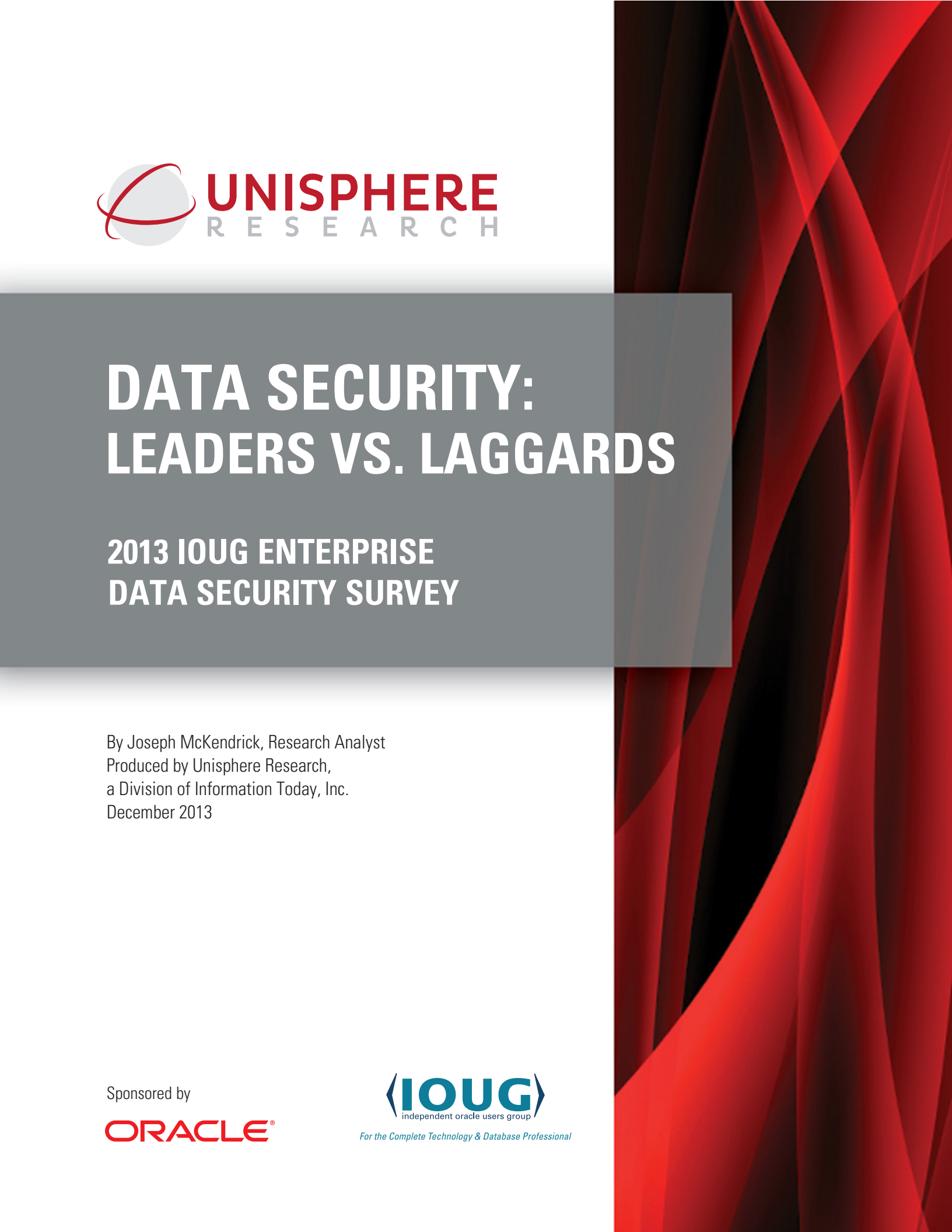

UNISPHERE RESEARCH

DATA SECURITY: LEADERS VS. LAGGARDS

2013 IOUG ENTERPRISE DATA SECURITY SURVEY

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For the Complete Technology & Database Professional

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At a time when data is the fuel which drives business growth, the onus is on enterprises to protect that data, while at the same time assuring its accessibility. Over the years, there has been growing awareness among enterprise executives and managers about the potential issues to enterprise data security—not only from outside hackers and thieves, but also from people inside organizations, often those with privileged access. Enterprises are making greater and more frequent efforts to monitor and audit data for evidence of security events.

However, organizations that are fully security aware—*leaders* that practice prevention, detection and administrative controls across their data assets—are still in the minority of enterprises. The 2013 survey finds that progress has been slow in building and maintaining a security culture within organizations. There is greater awareness than ever of the threats posed by loose management of data within organizations, but at the same time, a failure to deliver on tools, technologies, and methodologies to protect sensitive data. This has been the case since 2008, the first year this series was published.

This report summarizes the findings from a survey of 322 data managers and professionals who are members of the Independent Oracle Users Group (IOUG). The survey was underwritten by Oracle Corporation and conducted by Unisphere Research, a division of Information Today, Inc. Survey respondents hold a variety of job roles and represent a wide range of organization types, sizes, and industry verticals. The largest segment of respondents, 48%, holds the title of database administrator, followed by director or manager. Close to one-third work for very large organizations with more than 10,000 employees. By industry sector, the majority of respondents come from IT service providers, government, financial services, and healthcare. (See Figures 29–32 at the end of this report for more detailed demographic information on job titles, company sizes, and industry groups.)

Key highlights include:

- Organizations are committing more resources to network protection than anywhere else, but the most serious damage is likely to occur at the database layer.
- More enterprises are taking measures to prevent insider abuse, but only one-third fully have solutions and strategies in place. In terms of adoption of encryption techniques–an important approach to preventing data theft–more organizations are applying encryption against data in motion, but too few encrypt all their data at rest.
- More organizations are monitoring their data assets and are taking measures to keep tabs on super-users. However, most are still not in a position to monitor the online activities of privileged users.
- While still in the minority, a growing segment of respondents report they check their data logs at least once a month for signs of suspicious activity.

Throughout this report, we will also provide distinctions between *leaders* and *laggards* to gauge the best practices that forward-looking managers are undertaking to secure their data, and bake security awareness and methodologies into their organizations. For purposes of this report, leaders are defined as respondents who answered positively to all three of the following areas. *Laggards* are defined as those who answered negatively to all three:

- Awareness of all databases in their organizations that contain sensitive or regulated information (70% of all respondents report they have this high degree of awareness); and
- Whether or not they are encrypting data at rest or on the move: (20% report they encrypt all data at rest, and 27% report they encrypt all data in motion); and
- Whether they are monitoring all production databases for security issues such as unauthorized access to data or configuration changes (33% do so on a regular, automated basis).

Overall, 22% of the survey groups are classified as *leaders* at one end of a bell curve, while 20% can be considered l*aggards* on the other. Across the board, *leaders* exemplify more security defense-in-depth measures and say they are less likely to experience a breach than their *laggard* counterparts.

Respondents are aware that even the most hardened data environments may have an Achilles' heel, but best practices will likely discourage most attempts to breach security. As one respondent put it:

> *"We have very stringent security requirements … Will that guarantee we won't be breached? Certainly not. I believe we would be harder to breach than most companies and unless the hacker is determined to breach our particular company, they will move on to an easier company..."*

On the following pages are the results of this latest examination into today's pressing data security concerns, and the most effective approaches and solutions.

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