

Cyber Alberta Community of Interest

Dark Web and AI: a New Era of Cyber Threats



The Dark Web and AI: A New Era of Cyber Threats with Hank Fordham

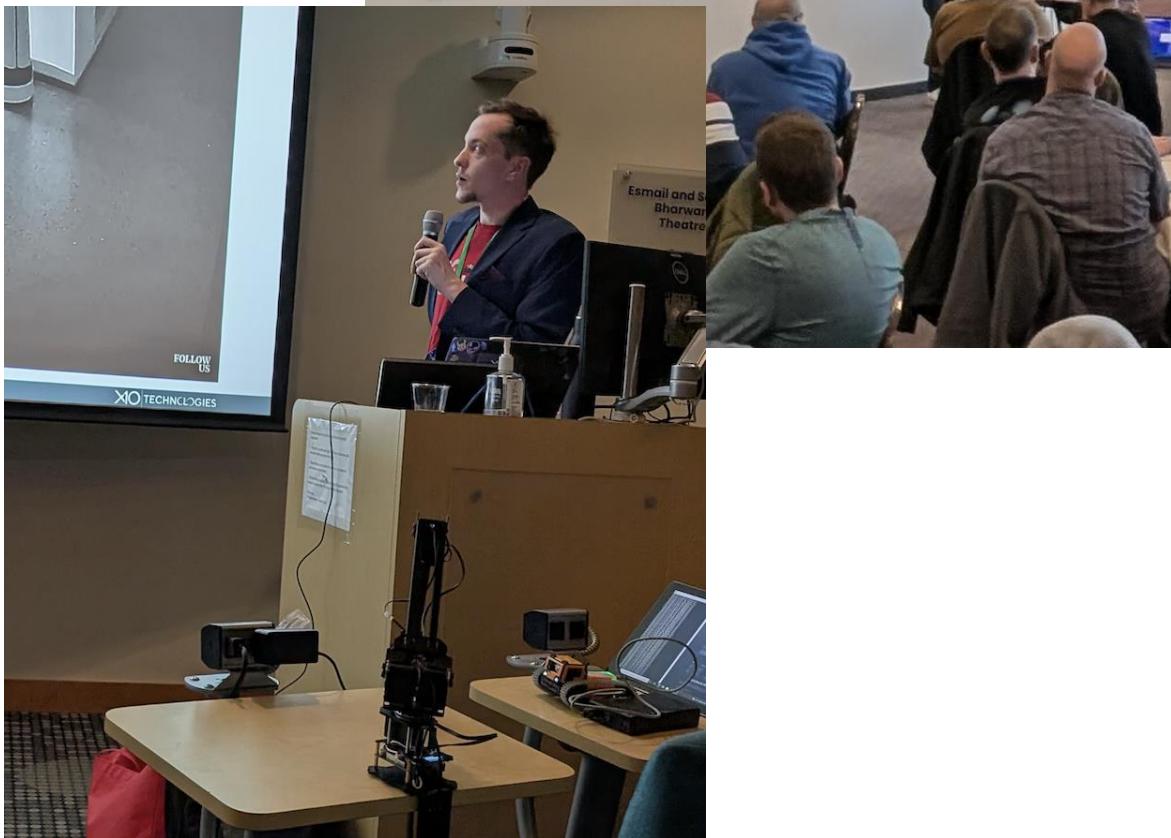
As organizations embrace modern cybersecurity architectures, cyber threats present new challenges to securing corporate networks.

This session explores the intersection of the dark web, AI, and cyber threat intelligence, revealing how cybercriminals exploit leaked credentials and sensitive data to bypass traditional defenses as well as how we can defend against them.



