

Big changes in place within Australia's workplaces with employee trust the new opportunity

Australian businesses have changed forever due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but what new strategies and technologies have helped manage this change? A survey by iNews, on behalf of Cisco, found Australian business leaders are now managing very different workplaces, from many different locations.

Nearly all Australian organisations now support some form of remote working, up from about three quarters of organisations prior to the pandemic. Also, an overwhelming **89 per cent** have introduced a COVID-safe plan or strategy for internal staff, in addition to any mandated public safety rules.

In many cases, depending on the industry, government regulations have forced businesses to adopt new processes, many of which are centred on workplace transformation and transition to hybrid work policies. This was reflected in the survey findings, with **half of all organisations** introducing technological innovation and changing systems or processes as a result of enabling remote work.

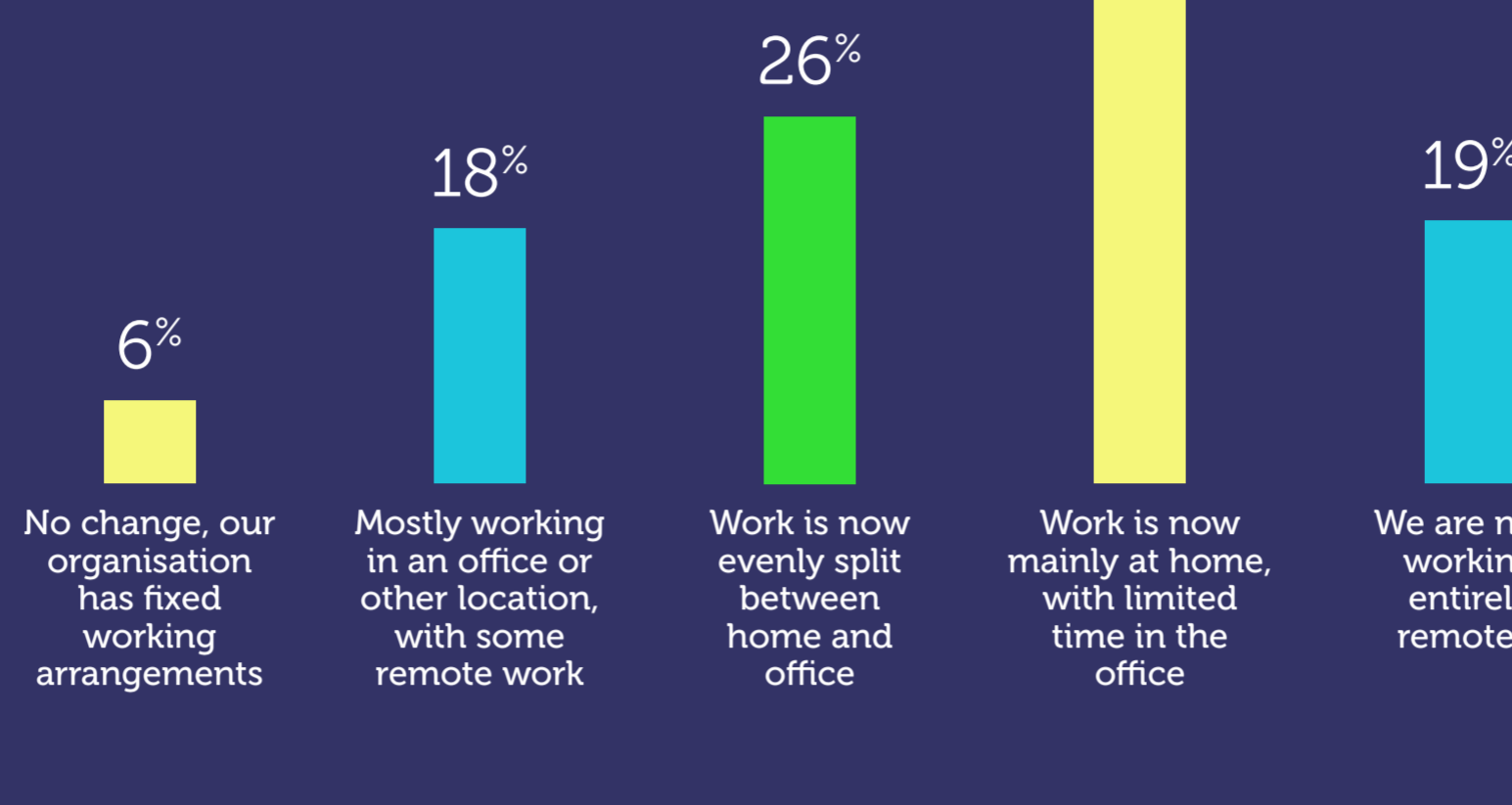
It was also found that **nearly half** of the survey respondents have changed technology and processes to bring people back to the office.

