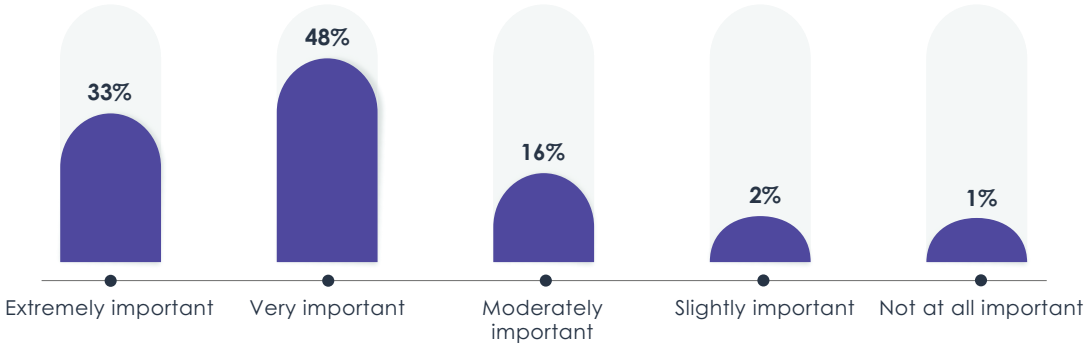
Collaboration, tools, and automation

If an organization is to see growth, retain customers, and ultimately obtain trust, automation and security need to play a vital role. Cross-functional collaboration creates a foundation from which shared tools can deliver the automation needed to gain intel on application health. Having that visibility in a shared tool enables the entire application delivery chain line of sight into usage issues in real time, giving teams the opportunity to address concerns before users are impacted. With added app security automation, these cross-functional teams can also see, and rank vulnerabilities based on risk to company goals. Thus, everyone can agree to the order in which vulnerabilities are addressed. However, despite 81% of surveyed organizations recognizing that an ability to block incidents at runtime is very to extremely important and 63% admitting that automating application security could save at least 10 hours per week, half of those surveyed still position application security as an afterthought.

How much time per week could your team save if application security incident detection was automated?



How important is it to your company's growth strategy to have the ability to detect and block exploits automatically at runtime?



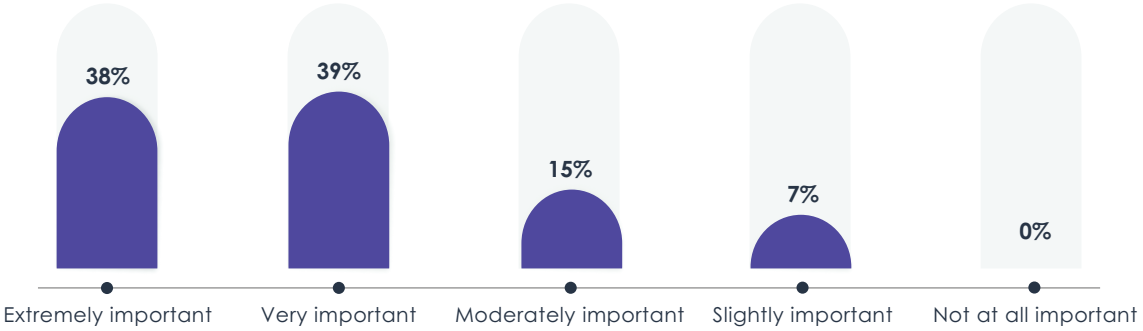
Data point: How much time per week could be saved if app security was automated?

- 39% say 10-25 hours
- 24% say 25-40 hours

Data point: How important to growth is the ability to detect/block exploits automatically at runtime?

- 81% say very or extremely important

How important is it to have the business insights to accurately prioritize security incidents?



Conclusion

In a world where customers expect flawless, immediate, and secure application experiences, organizations must rise to meet this demand or risk becoming obsolete. To gain momentum in this regard, companies should execute a strategy that embraces a culture of collaboration across technology teams to ensure success, provide the right tools, and offer support to enable delivery of premium application experiences faster. To that end, organizations must align with customer needs and develop a common set of priorities shared by cross-functional teams that put security, automation, and development speed first.

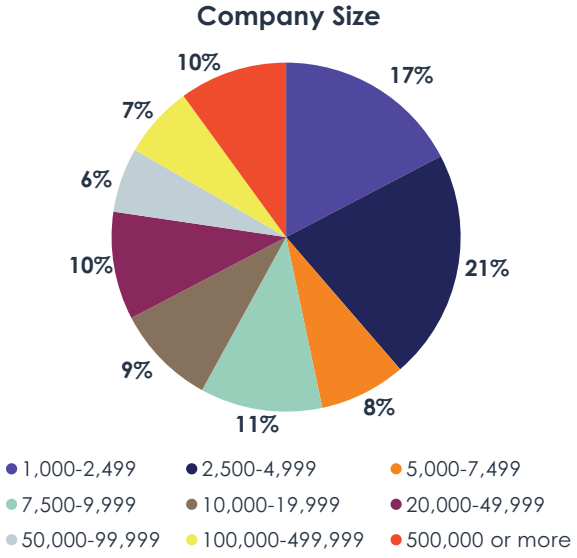
Data point: How important are business insights to prioritizing security incidents?

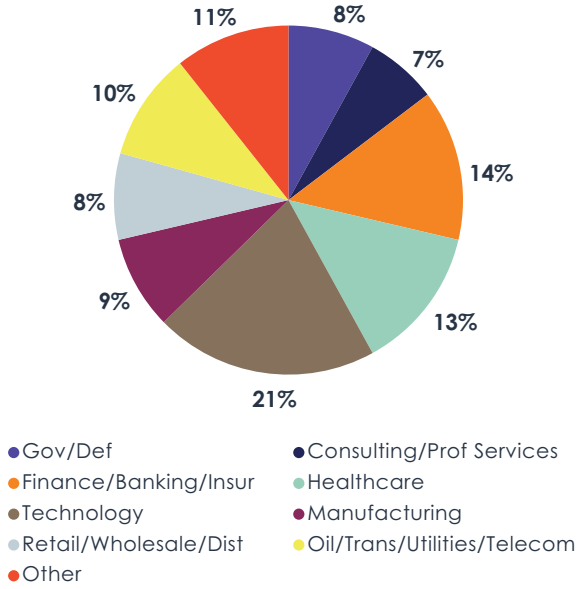
- 77% say very or extremely important

About the study – demographics

The focus of this research, conducted in partnership with AppDynamics, was to understand the success of DevOps collaboration, how companies can build on the outcomes, and what is required for this success to continue in a complex, hybrid, multi-cloud environment. This study was conducted in the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany. The study collected results from 150 participants across multiple industries and job functions to capture a comprehensive landscape of cross-functional team collaboration and operations.

- Total Qualified: 150
- Company Size: 1,000+
- Location:
  - 51% - U.S.
  - 49% - Europe (UK, Germany, and France)





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Founded in 1996, Enterprise Management Associates (EMA) is a leading industry analyst firm that provides deep insight across the full spectrum of IT and data management technologies. EMA analysts leverage a unique combination of practical experience, insight into industry best practices, and in-depth knowledge of current and planned vendor solutions to help EMA's clients achieve their goals. Learn more about EMA research, analysis, and consulting services for enterprise line of business users, IT professionals, and IT vendors at **www.enterprisemanagement.com**. You can also follow EMA on **Twitter** or **LinkedIn**.

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