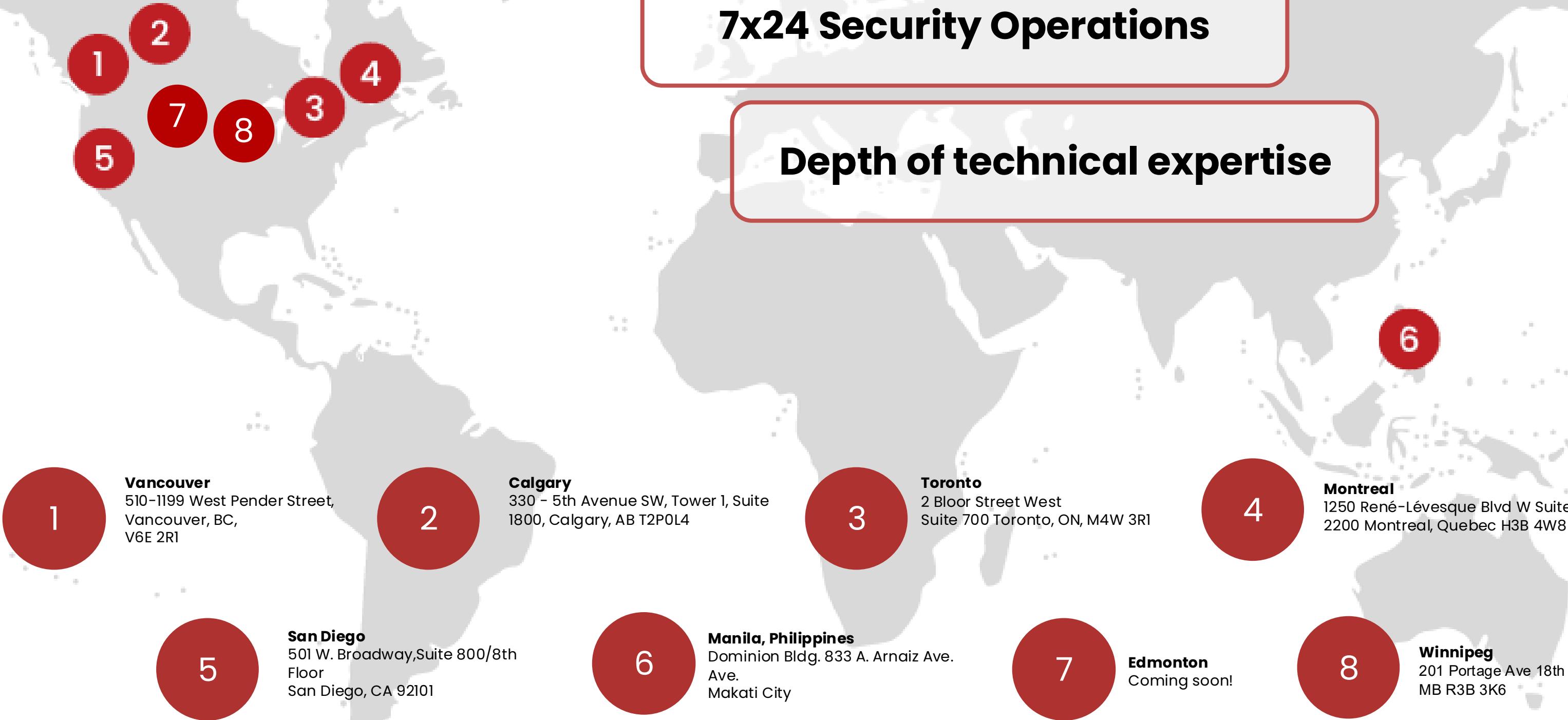
Hank Fordham & Adam McMath

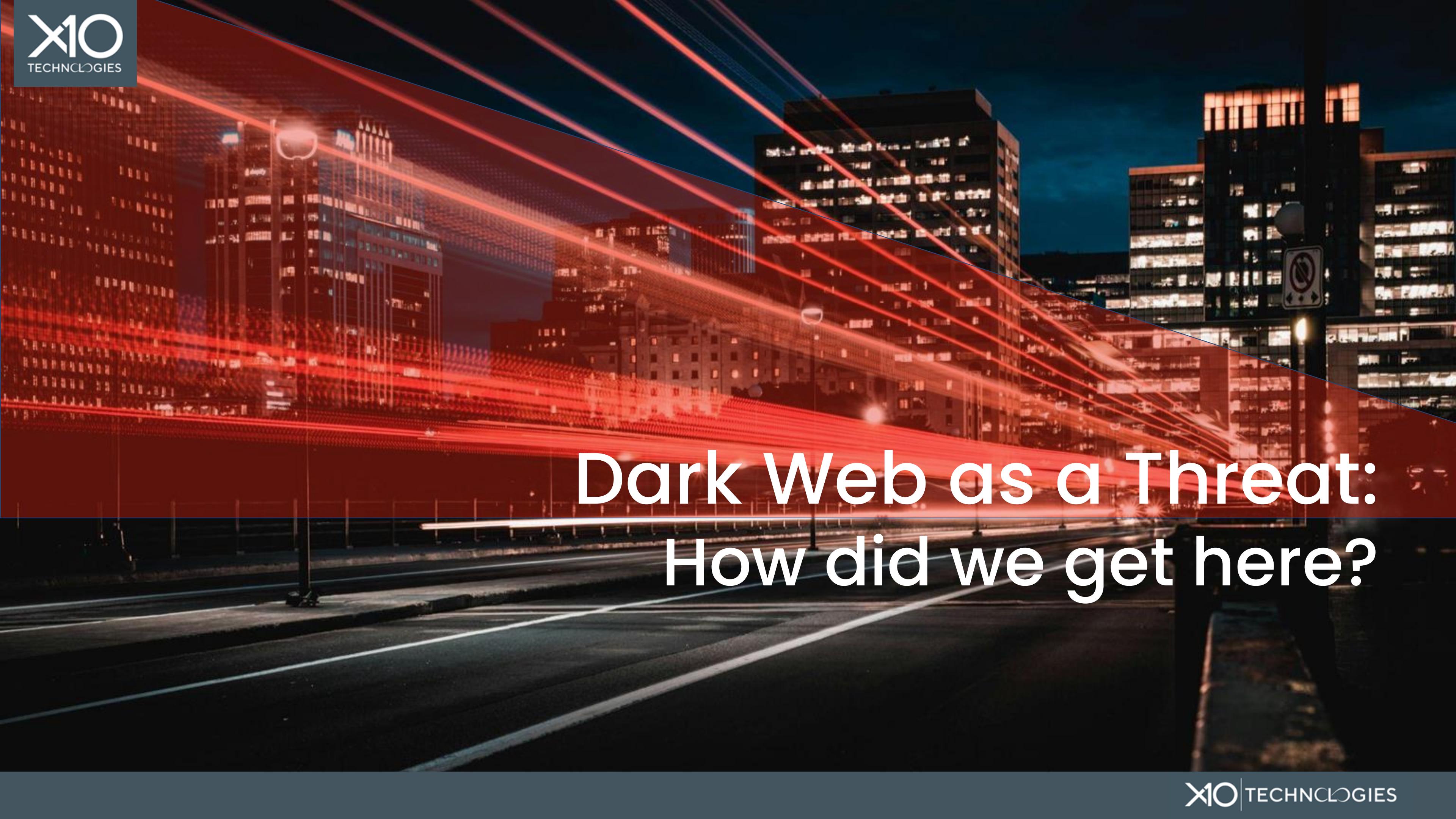
Hank the Hacker:
mentor, educator, and
technology innovator



Adam the Antagonist:
researcher, organizer, and
crisis communicator



Canada, USA and Asia/Pacific**7x24 Security Operations****Depth of technical expertise**



Dark Web as a Threat: How did we get here?

Technology Evolution



Innovation



Transformation



Disruption

Web 1.0, Circa 1999

- Internet Connectivity
- Firewalls
- Trust Zones
- AV on Endpoints
- Distributed Computing
- 10bT Ethernet

Web 2.0, Circa 2009

- Mobility
- Rich Content
- Compliance
- Logs / SIEM
- Frameworks
- Cloud
- Data Science

Modern Workforce, Circa 2019

- “Identity is the new Perimeter”
- Remote Workers
- Privacy Legislation
- Advanced Persistent Threats
- Data and Traffic Analytics

