

# CYBER SHIELDS UP: THEY SHALL NOT PASS



Lecture @ Computer Science Department  
University of Crete  
2 April 2024  
Andreas Sfakianakis  
Cyber Threat Intelligence Professional

**TLP:CLEAR**

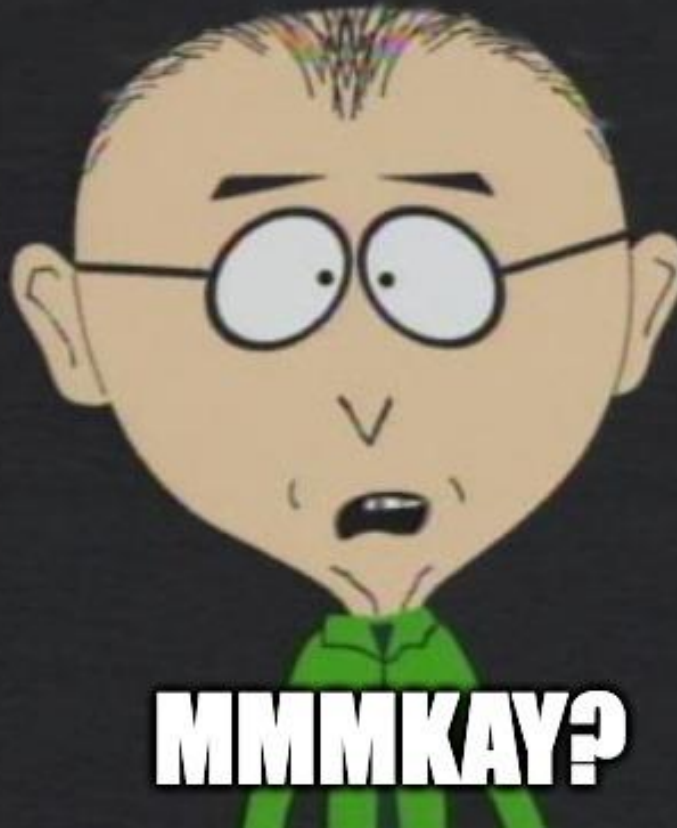
# WHO AM I

- Proud [CEID](#) and [CSD](#) Alumni
  - CTI in Financial, Energy, and Technology sectors
  - SANS, ENISA, FIRST.org, European Commission
  - Twitter: @asfakian
- Website: [www.threatintel.eu](http://www.threatintel.eu)



# DISCLAIMER

**VIEWS ARE MY OWN, NOT MY EMPLOYER'S**



imgflip.com



# OUTLINE

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**Anatomy of Cyber  
Threats**

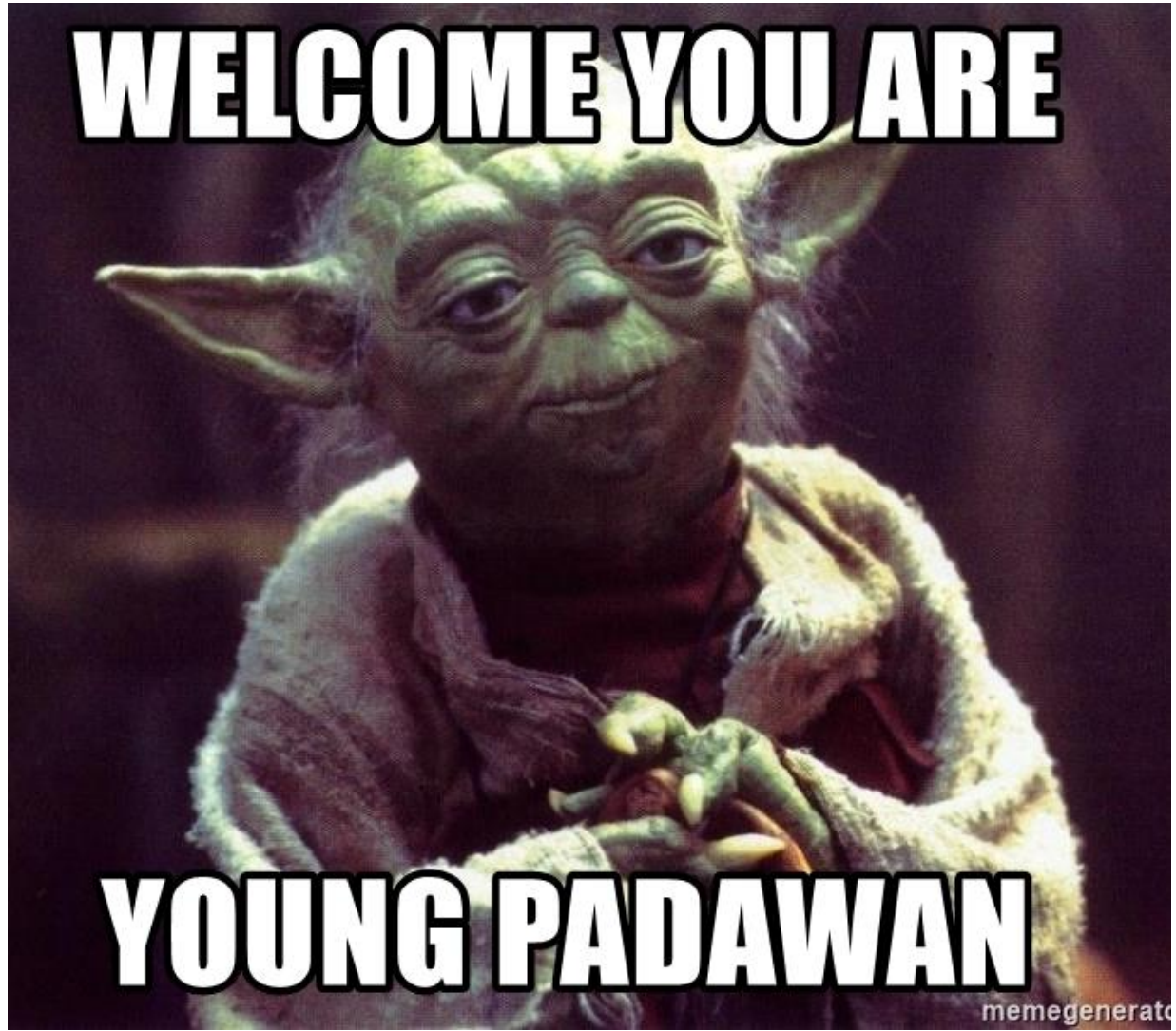


**The Corporate  
Cyber Shield**



**Building the  
Cyber Defenders**





# ANATOMY OF CYBER THREATS

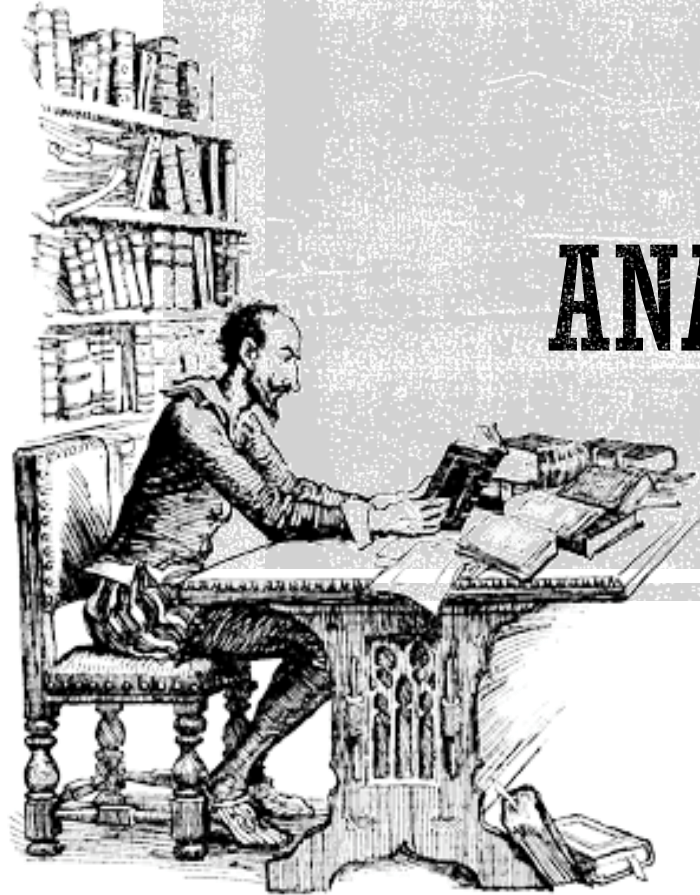
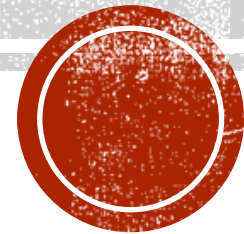
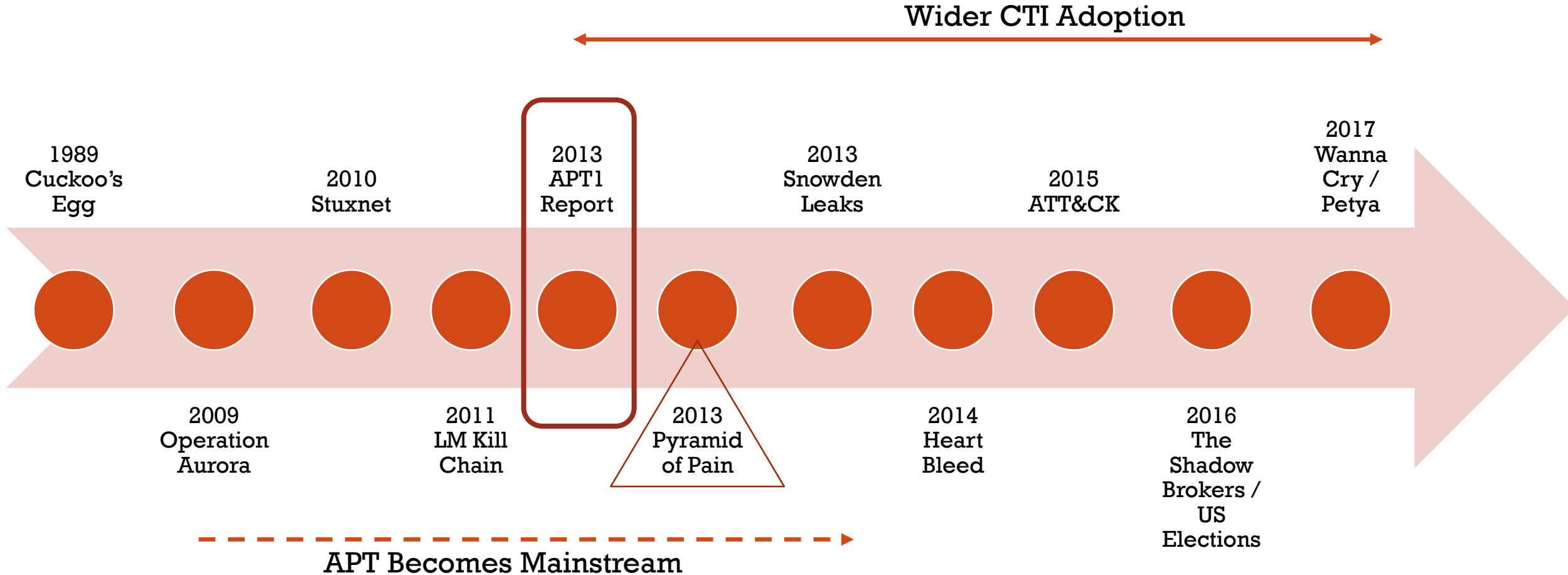