In another significant development, **82 percent** of organisations have changed their physical working environment as a result of the pandemic, including socially distanced seating options and rearranged office spaces.

94%

of Australian organisations now have some form of remote working, up from 74% prior to the pandemic

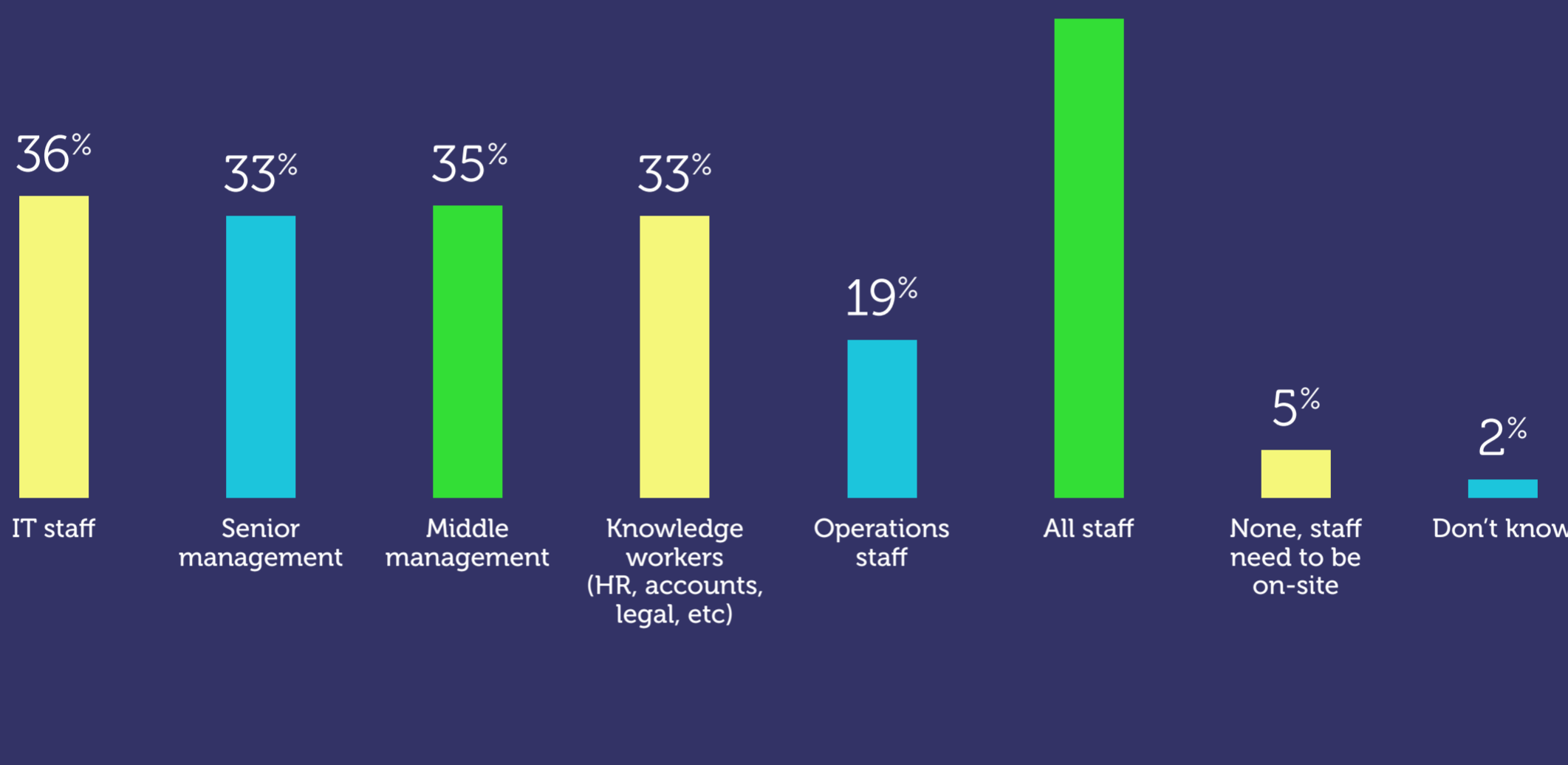
What model of working has your organisation adopted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?



