Introduction To Computer Security

By

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Agenda Today

- Terminology(What)
- Security strategies
  - Prevention – detection – reaction
- Security objectives
  - Confidentiality – integrity – availability
  - Accountability – non-repudiation
  - authentication
- Fundamental dilemma of Computer Security
- Principles of Computer Security
- The layer below.

- Computer Attack Analysis (Why)

What security is about in general?

- Security is about protection of assets
  - D. Gollmann, Computer Security, Wiley
- Prevention
  - take measures that prevent your assets from being damaged (or stolen)
- Detection
  - take measures so that you can detect when, how, and by whom an asset has been damaged
- Reaction
  - take measures so that you can recover your assets

Real world example

- Prevention
  - locks at doors, window bars, secure the walls around the property, hire a guard
- Detection
  - missing items, system alarms, closed circuit TV
- Reaction
  - call the police, replace stolen items, make an insurance claim

Internet shopping example

- Prevention
  - encrypt your order and card number, enforce merchants to do some extra checks, don't send card number via Internet
- Detection
  - an unauthorized transaction appears on your credit card statement
- Reaction
  - complain, dispute, ask for a new card number, sue (if you can find of course ☺)
  - Or, pay and forget (a glass of cold water) ☺

A note on security terminology

- No single and consistent terminology in the literature!
- Be careful not to confuse while reading papers and books
- See the next slide for some terminology taken from Gollmann.

Basic security concepts

- Confidentiality: prevent unauthorised disclosure of information
- Integrity: prevent unauthorised modification of information
- Availability: prevent unauthorised withholding of information or resources
- Authenticity: “know whom you are talking to”
- Accountability (non-repudiation): prove that an entity was involved in some event

Confidentiality

- Prevent unauthorised disclosure of information (prevent unauthorised reading).
- Secrecy: protection of data belonging to an organisation.
- Historically, security and secrecy were closely related; security and confidentiality are sometimes used as synonyms.
- Do we want to hide the content of a document or its existence?
  - Traffic analysis in network security.
  - Anonymity, unlinkability

Privacy

- Privacy: protection of personal data (OECD Privacy Guidelines, EU Data Privacy Directive 95/46/EC).
- "Put the user in control of their personal data and of information about their activities."
- Taken now more seriously by companies that want to be 'trusted' by their customers.
- Also: The right to be left alone (e.g. not to be bothered by spam).

Integrity

- Prevent unauthorised modification of information (prevent unauthorised writing).
- Data Integrity - The state that exists when computerized data is the same as that in the source document and has not been exposed to accidental or malicious alteration or destruction. (Integrity synonymous for external consistency.)
- Detection (and correction) of intentional and accidental modifications of transmitted data.

Integrity continued

- Clark & Wilson: No user of the system, even if authorized, may be permitted to modify data items in such a way that assets or accounting records of the company are lost or corrupted.
- In the most general sense: make sure that everything is as it is supposed to be.

  (This is highly desirable but cannot be guaranteed by mechanisms internal to the computer system.)
- Integrity is a prerequisite for many other security services; operating systems security has a lot to do with integrity.

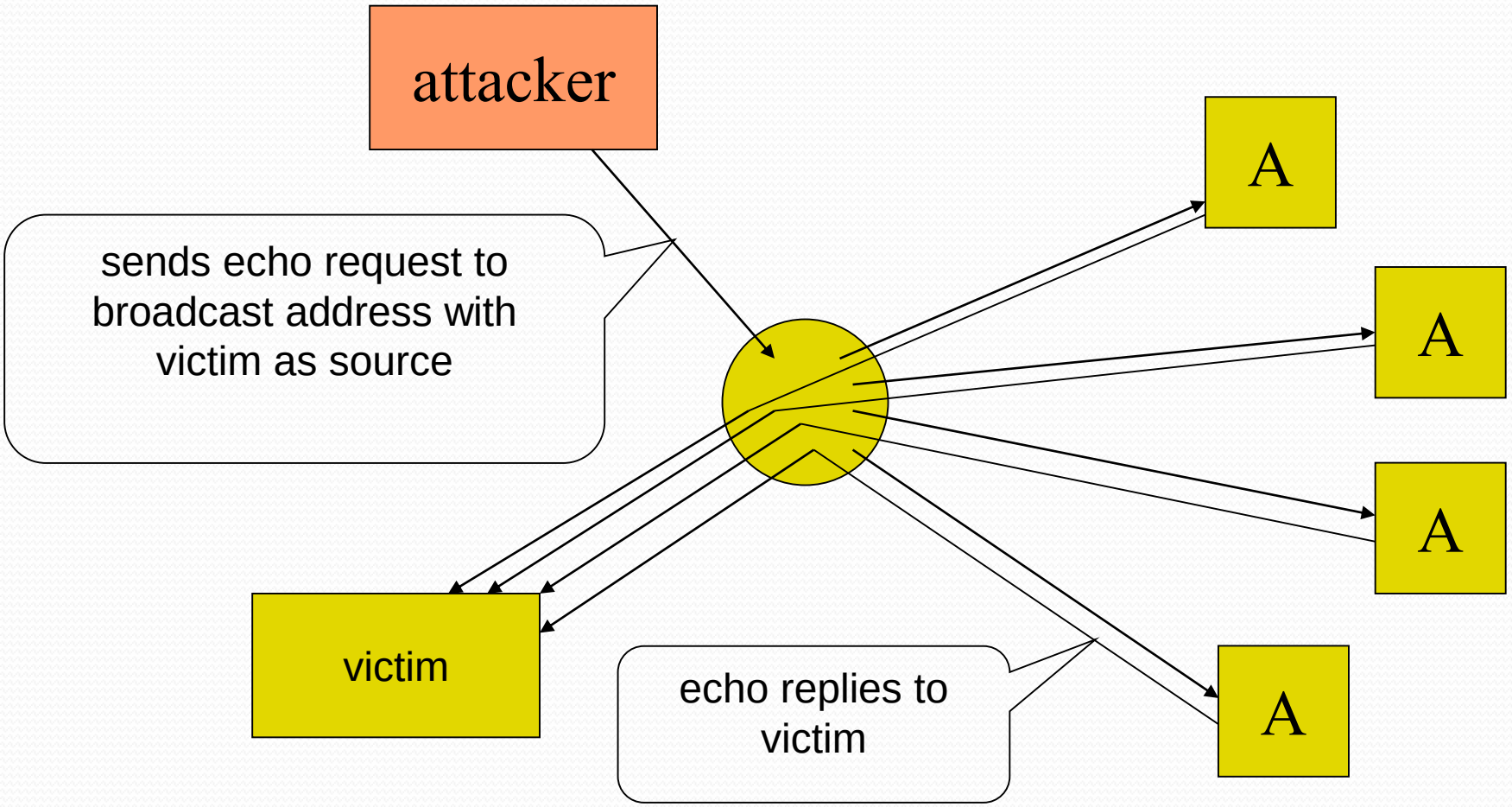
Availability

- The property of being accessible and usable upon demand by an authorised entity.
- Denial of Service (DoS): The prevention of authorised access of resources or the delaying of time-critical operations.
- Maybe the most important aspect of computer security, but few methods are around.
- Distributed denial of service (DDoS) receives a lot of attention; systems are now designed to be more resilient against these attacks.

Denial of Service Attack (smurf)

- Attacker sends ICMP echo requests to a broadcast address, with the victim's address as the spoofed sender address.
- The echo request is distributed to all nodes in the range of the broadcast address.
- Each node replies with an echo to the victim.
- The victim is flooded with many incoming messages.
- Note the amplification: the attacker sends one message, the victim receives many.

Denial of Service Attack (smurf)



Accountability

- At the operating system level, audit logs record security relevant events and the user identities associated with these events.
- If an actual link between a user and a "user identity" can be established, the user can be held accountable.
- In distributed systems, cryptographic non-repudiation mechanisms can be used to achieve the same goal.

Non-repudiation

- Non-repudiation services provide unforgeable evidence that a specific action occurred.
- Non-repudiation of origin: protects against a sender of data denying that data was sent.
- Non-repudiation of delivery: protects against a receiver of data denying that data was received.