Image from [bestofspain.es](http://bestofspain.es)





# TIMELINE OF IMPORTANT EVENTS IN CTI HISTORY







# WHO ARE THE CYBER THREAT ACTORS?

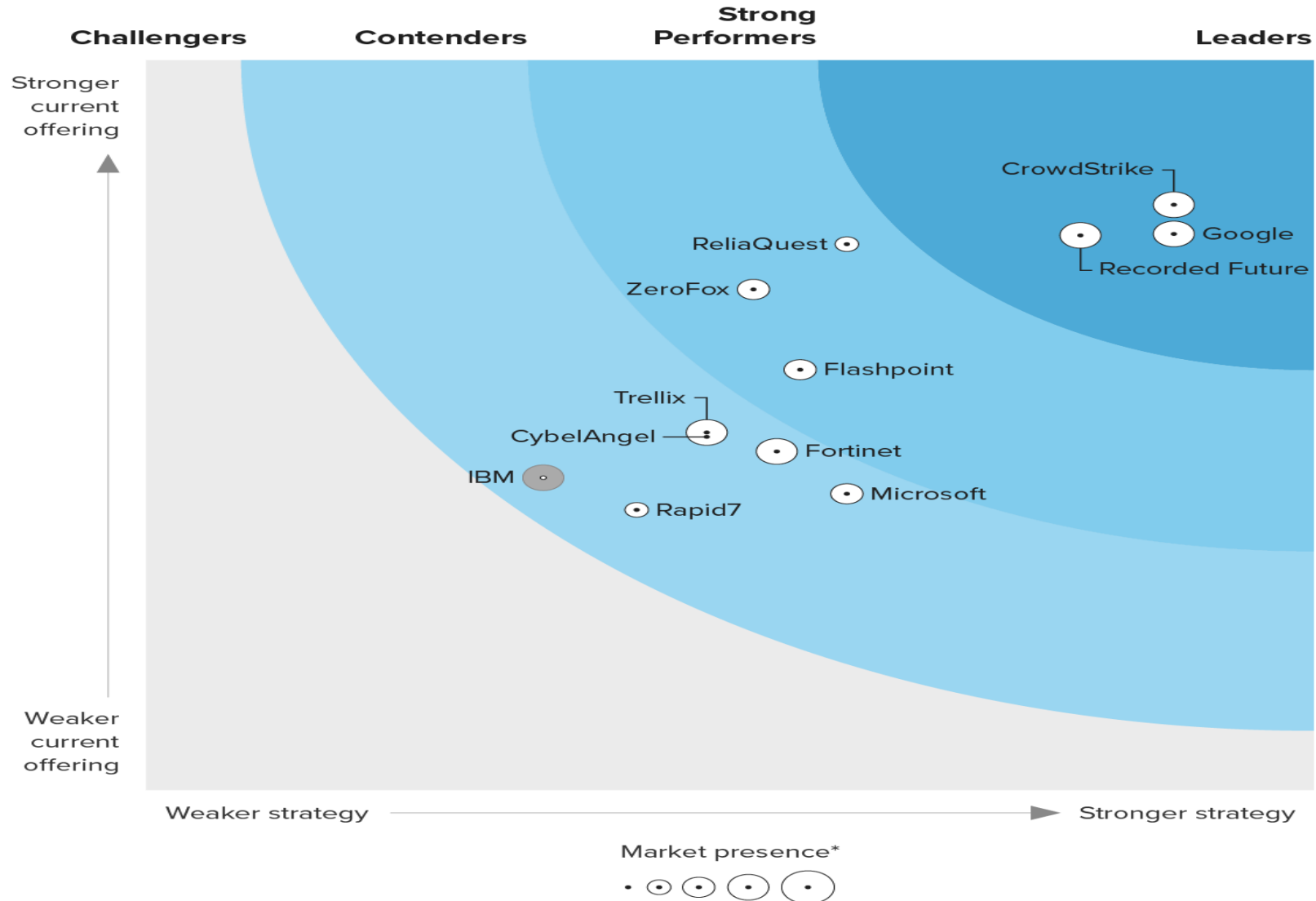




# THE FORRESTER WAVE™

## External Threat Intelligence Service Providers

Q3 2023



\*A gray bubble or open dot indicates a nonparticipating vendor.

Source: Forrester Research, Inc. Unauthorized reproduction, citation, or distribution prohibited.



**BRITISH**

**SUMMER**



**EXPECTATION**



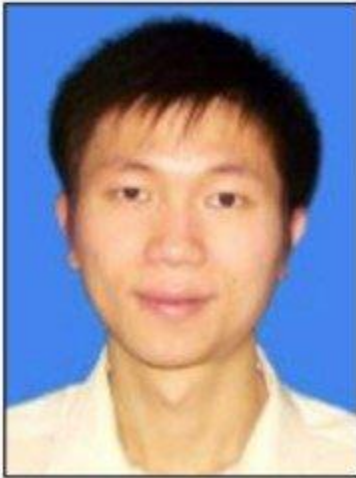
**REALITY**



# WANTED BY THE FBI

## APT 40 CYBER ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES

Conspiracy to Damage Protected Computers and Commit Economic Espionage;  
Criminal Forfeiture



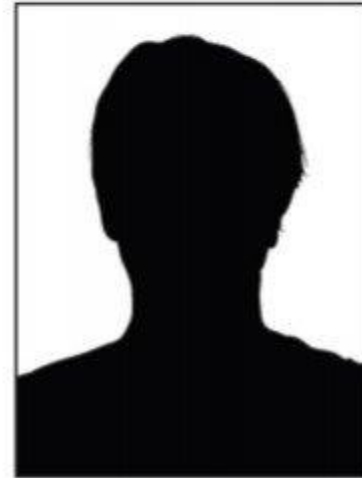
Zhu Yunmin



Wu Shurong



Ding Xiaoyang



Cheng Qingmin





# WANTED BY THE FBI

## JON CHANG HYOK

Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud and Bank Fraud; Conspiracy to Commit Computer-Related Fraud (Computer Intrusion)



DESCRIPTION

**Aliases:** Ouan Jang, Alex Jang

**Place of Birth:** Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) **Hair:** Black  
**Eyes:** Brown **Sex:** Male  
**Race:** Asian **Languages:** English, Korean, Mandarin Chinese

### REMARKS

Jon is a North Korean citizen last known to be in North Korea. Jon has traveled to China in the past and has reported a date of birth in 1989.

### CAUTION

Jon Chang Hyok is allegedly a state-sponsored North Korean hacker who is part of an alleged criminal conspiracy responsible for some of the costliest computer intrusions in history. These intrusions caused damage to computer systems of, and stole currency and virtual currency from, numerous victims.

Jon was alleged to be a participant in a wide-ranging criminal conspiracy undertaken by a group of hackers of the North Korean government's Reconnaissance General Bureau (RGB). The conspiracy comprised North Korean hacking groups that some private cybersecurity researchers have labeled the "Lazarus Group" and Advanced Persistent Threat 38 (APT38). For his part in the conspiracy, Jon is alleged to have been directly involved in the development and dissemination of malicious cryptocurrency applications targeting numerous cryptocurrency exchanges and other companies. On December 8, 2020, a federal arrest warrant was issued for Jon in the United States District Court, Central District of California, after he was charged with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and bank fraud, and one count of conspiracy to commit computer fraud (computer intrusions).

**If you have any information concerning this person, please contact your local FBI office or the nearest American Embassy or Consulate.**

**Field Office:** Los Angeles



# WANTED BY THE FBI

## KIM IL

Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud and Bank Fraud; Conspiracy to Commit Computer-Related Fraud (Computer Intrusion)



DESCRIPTION

**Aliases:** Julien Kim, Tony Walker

**Place of Birth:** Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) **Hair:** Black  
**Eyes:** Brown **Sex:** Male  
**Race:** Asian **Languages:** English, Korean, Mandarin Chinese

### REMARKS

Kim is a North Korean citizen last known to be in North Korea. Kim has traveled to Singapore and Russia in the past and has reported a date of birth in 1994.

### CAUTION

Kim Il is allegedly a state-sponsored North Korean hacker who is part of an alleged criminal conspiracy responsible for some of the costliest computer intrusions in history. These intrusions caused damage to computer systems of, and stole currency and virtual currency from, numerous victims.

Kim was alleged to be a participant in a wide-ranging criminal conspiracy undertaken by a group of hackers of the North Korean government's Reconnaissance General Bureau (RGB). The conspiracy comprised North Korean hacking groups that some private cybersecurity researchers have labeled the "Lazarus Group" and Advanced Persistent Threat 38 (APT38). For his part in the conspiracy, Kim is alleged to have been directly involved in the development and dissemination of a malicious cryptocurrency application, in cyber-enabled heists from financial institutions, and in the Marine Chain initial coin offering. On December 8, 2020, a federal arrest warrant was issued for Kim in the United States District Court, Central District of California, after he was charged with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and bank fraud, and one count of conspiracy to commit computer fraud (computer intrusions).

**If you have any information concerning this person, please contact your local FBI office or the nearest American Embassy or Consulate.**

**Field Office:** Los Angeles



# WANTED BY THE FBI

## PARK JIN HYOK

Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud and Bank Fraud; Conspiracy to Commit Computer-Related Fraud (Computer Intrusion)



DESCRIPTION

**Aliases:** Jin Hyok Park, Pak Jin Heik, Pak Kwang Jin

**Place of Birth:** Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) **Hair:** Black  
**Eyes:** Brown **Sex:** Male  
**Race:** Asian **Languages:** English, Korean, Mandarin Chinese

### REMARKS

Park is a North Korean citizen last known to be in North Korea. Park has traveled to China in the past and has reported dates of birth in 1984 and 1981.

### CAUTION

Park Jin Hyok is allegedly a state-sponsored North Korean computer programmer who is part of an alleged criminal conspiracy responsible for some of the costliest computer intrusions in history. These intrusions caused damage to computer systems of, and stole currency and virtual currency from, numerous victims.

Park was alleged to be a participant in a wide-ranging criminal conspiracy undertaken by a group of hackers of the North Korean government's Reconnaissance General Bureau (RGB). The conspiracy comprised North Korean hacking groups that some private cybersecurity researchers have labeled the "Lazarus Group" and Advanced Persistent Threat 38 (APT38). On December 8, 2020, a federal arrest warrant was issued for Park in the United States District Court, Central District of California, after he was charged with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and bank fraud, and one count of conspiracy to commit computer fraud (computer intrusions). A federal arrest warrant was previously issued for Park on June 8, 2018, after he was charged with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and one count of conspiracy to commit computer-related fraud (computer intrusion) in a federal criminal complaint.

**If you have any information concerning this person, please contact your local FBI office or the nearest American Embassy or Consulate.**

**Field Office:** Los Angeles



# GRU HACKERS' DESTRUCTIVE MALWARE AND INTERNATIONAL CYBER ATTACKS

Conspiracy to Commit an Offense Against the United States; False Registration of a Domain Name; Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud; Wire Fraud; Intentional Damage to Protected Computers; Aggravated Identity Theft



**WANTED!**  
COUNTDOWN TO CAPTURE







# WANTED BY THE FBI

## IRGC CYBER ACTORS

**Conspiracy to Commit Computer Intrusions; Obtaining Information by Unauthorized Access to Protected Computers; Intentional Damage to Protected Computers; Aggravated Identity Theft; Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud**



Said Pourkarim Arabi



Mohammad Reza Espargham



Mohammad Bayati

### CAUTION

Said Pourkarim Arabi, Mohammad Reza Espargham, and Mohammad Bayati are wanted for their alleged involvement in criminal activities including computer intrusions, identity theft, and wire fraud. These Iranian hackers allegedly conspired to commit computer intrusions targeting American companies in the aerospace and satellite industries. They allegedly engaged in a coordinated campaign of social engineering that resulted in the theft of United States citizens' identities, which they then used to steal critical information related to American aerospace and satellite technology and resources, including sensitive commercial information, intellectual property, and personal data. The men allegedly conducted this activity at the direction of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). On September 15, 2020, a federal grand jury in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, in Alexandria, Virginia, indicted the men on charges of Conspiracy to Commit Computer Intrusions, Obtaining Information by Unauthorized Access to Protected Computers, Intentional Damage to Protected Computers, Aggravated Identity Theft, and Conspiracy to Commit Wire Fraud, and federal arrest warrants were issued.

