

WHAT COMPANIES NEED TO EFFECTIVELY SUPPORT A LONG-TERM HYBRID WORKFORCE

The global COVID-19 pandemic had a major impact on businesses and forced many to adopt new working models involving remote work. This meant the adoption of new technologies and the need to reinforce network security. But did businesses use the right tech, and will that technology be capable of supporting a long-term adoption of remote work at any level? With many employees now accustomed to the option to work from home, businesses may need to adjust their technology and cybersecurity practices for a more permanent remote working environment.

Pulse and Sungard Availability Services (Sungard AS) surveyed 200 business leaders to understand the current state of remote work and what kind of working models can be expected this fall. Plus, what does this mean from a technology perspective?

Data collected from June 24 - August 1, 2021
Respondents: 200 business leaders

EMPLOYEES CAN EXPECT TO REMAIN AT LEAST PARTIALLY REMOTE THIS FALL, WITH MOST RELYING ON IT INFRASTRUCTURE INTENDED FOR TEMPORARY REMOTE WORK

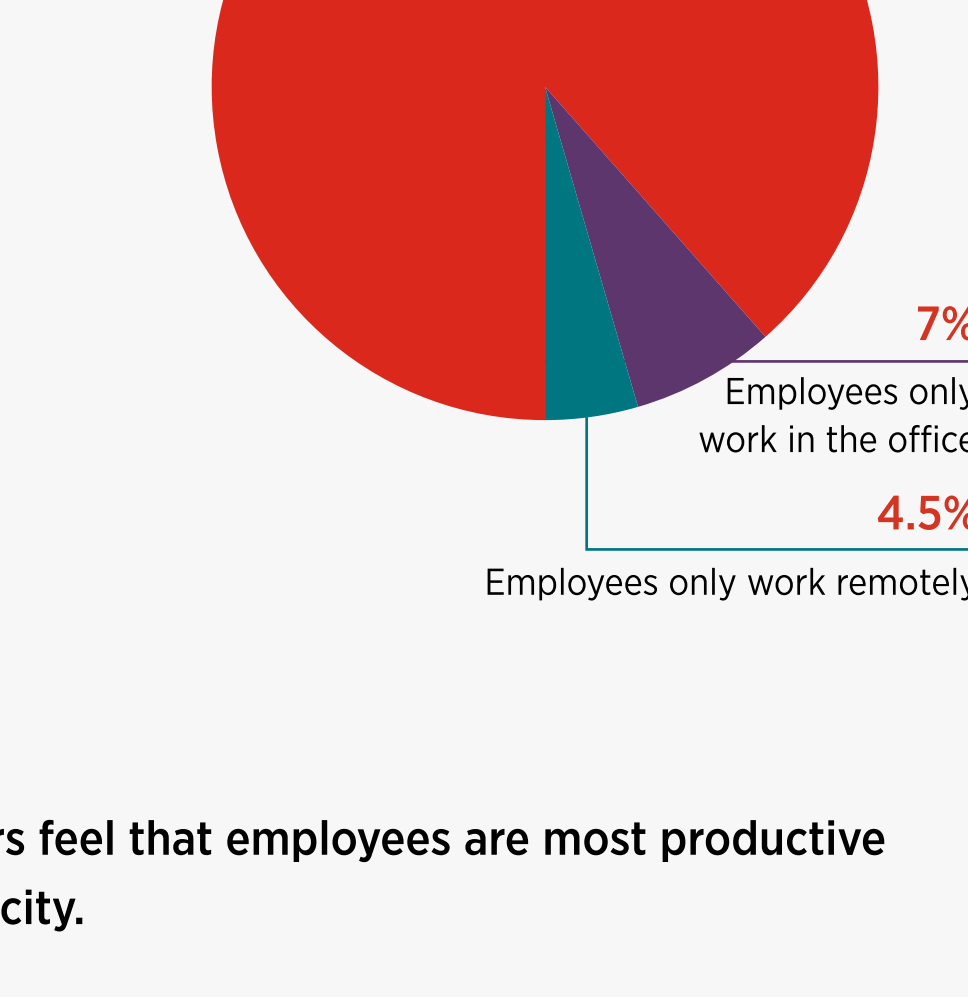
96% of respondents have been working remotely in some capacity, but 76% of respondents describe their current working situation involving remote work as temporary.

