

# Protecting the Mobile Workforce: How SMBs Employ Connected Security Solutions

United States–based small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) are increasingly realizing the importance of investing in cyber and network security to protect their rapidly growing businesses amid today’s hybrid working environments.



**Katie Evans**  
Senior Research Director,  
Worldwide SMB Research, IDC

## Attack surfaces are changing as SMBs expand connectivity solutions to support a mobile workforce.

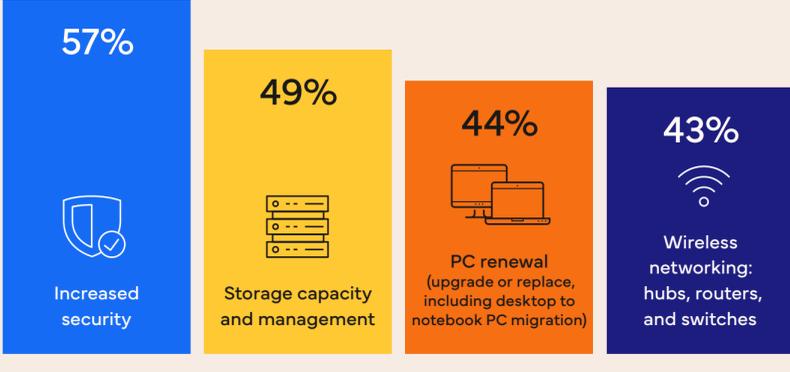
Priorities among U.S. SMBs for the next 12 months:



Source: IDC's Worldwide Small and Medium Business Survey, February 2025

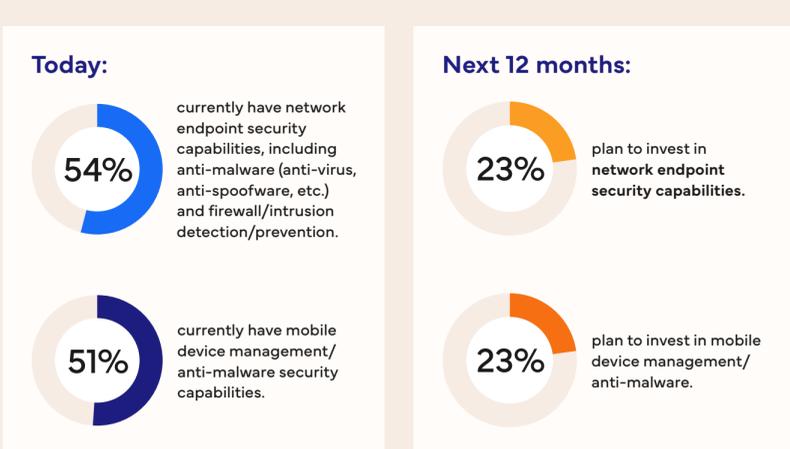
## Security is a top technology investment priority for U.S. SMBs with the move to dispersed workforces.

Which of the following infrastructure and device areas will be technology priorities for your company in the next 12 months?



Source: IDC's Worldwide Small and Medium Business Survey, February 2025

## Many U.S. SMBs are already investing in or planning to invest in security technologies in the coming year.

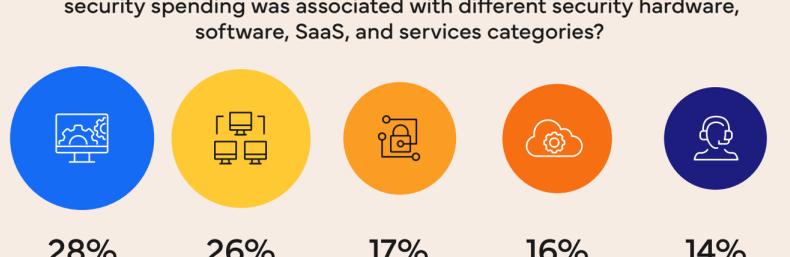


n = 484; Source: IDC's Worldwide Small and Medium Business Survey, February 2025

## SMBs rely on hardware and software security solutions.

Hardware and software security solutions receive the majority of U.S. SMB IT security spending, but SMBs should consider more cloud-based solutions as the workforce landscape changes.

Approximately what percentage of your company's total IT security spending was associated with different security hardware, software, SaaS, and services categories?



Source: IDC's Worldwide Small and Medium Business Survey, February 2025

## Securely implementing new tech poses a key hurdle, but SMBs can mitigate this through careful vendor partnership

As U.S. SMBs face limited budgets and resources and more hybrid work arrangements, they need to be more strategic when protecting their network security. In fact, 28% of respondents in an endpoint security survey said they require the use of VPNs. SMBs should consider **SaaS security solutions for their easy implementation, management, and coverage.**

**What are the largest technology challenges to achieving your business priorities?**



Source: IDC's Worldwide Small and Medium Business Survey, February 2025; IDC's Worldwide Endpoint Security Survey, August 2024

## Message from the sponsor



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