- Digital signatures

Reliability & Safety

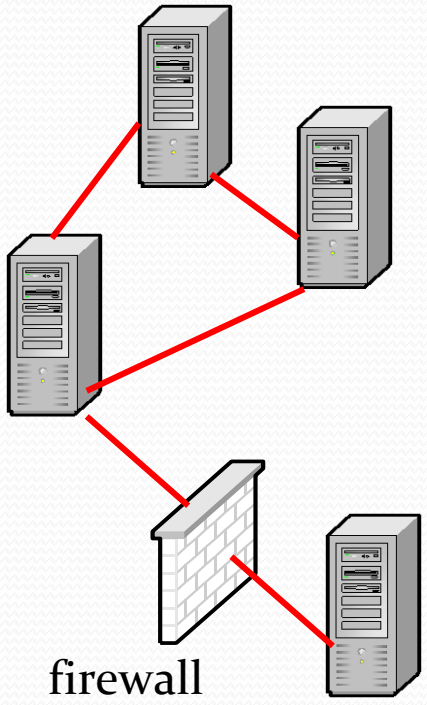
- Reliability and safety are related to security:
  - Similar engineering methods,
  - Similar efforts in standardisation,
  - Possible requirement conflicts.
- Reliability addresses the consequences of accidental errors.
- Is security part of reliability or vice versa?
- Safety: Measure of the absence of catastrophic influences on the environment, in particular on human life.

Dependability

- Proposal for a term that encompasses reliability, safety, and security
- Dependability (IFIP WG 10.4):
  - The property of a computer system such that reliance can justifiably be placed on the service it delivers. The service delivered by a system is its behaviour as it is perceived by its user(s); a user is another system (physical, human) which interacts with the former.

Aspects of Security

- Distributed systems: computers connected by networks
- Communications (network) security: addresses security of the communications links
- Computer security: addresses security of the end systems; today, this is the difficult part
- Application security: relies on both to provide services securely to end users
- Security management: how to deploy security technologies



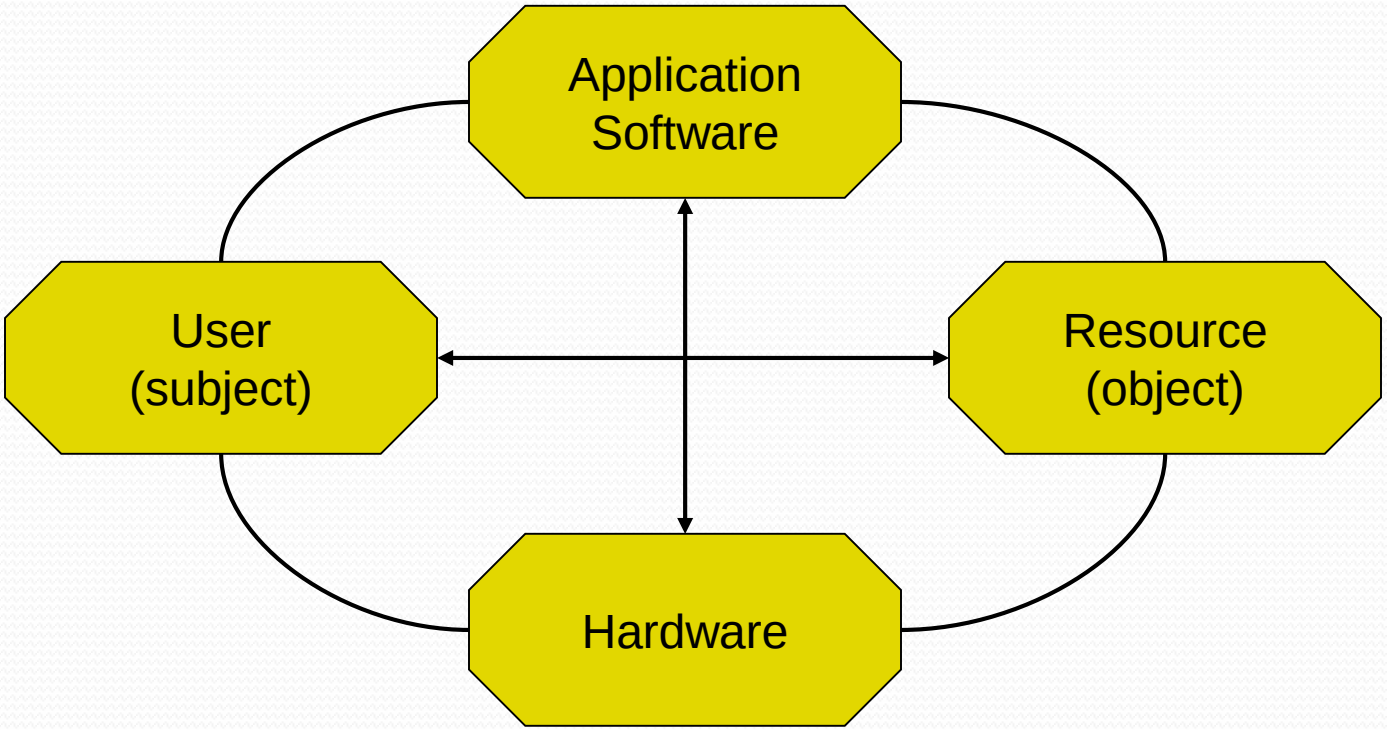
The Fundamental Dilemma of Computer Security

Security unaware users have specific security requirements but no security expertise.

- If you provide your customers with a standard solution it might not meet their requirements.
- If you want to tailor your solution to your customers' needs, they may be unable to tell you what they require.

Principles of Computer Security

The Dimensions of Computer Security



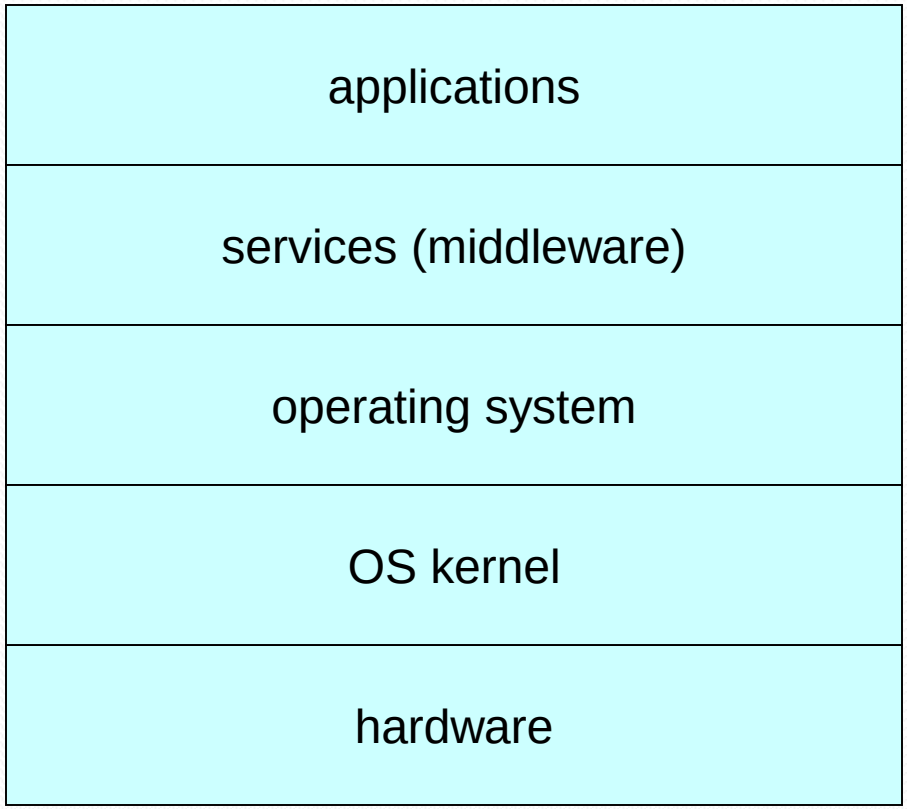
1st Fundamental Design Decision

Where to focus security controls?

The focus may be on data – operations – users; e.g. integrity requirements may refer to rules on

- Format and content of data items (internal consistency): account balance is an integer.
- Operations that may be performed on a data item: credit, debit, transfer, …
- Users who are allowed to access a data item (authorised access): account holder and bank clerk have access to account.