Which one of the following best describes your company's current work situation? Our employees are:



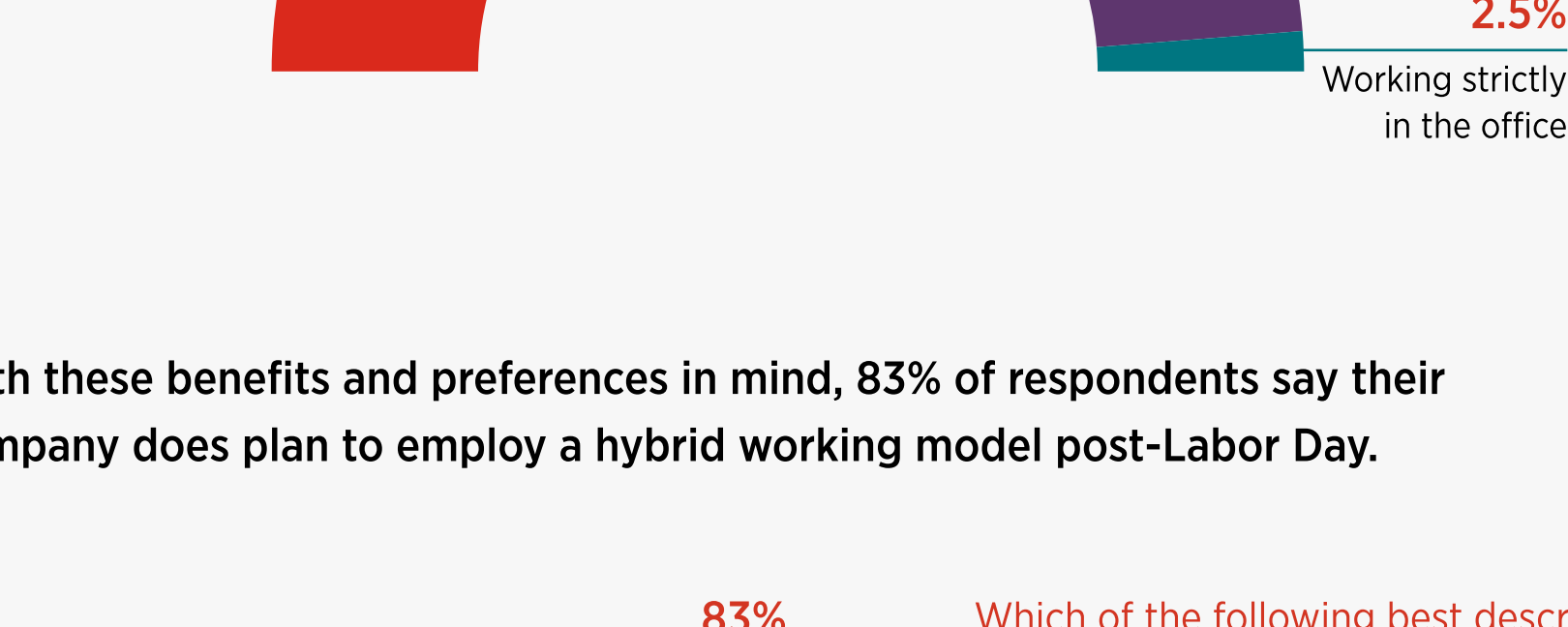
The vast majority of respondents (88.5%) consider a mix of remote and in office work to be the ideal situation for their company post-Labor Day.

Which of the following would you consider to be the ideal work situation for your company following Labor Day?



