

# Application security year-over-year

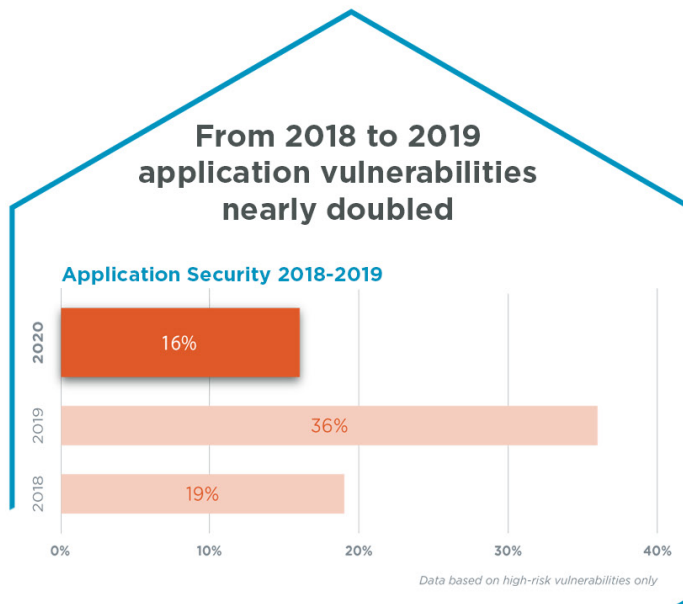
Applications are a significant part of an organization's attack surface, and though this is an area of growing security concern with dangerous weaknesses, our data tells a different and very encouraging story. We're pleased to report that applications were found to have a high degree of overall security across companies of all sizes. This can be attributed to a more mission-critical mentality in frontloading security-first development priorities.

This is a brief walkthrough of app-specific highlights from our 3rd Annual Penetration Risk Report, that shows how application security matters appear throughout our datasets.

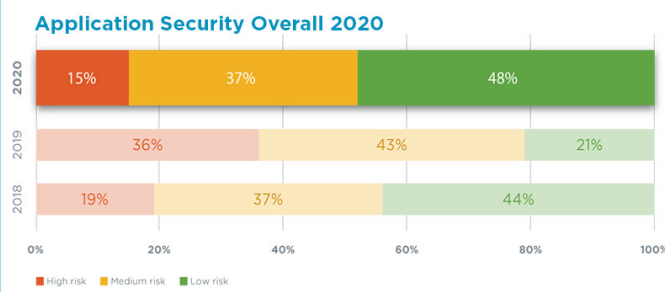
Want to explore the full report? Visit <https://experience.coalfire.com/2020penetrationriskreport/p/1>

Between 2018 and 2019, application security faltered, dropping almost by half.

## From 2018 to 2019 application vulnerabilities nearly doubled



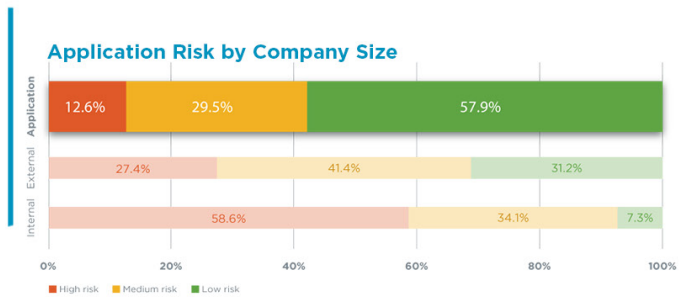
## Apps are now 2x more secure than in 2019



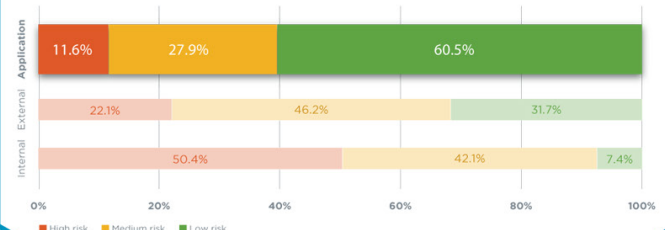
However, 2020 shows a complete reversal from 2019, with applications demonstrating significant improvements in security posture; in fact, they are more than twice as secure than they were last year.

These results emphasize this report's fundamental conclusion that third-party cloud service providers have improved their security posture far beyond what individual companies are providing within their own environments.

## Medium size organizations have the lowest application risk



## Financial services organizations have increasingly lower application risk



Financial applications were the shining star in 2020's report. A major turnaround from last year with a 60% decrease in critical application issues. They're half as likely to be breached now than two years ago.