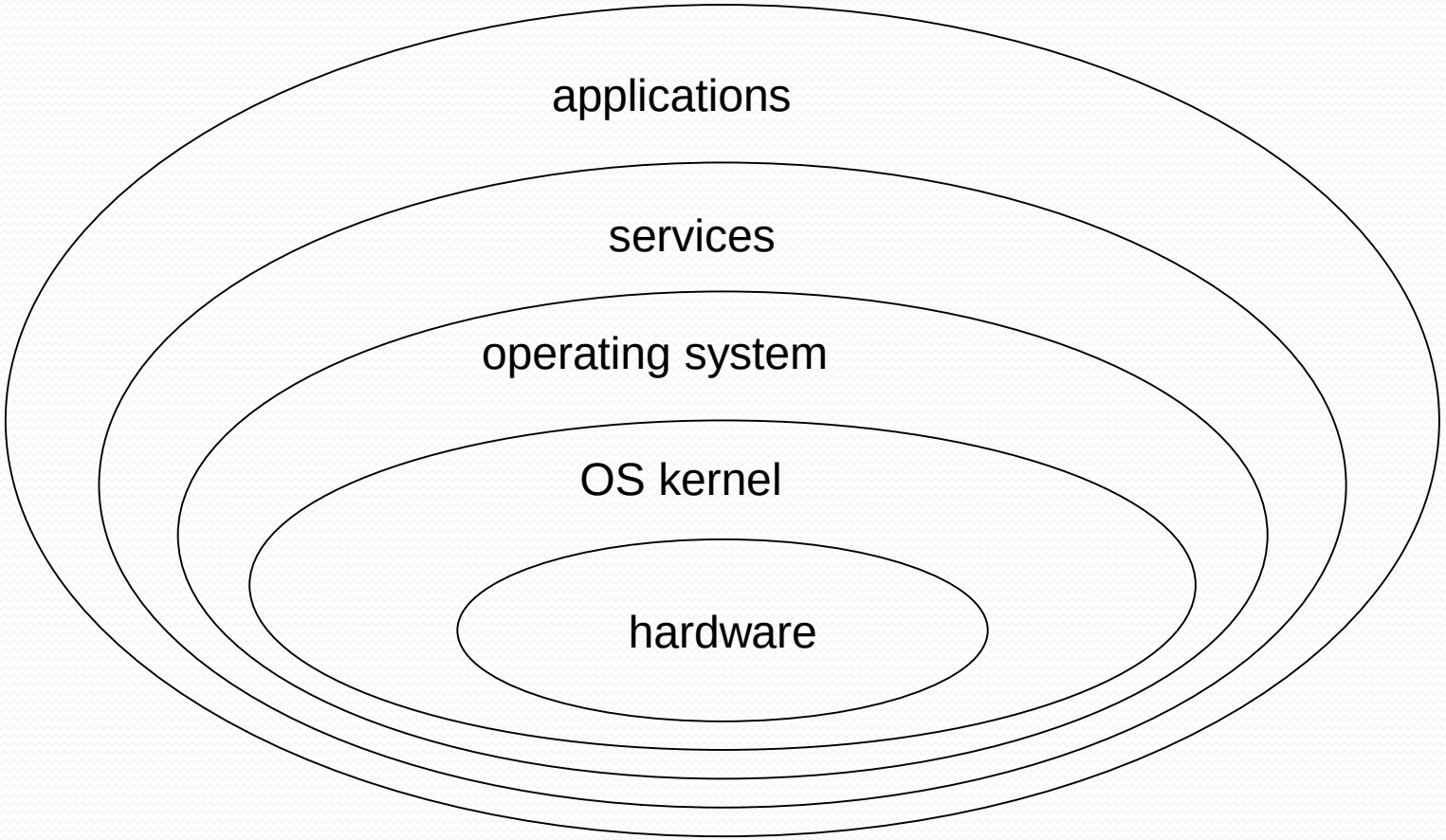
2nd Fundamental Design Decision Where to place security controls?



The Man-Machine Scale

- Visualize security mechanisms as concentric protection rings, with hardware mechanisms in the centre and application mechanisms at the outside.
- Mechanisms towards the centre tend to be more generic while mechanisms at the outside are more likely to address individual user requirements.
- The man-machine scale for security mechanisms combines our first two design decisions.

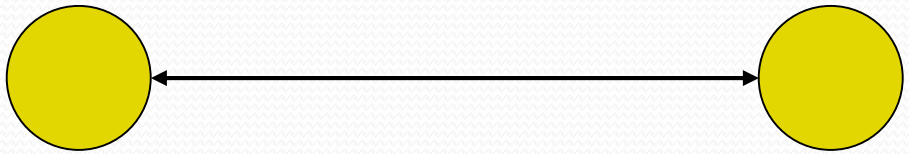
Onion Model of Protection



The Man-Machine Scale

specific
complex
focus on users

generic
simple
focus on data



man
oriented

machine
oriented

Data VS Information

Controlling access to information may be elusive and need to be replaced by controlling access to data.
If information and corresponding data are closely linked the two approaches give very similar results, but this is not always the case.

Inference in statistical databases: combine statistical queries to get information on individual entries.

3rd Fundamental Design Decision

Complexity or Assurance?

- Often, the location of a security mechanism on the man-machine scale is related to its complexity.
- Generic mechanisms are simple, applications clamour for feature-rich security functions.
- Do you prefer simplicity – and higher assurance – to a feature-rich security environment?

4th Fundamental Design Decision
Centralized or decentralized control?

- Within the domain of a security policy, the same controls should be enforced.
- If a single entity is in charge of security, then it is easy to achieve uniformity but this central entity may become a performance bottleneck.

4th Fundamental Design Decision
Centralized or decentralized control?

- Within the domain of a security policy, the same controls should be enforced.
- If a single entity is in charge of security, then it is easy to achieve uniformity but this central entity may become a performance bottleneck.

5th Fundamental Design Decision
Blocking Access to the Layer Below

- Attackers try to bypass protection mechanisms.
- There is an immediate and important corollary to the second design decision:
- How do you stop an attacker from getting access to a layer below your protection mechanism?

Computer Attack Analysis

- Basic overview of:
  - Attack patterns
  - Countermeasures applied
  - Costs involved
- All figures from "CSI Computer Crime & Security Survey 2008" (www.gocsi.com)