1 in 5

people now solely remote work, up from 1 in 14 prior to the pandemic

Which roles in your organisation now have flexible and home-based working options as a result of the pandemic?

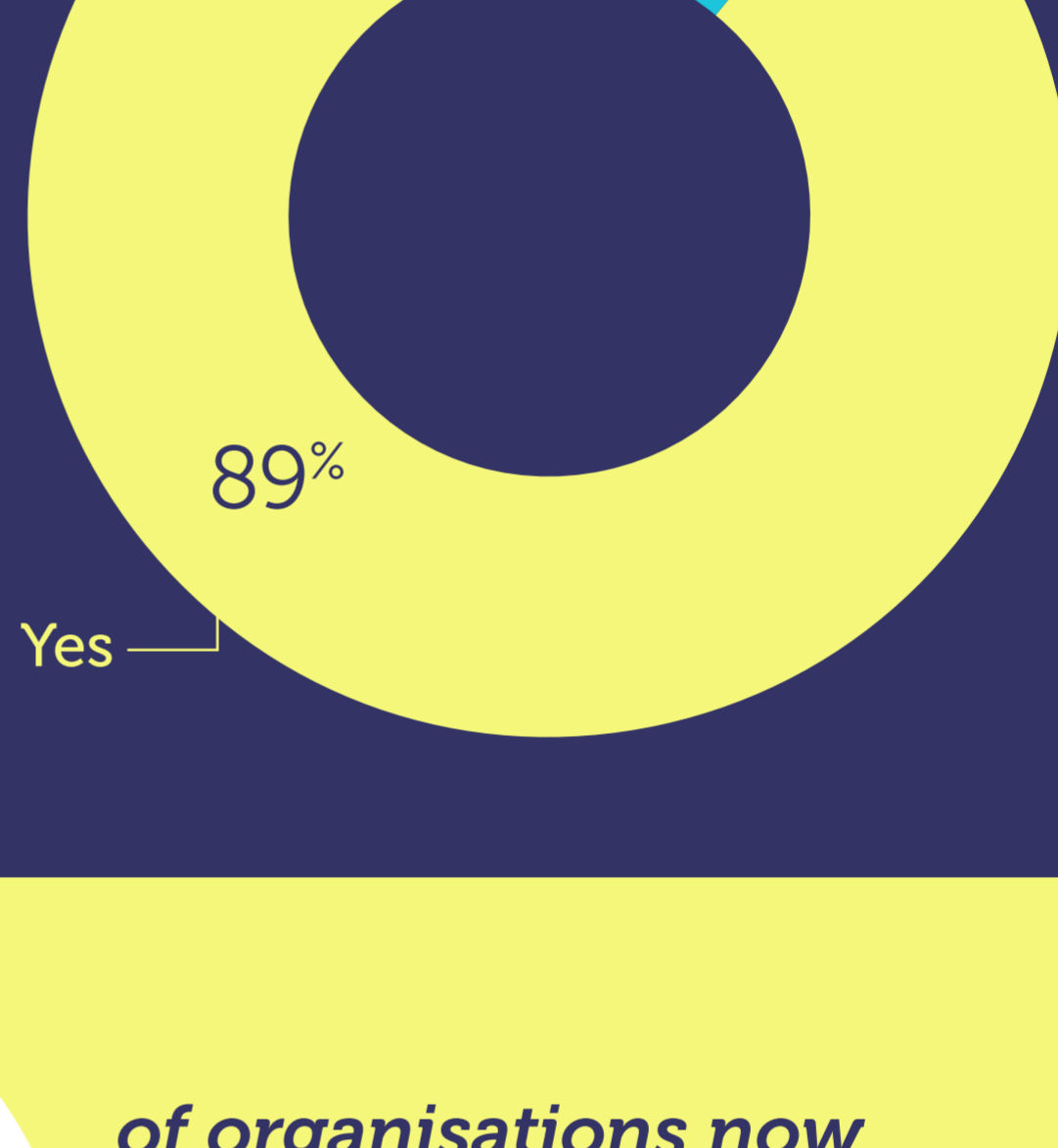


56%

of organisations now allow all staff to work remotely, with