How CISOs Are
IMPACTING BUSINESS THROUGH RISK MANAGEMENT

The role of the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) has been elevated in recent years from back room to board room. Security is now seen as a strategic part of business, and it is the job of the CISO to communicate security's needs and to innovate as part of risk mitigation. Research from IDG and BitSight looked at security executives across a variety of industries and found the CISO role is changing as security leaders are now business drivers.

THE CISO IS DIRECTLY IMPACTING BUSINESS DECISIONS DAILY

CISOs are now expected to be part of the business conversation and are seen as an important function of the overall organization.

More than half
51%
of respondents strongly agree that CISOs are pursuing a more strategic role within the organization.
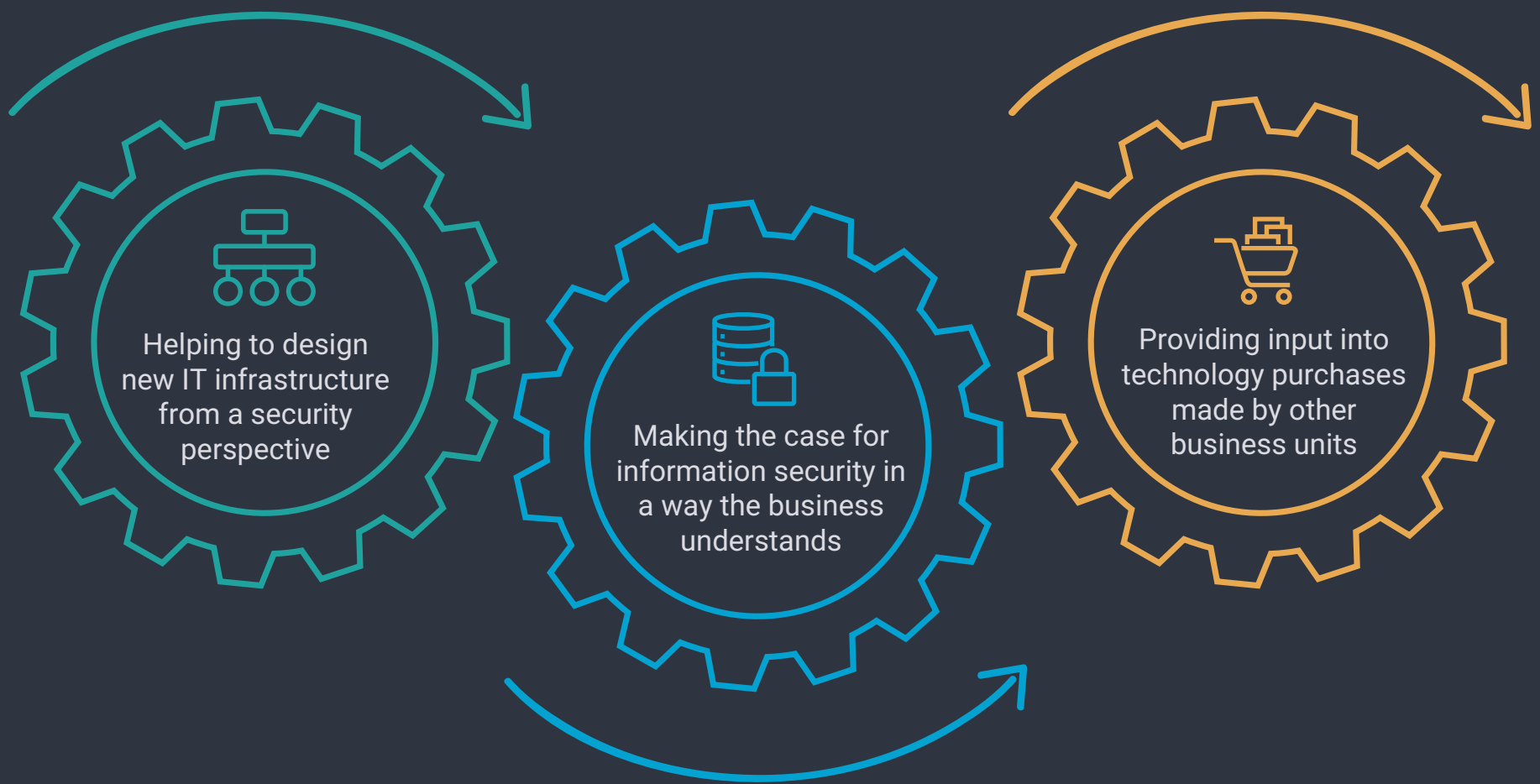
50%
strongly agree that the CISO role is becoming more business- and innovation-focused.
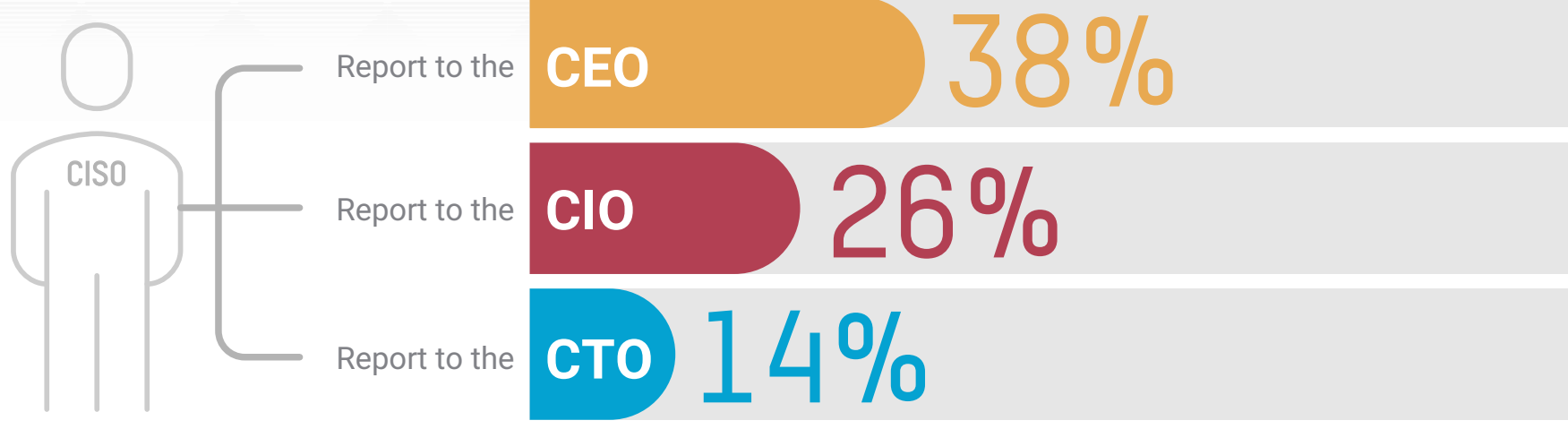
72%
of organizations bring the CISO into digital business planning in the beginning or early stages.

HOW ARE CISOs ADDING VALUE TODAY?

CISOs are adding value to digital business initiatives in many ways. Some of the top ways CISOs are contributing outside of core responsibilities include:

Helping to design new IT infrastructure from a security perspective

Making the case for information security in a way the business understands

Providing input into technology purchases made by other business units

WHO DOES THE CISO REPORT TO?

CISO

Report to the **CEO** 38%

Report to the **CIO** 26%
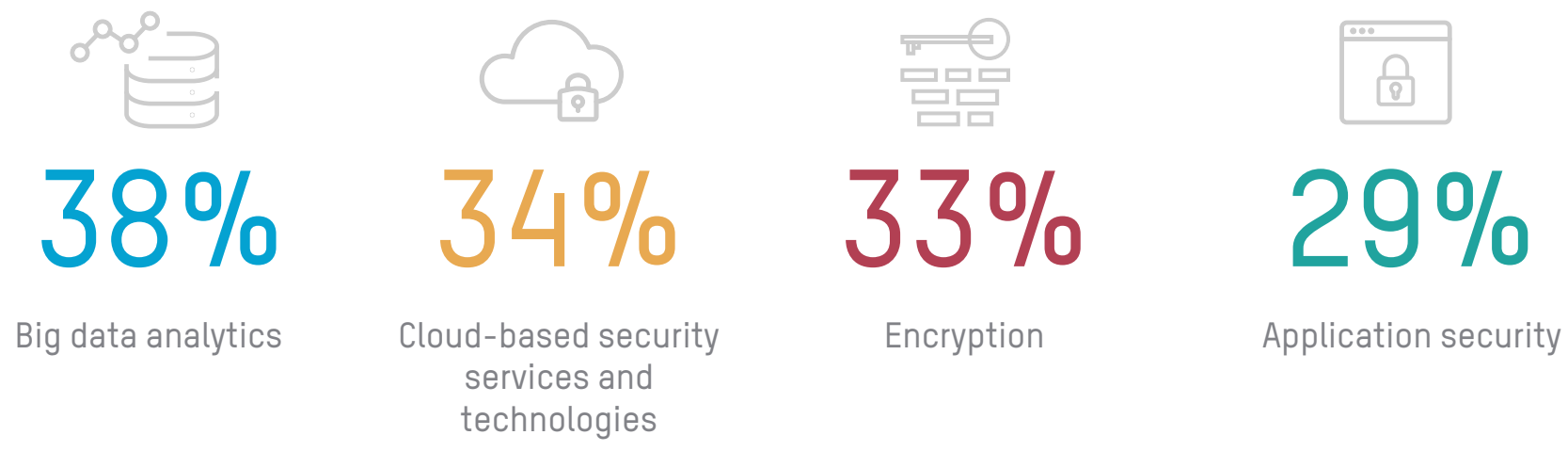
Report to the **CTO** 14%

The CEO is an important ally to CISOs at organizations where the CISO reports to the CEO (68% vs. 38% among others).

TOP SKILLS FOR SUCCESS TODAY

As the CISO role evolves, professionals are looking at new skills to enhance their knowledge. Top areas of learning include:

38%
Big data analytics

34%
Cloud-based security services and technologies

33%
Encryption

29%
Application security

HOW ARE CISOs MEASURING SUCCESS?

As the CISO role becomes more strategic, evaluating effectiveness with metrics is essential.

More than 40%
use a third-party measurement or assessment of security posture to gauge information security program effectiveness.

A majority of respondents **(79% or more)** consider BitSight Security Rating capabilities to have the potential to elevate the CISO role.

BITSIGHT

To learn more about the state of the CISO role, how they are advancing the role, and the impact security ratings can have on the CISO role, please visit
www.bitsight.com

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