Figure 6: Awareness Training as a Percentage of Security Budget

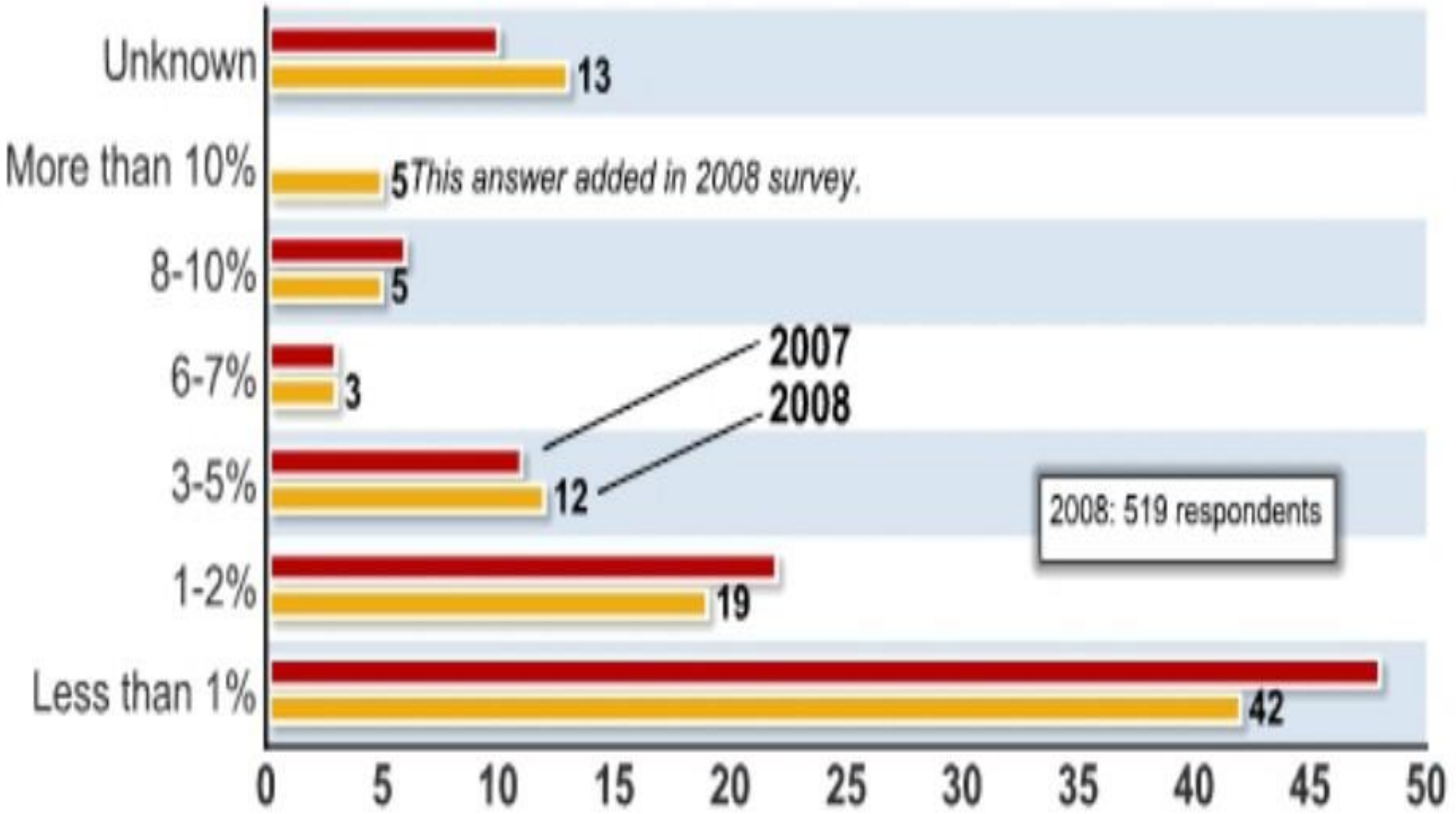


Figure 8: Percentage of Security Outsourced

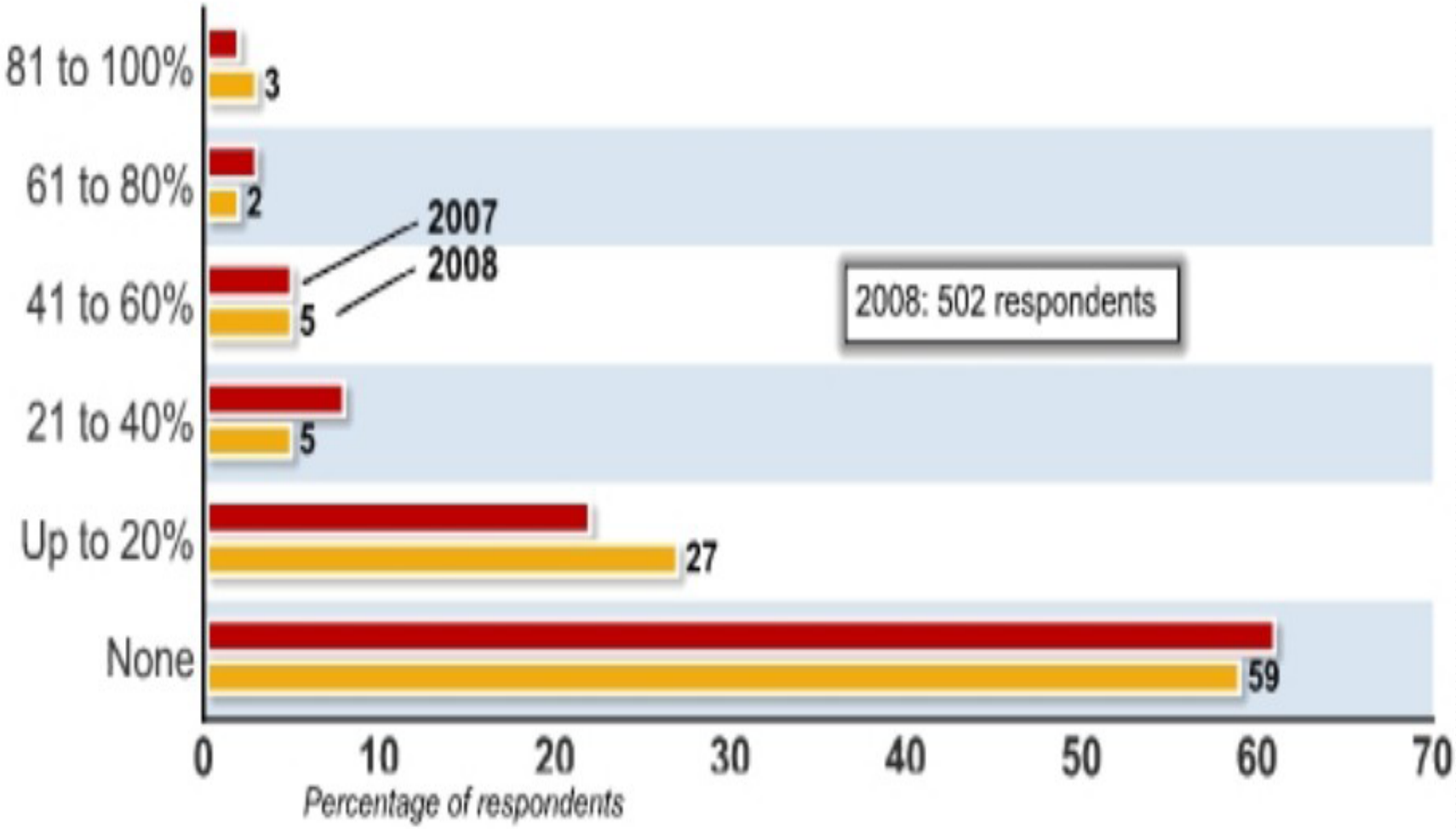


Figure 10: Experienced Security Incidents

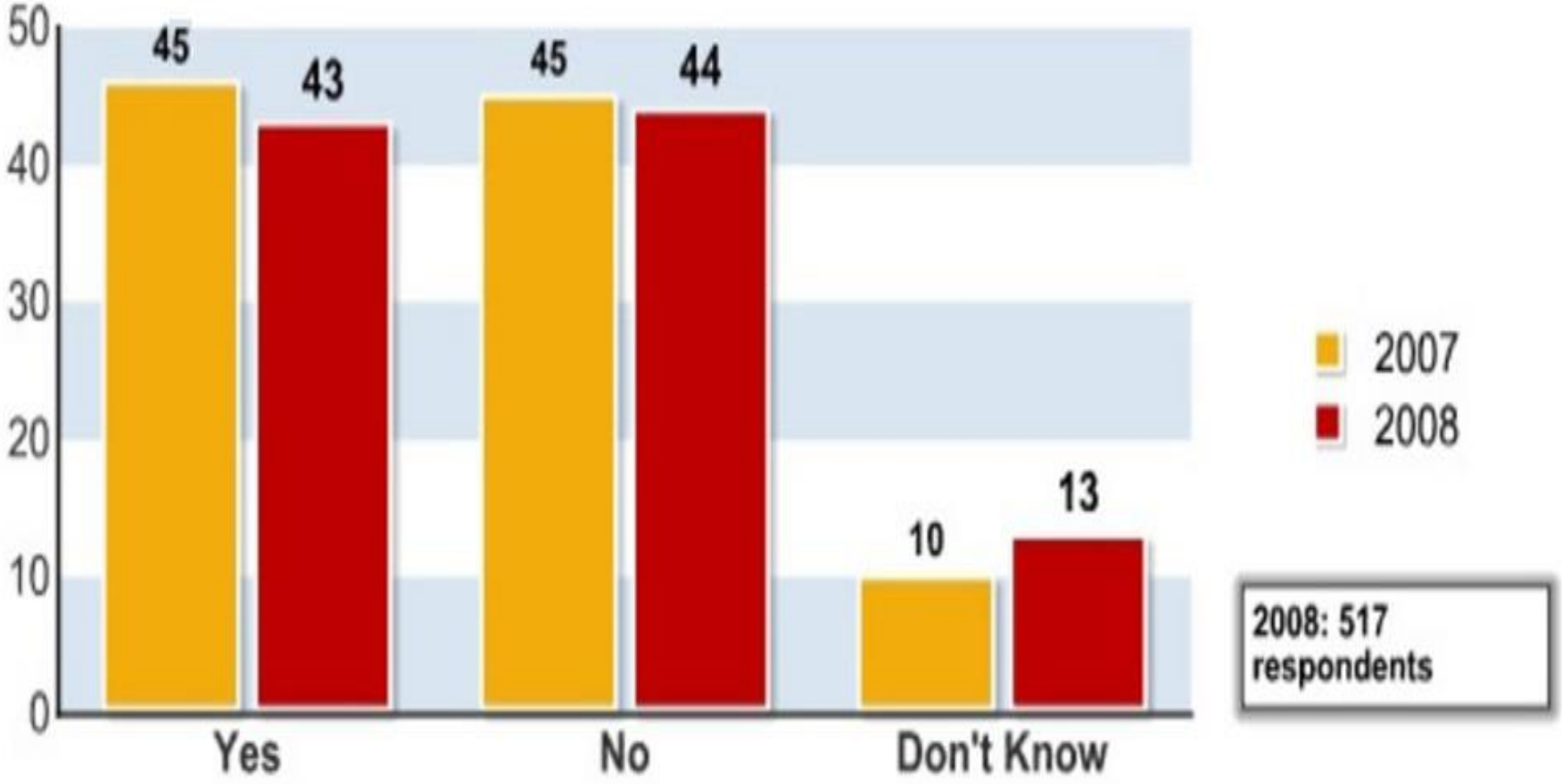


Figure 11: Number of Incidents by Percentage

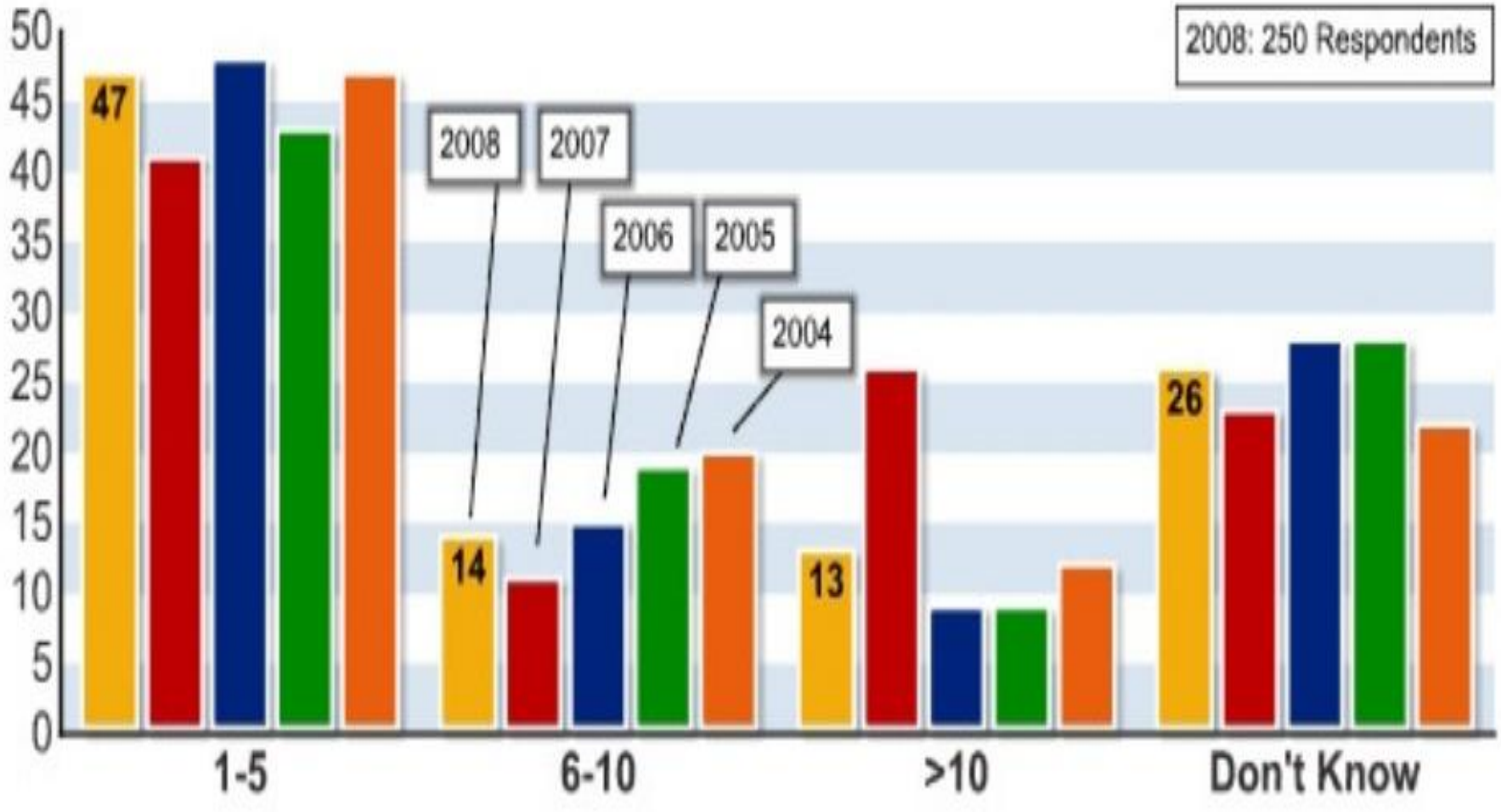


Figure 12: Percentage of Losses Due to Insiders

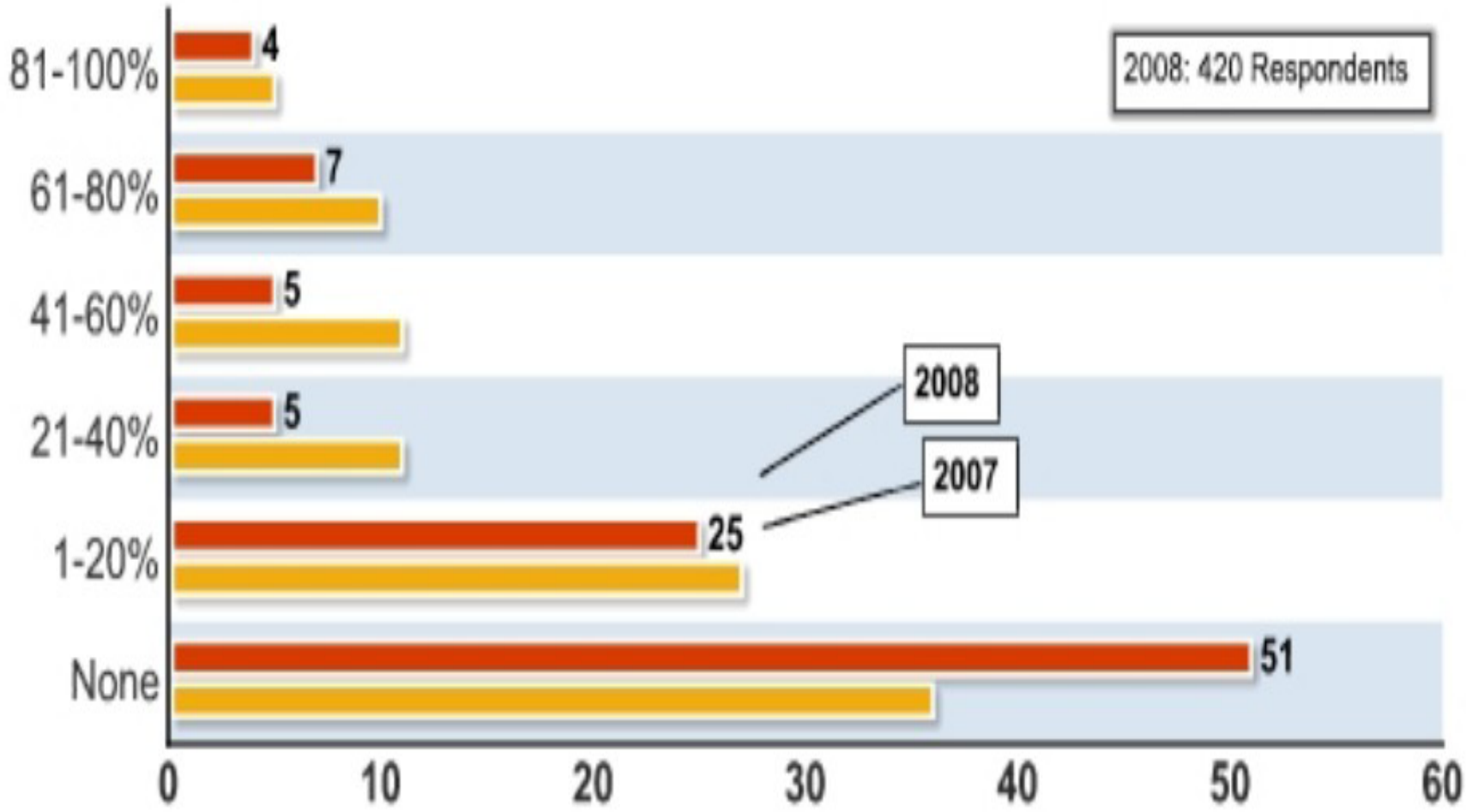