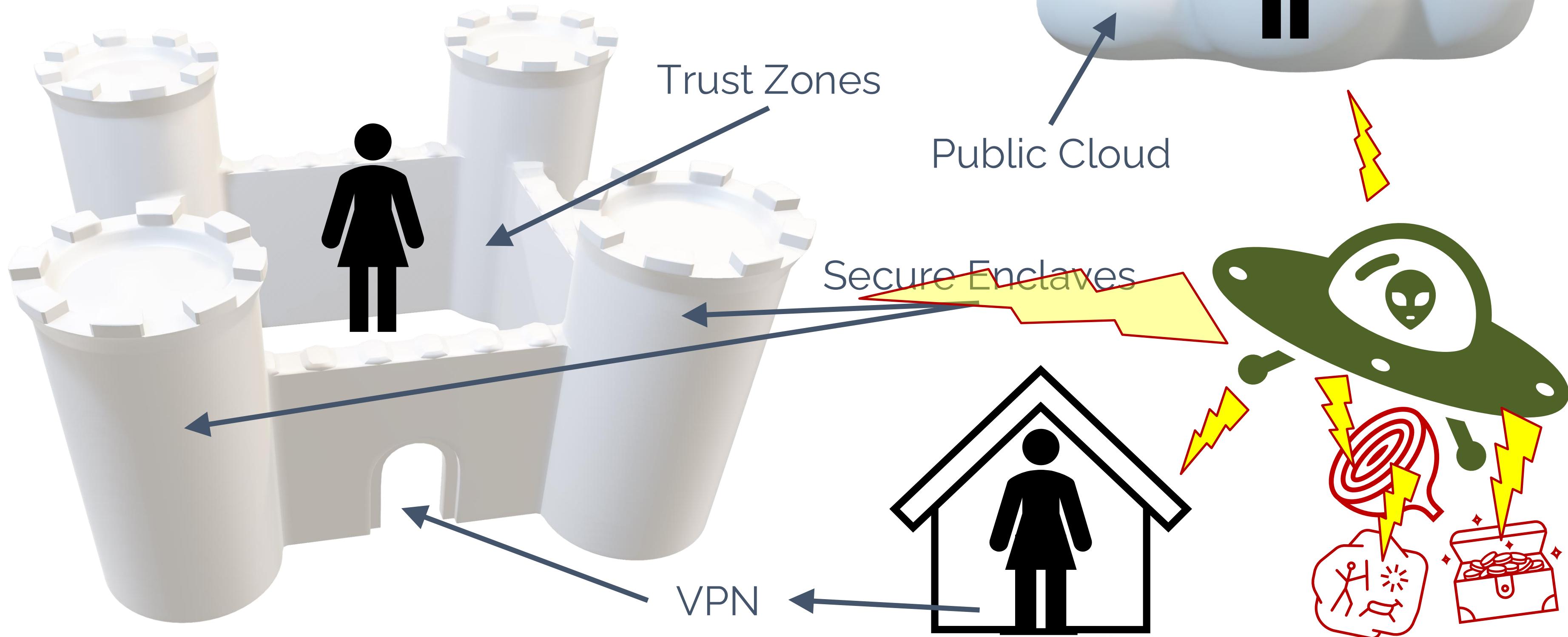
2025



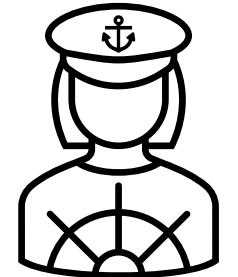
Inherited Complexity, Technical Debt, Competing Priorities



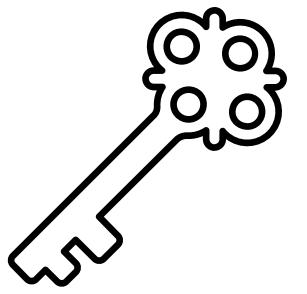
Traditional IT Environment



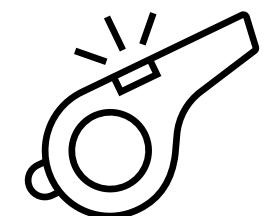
Behind it all... the Dark Web



Invented by researchers at United States Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) in the 90's



Enables anonymity through encrypted Communication



Used by whistleblowers, journalists, and people who could be oppressed for the information they want to share

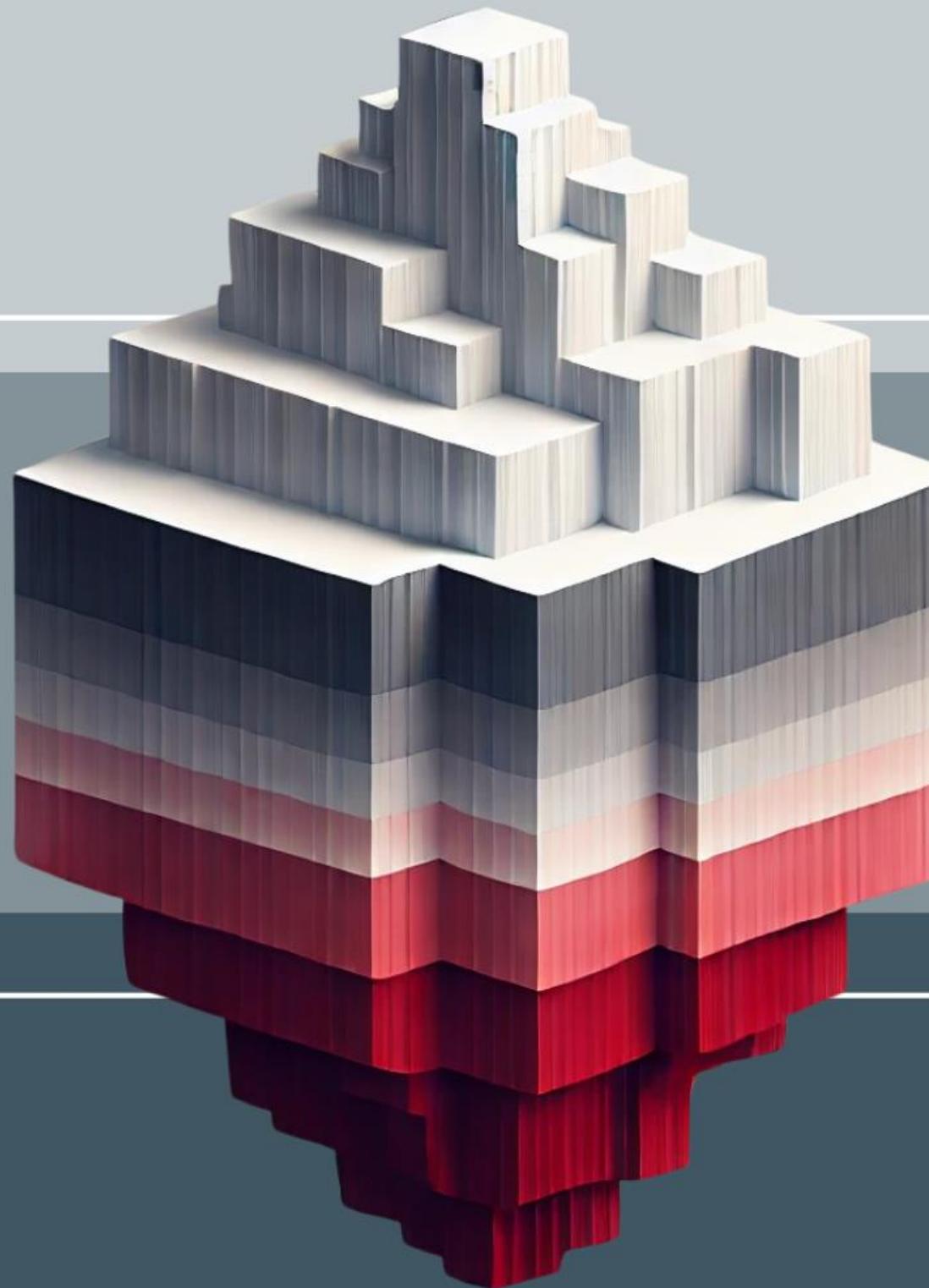


Cybercriminals thrive here



Behind it all... the Dark Web

'Clear Web'
Makes up 3%
of the entire web



'Deep Web'
Makes up 97%
of the entire web

'Dark Web'
Is a part of
'Deep Web'