about the same proportion of IT leaders now working three or more days per week from home



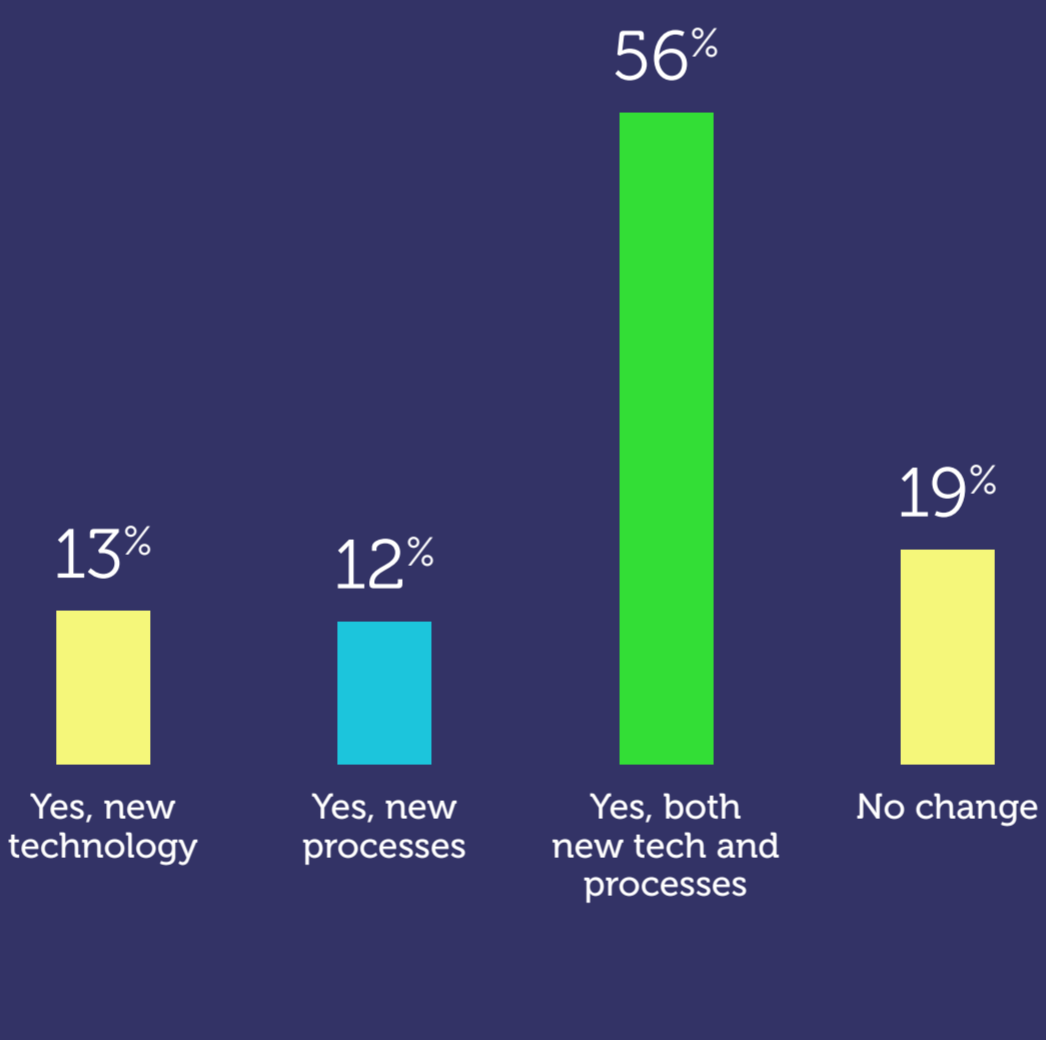
Has your organisation introduced a COVID-safe plan or strategy for internal staff (excluding mandated public safety rules for customers or patrons)?