Figure 13: Percentages of Key Types of Incident

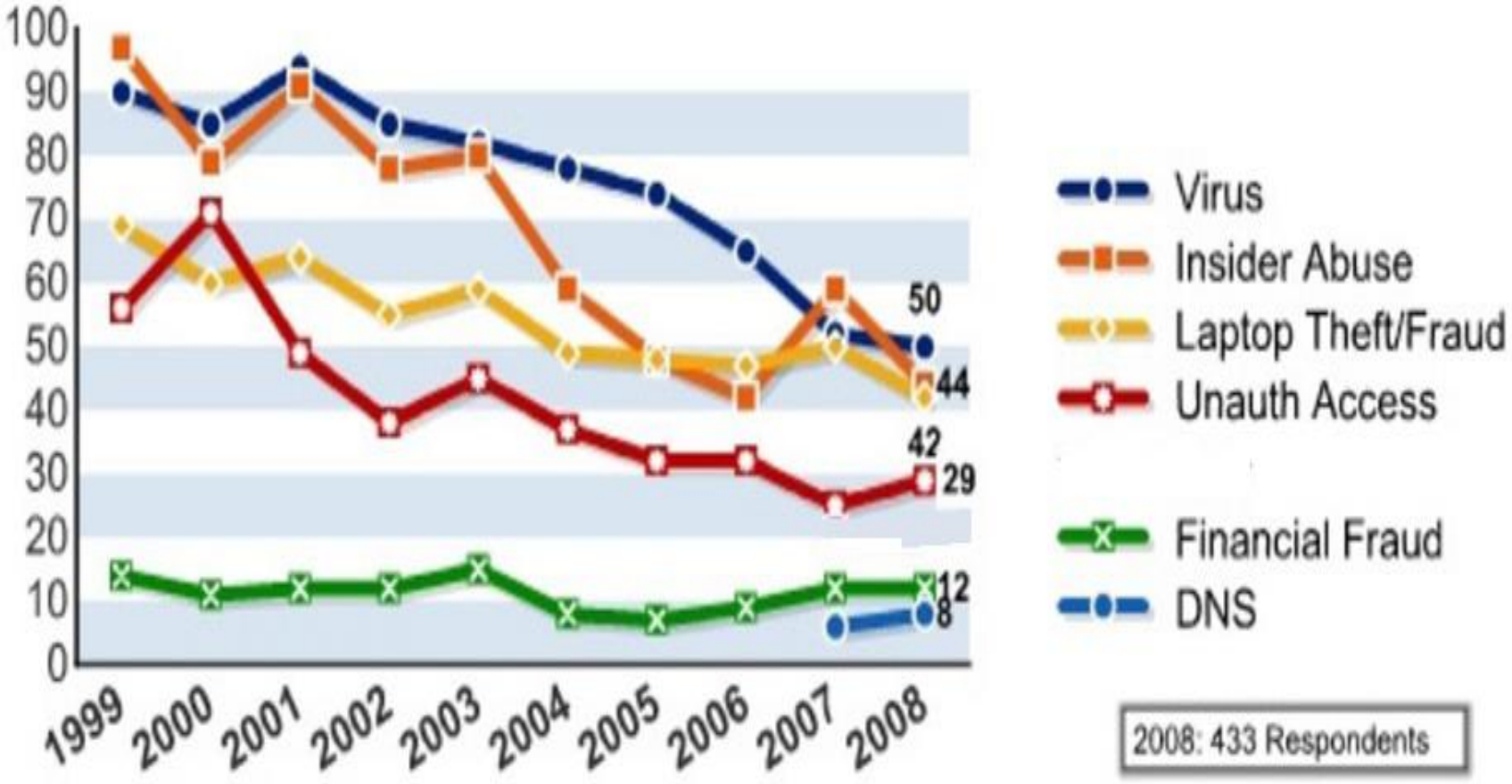


Table 1	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Denial of service	39%	32%	25%	25%	21%
Laptop theft	49%	48%	47%	50%	42%
Telecom fraud	10%	10%	8%	5%	5%
Unauthorized access	37%	32%	32%	25%	29%
Virus	78%	74%	65%	52%	50%
Financial fraud	8%	7%	9%	12%	12%
Insider abuse	59%	48%	42%	59%	44%
System penetration	17%	14%	15%	13%	13%
Sabotage	5%	2%	3%	4%	2%
Theft/loss of proprietary info	10%	9%	9%	8%	9%
from mobile devices					4%
from all other sources					5%
Abuse of wireless network	15%	16%	14%	17%	14%
Web site defacement	7%	5%	6%	10%	6%
Misuse of Web application	10%	5%	6%	9%	11%
Bots				21%	20%
DNS attacks				6%	8%
Instant messaging abuse				25%	21%
Password sniffing				10%	9%
Theft/loss of customer data				17%	17%
from mobile devices					8%
from all other sources					8%