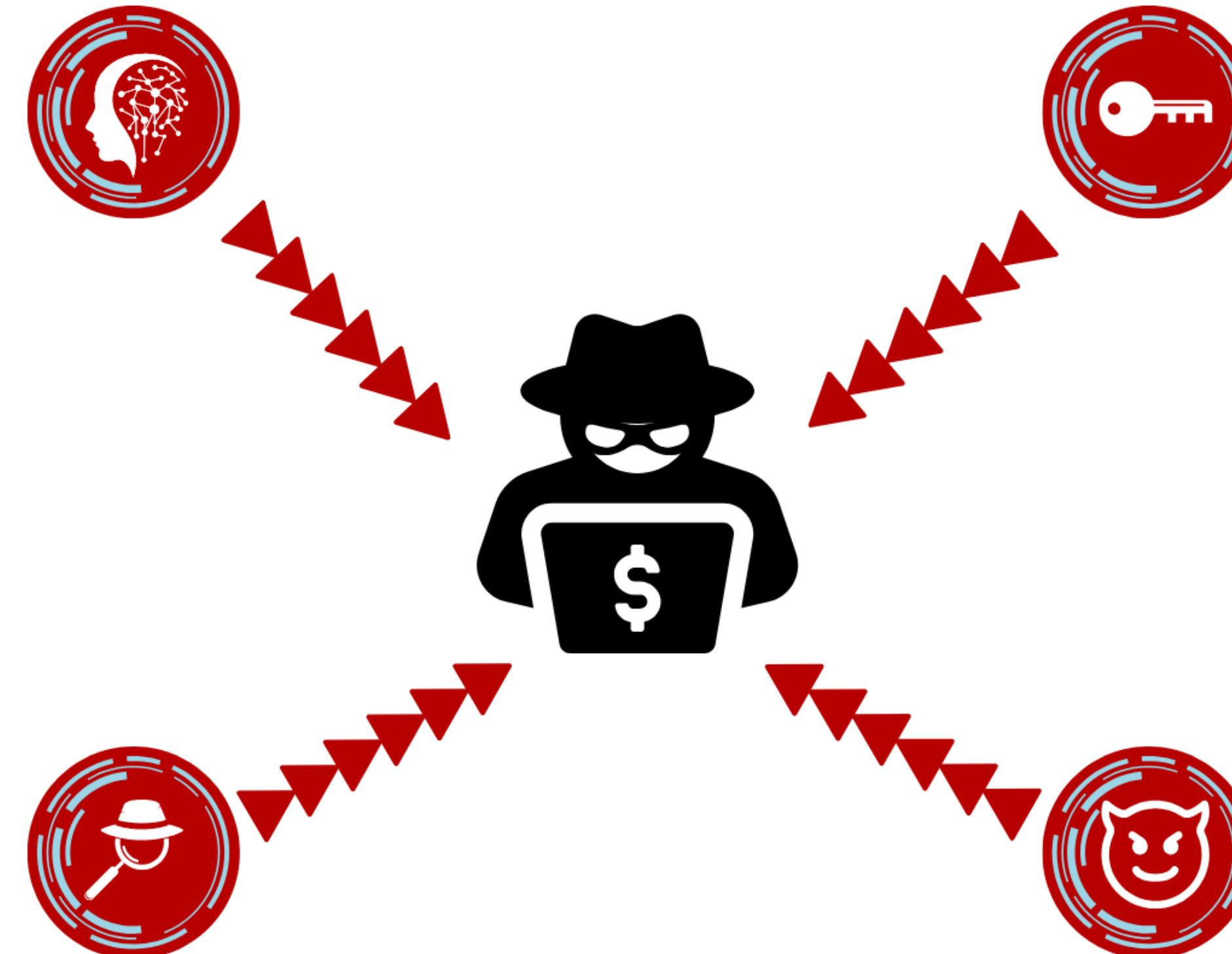
How the Dark Web Enables Hackers

LLM Jacking

Microsoft sues hacking group exploiting azure AI for harmful content creation. Hackers were gaining access to LLM's to use them maliciously without the user's knowledge, potentially also racking up costs.

Data Collection and Analysis

Cybercriminals leveraging Ai and the dark web for more effective data scraping and intelligence gathering, making target discovery and compromise less difficult.