89%

of organisations now have introduced a COVID-safe plan or strategy for internal staff, in addition to any mandated public safety rules

Has your organisation introduced technology innovation, or changed systems or processes as a result of enabling remote work?

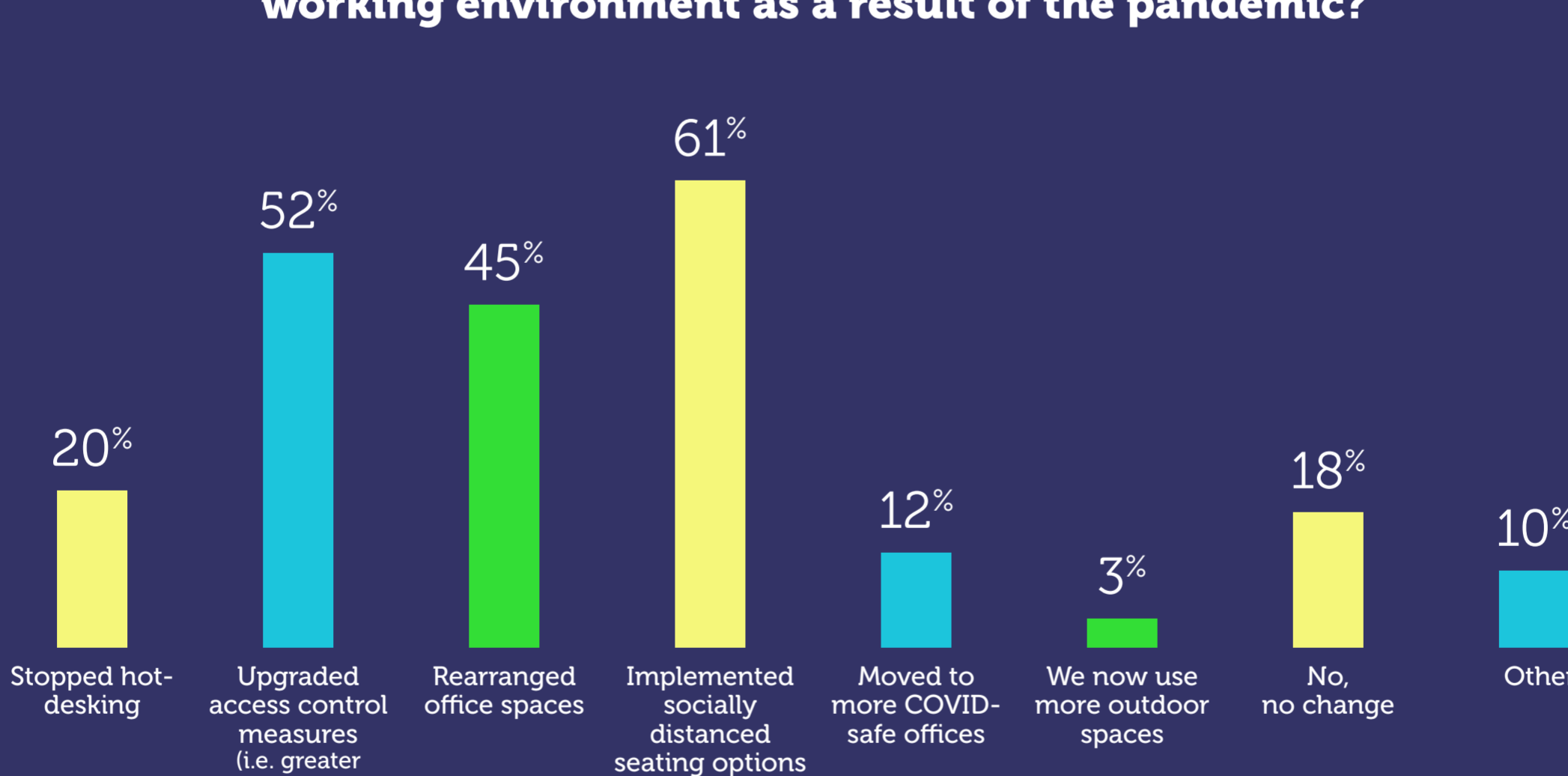


1 in 2