**If you have any information concerning these individuals, please contact your local FBI office.**

<https://www.fbi.gov/wanted/cyber/irgc-cyber-actors>





**OPPORTUNITY**



# THE HUMAN BEHIND THE KEYBOARD



Script Kiddie



Malicious Insider



Organised Cybercrime



Hacktivism



Cyber Terrorism



State Sponsored



# CHOOSE YOUR HACKER



RUSSIA



CHINA



NORTH KOREA



IRAN

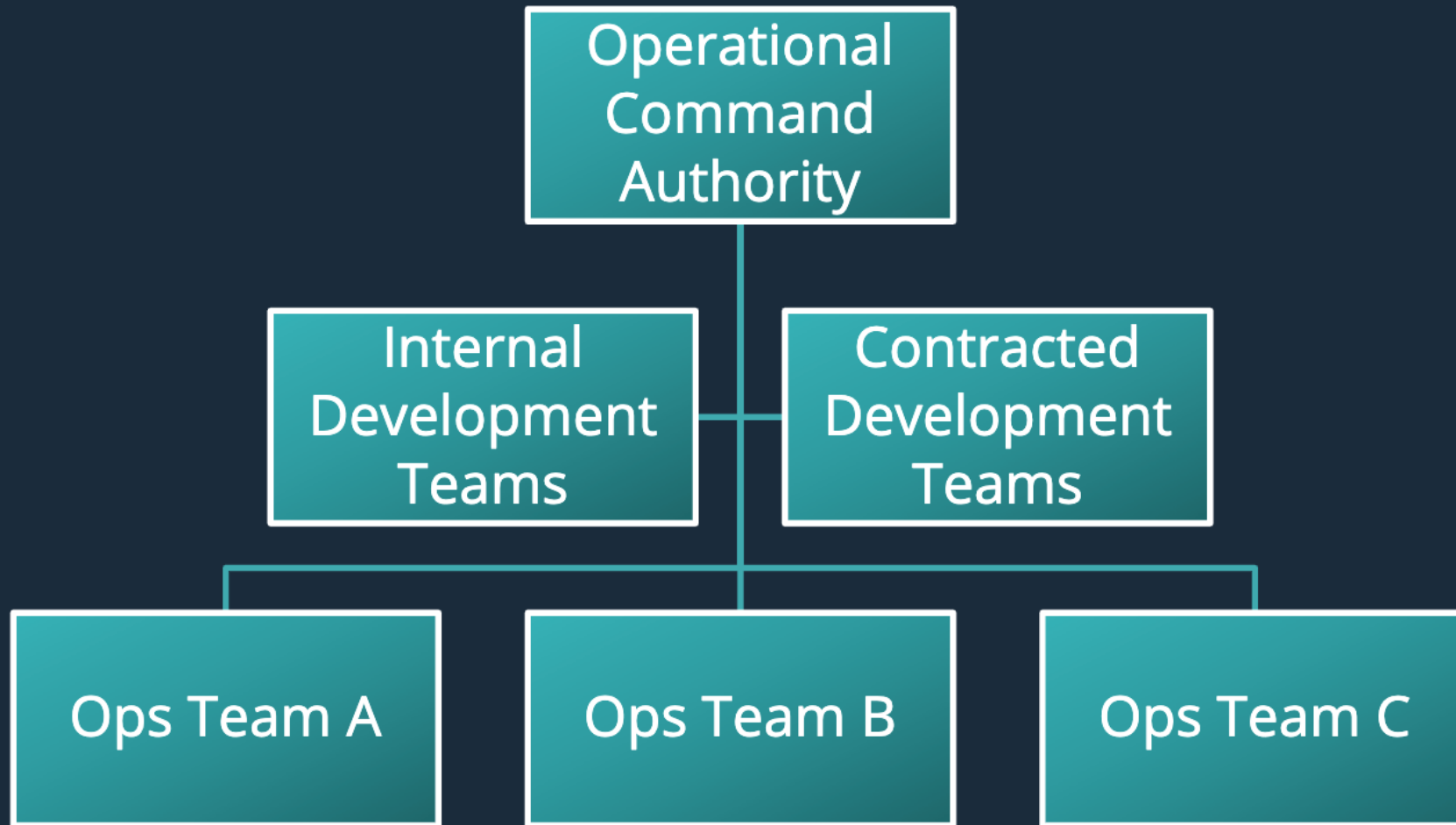


USA

CREDITS: 0

# State Sponsored

# APT as Bureaucracy





# HOW DO GOVERNMENTS DO ATTRIBUTION?



**BREAKING NEWS**



**EDWARD SNOWDEN IS NSA INFO LEAKER**  
29-year-old computer technician is in Hong Kong



SNOWDEN PROVIDED THE BRITISH PAPER WITH DETAILS OF U.S. GOVT. PROGRAMS 6:15 PM ET



# THE MAIN DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF UKRAINE

GUR of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine  
Head of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine  
The main intelligence bot

About us News Enemies of Ukraine Public information Multimedia Career Contacts

Ukraine protects the world  
767 : 19 : 11  
days hours minutes

Main / Message

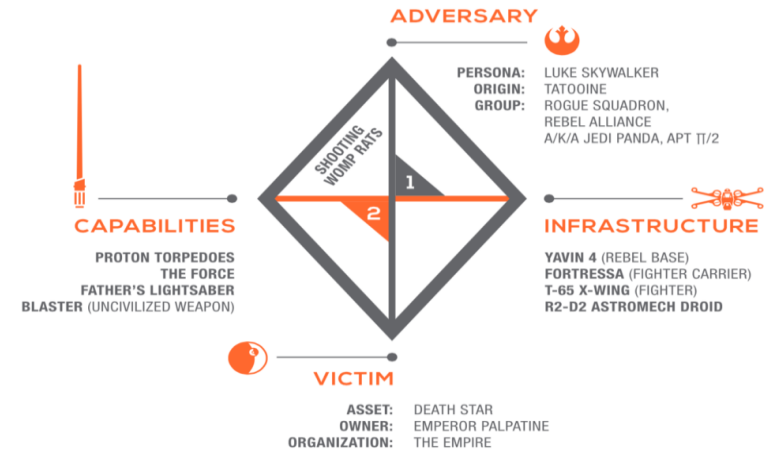
## Message

### Software, ciphers, secret documents – cyber specialists of the State Security Service hacked the Russian Ministry of Defense

March 4, 2024

Cyber specialists of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine implemented another successful special operation against the aggressor state of Russia - as a result of the attack, it was possible to gain access to the servers of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation.

