

2021 Network Modernization Trends

Modern, distributed environments are impacting the network, with the supporting IT organizations contending with new challenges and balancing emerging benefits. In order to understand how key initiatives like cloud and automation are driving today's network strategies, ESG recently undertook a survey of networking IT professionals. This study highlights key trends that are impacting data center, campus, branch, edge, wired, and wireless network environments and measures interest in select new technologies like 5G.

Distributed Environments Responsible for Network Complexity and Challenges



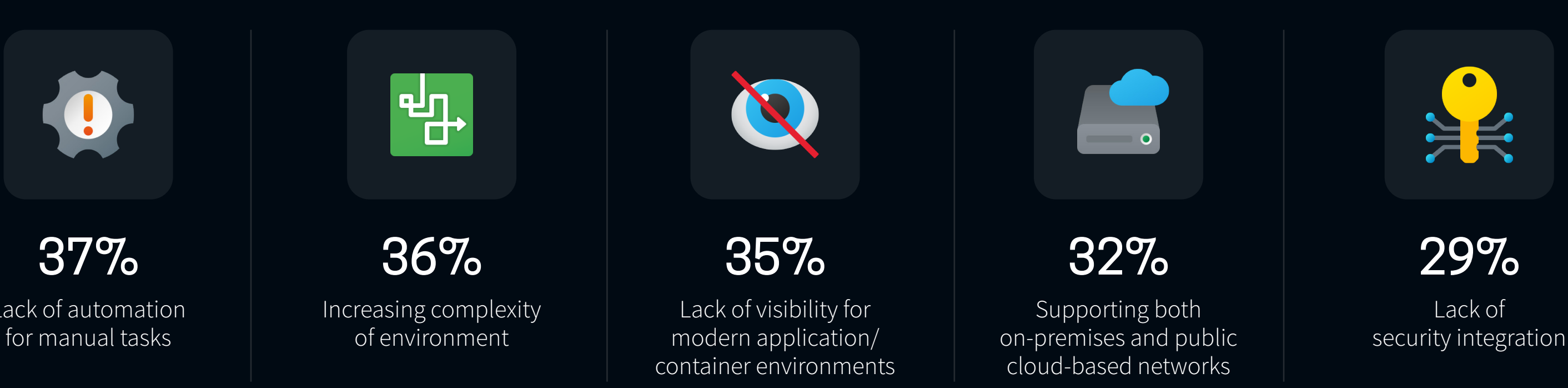
54% say their network environment is more or significantly more complex than two years ago.

TOP 5 DRIVERS OF NETWORK COMPLEXITY.



Cloud-based Network Management Tops Data Center and Wide Area Network Initiatives

TOP 5 DATA CENTER NETWORKING CHALLENGES.



69% of organizations prefer a cloud-based location for their network management solution.

TOP 5 INITIATIVES FOR DATA CENTER NETWORK.



Interest in 5G and Accelerated SD-WAN Adoption Lead Edge Environments



91% of organizations have interest in deploying 5G.