have introduced technology innovation and changed systems or processes as a result of enabling remote work and 45% have changed technology and processes to bring people back to the office



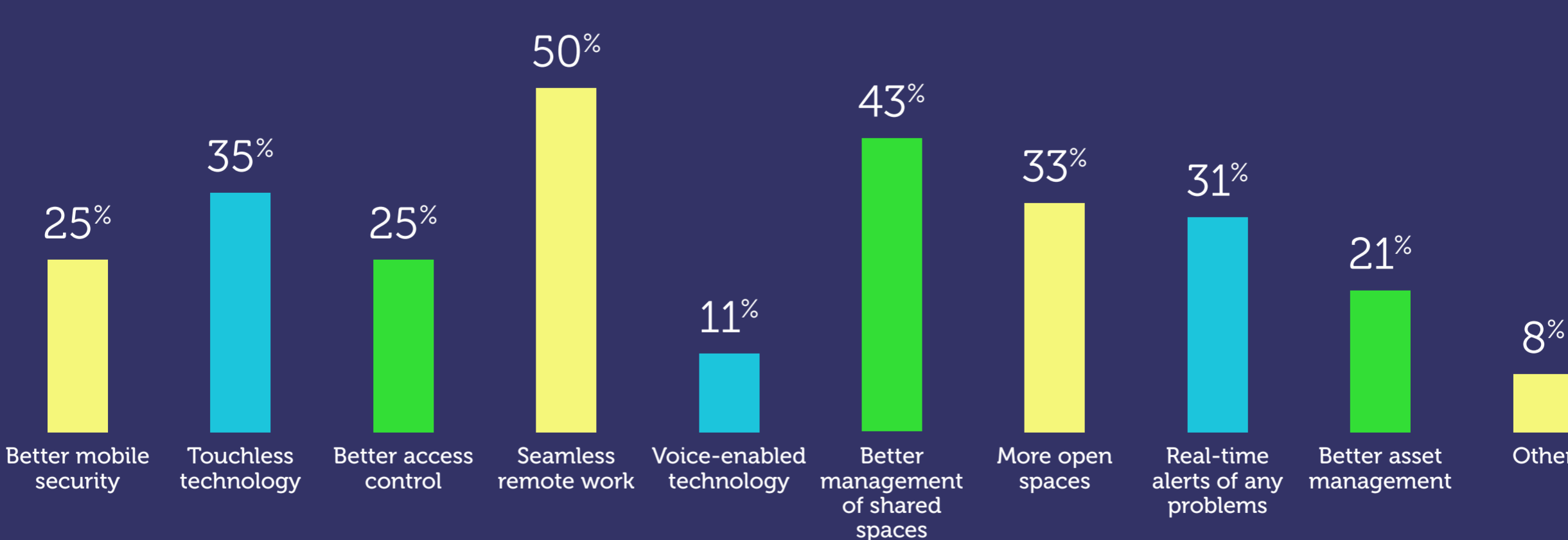
In what ways has your organisation altered its physical working environment as a result of the pandemic?



