

Executive Summary

The use of Intrusion Prevention Systems (IPS) technology has shifted from its role as a threat protection technology at the perimeter. Based on an In-Stat survey in January 2006, less than half of organizations currently using IPS technology are using it as part of a perimeter defense. This is a decrease of 30% from the In-Stat survey that was conducted in 2004. In 2004, 74% of organizations used IPS technology as a perimeter defense.

With an increasingly more mobile work force, many believe the perimeter model of security is obsolete and at odds with an agile business model. The perimeter approach assumes that company assets remain inside the perimeter's protective circle, an assumption that is no longer true with portable computers, memory sticks, and wireless devices.

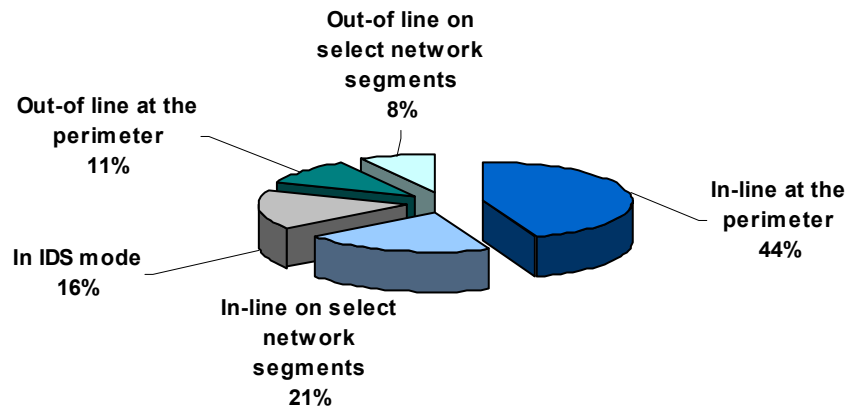
To this end, threat protection technologies such as IPSs will increasingly become distributed at segments in corporate and service provider networks instead of concentrated at networks perimeters.

In addition to standalone appliances, basic IPS functionality is increasingly integrated with firewalls, multifunction security appliances, and networking equipment.

To gain visibility into the IPS market segment, In-Stat conducted an end-user survey to discover trends in IPS usage, as well as plans for future security appliance purchases. Key findings from the 2006 survey include:

- 44% are using IPS technology inline at the perimeter, as compared to 74% in 2004.
- Less than 15% are using standalone IPS appliances, as compared to 27.3% in 2004.
- 51.9% plan to purchase security appliance to replace out-of-date equipment, as compared to 22.1% in 2004.

Figure 1. How is your IPS deployed? – IPS Survey, 2006



Source: In-Stat, 1/06

N = 89