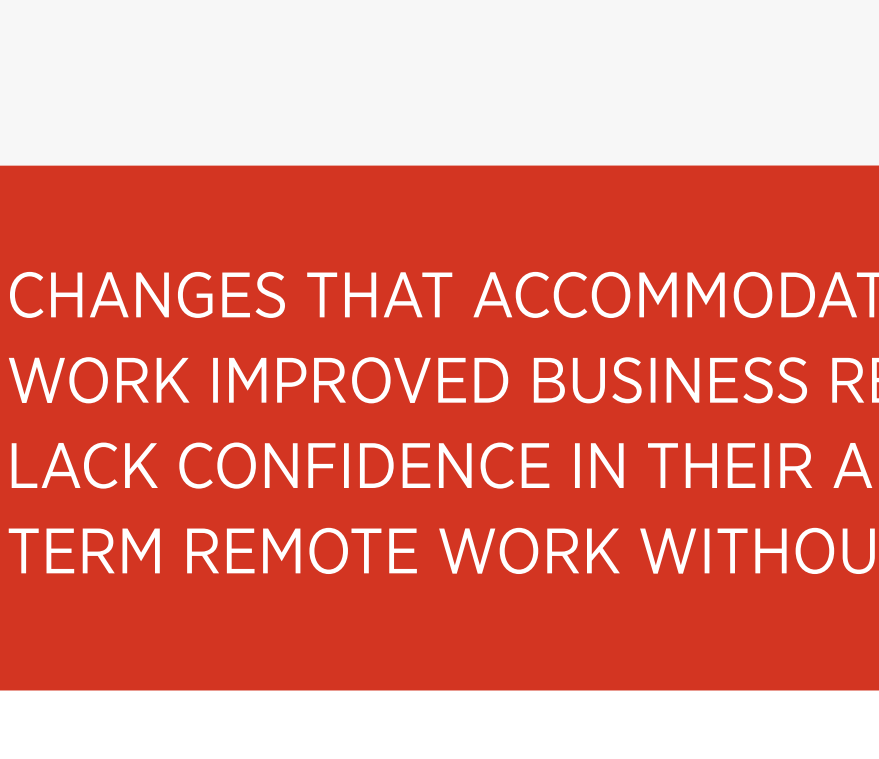
Additionally, 97.5% of business leaders feel that employees are most productive when working remotely in some capacity.

In which working situation do you feel employees are most productive?



With these benefits and preferences in mind, 83% of respondents say their company does plan to employ a hybrid working model post-Labor Day.

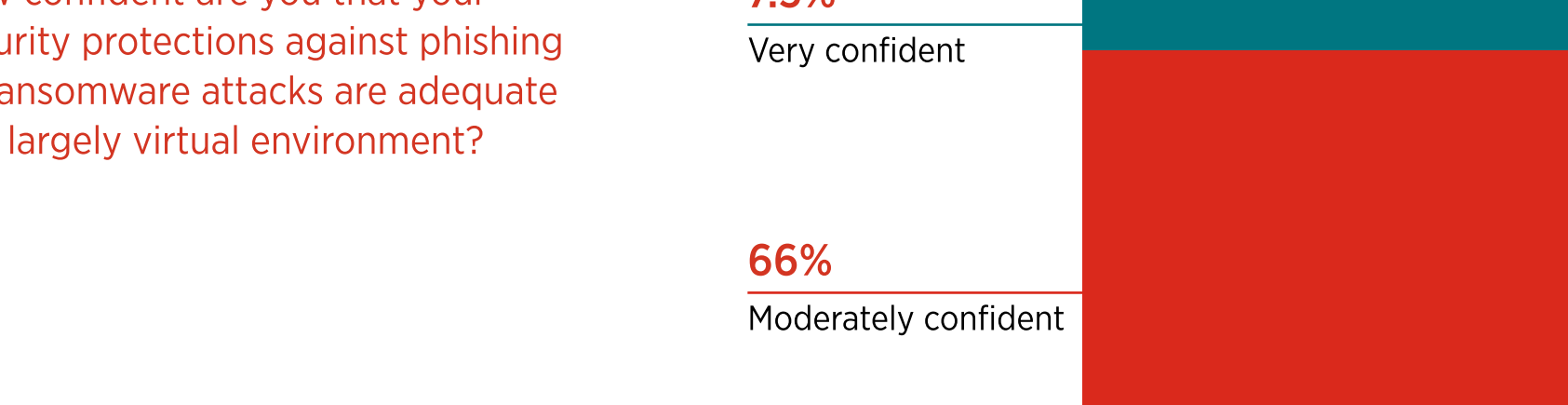
Which of the following best describes your company's working model plans following Labor Day?