#### THREATCONNECT INCIDENT 19770525F: BATTLE OF YAVIN (EVENT: DEATH STAR DESTRUCTION)

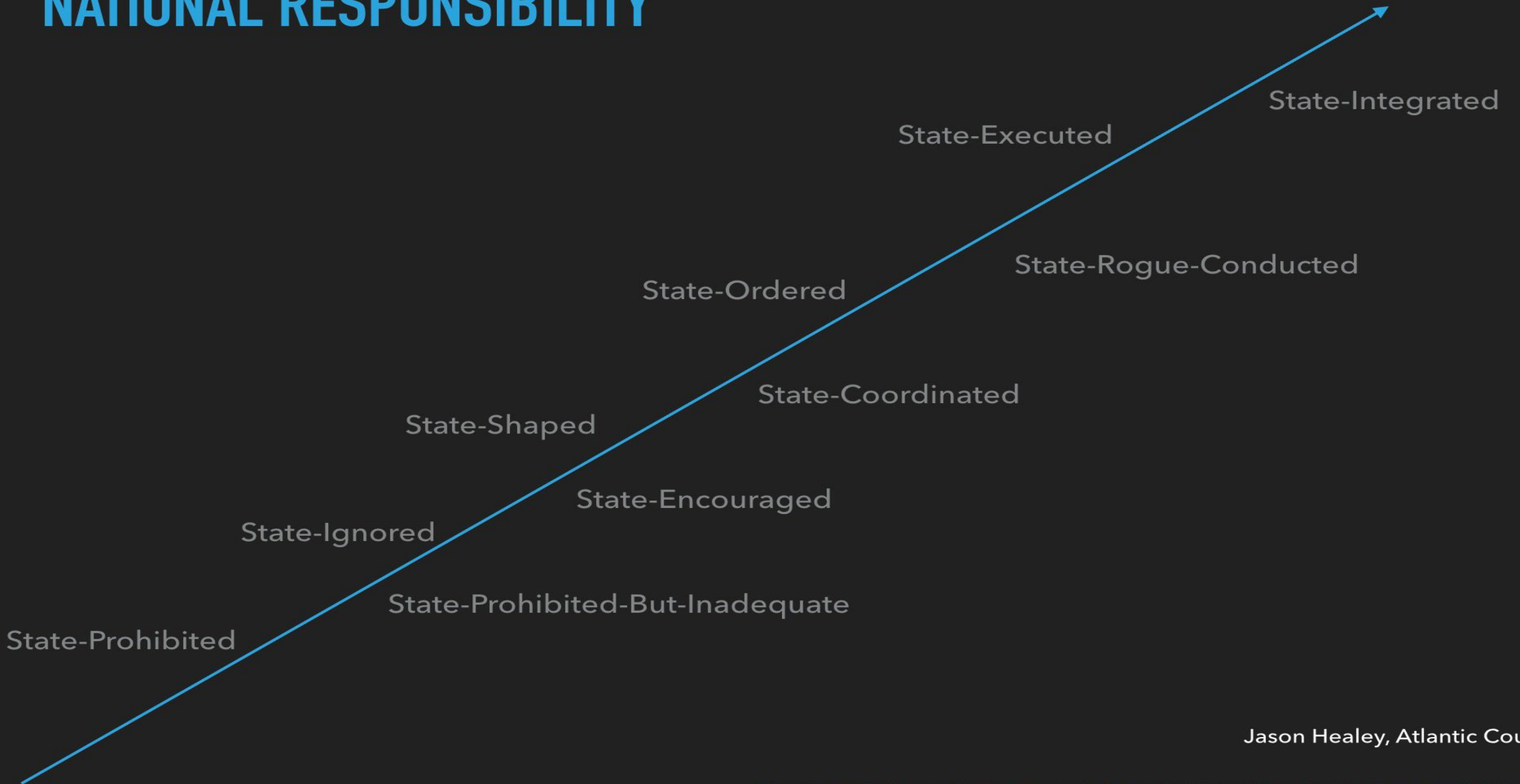


1 **SOCIO-POLITICAL AXIS**  
MOTIVE: IDEOLOGICAL; REVENGE  
INTENT: POLITICAL UPHEAVAL

2 **TECHNICAL AXIS (TTPS)**  
PRECISION TARGETING  
FORCE-CONTROLLED FLIGHT  
FORCE COMMUNICATION

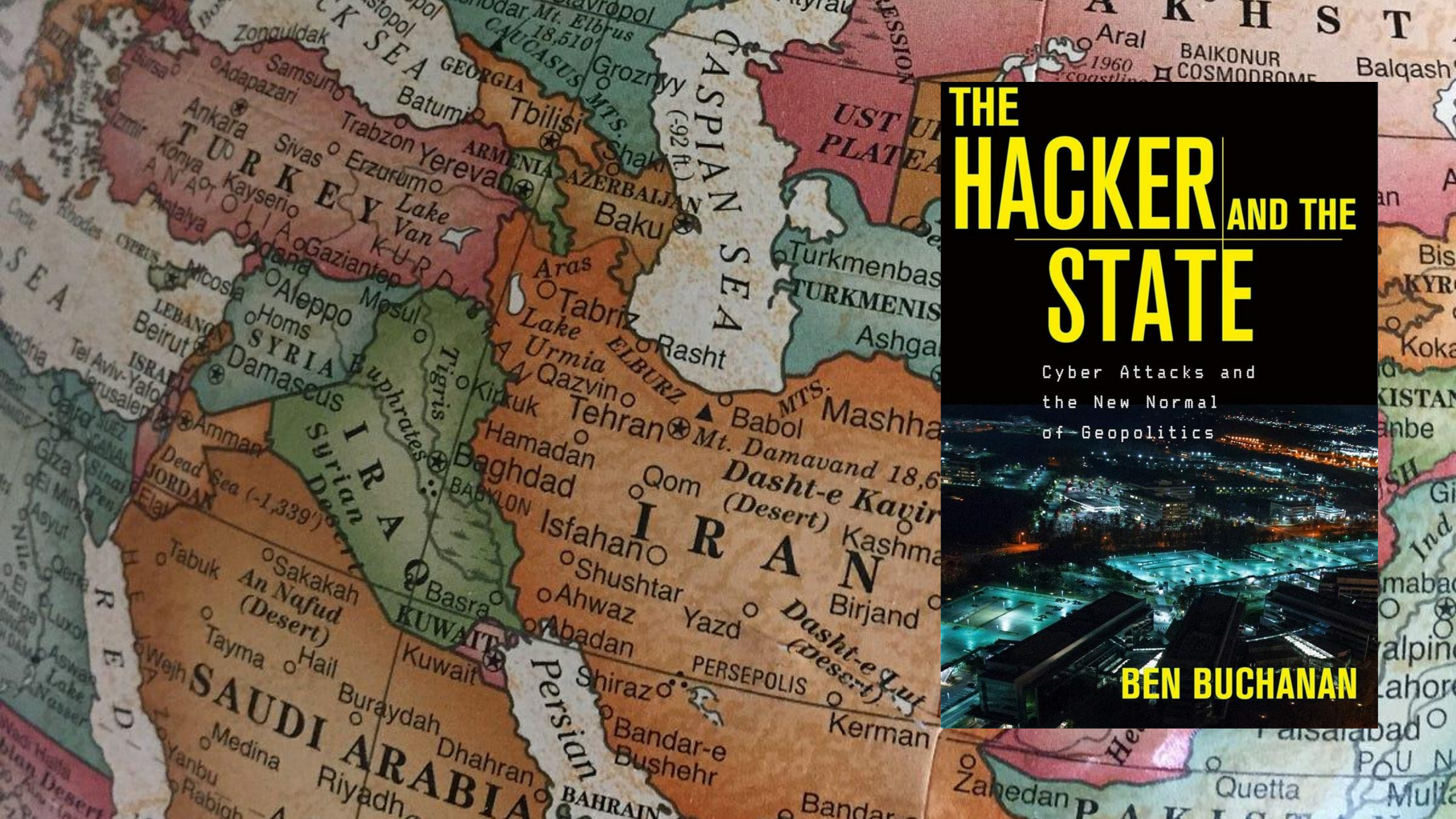


# NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



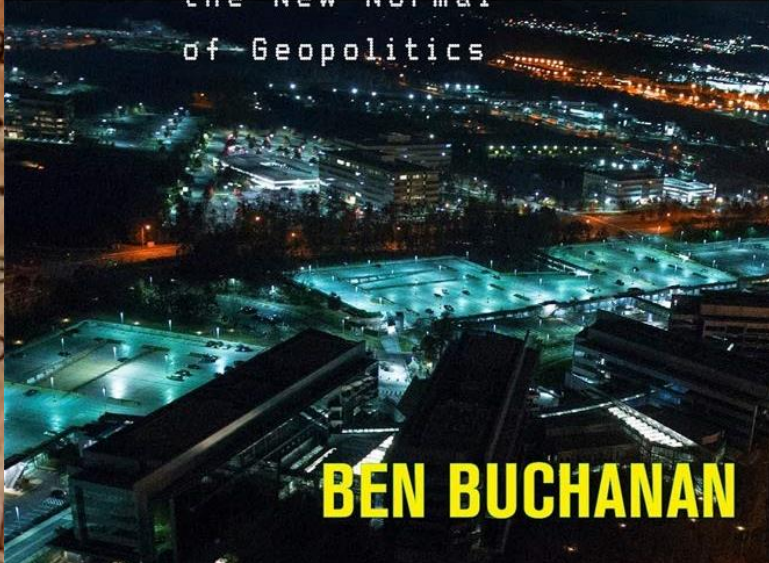
Jason Healey, Atlantic Council





# THE HACKER AND THE STATE

Cyber Attacks and  
the New Normal  
of Geopolitics



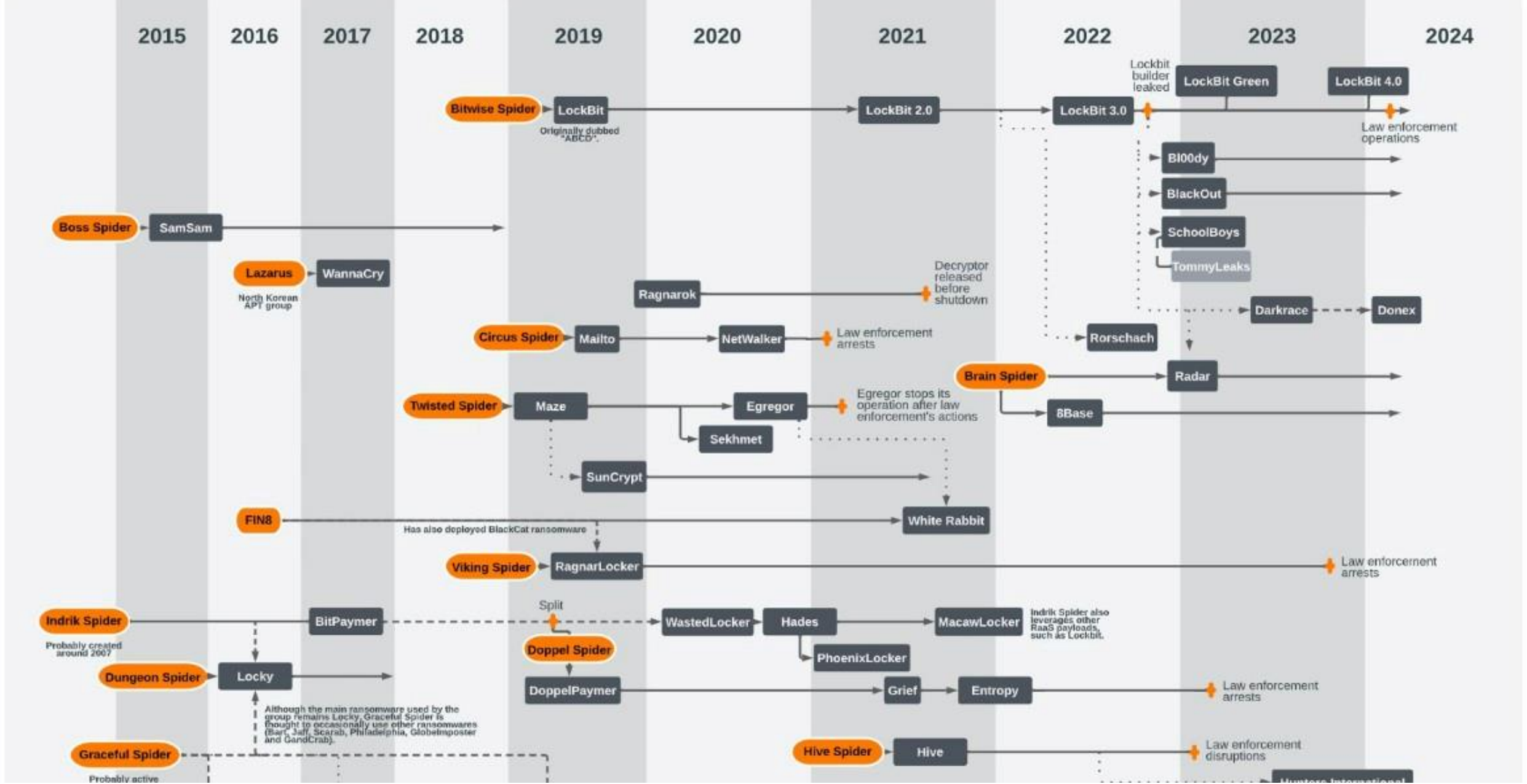
**BEN BUCHANAN**



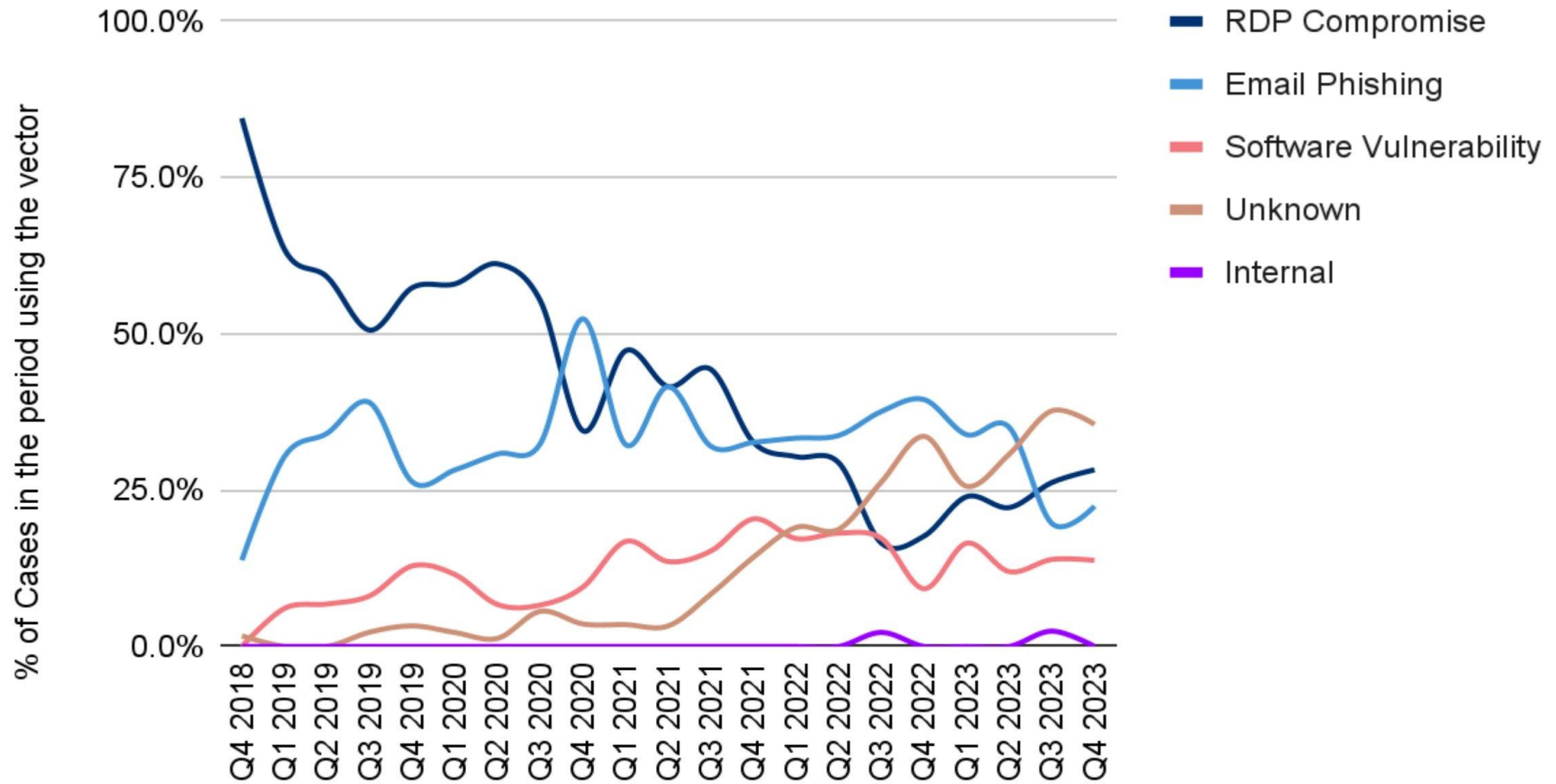
# Cybercriminals



# **WHAT IS THE TOP CYBER THREAT NOWADAYS FOR ORGANISATIONS?**



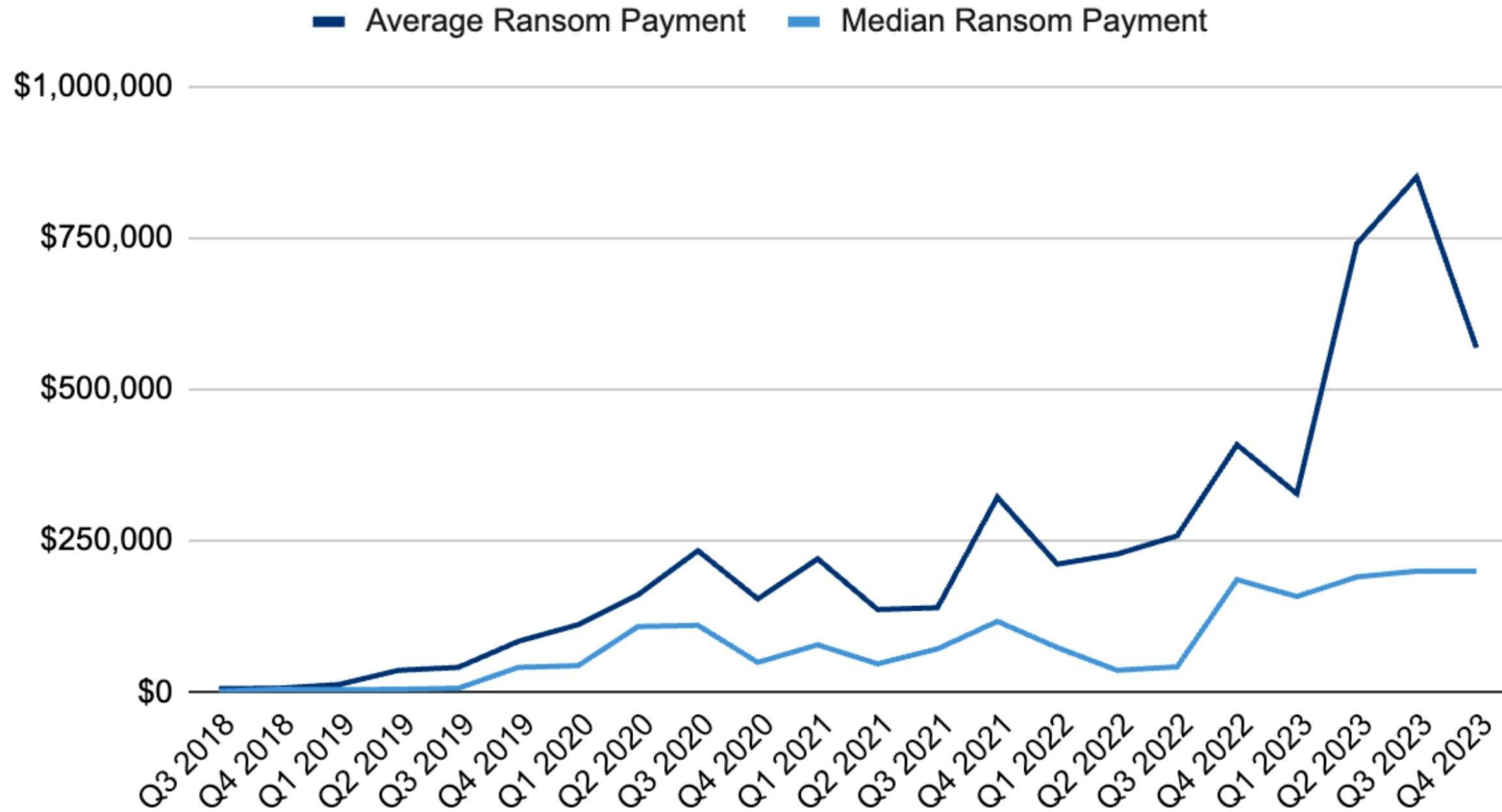
# Ransomware Attack Vectors





**HOW MUCH IS THE AVERAGE  
RANSOM PAYMENT?**

# Ransom Payments By Quarter

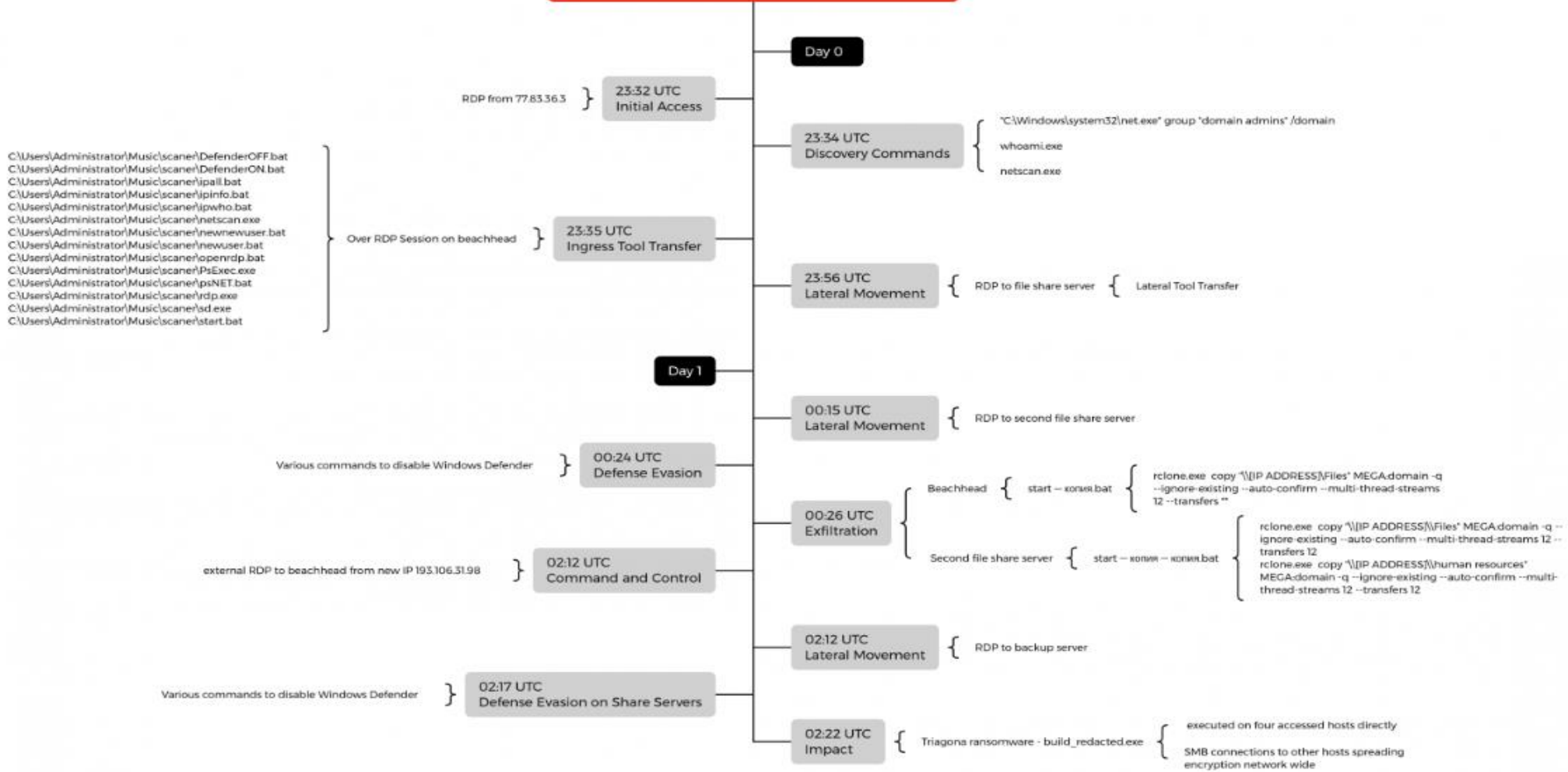




**HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO  
GET RANSOMWARED?**



# Buzzing on Christmas Eve: Trigona Ransomware in 3 Hours



```
...content="b/ is the home of Anonymous, it is where...
...content="imageboard.anonymous.random/b/"> <meta n...
...<meta name="PATING" content="RTA-5012-1096-1400-1...
...http://static.4chan.org/css/yotsuba.9.css" title="Yotsuba"><link...
...ogress/yotsuba.8.css" title="Yotsuba B"><link rel="altern...
...css" title="Yotsuba"><link rel="alternate stylesheet" type="...
...<script type="text/javascript">
...index=indexOf(hname+" ", h) index++; if (index==1) return ".indexOf...
...endstr=length,return deCodeURIComponent(substring(index,e...
...return pass,year,chars="a bed efg h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w...
...nd=1,Math.floor(Math.random()*length),length,chars)