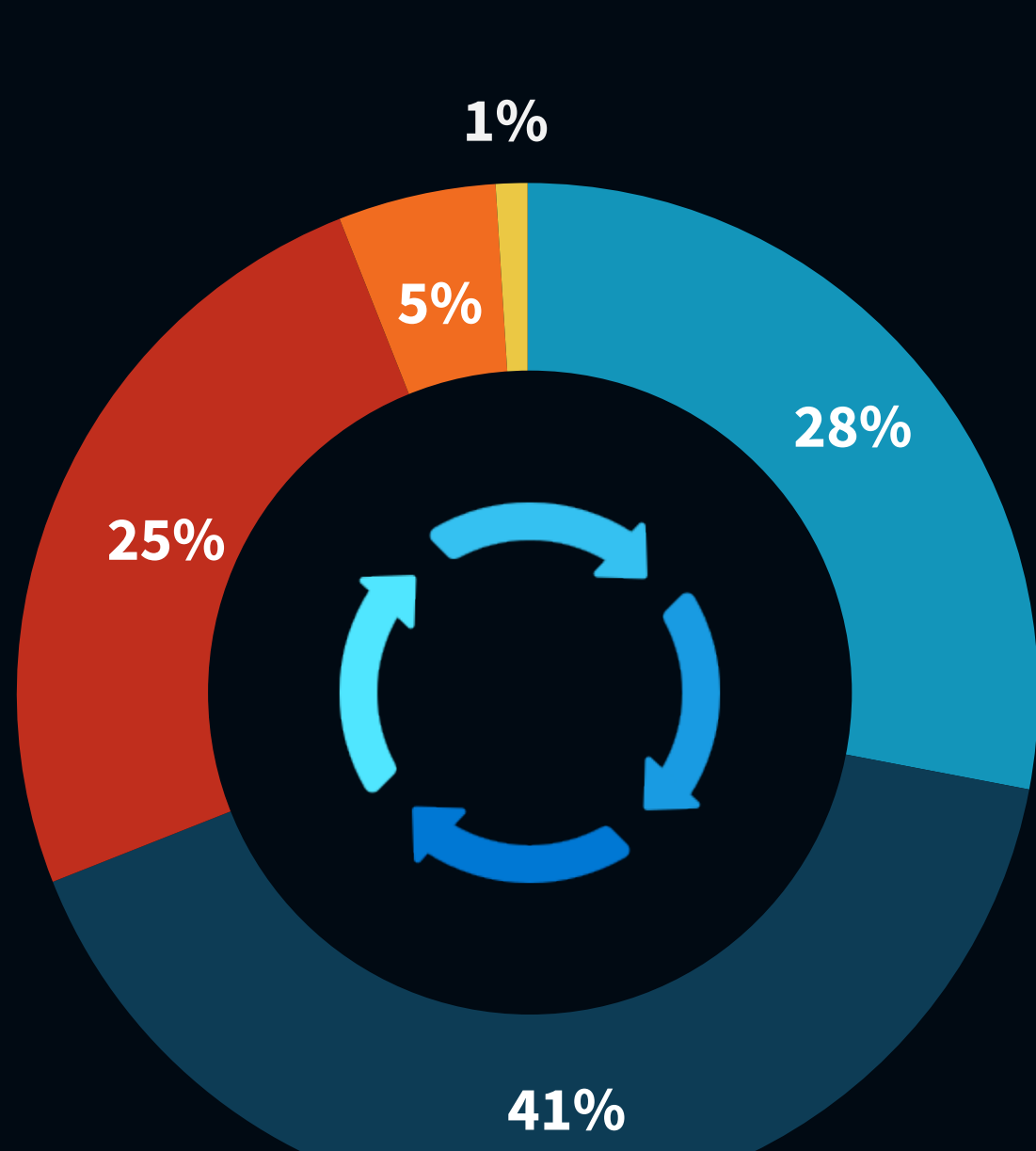


95% use SD-WAN today or plan to in the next 12-24 months.

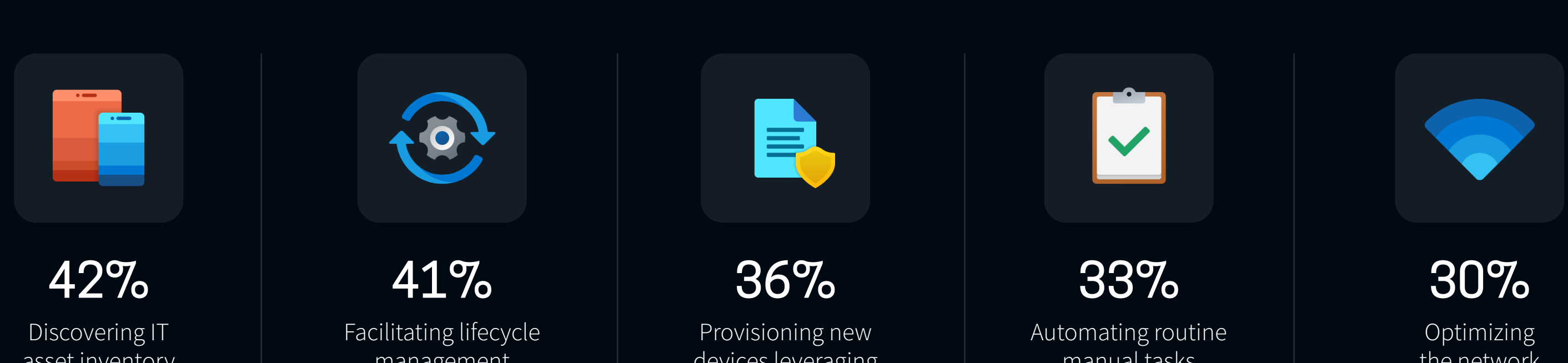
TOP 5 SD-WAN BENEFITS.



Organizations Increasingly Look to Automation for Inventory, Lifecycle Management, and Centralized Provisioning of IT Assets



TOP 5 USES FOR NETWORK AUTOMATION.



For more data and analysis from this ESG research study, including actionable recommendations for mastering the evolving world of networking, read the ESG Research Report, *Network Modernization in Highly Distributed Environments*.

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