CHANGES THAT ACCOMMODATED TEMPORARY REMOTE WORK IMPROVED BUSINESS RESILIENCE, BUT LEADERS STILL LACK CONFIDENCE IN THEIR ABILITY TO SUPPORT LONG TERM REMOTE WORK WITHOUT COMPROMISING SECURITY

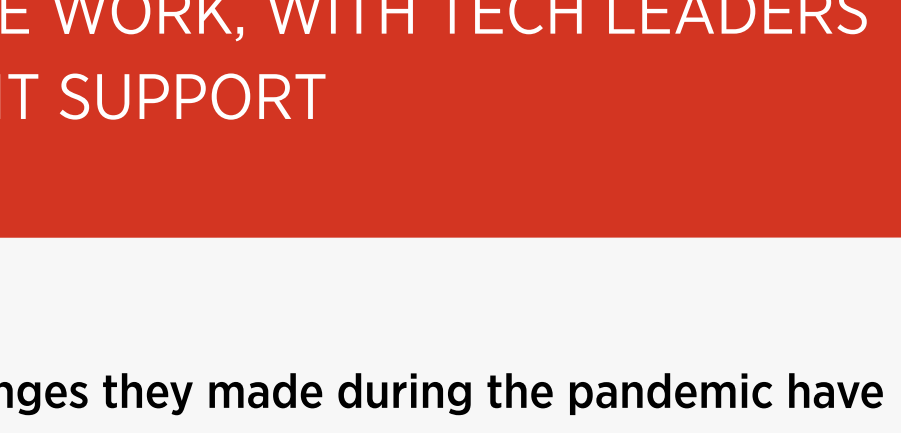
Only about 1 in 5 business leaders are very confident that their infrastructure security can operate in a long-term remote working environment.

How confident are you that your infrastructure security can operate in a long-term remote working environment?



Not only do businesses need to modernize their infrastructure to support a more permanent remote workforce, but they need to secure their environments as well. Currently, only 7.5% are very confident that their security protections against phishing or ransomware attacks are adequate in a largely virtual environment.

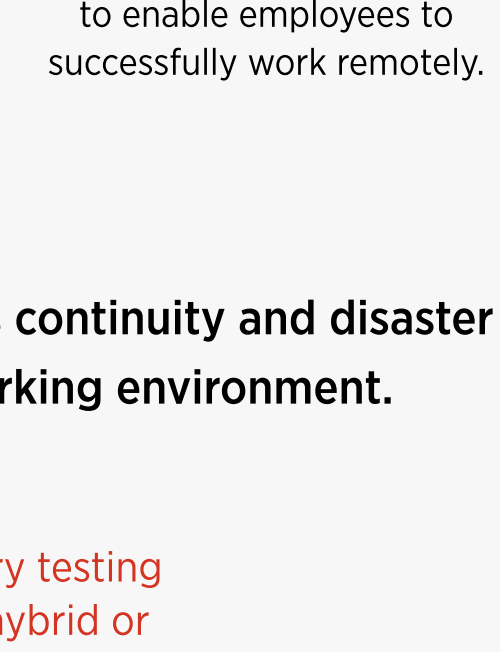
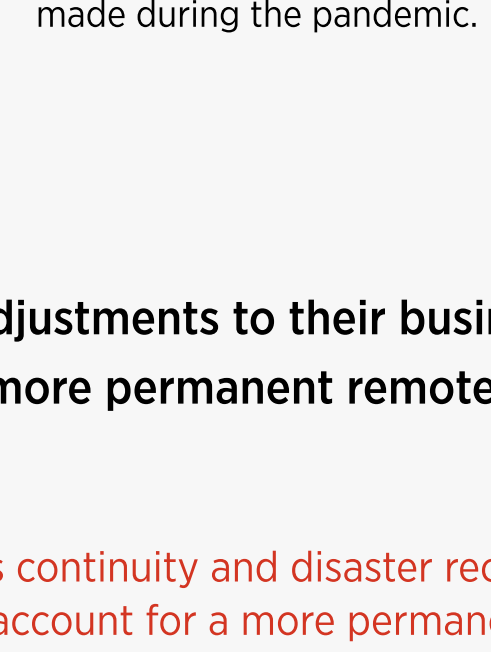
How confident are you that your security protections against phishing or ransomware attacks are adequate in a largely virtual environment?



