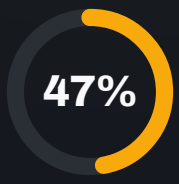
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NOVEMBER 2026

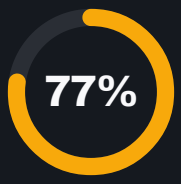
BLACKFOG RESEARCH

47% of security leaders have experienced sensitive data exposure through AI tools

Speed of AI adoption outpacing governance and technical controls.



of security decision makers have confirmed their organization has experienced an incident in which **sensitive data was exposed through an AI tool**.



of those organizations that had experienced a data incident said **a sanctioned, company-approved AI tool was involved**.

Speed is outpacing control

39%

of organizations report that AI adoption is moving faster than they can govern it.

27%

of those respondents feeling outpaced have comprehensive AI controls in place.

Approaches to enforcement vary

98% Report having an AI usage policy in place

35% Have a written policy specifying what information employees must not enter into AI prompts, but without technical enforcement

56% Support their broader AI usage policies with comprehensive technical controls

AI visibility falls short of what data is shared

62% Could identify users or departments sending data to AI tools

48% Could provide any record of the types of data that had left the organization through AI tools

Autonomous AI agents present a gap in governance

56%

say autonomous AI agents acting on behalf of employees fall outside their organization's existing controls.

70%

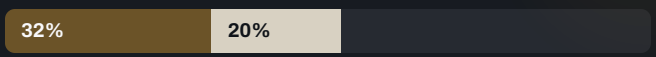
Highest among respondents in technology and telecoms.

Shadow AI is easier to spot than block



- **54%** can block or restrict unsanctioned AI tools
- **32%** can detect Shadow AI use but are unable to consistently stop it

Controls are weakest around proprietary design and content



- **32%** stated that they can detect or monitor, but can't consistently prevent it
- **20%** stated they rely primarily on written policies or training

Methodology: The results from this survey are from an online survey Sapio Research fielded on behalf of BlackFog with IT Security Decision Makers in companies of over 500 employees across the UK (200) and US (200). The research was conducted in September 2026.