Figure 14: Average Losses Per Respondent

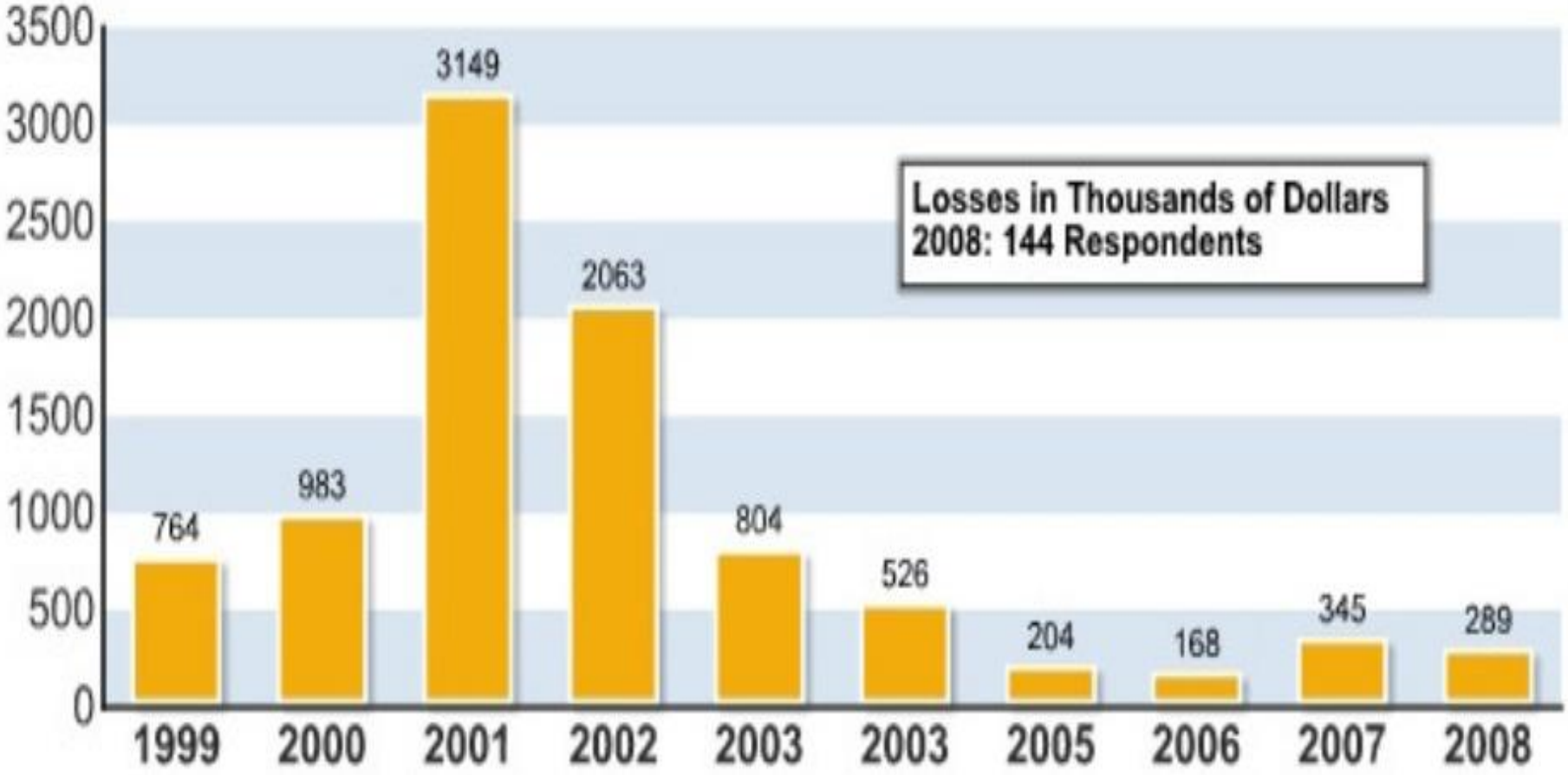


Figure 15: Number of Targeted Attacks

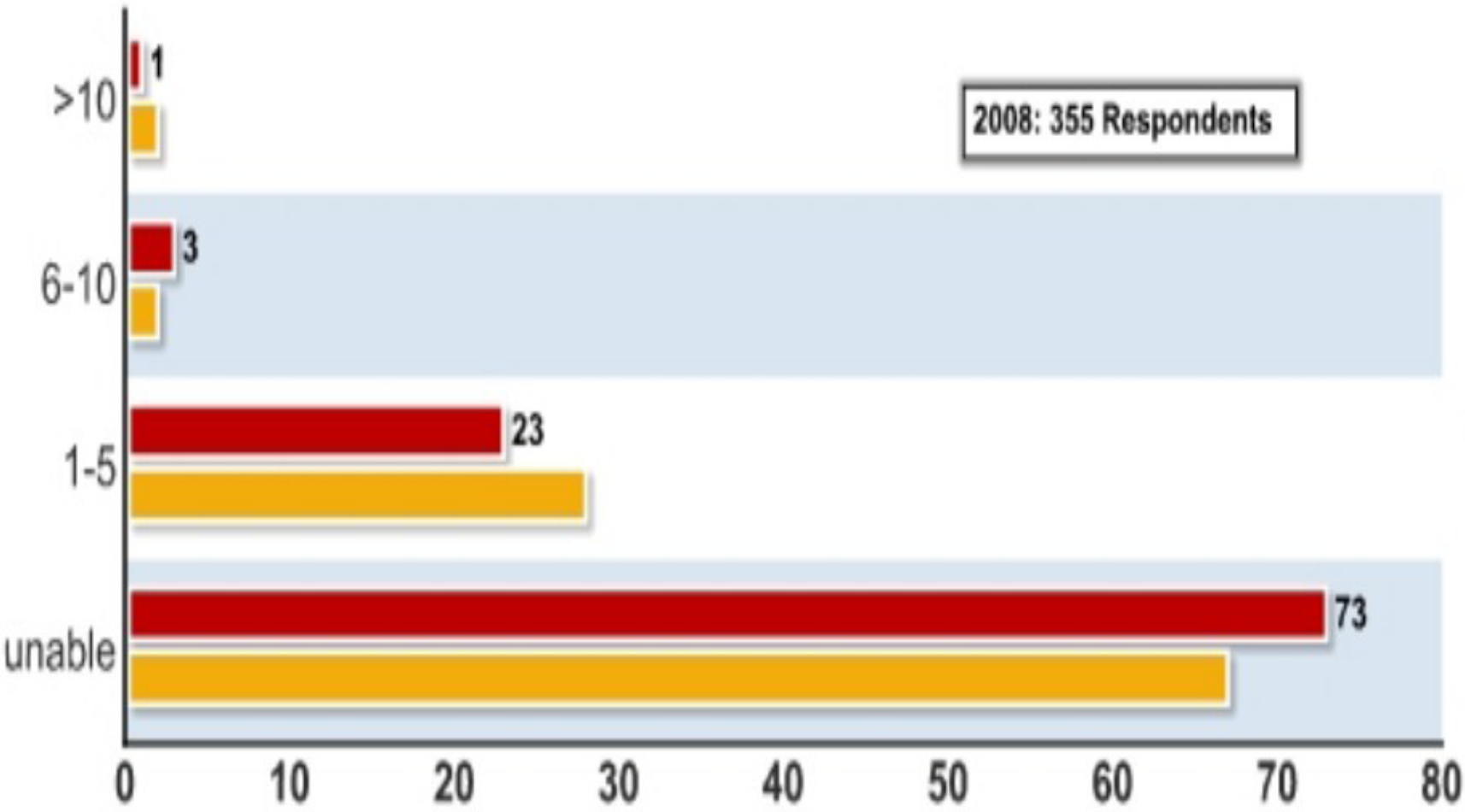


Figure 16: Security Technologies Used

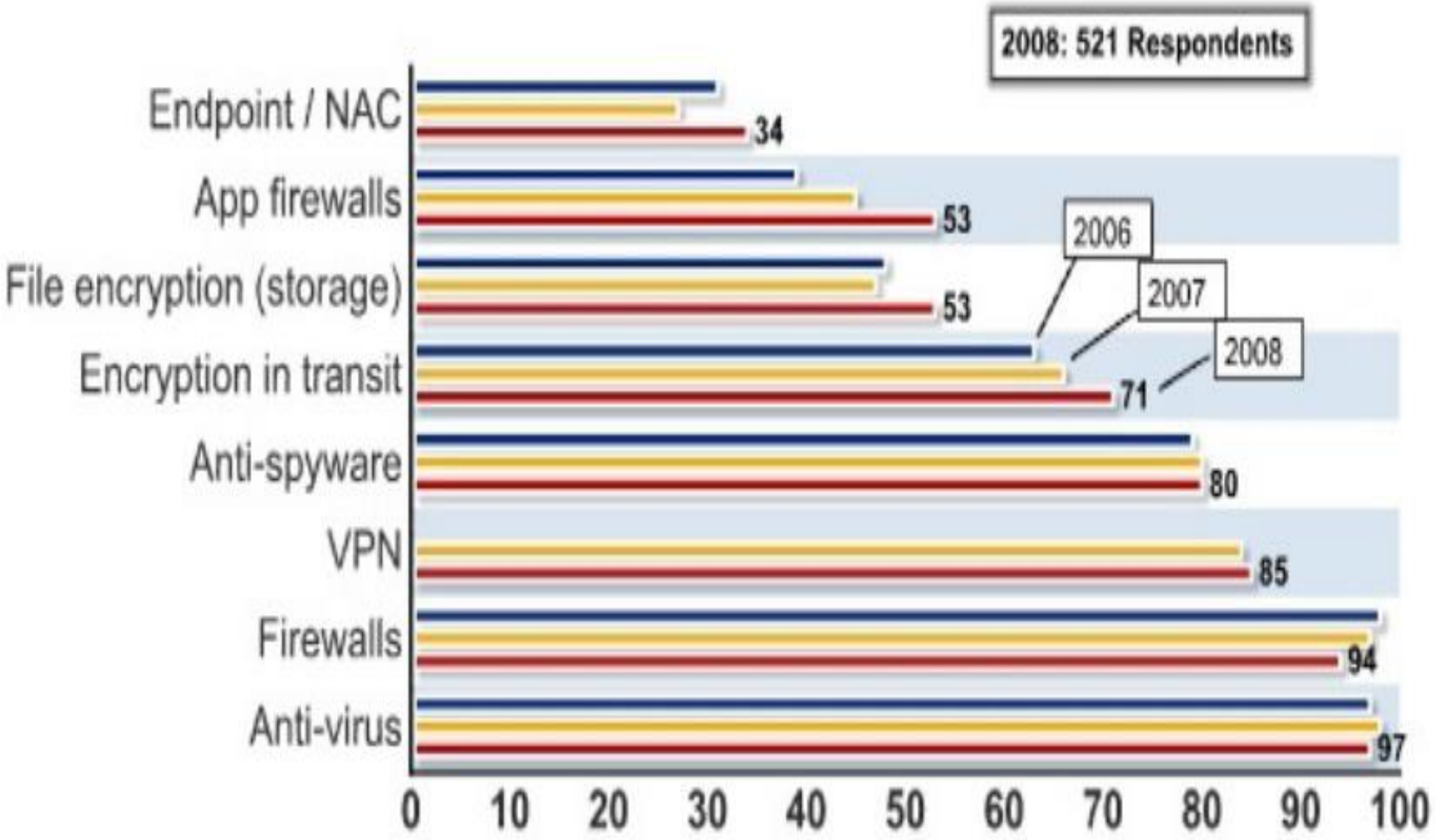


Table 2: Technologies Used	2008
Anti-virus software	97 %
Anti-spyware software	80 %
Application-level firewalls	53 %
Biometrics	23 %
Data loss prevention / content monitoring	38 %
Encryption of data in transit	71 %
Encryption of data at rest (in storage)	53 %
Endpoint security client software / NAC	34 %
Firewalls	94 %
Forensics tools	41 %
Intrusion detection systems	69 %
Intrusion prevention systems	54 %
Log management software	51 %
Public Key Infrastructure systems	36 %
Server-based access control lists	50 %
Smart cards and other one-time tokens	36 %
Specialized wireless security systems	27 %
Static account / login passwords	46 %
Virtualization-specific tools	29 %
Virtual Private Network (VPN)	85 %
Vulnerability / patch management tools	65 %
Web / URL filtering	61 %
Other	3 %