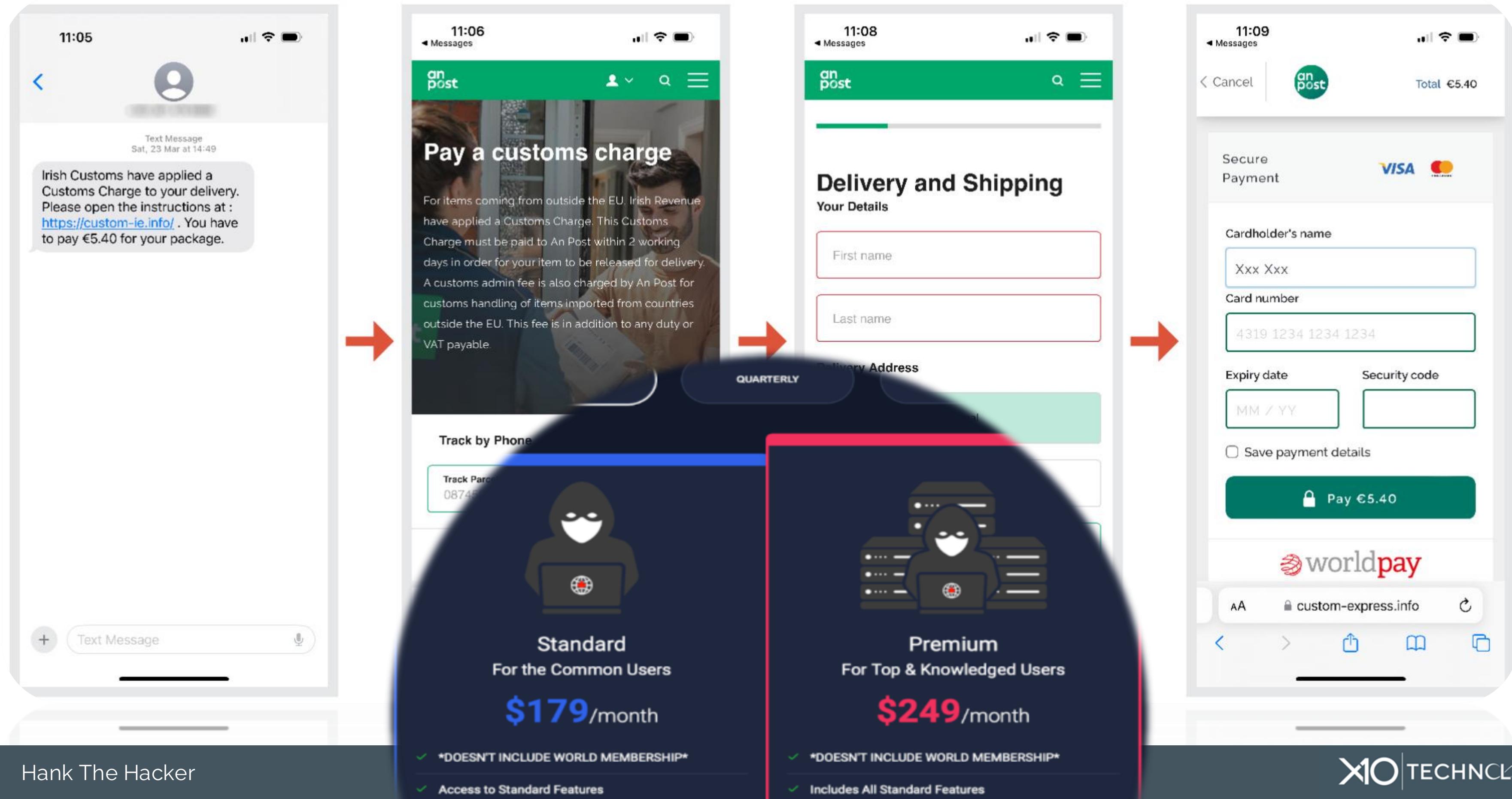
API and Credential Theft

Cybercriminals stealing API keys and credentials to gain access to Ai tools like ChatGPT and Azure Ai for malware and phishing.

Malicious Language Models

Cybercriminals developing complex Large Language Models (LLMs) for malicious purposes like developing malware or phishing campaigns and generating harmful content.

How the Dark Web Enables Phishing



Dark Web Commoditized Malware

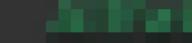
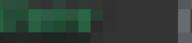
Premium Tools and Programs

Thread / Author

Important Threads

 [REDACTED] | hVNC | PASSWORD RECOVERY | GRABBER | HIDDEN BROWSERS CLONE SESSION |   [Pages: 1 2 3 4 ... 17]

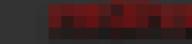
 [REDACTED] - malware, knock 90%, Reverse-Proxy, Google Restore   [Pages: 1 2 3 4 ... 12]

 [REDACTED] /2FABypass/ WebGL/ Hidden Desktop-Browser/Outlook/Foxmail/Password Rec|   [Pages: 1 2 3 4 ... 15]

 [REDACTED] BEST REMOTE ADMINISTRATION TOOL // HVNC // REVERSE PROXY // HRDP   [Pages: 1 2 3 4 ... 12]

 [REDACTED] | GET RICH TODAY | SILENT HIDDEN MULTI COIN MINER | PASSIVE INCOME   [Pages: 1 2 3 4 ... 60]

Normal Threads

 [REDACTED] || A Native HTTP Loader || (Native / C++) || AES256 || Stable || Lifetime!   [Pages: 1 2 3 4 ... 7]

 [REDACTED] **** 9 YEARS STRONG **** WEB BASED BUILDER + PROXIES [AUTOBUY]   [Pages: 1 2 3 4 ... 123]

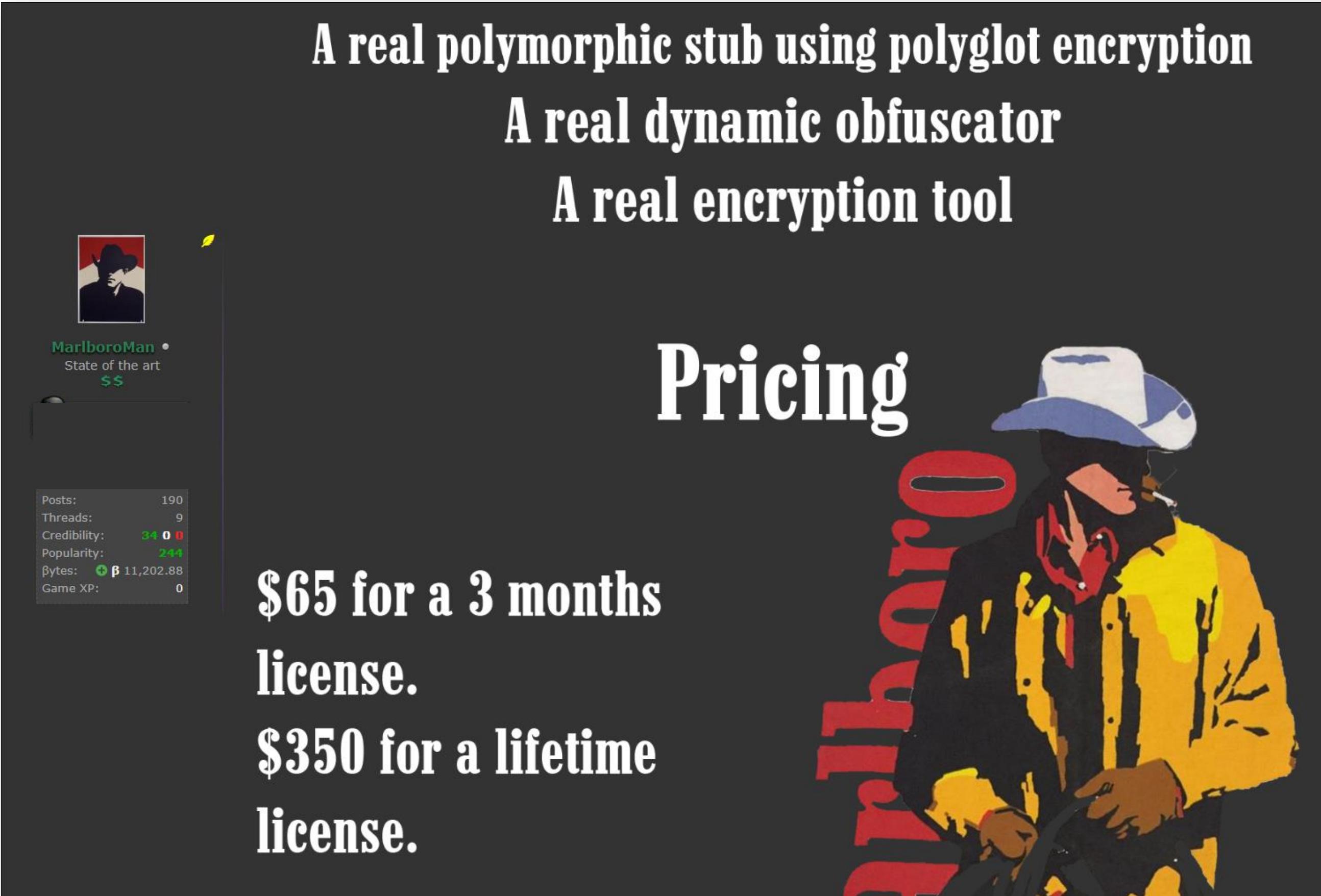
 [REDACTED] | FAST MASS EMAILER | 100% INBOX | BOMB | 15+ SYNTAX | AI | SMTP | NO LIMIT

Dark Web Commoditized Obfuscation

A real polymorphic stub using polyglot encryption

A real dynamic obfuscator

A real encryption tool



\$65 for a 3 months license.

\$350 for a lifetime license.

Dark Web Credential Stuffing

Forum Announcement: Database Index

[Owner] pompompurin

March 17, 2022, 05:22 AM

This thread will index all the datasets we have marked as "Official" meaning they are verified by an admin and kept online 24/7/365 via our CDN. Please note there are hundreds more unofficial datasets in the Databases subforum. This list is not only limited to database breaches, you will find some combolists here too.

Sorting options:

- Record Count: [HIGHER-LOWER] [LOWER-HIGHER]
- Date Added: [NEWER-OLDER] [OLDER-NEWER]
- Breach Date: [NEWER-OLDER] [OLDER-NEWER]
- Title: [A-Z] [Z-A]

Click here to learn how to get credits. Click here to view some basic rules.

We have a total of **11,609,525,868** Records from the following 569 Datasets, free for download once you unlock them.

11 billion leaked passwords available for download

[\[014,936,670\] 2015 - \(000webhost.com\) 000webhost Database → Download Here!](#)
[\[007,476,940\] 2021 - \(datpiff.com\) DatPiff Database → Download Here!](#)
[\[007,633,234\] 2018 - \(blank\) BlankGames Database → Download Here!](#)
[\[015,003,961\] 2021 - \(epik\) Epik Database → Download Here!](#)
[\[000,819,478\] 2014 - \(warframeandmathematics\) Database → Download Here!](#)
[\[004,105,095\] 2018 - \(avvo\) Avvo Database → Download Here!](#)
[\[000,018,131\] 2017 - \(crack\) Crackitaly Database → Download Here!](#)
[\[010,604,307\] 2019 - \(armored\) Armored Games Database → Download Here!](#)
[\[017,551,044\] 2017 - \(disque\) Disque Database → Download Here!](#)
[\[000,040,308\] 2017 - \(eazys\) Eazys Database → Download Here!](#)
[\[008,661,578\] 2020 - \(123rf\) 123rf Database → Download Here!](#)
[\[000,073,944\] 2020 - \(shock\) Shock Database → Download Here!](#)
[\[000,004,606\] 2019 - \(kiwi\) Kiwi Database → Download Here!](#)
[\[000,020,902\] 2014 - \(bell.ca\) Bell 2014 Database → Download Here!](#)
[\[000,501,407\] 2015 - \(bitco\) BitcoinTalk Database → Download Here!](#)

View some basic rules.

Total of 11,609,525,868 Records

[0] | 2015 - (000webhost.com) 000webhost Database → Download Here!
[0] | 2021 - (datpiff.com) DatPiff Database → Download Here!
[1] | 2019 - (blank) BlankGames Database → Download Here!

Baphomet

This Telegram chat is under the control of the FBI. The BreachForums website has been taken down by the FBI and DOJ with assistance from international partners. We are reviewing the site's backend data. If you have information to report about cyber criminal activity on BreachForums, please contact us: t.me/fbi_breachforums breachforums@fbi.gov breachforums.ic3.gov

Telegram
FBI_BreachForums
You can contact @fbi_breachforums right away.

SEND MESSAGE

18 15 13 4 4 2 2 1

1 10:15 AM

Baphomet pinned "This Telegram ch..."

THIS DOMAIN HAS BEEN SEIZED

The domains related to BreachForums

BF 

have been seized by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, and the Department of Justice in accordance with a seizure warrant issued pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 981, 982, *inter alia*, by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia as part of law enforcement action taken in parallel with the U.S. Secret Service, Homeland Security Investigations, the New York Police Department, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Dutch National Police, the Australian Federal Police, the United Kingdom National Crime Agency, and Police Scotland.



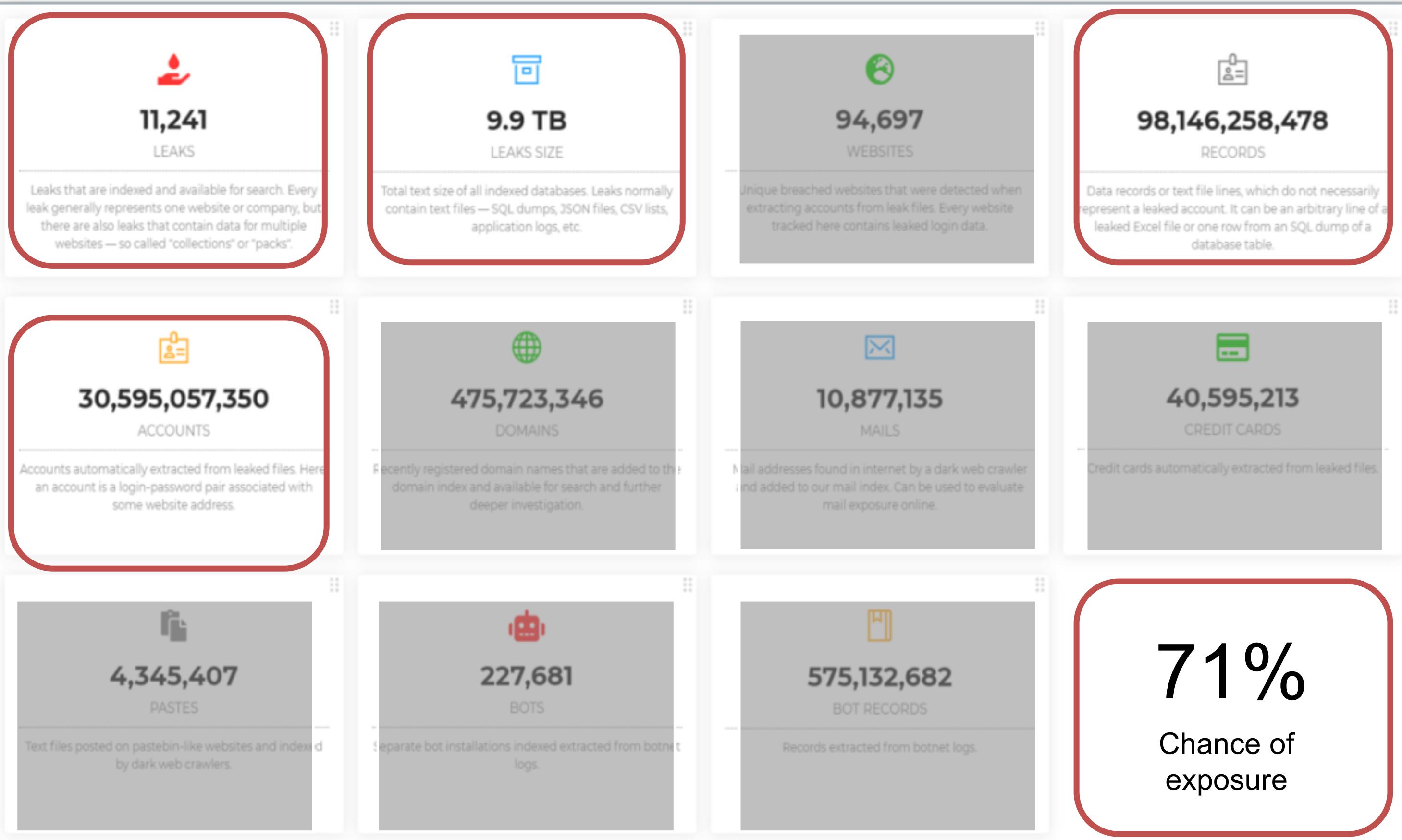






NCA
National Crime Agency

January 2025 Dark Web Statistics



December 2025 Dark Web Statistics

**47,850**

LEAKS

Leaks that are indexed and available for search. Every leak generally represents one website or company, but there are also leaks that contain data for multiple websites — so called "collections" or "packs".

**22.8 TB**

LEAKS SIZE

Total text size of all indexed databases. Leaks normally contain text files — SQL dumps, JSON files, CSV lists, application logs, etc.

**381,009,239**

WEBSITES

Unique breached websites that were detected when extracting accounts from leak files. Every website tracked here contains leaked login data.

**254,643,415,606**

RECORDS

Data records or text file lines, which do not necessarily represent a leaked account. It can be an arbitrary line of a leaked Excel file or one row from an SQL dump of a database table.

**92,579,357,369**

ACCOUNTS

Accounts automatically extracted from leaked files. Here, an account is a login-password pair associated with some website address.

**523,596,656**

DOMAINS

Recently registered domain names that are added to Kaduu domain index and available for search and further deeper investigation.

**10,877,135**

MAILS

Mail addresses found in internet by Kaduu crawler and added to our mail index. Can be used to evaluate mail exposure online.

**41,097,595**

CREDIT CARDS

Credit cards automatically extracted from leaked files.

205%

Average Increase

90%

Chance of exposure

**8,802,269**

PASTES

Text files posted on pastebin-like websites and indexed by Kaduu crawlers.

**282,955**

BOTS

Separate bot installations indexed extracted from botnet logs.

**711,809,886**

BOT RECORDS

Records extracted from botnet logs.

AI Trends: Enhanced Phishing



AI lowers the barrier for novice cyber criminals, hackers-for-hire and hacktivists to carry out effective access and information gathering operations. This **enhanced access will likely contribute to the global ransomware threat** over the next two years. Moving towards 2025 and beyond, commoditisation of AI-enabled capability in criminal and commercial markets will almost certainly make **improved capability available to cyber crime and state actors**.



<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/report/impact-of-ai-on-cyber-threat>

AI Trends: Vibe Coding

Passing the Security Vibe Check: The Dangers of Vibe Coding



Summary

- Vibe coding can lead to critical vulnerabilities, such as arbitrary code execution and memory corruption, even when the generated code appears functional.
- Prompting techniques such as self-reflection, language-specific prompts, and generic security prompts significantly reduce insecure code generation.
- Large-scale testing with benchmarks like Secure Coding and HumanEval demonstrates that security prompting improves code safety with minimal trade-offs in quality.

<https://www.databricks.com/blog/passing-security-vibe-check-dangers-vibe-coding>

The Hacker News

Researcher Uncovers 30+ Flaws in AI Coding Tools Enabling Data Theft and RCE Attacks

Dec 06, 2025 · Ravie Lakshmanan

"All AI IDEs (and coding assistants that integrate with them) effectively ignore the base software (IDE) in their threat model. They treat their features as inherently safe because they've been there for years. However, once you add AI agents that can act autonomously, the same features can be weaponized into data exfiltration and RCE primitives."

<https://thehackernews.com/2025/12/researchers-uncover-30-flaws-in-ai.html>

AI Trends: Dead Internet Theory



More than just bots talking to bots: "In an online world where **money is made with attention...**

AI truly has the potential to destroy the internet irreversibly

by making it harder to tell what is true."

