

Healthcare IT leaders: What's your digital identity IQ?

A recent digital identity awareness survey reveals some surprising results

Across the healthcare industry, CISOs, CIOs, and other IT professionals seek to implement more secure, scalable, and agile ways to onboard, authenticate, and authorize on-the-go clinicians, remote users, and shifting workforces. At the same time, they're working to protect their organizations from an expanding list of vulnerabilities.

Yet, even as industry experts agree that [digital identity](#) is central to the success of these efforts, a recent survey of healthcare IT executives* seems to indicate a significant lack of understanding around the importance of digital identity and its role in the future of HDOs.

We've highlighted some of the most important questions and (somewhat unexpected) answers.

How do your responses compare?

1. How well do you understand the concept of digital identity?

73%

I know a little about it, but I could learn more

12%

I'm familiar with it, but I'm not sure what it is

12%

I know a lot about the topic

3%

I'm a digital identity expert

HDOs have evolved into highly complex environments with many users and roles, locations, devices, and applications. Digital identity is the critical foundation – or control plane – that you must govern to successfully manage these high-risk, highly regulated healthcare IT environments.

2. How would you rate the following terms on their relative importance to digital identity?

45%

Security

34%

Compliance

29%

Efficiency

24%

Framework

16%

Complexity

(Collective responses based on a scale of 1-5.)

If you're experiencing doubts about your ability to ensure robust security, compliance, and efficiency across your environment, you're not alone. Are you confident in your ability to defend points of vulnerability against unauthorized access, data breaches, and ransomware attacks?

3. How much does digital identity factor into your healthcare IT solution choices?

19%

Very important

12%

Critical to decision-making

65%

It's somewhat a factor

4%

Not a factor at all

On the surface, digital transformation trends in healthcare look a lot like those in any other industry. But HDOs like yours face unique challenges that require a framework approach to digital identity – one that puts clinical roles, workflows, and the healthcare IT environment at its core.

4. Which missing IAM capabilities made your pandemic response more difficult?

50%

Risk and compliance, and mobile device management

47%

User provisioning, de-provisioning, and lifecycle management

38%

Multifactor authentication, single sign-on, and access control

32%

Patient records management

24%

Anomalous behavior detection

14%

EPCS (electronic prescribing of controlled substances) management

(Respondents were asked to name the top three offenders.)

Additionally, while 60% of healthcare IT professionals surveyed said the COVID-19 pandemic made managing digital identity more difficult, fully 90% of respondents cited the management of growing numbers of remote workers as the most challenging set of issues.

Find out why digital identity is more important than ever to the future of your HDO

Are you prepared to meet the growing demands of digital identity management? We can help. Learn how the [Imprivata digital identity framework](#) for healthcare provides an organized structure to help HDOs like yours holistically manage and secure users' digital identities.



Download the insightful new whitepaper,
"Envisioning the future of digital identity in healthcare."

*Survey commissioned by Imprivata. A selection of CHIME members comprising healthcare IT executives were surveyed. CHIME is the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives.