AI SECURITY INTELLIGENCE

AI Security Investment Thesis

The conviction case for AI security • Q1 2026

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THE THESIS

AI security is a $32B structural opportunity driven by the irreversible adoption of AI across every enterprise function. The companies that define this category will capture generational value.

FOUR PILLARS OF CONVICTION

Secular Tailwind

AI adoption growing 4x faster than security investment. Every GenAI deployment creates new attack surface requiring purpose-built security — a cycle that accelerates with adoption.

Regulatory Catalyst

EU AI Act enforcement begins 2025. SEC AI disclosure mandates. NIST AI RMF adoption. Each framework creates mandatory compliance spend independent of economic cycles.

Pre-Consolidation Timing

200+ vendors across 10 categories. Fragmented landscape with active M&A signals — ideal conditions for platform plays and strategic consolidation.

Budget Inevitability

88% of enterprises increasing AI security spend in 2026. Average allocation rising from 5% to 14% of security budgets. This is not discretionary.

$32B	$8.2B+	47%	24	200+
TAM by 2030	Funding Tracked	YoY Growth	Unicorns Identified	Companies Mapped

CATEGORY LEADERS

CATEGORY	LEADERS	FUNDING	STAGE	SIGNAL
Data Security & Privacy	Cyera, BigID	$2.1B	Growth	▲ 52%
AI Governance & Compliance	Credo AI, Holistic AI	$1.4B	Growth	▲ 67%
Threat Detection & Response	HiddenLayer, CalypsoAI	$1.8B	Growth	▲ 38%
Supply Chain & Model Security	Protect AI, Robust Intel	$620M	Early	▲ 71%
Red Teaming & Adversarial	Mindgard, Adversa AI	$450M	Early	▲ 89%

SIGNALS TO WATCH

- Wiz acquired for $32B — validating security platform premium
- AI security M&A up 3x in 2025 vs 2024
- Category-defining IPOs expected 2026–2027

SOURCE: AI SECURITY INTELLIGENCE DATABASE • AISECURITYINTELLIGENCE.COM

Data compiled from SEC filings, Crunchbase, PitchBook, vendor disclosures, and primary research.
For the full interactive database with executive profiles, competitor mapping, and funding history:

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