

AI-powered defence, expert-led resilience

The case for unified security

There's a fundamental imbalance in modern security: AI-powered adversaries escalate attacks in minutes, while your expert teams are slowed by the operational friction of fragmented tools.

Closing this gap requires a new defence model – one that uses autonomous AI to reduce alert noise and surface high-confidence signals paired with expert-led services that scale human judgment where it matters most. This unified approach delivers a significant return on investment, as quantified in a 2025 Forrester Consulting study commissioned by Microsoft.

242% ROI¹

The study found a composite organisation achieved this ROI over three years, with a full payback period of fewer than six months.

The hidden tax of operational friction

With fragmented tools, your experts are forced to spend **one full working day in five²** on the manual toil of correlating data instead of on proactive defence. This creates a dangerous blind spot. **Nearly half (42%) of all security alerts go uninvestigated³** due to capacity constraints, and an astonishing **91% of security leaders confirm this operational gap⁴** is a direct cause of serious, business-disrupting incidents.

This issue is compounded by a [global cybersecurity talent shortage](#) of over four million professionals, leaving **only 14% of organisations confident they have the necessary in-house skills⁵**. For leaders, this presents a critical choice: attempt to build a deeper bench of expertise internally or strategically augment your team with expert-led services to close the gap.

Unlocking proven ROI with a unified defence

This strategic return is achieved by shifting from fragmented tools to a unified defence model, where AI-powered technology and human expertise work in concert to deliver measurable business outcomes.

75%

A 75% reduction in exposure to breach costs from external attack⁶

By unifying visibility and coordinating defence across your entire digital estate, you directly reduce your exposure to costly material breaches.

80%

An 80% reduction in incident response effort⁷

By automating the manual toil of triage and investigation, the platform frees your security experts to focus on high-impact strategic defence.

60%

A 60% reduction in multicloud security spend⁸

By consolidating tools into a single cohesive platform, you eliminate supplier overhead and the hidden costs of integration.

100T+

And human-led expertise informed by 100T+ daily security signals⁹

Amplify the platform with a complete suite of expert-led services. Through managed XDR, incident response and technical advisory, Microsoft Security Experts help you proactively hunt for novel threats, respond decisively to incidents and continuously strengthen your security posture. Insights from every engagement then feed back into the platform, creating a virtuous circle that hardens your defences at enterprise scale.

Turn your security posture into a strategic advantage

By unifying autonomous technology with human-led expertise, security transforms from a reactive cost centre into a strategic business advantage. Take the next step to transform your security operations into a driver of business performance and growth.

- Read the full eBook
- See Microsoft Defender in action
- Elevate your security with expert-led services

¹ 'The Total Economic Impact™ Of Microsoft Defender', a commissioned study conducted by Forrester Consulting, June 2025
² 'State of the SOC: Unify Now or Pay Later: What New Research Reveals', page 6, Microsoft 2026
³ 'State of the SOC: Unify Now or Pay Later: What New Research Reveals', page 7, Microsoft 2026
⁴ 'State of the SOC: Unify Now or Pay Later: What New Research Reveals', page 8, Microsoft 2026
⁵ Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2025, page 7, World Economic Forum, January 2025
⁶ 'The Total Economic Impact™ Of Microsoft Defender', a commissioned study conducted by Forrester Consulting, June 2025
⁷ 'The Total Economic Impact™ Of Microsoft Defender', a commissioned study conducted by Forrester Consulting, June 2025
⁸ 'The Total Economic Impact™ Of Microsoft Defender', a commissioned study conducted by Forrester Consulting, June 2025
⁹ Microsoft Digital defence Report 2025, page 6, Microsoft, 2025