

7 Trends Shaping

SECURITY AND IDENTITY IN 2026

Security is entering a new phase. As the divide between physical and digital access dissolves, identity management, mobile credentials, biometrics, real-time location services and RFID are no longer isolated tools.

They are connected layers in an integrated strategy.

In 2026, we surveyed over 1,500 security and IT experts to identify seven key trends shaping security and identity.

1. Identity Management Becomes #1 Priority

73%
report identity management as a top trend

1/2
say managing multiple systems is their #1 challenge

60%
plan to increase spending

2. Mobile Credentials Continue Upward Trend

74%
have deployed or are planning to deploy mobile credentials

84%
run hybrid environments

TOP BARRIERS TO MOBILE ADOPTION

44%
COST CONCERNS

37%
LACK OF EXPERTISE

32%
PERCEIVED COMPLEXITY

3. Biometrics Move Into Core Access Control

34%
have deployed

AND

23%
are planning to deploy biometric technologies

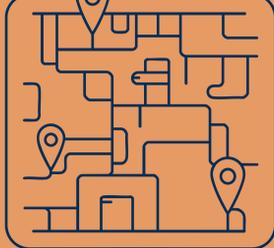
TOP TWO BIOMETRIC MODALITIES

71%
FINGERPRINT

50%
FACIAL RECOGNITION

67%
report privacy concerns, up from **31%** in 2025

4. Real-Time Location Systems for Security Use Cases Emerge



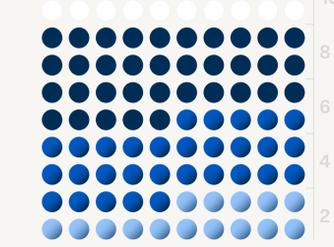
#1
driver is worker safety (69%)

40%
have deployed RTLS in some form

59%
say asset management is a top use case

PRIVACY IS STILL A BARRIER (29%)

5. Physical and Digital Identity Convergence Accelerates



8 in 10 have deployed or are evaluating converged solutions

30% have security concerns

15% are unaware of converged solutions

6. RFID Adoption Grows Through Supply Chain Management

54%
are deploying RFID in their organization

TOP BENEFITS

62%
#1
FASTER INVENTORY TRACKING

41%
#2
VISIBILITY

37%
#3
LOSS PREVENTION

7. Spending Shifts Toward Integration

Increases in Spending and Adoption Signal a Desire for Integration

60%
IDENTITY MANAGEMENT

53%
REAL-TIME LOCATION SYSTEMS

60%
BIOMETRICS

74%
MOBILE CREDENTIAL ADOPTION

COMPLEXITIES WITH TECHNOLOGIES ARE REPORTED AS BARRIER

52%
Identity Management

37%
Convergence

33%
RFID Integration

Integrating many security solutions into a single, manageable platform remains difficult because few offerings in the industry can truly support this level of unification.

BONUS TREND:

8. Privacy and Ethics Concerns Reach New Highs

67%
are concerned about biometric implications

29%
say privacy concerns are a barrier to RTLS implementation

The direction is clear. IT and Security teams are seeking to consolidate platforms, unifying identity and connecting physical and digital systems into a single strategy. Mobile credentials, biometrics, RTLS and RFID are expanding the role of security across the enterprise. Successful organizations will align technology investments to business goals, roll out capabilities in deliberate phases and partner with vendors and integrators who close expertise gaps and provide ongoing support. Integration is no longer a project. It is the operating model for modern security and the foundation for a future built on protection, technology choice and trust.