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State of the Network

Building and Operating Secure Networks in the Age of Cloud, Convergence, and AI

The network continues to evolve and change, as do the challenges associated with building and operating it. Among notable findings were packet capture data is still giving network teams a solid edge in keeping networks up and running, collaborative approaches to supporting the cloud are growing fast, and the convergence of network and security operations into a NetSecOps model is paying clear dividends.

Source for all: Enterprise Strategy Group Research Report, State of the Network 2025, May 2025.

Network Monitoring Remains Critical

Staying on top of network health has never been more important, and the ranked choice of tools deployed and in use reflects that.

- **81%** Network performance monitoring
- **76%** Security information and event management
- **71%** Infrastructure monitoring
- **67%** Application performance monitoring
- **60%** Digital experience monitoring
- **59%** Extended detection and response

Nearly two-thirds of teams are using third-party tools provided by independent software vendors, separate from infrastructure vendors or service providers, for multiple reasons:

To get end-to-end visibility in one tool/platform	50%
Need to fill gaps left by existing tools	47%
Need for greater granularity of visibility	44%
Attempt to target environments our organization has difficulty monitoring	43%
Gain greater context around alerts	43%
Need to support heterogenous environments	40%
Independent validation/confirmation	40%
Native tools are not providing adequate visibility	34%

Packet Capture Pays Ops Dividends

Every organization seeks to minimize the time required to detect issues and incidents and the time needed to restore services. Having an effective packet capture solution provides a clear edge. **Those with solid packet capture capabilities were 2x more successful in seeing MTTD rates that were significantly shorter.**

Respondents with packet capture were **4x as likely** to resolve issues in under an hour — and almost **35% more likely** to resolve them in under 3 hours.

Packet capture provided a clear edge for reducing many of the top challenges associated with monitoring network performance. Those with solid packet capture capabilities were:

- **37%** less troubled by managing high alert volumes
- **27%** less concerned with taking too long to identify root cause
- **20%** less challenged by too many false positives

Cloud Management Collaboration Grows

Cloud is here to stay, and cloud networking needs to be monitored and managed as a permanent part of the extended hybrid IT infrastructure. All teams increased their responsibilities for monitoring and managing the performance of services hosted in the cloud, but the strongest growth came in collaboration between teams.

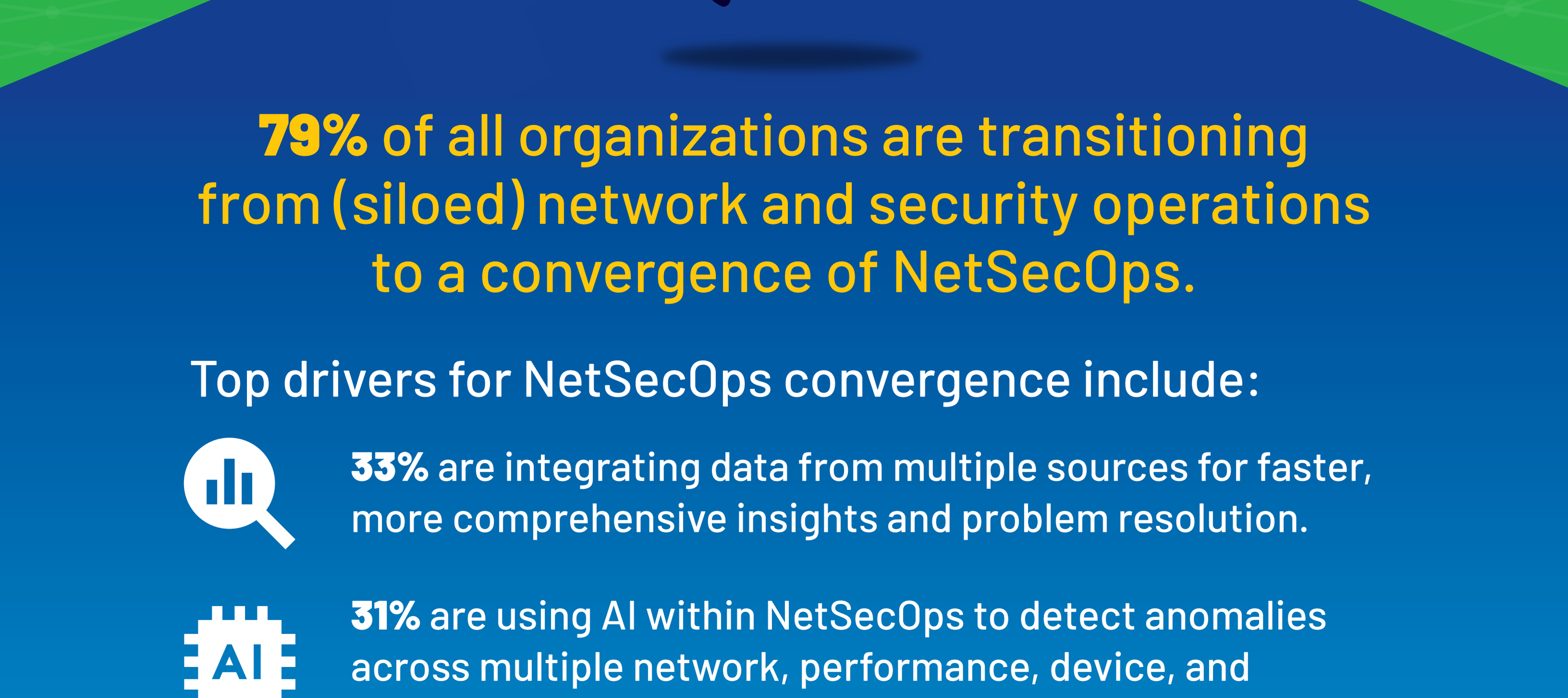
Multi-team collaboration grew 125% year over year.

Traditional network monitoring approaches are showing resilience and applicability to cloud environments:

- **78%** have identified needs for capturing flow-level data in the cloud
- **82%** of organizations are capturing packets in the cloud
- **94%** indicated packet capture capabilities in the cloud are important

NetSecOps Is Moving to Mainstream

Network and security operations teams have long been collaborative but have historically been living in their own silos. That is now changing, with organizations eliminating barriers by merging NetOps and SecOps into NetSecOps, and the results are worth the effort.



79% of all organizations are transitioning from (siloed) network and security operations to a convergence of NetSecOps.

Top drivers for NetSecOps convergence include:

- **33%** are integrating data from multiple sources for faster, more comprehensive insights and problem resolution.
- **31%** are using AI within NetSecOps to detect anomalies across multiple network, performance, device, and security data sources.
- **28%** leverage NetSecOps convergence to detect and mitigate threats faster.

While the reported benefits of the NetSecOps model are many, the strongest common result, overall enhanced security, was called out at a rate **67% higher** than any other benefit.

78% of organizations admit they're either struggling or just getting by in keeping up with rising threats.

Leveraging comprehensive approaches to network and security monitoring, including solid packet data capture capabilities, is delivering clear results for reducing incident impacts, improving collaboration, and enhancing security.

READ THE FULL REPORT AT
stateofthenetwork.com

Research and analysis conducted in conjunction with:

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