MOST COMPANIES PLAN TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS TO SUPPORT CONTINUED REMOTE WORK, WITH TECH LEADERS FOCUSED ON SECURITY AND IT SUPPORT

61.5% of respondents agree that the changes they made during the pandemic have improved their resiliency, but 43% feel that more work is needed to create a successful remote working environment for employees.

Which of the following statements do you agree with?



97% of respondents will make adjustments to their business continuity and disaster recovery plans to account for a more permanent remote working environment.

Will your business continuity and disaster recovery testing plans change to account for a more permanent hybrid or remote working environment?



Tech leaders consider good security a must-have for employees working from home. 79% of respondents say software to secure work devices is absolutely essential for employees working remotely, and 76% consider an easy-to-use system for secure file sharing essential. Specialized IT support (71.5%) and high-speed internet connection (60%) are also considered essential by more than half the respondents.

For employees working remotely, which of the following are absolutely essential to working from home in particular?

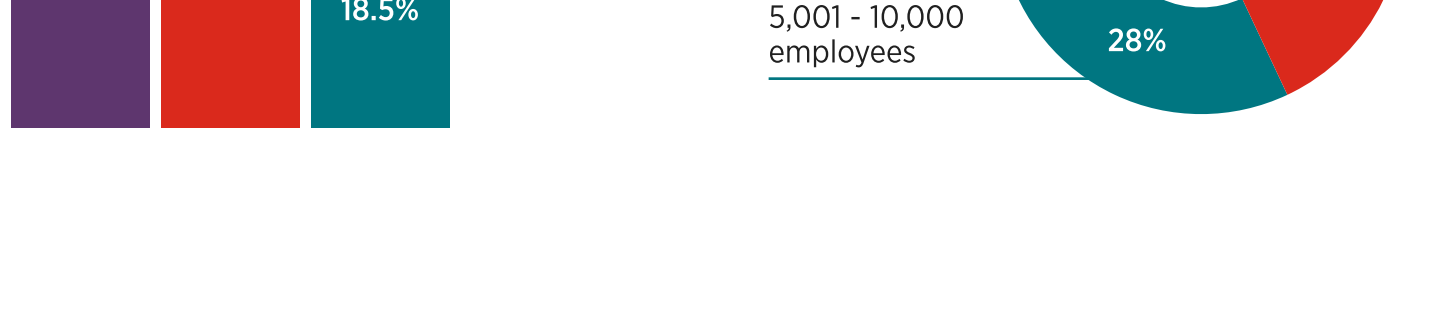


As more organizations make remote work a permanent fixture, they must take steps to ensure they can support it accordingly. Modernizing your infrastructure and updating and amending your business continuity and disaster recovery plans are good places to start. But, in addition to basic cybersecurity measures, it's important to prioritize advanced cybersecurity training to keep your employees abreast of the latest phishing scams and make sure they know how to respond if your business gets attacked.

Employees' desire for an increasingly flexible working environment is here to stay. So, too, is your responsibility to guarantee it's always safely running.

RESPONDENT BREAKDOWN

Region



Title



Company Size

