

## What is the current state of information security?

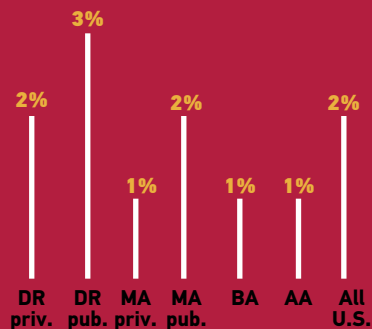
A yearly favorite on the EDUCAUSE annual Top 10 IT Issues list, information security has appeared on the list 13 times since 2000. In 2016, information security returned to the top spot on the list, a ranking it last occupied in 2008.

A backdrop of constant threats, fast-changing technologies, and heightened expectations from the user community means that developing a holistic and agile approach to information security is required to reduce institutional exposure to security threats.

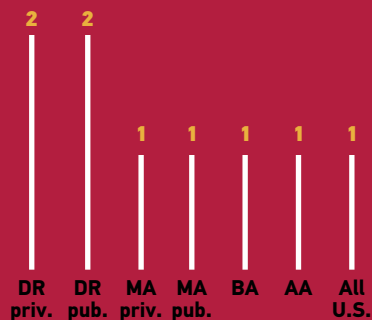
This year's CDS Spotlight on Information Security highlights the demographics of institutional information security programs, the areas that information security departments are responsible for, and user attitudes toward information security practices.

### Spending and Staffing

Information security spending as a percentage of central IT spending



Central IT information security FTEs per 10,000 institutional FTEs



### Responsibility for Information Security Practices

Many information security services are delivered by central IT units and other departments, highlighting that an institution-wide approach to information security involves multiple stakeholders.



Information for this Spotlight was derived from 2015 ECAR technology research in the academic community and modules 1 and 7 of the 2015 Core Data Service (CDS). CDS module 1 focuses on IT financial and staffing data. CDS module 7 focuses on information security and identity management practices.

## User Perceptions of Information Security

Ensuring that students, faculty, and staff are savvy about information security threats is often the most challenging element of information security programs. Understanding a user's thoughts and expectations toward information security can help institutions better tailor their information security training and awareness activities.



**3 in 4**

Institutions with mandatory information security training for **staff**



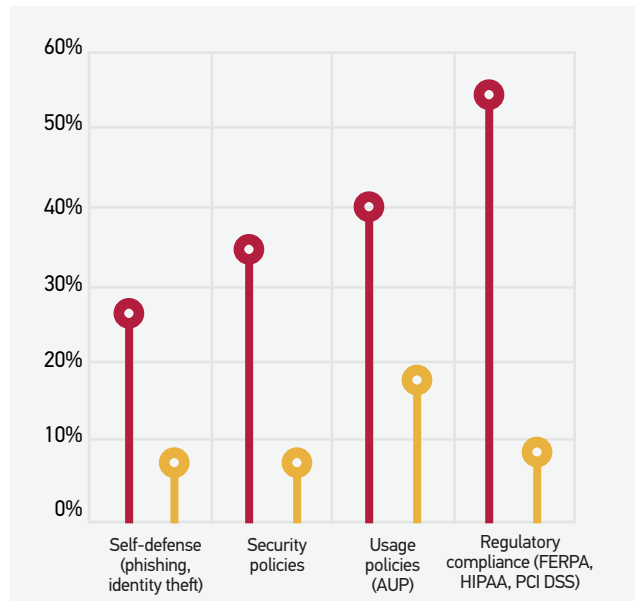
**1 in 4**

Institutions with mandatory information security training for **students**

Faculty and staff receive more information security awareness training than students overall and on regulatory compliance issues in particular. Students receive more training on acceptable use policies.

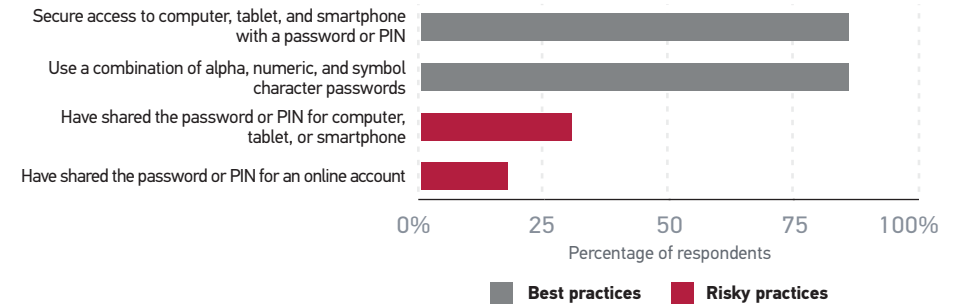
### Institutions with information security training:

● for faculty or staff    ● for students



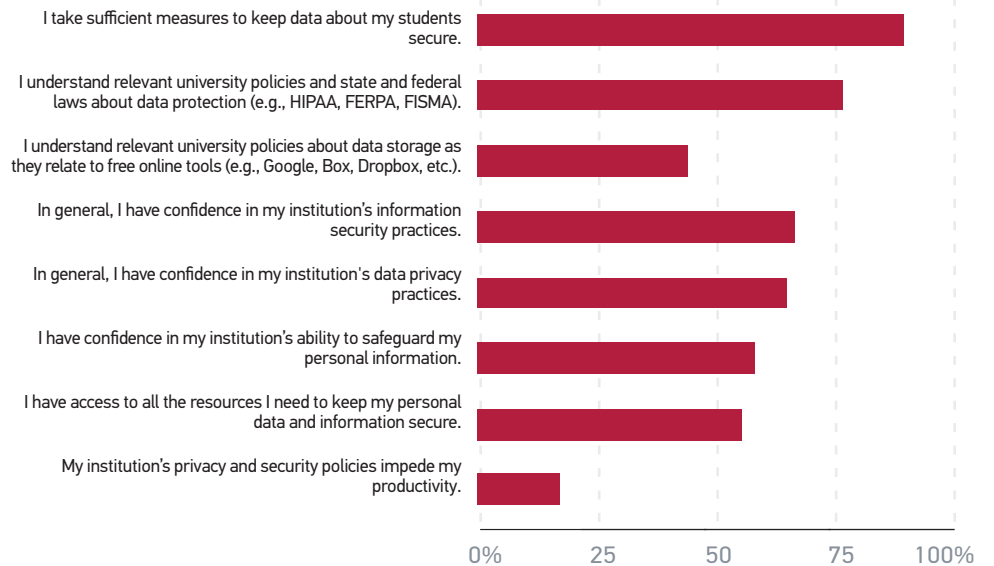
## Student Security Practices

A majority of students employ best practices regarding device protection and password use. Students are somewhat judicious when sharing passwords for online accounts.



## Faculty Security Practices

While 9 out of 10 faculty claim to protect student data, less than 50% of faculty understand university policies related to data storage in cloud-based tools.



### About the Authors

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### See Also

- Leah Lang, "2015 CDS Benchmarking Report," March 2016.
- 2015 EDUCAUSE Technology Research in the Academic Community.
- EDUCAUSE Cybersecurity Initiative.