ANOMALI

FROM CURIOSITY TO CONTROL: SECURITY TEAMS ARE WARMING TO AI BUT STILL FIGHTING CHAOS

RSA 2026 attendees opened up about AI. We asked four questions to understand sentiment toward and adoption of AI.

1 **A Relationship in Transition.** AI in security is becoming familiar. No longer experimental, it's becoming a trusted ally, but that trust isn't universal yet. Respondents' dominant sentiment is cautious optimism.

IF THE AI TECHNOLOGY YOU USE EACH DAY IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL CAREER WERE REPRESENTED BY A MOVIE QUOTE, WHICH WOULD IT BE?

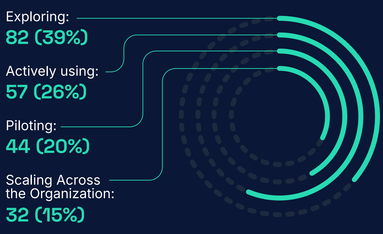
"You've got a friend in me."	"Life is like a box of chocolates..."	"Beginning of a beautiful friendship."	"Some things are better left untouched."	"Offer you can't refuse."
29%	**25%**	**18%**	**17%**	**11%**
Trust/optimism	**Uncertainty**	**Emerging partnership**	**Skepticism**	**Inevitability/ pressure**

2 **The Reality Check: Operations are Still Overwhelmed.** Despite growing interest in AI, the day-to-day reality is messy. Security teams have tools, but they're lacking cohesion, speed, and scale. Teams are drowning in alerts. Data is fragmented across too many tools. Manual processes and slow response times persist.

WHAT ARE YOUR TOP CHALLENGES TODAY?

3 **The Adoption Gap: Interest is High, Maturity is Low.** Most organizations are not yet fully leveraging AI. The majority are exploring or piloting. Only a small segment is truly scaling AI across operations. AI adoption is accelerating, but most teams are still early in the journey.

WHERE ARE YOU IN ADOPTING AI FOR SECURITY OPERATIONS?



The poll reveals a true maturit gap is broadening:

- 59% of poll respondents are in the early stage: **Exploring + Piloting**
- While 15% are mature: Scaling

4 **The Tool Stack Paradox: Strong Foundations, Limited Transformation.** Traditional tools still dominate workflows, as SIEM and EDR/XDR remain the backbone. Automation and AI-driven tools are emerging, but not yet central. Security stacks are mature but not yet modernized for full AI-driven operations.

WHAT TOOLS DO SECURITY TEAMS RELY ON MOST RIGHT NOW TO POWER CORE DETECTION AND RESPONSE WORKFLOWS?

A HIERARCHY OF RELIANCE:

The poll reveals AI-driven tools are emerging.

- Traditional tools = **dominant**
- AI-driven tools = **emerging but not leading**

5 **A Turning Point: The future is clear.** AI-powered security. The challenge is getting there and getting there fast enough.