Big Data is on the Rise*

81% of Feds are using big data analytics for cybersecurity efforts, including...
53% who say it’s built into their overall cybersecurity strategy
51% of Feds use behavioral analytics

Feds are using big data to:

55% detect vulnerabilities in the IT environment
54% detect that a breach is currently happening
51% correlate and analyze data from multiple sources
71% have some form of continuous diagnostic capabilities

But Breaches are Breaking Down the Floodgates

45% of Feds using big data for cybersecurity say their efforts are “highly effective”
59% of Feds say their agency deals with a cybersecurity compromise at least once a month due to their inability to fully analyze data

And Feds are Struggling to Stay Afloat

Top challenges are:

1. The sheer volume of cybersecurity data is overwhelming (49%)
2. Agencies don’t have the right systems in place to gather the cybersecurity information they need (33%)
3. The information is no longer timely when it makes it to cybersecurity managers (30%)

In fact, Feds estimate more than 40% of their data goes unanalyzed

In addition to budget issues, Feds’ efforts are hindered by:

- Lack of skilled personnel (40%)
- Potential privacy concerns (27%)
- Lack of management support/awareness (26%)

Calm Waters Ahead

Federal agencies that effectively use big data see improvements in cybersecurity:

93% of Feds believe CDM is improving government-wide security
84% of big data users say their agency has successfully used big data to thwart at least one cybersecurity attack
90% of big data users have seen a decline in security breaches as a result of using big data analytics. Most commonly in:
- 50% Malware
- 47% Insider threats
- 46% Social engineering (e.g., phishing, spear phishing threats via social networks)

To download the full report, please visit: https://www.meritalk.com/study/navigating-the-cybersecurity-equation/

*This is a significant increase in big data use from 2013, when just under one in four agencies reported launching a big data initiative (MeriTalk’s Smarter Uncle Sam: The Big Data Forecast)