...etElementsByClassName("display",(a.style.display...
...<script><script type="text/css">
...<link rel="stylesheet" href="http://img.4chan.org/b/imageboard.html" title...
...name/Case"></a> / <a href="http://orz.4chan...
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...do.gif"></a> </a>
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...sp...
...ne...
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# Hacktivistis

# 21 FEB2024 Russia Ukraine War CyberTracker #26 – 125 Total Groups

## Pro-Russia – 81 Groups

## Pro-Ukraine - 44 Groups

- RaHDit - Hack
- Bear IT Army – DDoS/Infoops
- ZOV cyber army - Hack
- Cyber Front Z - Pysops/Dox
- Info Front VoZzdie – Pysops/Dox
- Cyber Army Russia - DDoS/Hack/Deface
- Legion - DDoS
- Beregini - Hack/DDoS
- NoName057(16) - DDoS
- FRwLteam - Ransomware
- RedHackersAlliance – Hack/DDoS
- Anonymous Russia - DDoS
- Phoenix – DDoS/Deface
- JokerDPR – Hack/Pysops
- DDoSia Project - DDoS
- GhostWriter - Hack
- SandWorm - Hack
- Gamaredon - Hack
- Cadet Blizzard - Hack
- FancyBear/APT28 - Hack
- Turla APT - Hack
- SaintBear/TA471 - Hack
- Calisto Group - Hack
- Russian Hackers Team - DDoS
- Infinity Hackers By – DDoS/Hack
- Anonymous Sudan - DDoS
- Usersec – DDoS
- Zarya legion – DDoS
- 62IX - DDoS
- Net-Worker - DDoS
- Solntsepyok - Hack
- Combatosint - OSINT
- Ember Bear - Hack
- UAC-0099 – Hack
- UAC-0050 – Hack
- Storm-0978 (RomCom) – Hack
- akur.group – DDoS
- Krypton Botnet - DDoS
- Patriot Black Matrix – DDoS
- Zulik Group - DDoS
- Nethunters – DDoS
- Anonymous Central Russia – DDoS/Hack
- Voshod – DDoS
- Sila\_ikc – DDoS
- Darkseek – DDoS
- Rubit - DDoS
- Ruddos – DDoS
- Jar2 Zov – DDoS
- Russianbirdsec – DDoS
- Onfpower – DDoS
- Bear Spaw – DDoS
- Server Killers – DDoS
- RussiaV2022 – Infoops
- InfoCentre - Infoops
- **NEW ADDITIONS**