Figure 17: Techniques Used To Evaluate Security Techology

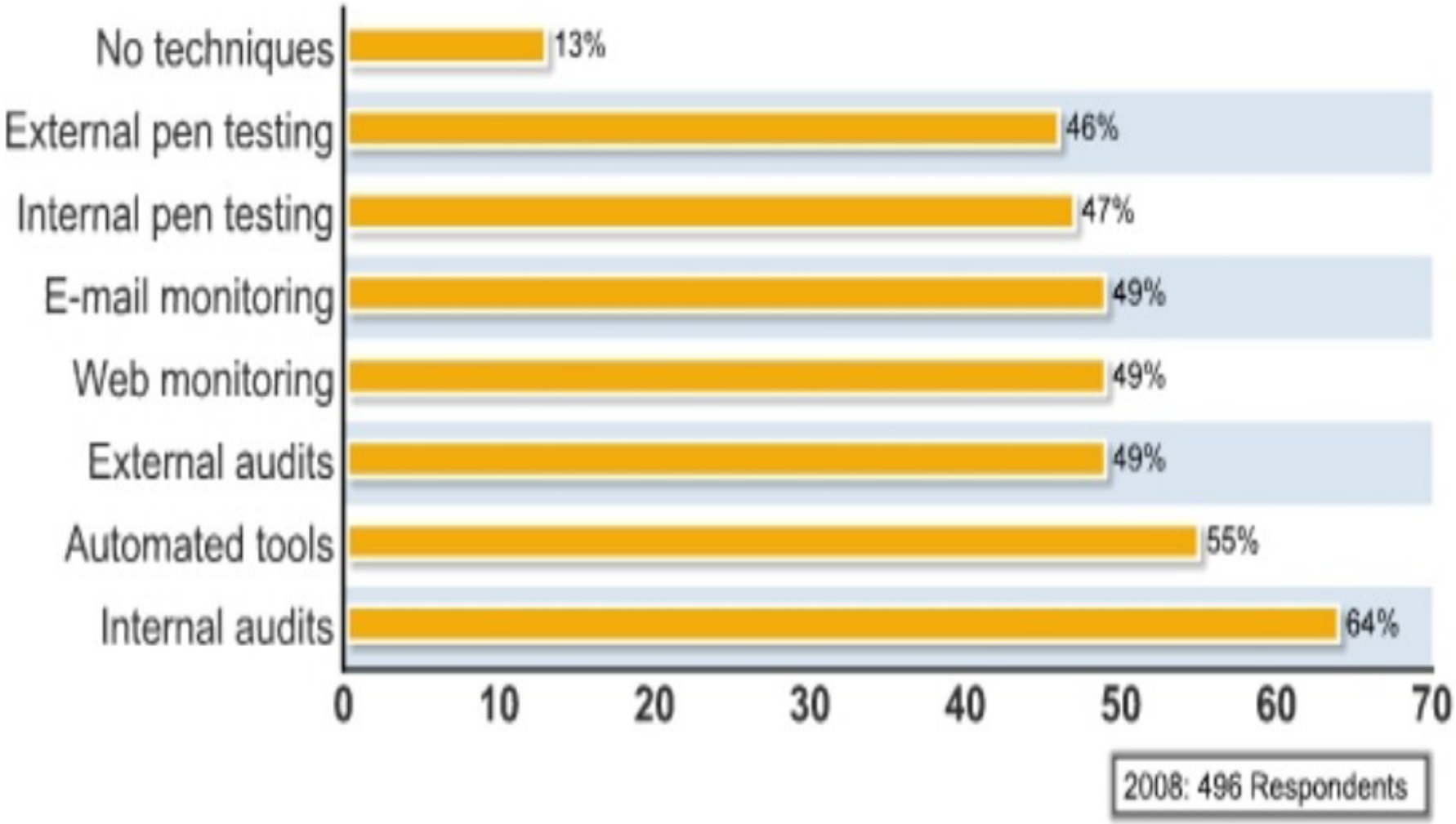
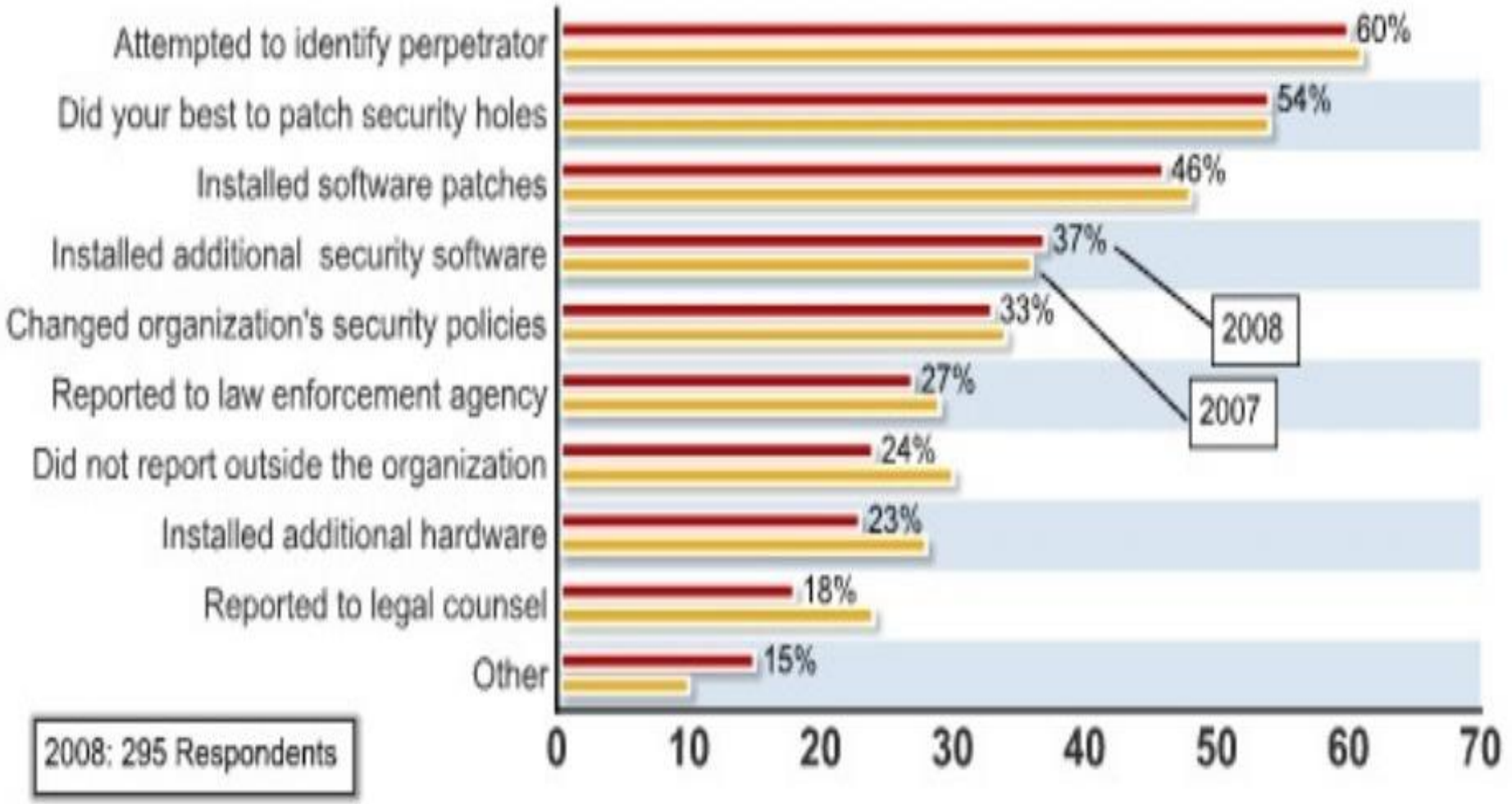


Figure 20: Actions Taken After an Incident



Tools for Attack

- Most common tools:
- Metasploit
- nmap
- snort
- hping2
- tcpdump
- ettercap
- THC hydra
- dsniff
- whisker
- Cain & Abel
- wireshark
- netcat
- kismet
- john the ripper
- nikto / wikto
- paros proxy
- net stumbler

Commercial Tools

- Core Impact http://www.coresecurity.com/
- CANVAS pro http://www.immunitysec.com/productscanvas.shtml
- Nessus (Tenable) http://www.nessus.org/
- Retina (eEye) http://www.eeye.com/