

# 451 Research Mid-Market Study on Network Security

OPAQ commissioned analyst firm 451 Research to conduct a study of more than 300 respondents in US mid-tier companies to examine the challenges and opportunities that they face with respect to network security. This one-pager only highlights the findings from the 60 respondents from the Energy and Utilities industry. The complete research findings and infographic can be [downloaded here](#).

## Energy & Utilities Demographics

Number of respondents	60
Avg. number of employees:	840
Avg. number of FTEs focused on network security	4-5
Avg. number of branch offices	4-5
Early adopters of new technology	38%

## Spending

Energy and Utility firms invest 37% of their total IT security budget on network security.

Average spend on total IT security **\$508.8k**

Average spend on network security **\$188.0k**

## Challenges

Despite significant budget, time, and other resources dedicated to network security, Energy and Utility firms struggle with **low visibility and lack security control** over their distributed network.

- Number of hours spent each week using in-house staff time procuring, implementing and managing network security products and services: 21-60 Hours (85%)
- More than half of Energy and Utility respondents cited having incomplete to no visibility over Remote Users, Mobile Devices, Branch Offices, IoT Devices, and Third Parties
- Greatest barriers to improvement:
  - Legacy IT + infrastructure (80%)
  - Lack of budget (68%)

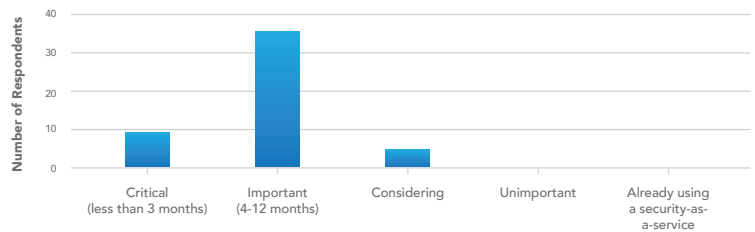
Rate the level of security, visibility, and control you have over your distributed network assets.

	Data Center	Public Cloud	Branch Offices	Remote Users	Mobile Devices	Third Parties	IoT Devices
High/Complete	56%	46%	33%	40%	39%	23%	33%
Moderate/Incomplete	40%	45%	55%	43%	53%	62%	53%
Little	2%	7%	10%	17%	8%	15%	12%
None	2%	2%	2%	0%	0%	0%	2%
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

## The Shift to Security-as-a-Service

92% of Energy and Utility firms are looking to adopt network security-as-a-service within the next 12 months

- Preference for security-as-a-service over on premise or MSSP:
  - 80% of respondents favor security-as-a-service
- Urgency to shift to network security-as-a-service model: 73% view network security-as-a-service as important (within the next 12 months); 19% view network security-as-a-service as critical (within the next 3 months)



- Most valued use cases for Energy and Utility firms to shift to network security-as-a-service:
  - Threat management (69%)
  - Branch office enablement (53%)
  - MPLS displacement (52%)

To access the complete 451 Research network security study and infographic, [download the report here](#).