- Fr13nds - DDoS
- Mrakoborecnew - Infoops
- Darkstorm - DDoS
- Pravdanf - Infoops
- Skynet\_Botnet (GodZilla) - Botnet
- Istocni\_front - DDoS
- Cyber Dragon - DDoS
- We are Legion - DDoS
- Just Evil (Killmilk) – DDoS/Hack
- R00TK1T - Hack
- Kingofversus - DDoS
- Darknet Joker – DDoS/Deface
- Russian Cult Group - DDoS
- Kanehill – DDoS/Deface
- Anonymous Legion - DDoS
- Grafnetworks – DDoS/Hack
- CoupTeam - DDoS
- Killnet 2.0 - DDoS
- Phanas Cyber Army (PCA) – DDoS/Hack
- Federal Legion - DDoS
- Mistnet (botnet) - Botnet
- CortadorZ - DDoS
- WolframiumZ - Infoops
- Xhinetsha - DDoS
- Angel\_anoncent - Infoops
- Robin Hood Cyber – DDoS/Deface
- Skillnet - DDoS
- ClownsNet - DDoS
- Blooder V2 – DDoS
- 22C – DDoS/Deface

## NEW ADDITIONS

- Clawritsec – DDoS
- HDR0 – Deface/Hack
- InformNapalm – Infoops
- Blackwolves Team – DDoS
- Kobirg – Infoops/Hack
- Anon Koryos - DDoS
- Ukraine GUR - Hack

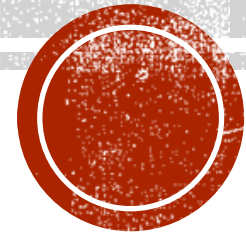
- GhostSec – Hack/DDoS
- SecJuice - OSINT
- Belarusian Cyber-Partisans - Ransomware
- BeeHive Cybersecurity – Hack/Sec
- HackenClub - Hack
- studentcyberarmy - DDoS
- CyberPalyanitsa - DDoS
- Cybercossacks - DDoS
- NAFO - Pysops
- Anonsec Italia – Hack/DDoS
- Saint Javelin - Pysops
- Ukrainian Cyber Alliance - Hack
- HimarsDDoS - DDoS
- IT Army of Ukraine – DDoS/Hack
- Cyber Legions – Hack
- Ukrainian Hackers Group – Hack/DDoS
- KT “special CIA Operation – OSINT
- Cyber Anarchy Squad – DDoS/Hack
- FRC Army UA – DDoS
- Cyber Resistance – Hack
- Cybersecs – DDoS
- CyberPolk - Hack
- AltroAnon - DDoS/Hack
- Hack Your Mom - Hack
- International Intelligence Legion - OSINT
- cyber-Regiment - DDoS/Hack
- Twelve - DDoS/Hack
- YourAnonUKRIR - DDoS
- Windef - Hack
- HGH - Hack
- AltroX – DDoS
- Ghostclan – DDoS/Hack

Cyberknow

Orange = Capability