82%

of organisations have changed their physical working environment as a result of the pandemic, including socially distanced seating options, rearranged office spaces, and access control measures.

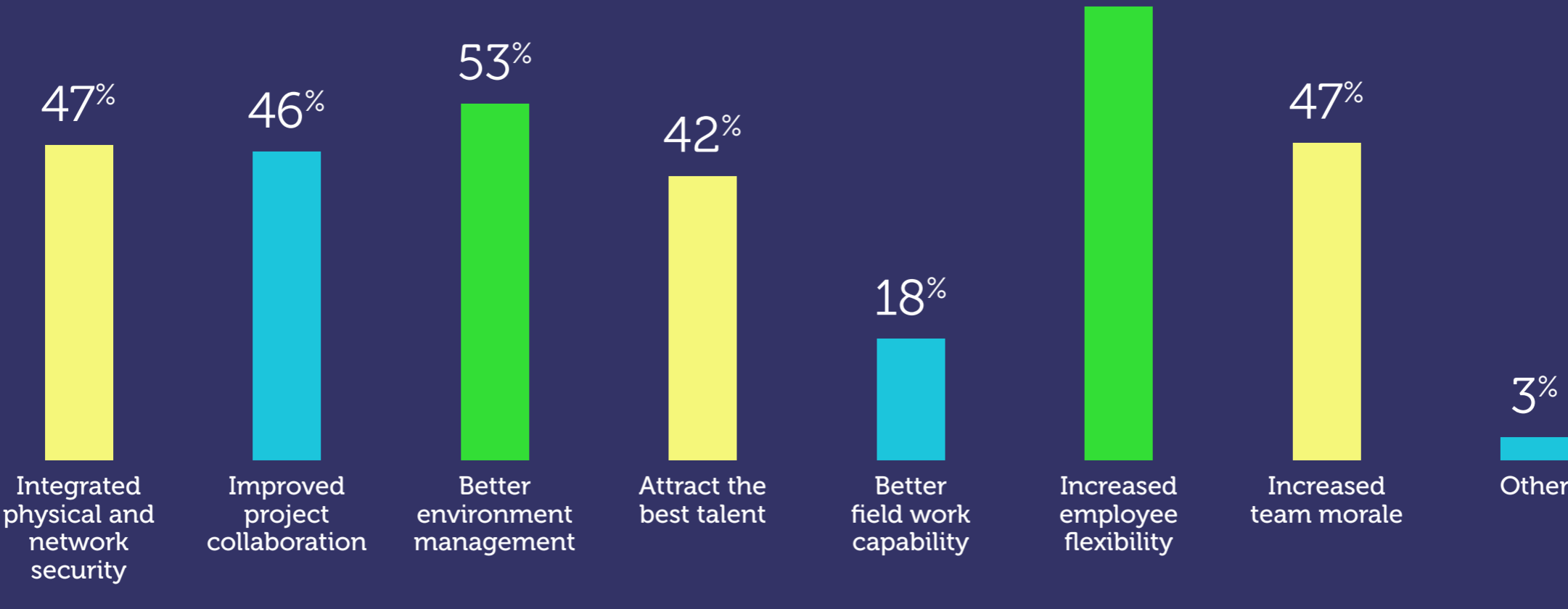
Which of the following do you think would make your workplace more trusted by employees?



1 in 2

IT leaders believe seamless remote work makes the workplace more trusted by employees and 2 in 3 say increased employee flexibility is the biggest benefit they would get from trusted workplace solutions

What are some of the benefits your organisation would get from trusted workplace solutions?



About the survey

This survey was conducted in June 2021 by iNews on behalf of Cisco, and attracted 332 respondents: 27% were IT managers or IT directors, 16% were IT professionals, including developers, analysts and engineers, and the rest included people in sales and marketing roles, CEOs, CFOs, GMs or MDs, those in analysis, consulting or education roles or similar, in addition to people in other roles. Looking at the size of their organisations, 32% worked for employers that have more than 2,500 staff members, 22% were at organisations with less than 10 people, while 7% worked for companies that employ 10-49 people.