<https://twitter.com/Cyberknow20/status/1760288169952784736>

# THE CORPORATE CYBER SHIELD

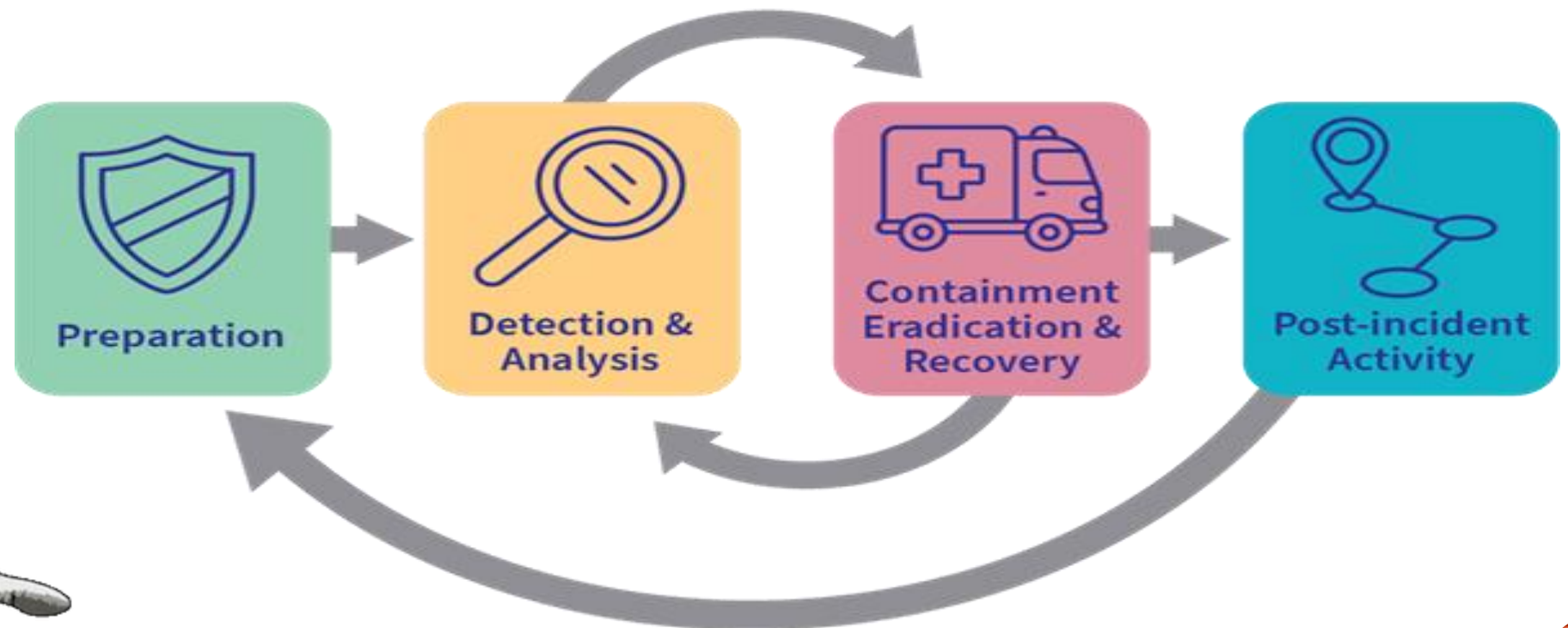


# WELCOME TO CYBER SECURITY

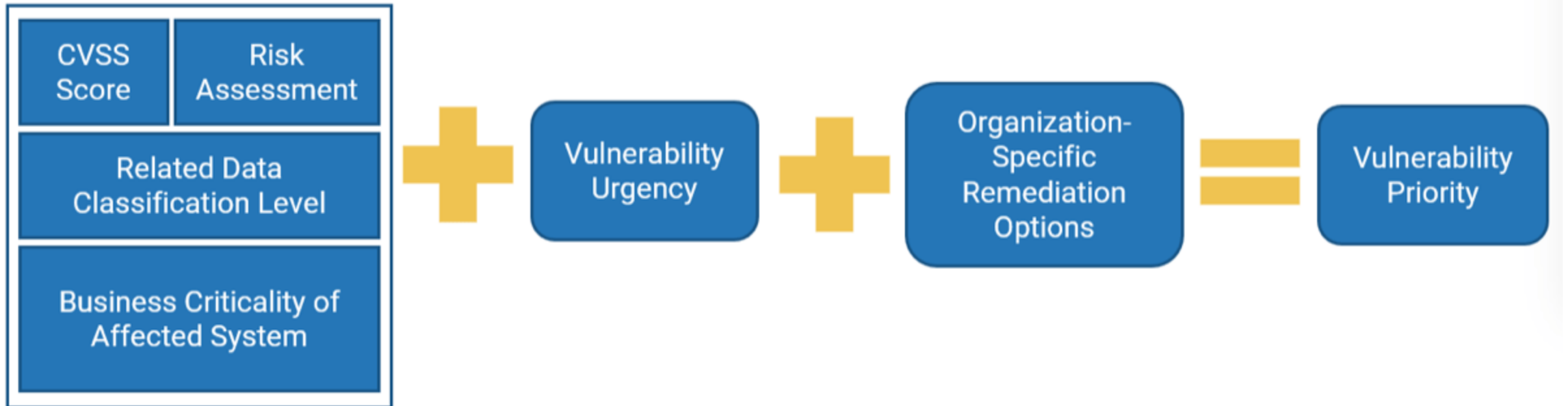


# SECURITY OPERATIONS AND INCIDENT RESPONSE

## Cyber Incident Response Cycle



# VULNERABILITY MANAGEMENT



# THREAT INTELLIGENCE

## INTELLIGENCE AREAS

### TACTICAL

Focused on performing malware analysis & enrichment, as well as ingesting atomic, static, and behavioral threat indicators into defensive cybersecurity systems.

#### STAKEHOLDERS:

- SOC Analyst
- SIEM
- Firewall
- Endpoints
- IDS/IPS



"Mechanic"

### OPERATIONAL

Focused on understanding adversarial capabilities, infrastructure, & TTPs, and then leveraging that understanding to conduct more targeted and prioritized cybersecurity operations.

#### STAKEHOLDERS:

- Threat Hunter
- SOC Analyst
- Vulnerability Mgmt.
- Incident Response
- Insider Threat



"Race Car Driver"

### STRATEGIC

Focused on understanding high level trends and adversarial motives, and then leveraging that understanding to engage in strategic security and business decision-making.

#### STAKEHOLDERS:

- CISO
- CIO
- CTO
- Executive Board
- Strategic Intel

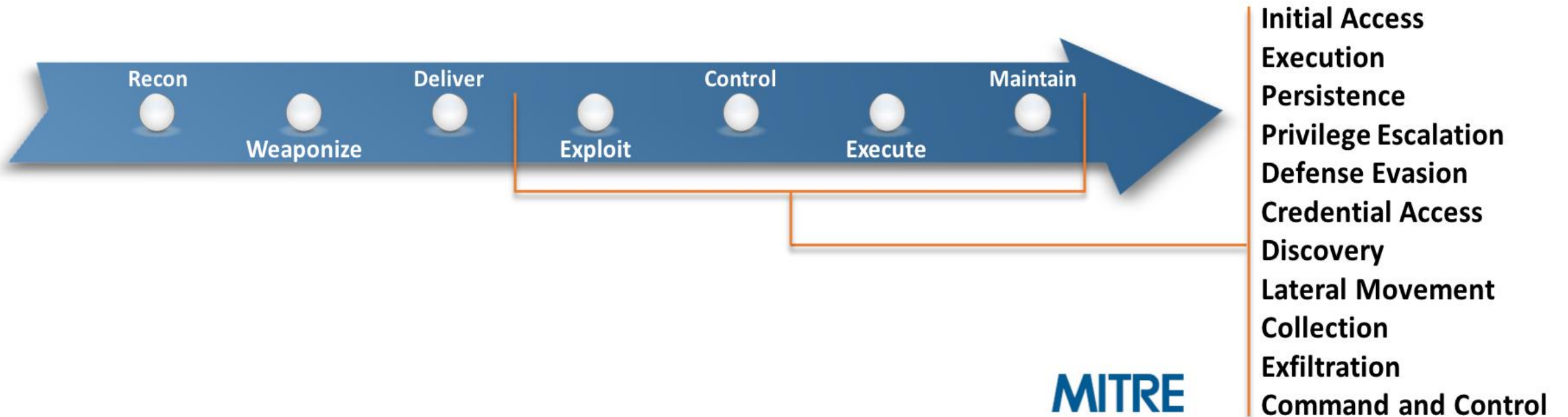


"The Owner"

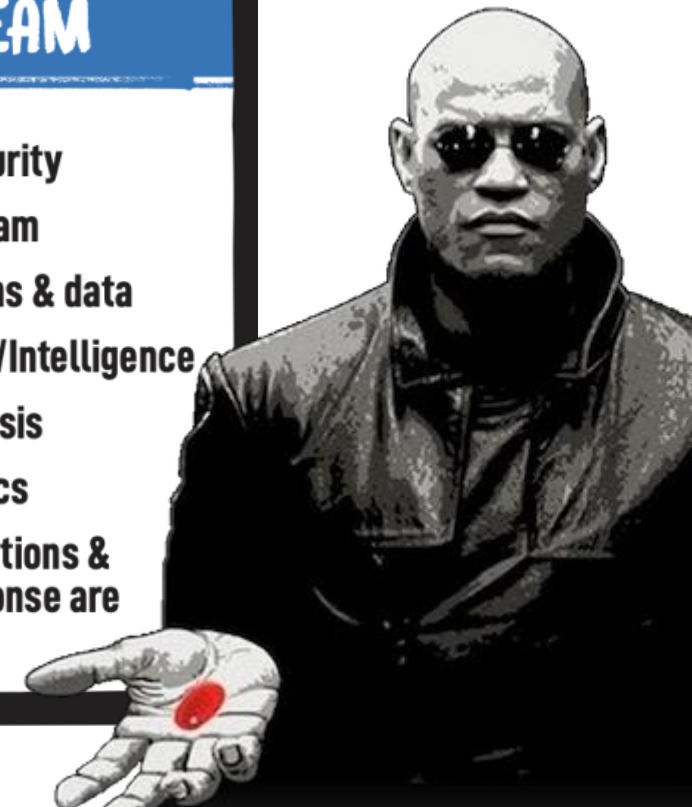
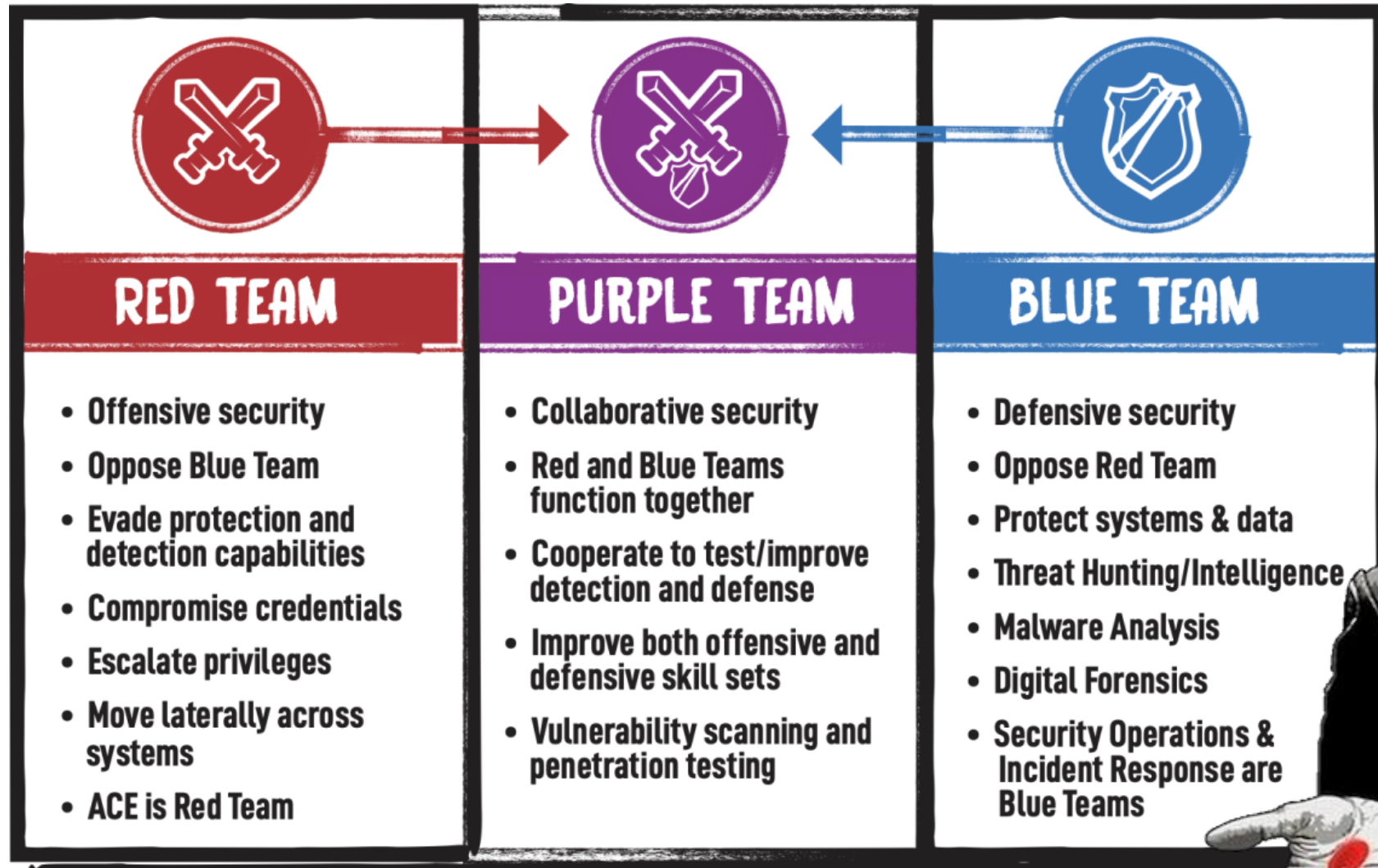




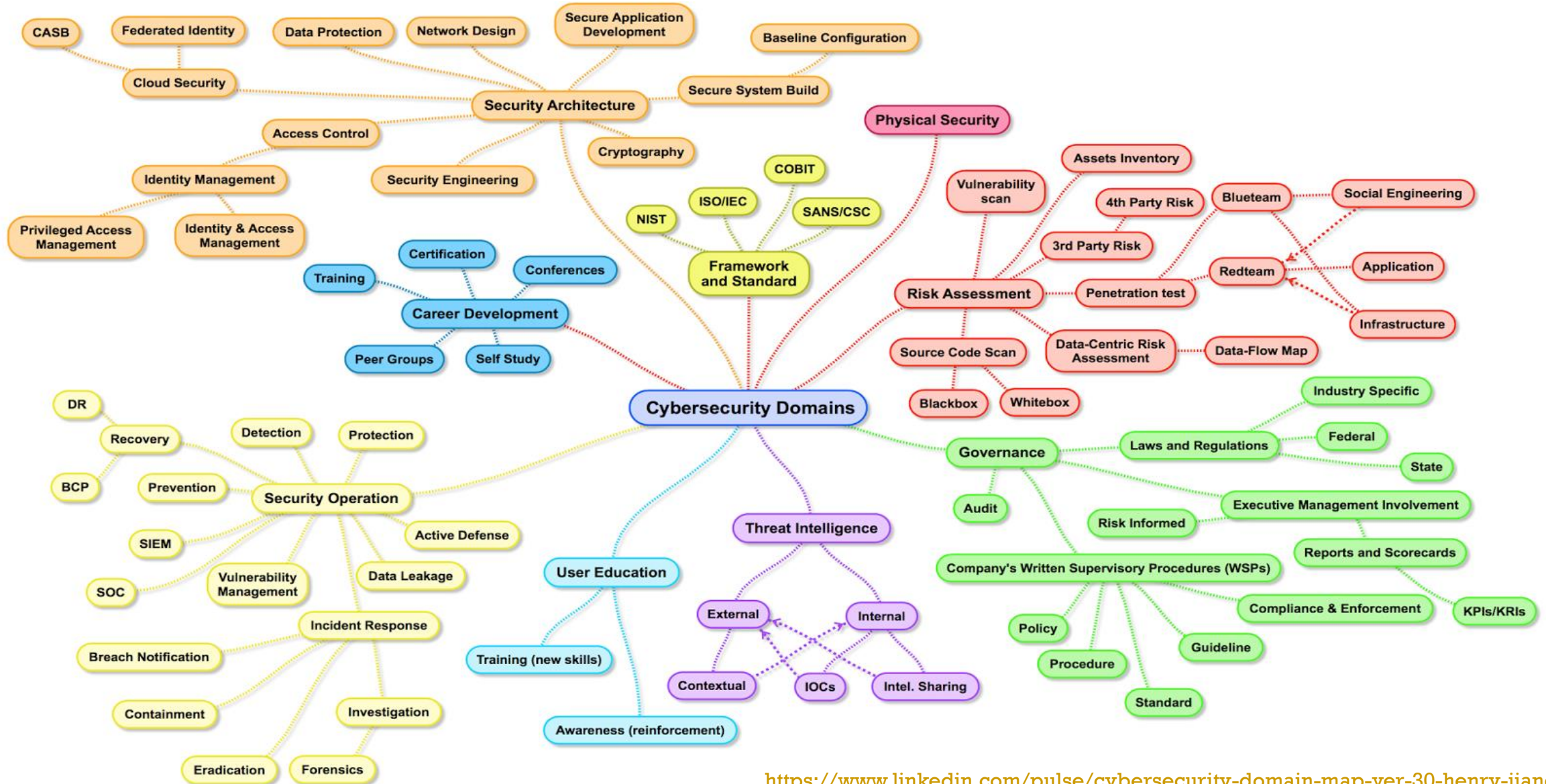
# THREAT HUNTING



# RED & PURPLE TEAMING



# THE CORPORATE CYBER SHIELD



# BUILDING THE CYBER DEFENDERS

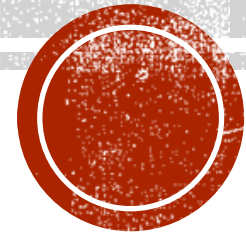


Image from [heritage-history.com](https://www.heritage-history.com)



**S&P Global**



 **Shell**



**LLOYDS  
BANKING  
GROUP**

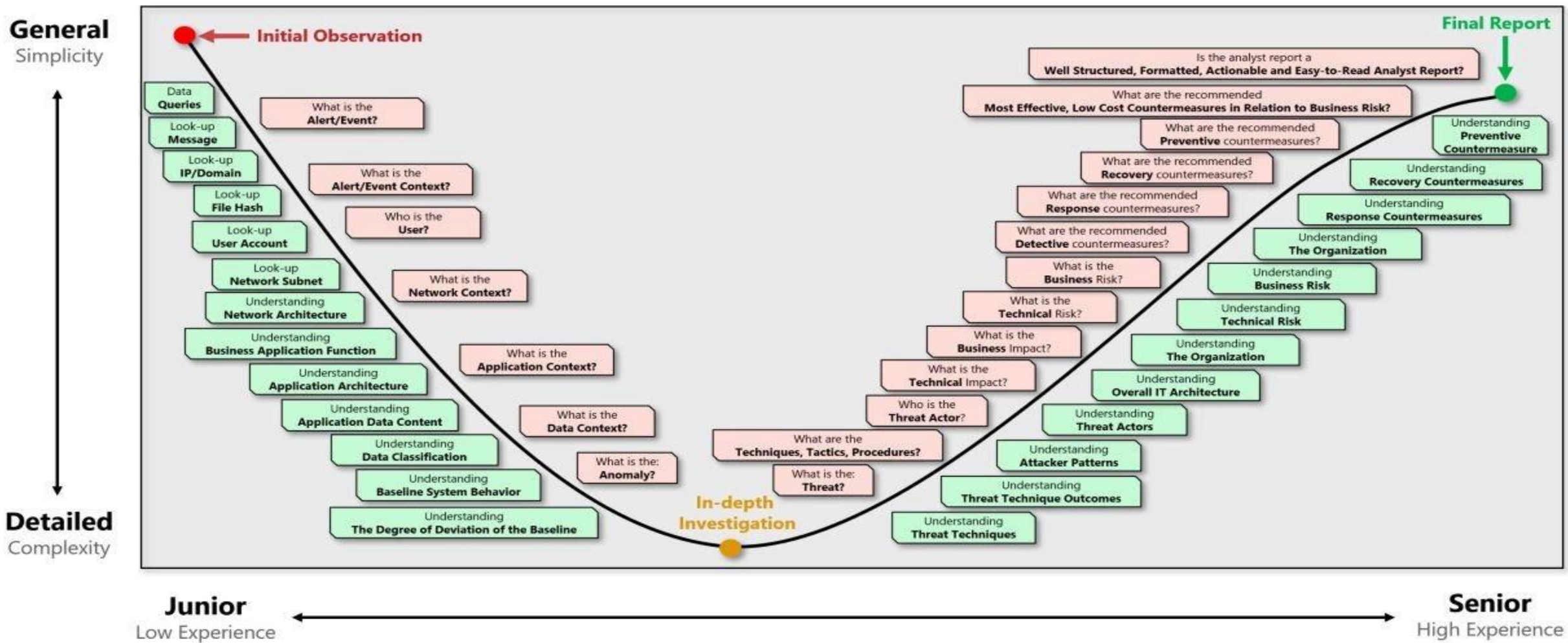


**SAP**



# Cyber Security Analyst Maturity Curve

"A senior cyber security analyst should be able to reach the **simplicity at the far side of complexity** and to be able to communicate the cyber security risks, threats and related countermeasures **simply, effectively and actionable**."



- [www.CorrelatedSecurity.com](http://www.CorrelatedSecurity.com) -

<https://correlatedsecurity.com/cyber-security-analyst-maturity-curve/>



# KEEPING UP TO DATE - SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

---

RSS Aggregator (e.g., Feedly)

---

Twitter

---

Cyber News Websites

---

Reddit

---

Podcasts (e.g., CyberWire)

---

Newsletter Team (e.g., TC Dragon News Bytes)

---

Strategic Sources (e.g., Economist, CFR, etc.)

---

Weekly Summaries (e.g. This Week in 4n6)

---

Threat Intelligence Reports

---

ISACs

---

Trust Groups (e.g., Slack channels, mailing lists)

---

Threat Intelligence Vendors

---





# CONTINUOUS EDUCATION MINDSET

---

Self-initiated

---

CTFs

---

Academic programs

---

Certifications

---

Online training material

---

Conferences

---

Books

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Audiobooks

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**YOUR LACK OF COMMUNICATION**



**DISTURBS ME**



**COMMUNICATION**

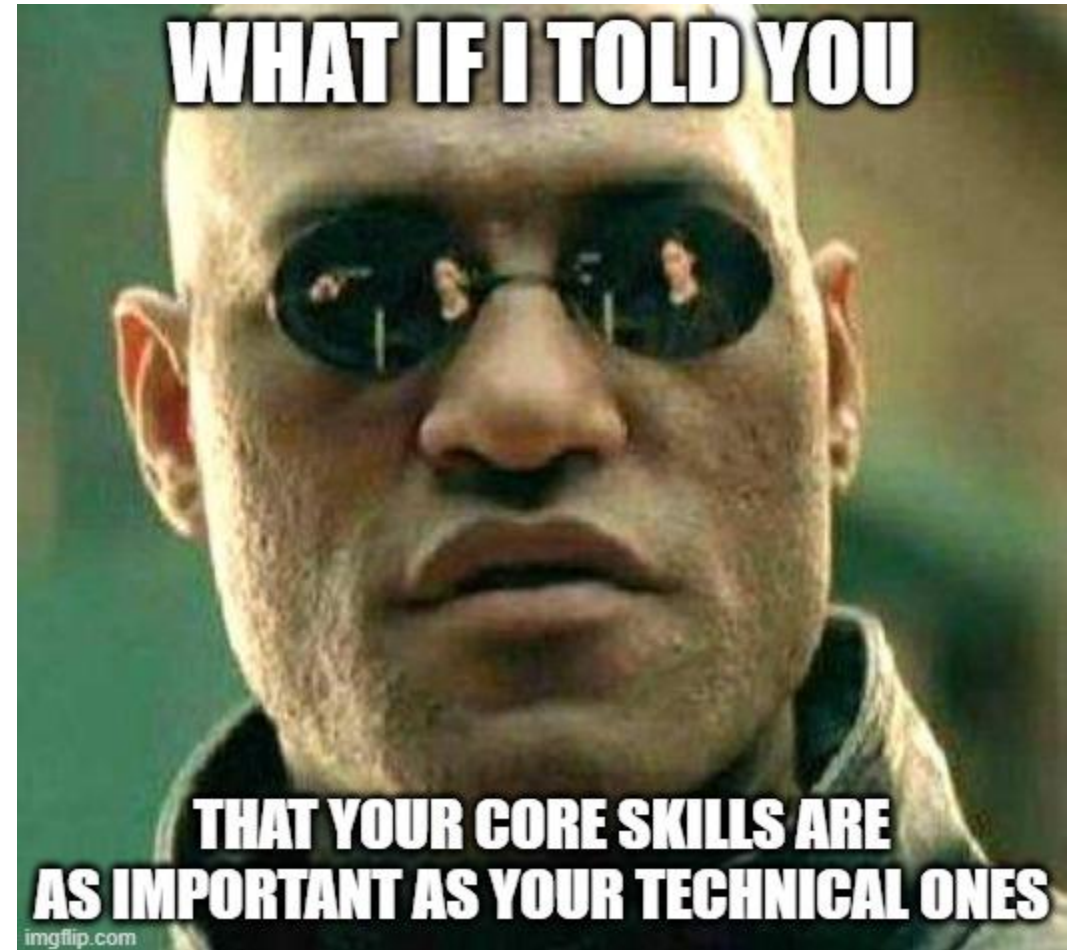
**THE KEY IS**

memegenerator.net



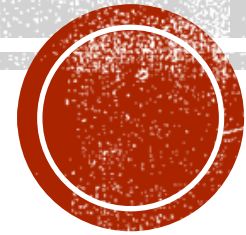
# DON'T UNDERESTIMATE CORE SKILLS

- Communication
- Teamwork
- Emotional Intelligence
- Business acumen
- Ethics





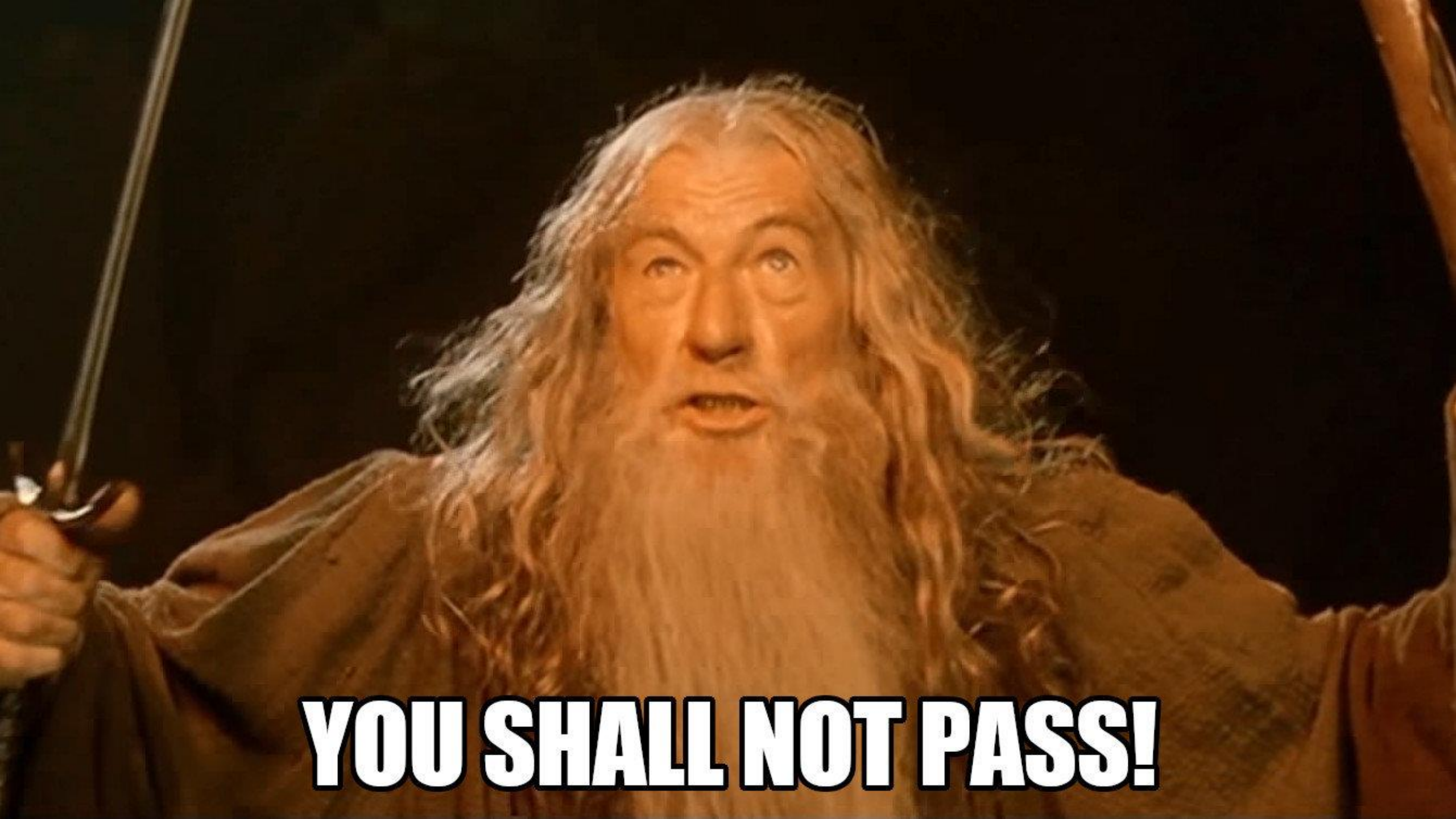
# FINAL REMARKS



# RECAP

- Evolving cyber threat landscape
- Organisations with different threat profiles, business priorities, and “cyber shields”
- New generation of cyber defenders and tomorrow’s leaders





**YOU SHALL NOT PASS!**

**THANK YOU!**



**Andreas Sfakianakis**

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**TLP:CLEAR**