AI Slop Is Destroying The Internet



Kurzgesagt – In a Nutshell

24.9M subscribers

Join

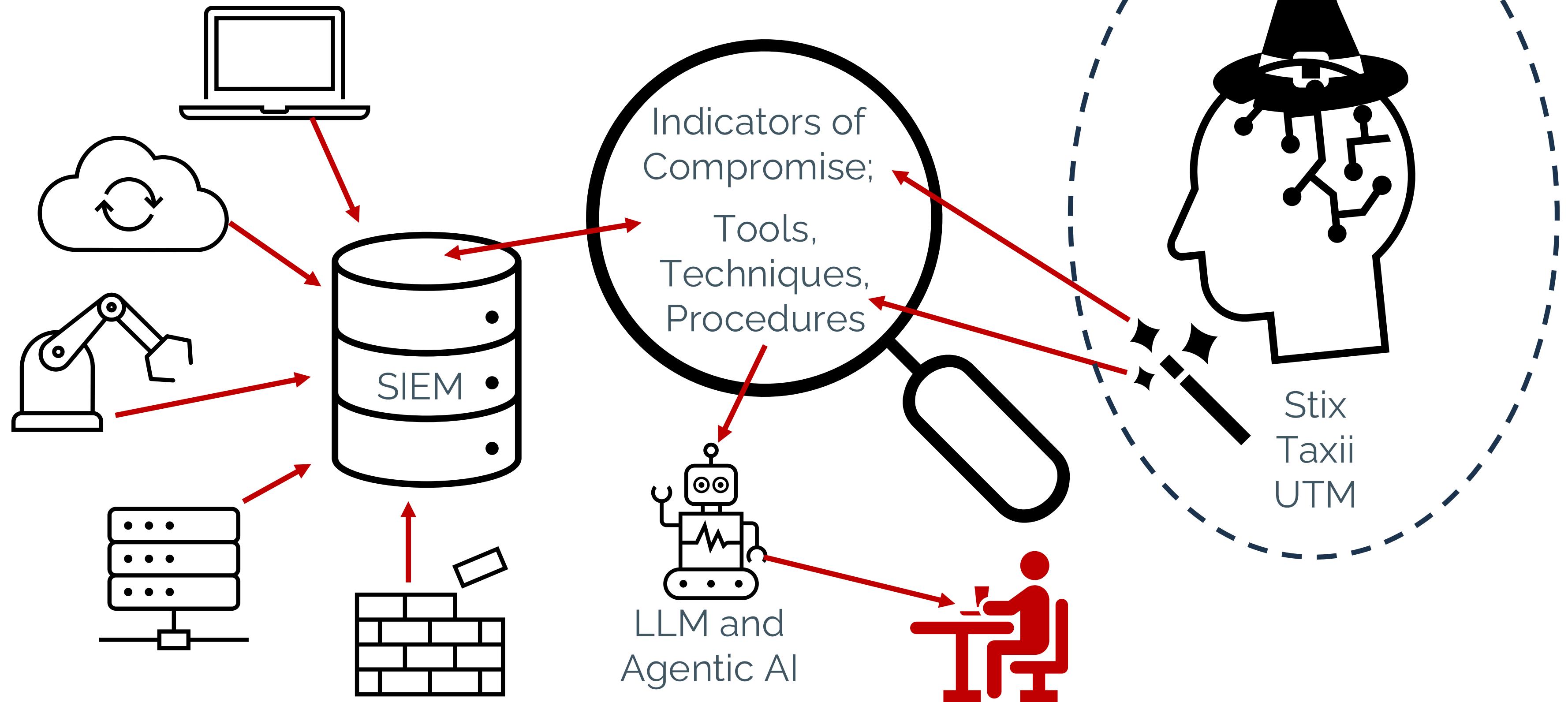
Subscribe

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_zfNgwnPvUo



Defenses for Dark Web Attacks: Cyber Threat Intelligence, IT Modernization

Technical Cyber Threat Intel



Organizational Cyber Threat Intel

Brand Intelligence

- Detects brand and trademark infringement
- Monitors social media for account and profile impersonations of the organization and executives

Social and News

- Public sentiment analysis
- Social media account threat monitoring

External Technology Exposures

- Inventory and monitor internet-facing technology assets
- Monitor IP address infrastructure, websites, domain names, and email configurations

Data Leakage & Dark Web

- Monitor surface, deep, and dark web sources for compromised credentials, documents, personal information, and other sensitive information
- Showcases historical details about previous breaches

Third Party Risk

- Monitor third parties for public breaches or dark-web related activity
- Score-card to identify vendor and third-party exposure attributes

Executives & VIPs

- Digital footprint monitoring of key corporate officers
- Individual-focused sentiment analysis and brand contributions

Cyber Insights

- Monitoring threat actors in a target industry vertical
- Monitoring, filtering, and curating cyber news

Takedown Services

- Fraudulent / phishing domain names and websites
- Social media impersonations
- Flexible package options

Cyber Threat Intel Source Examples



CANADIAN CENTRE FOR
CYBER SECURITY

CENTRE CANADIEN POUR LA
CYBERSÉCURITÉ



Traditional IT Environment

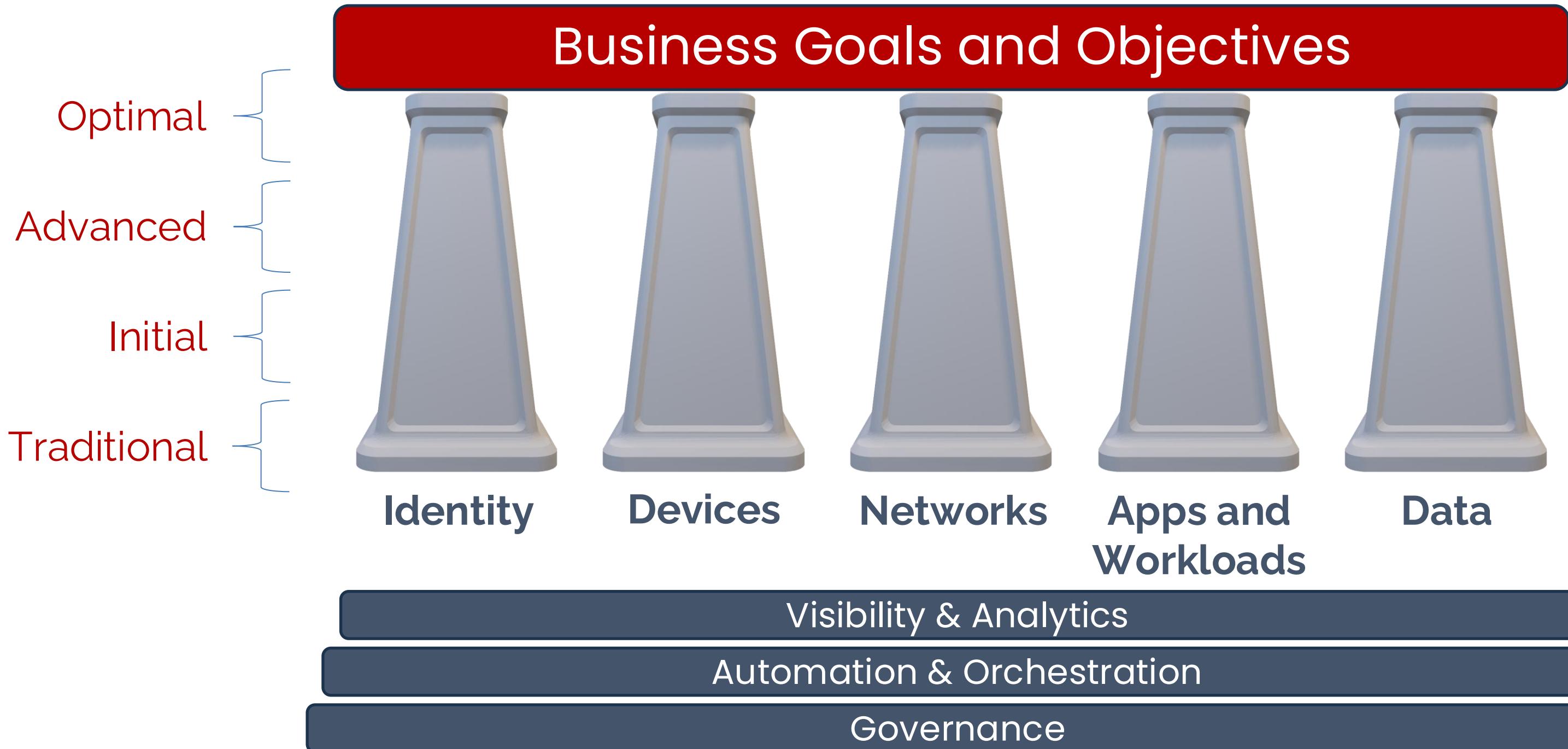


BAM!
all of your stuff
for some reason

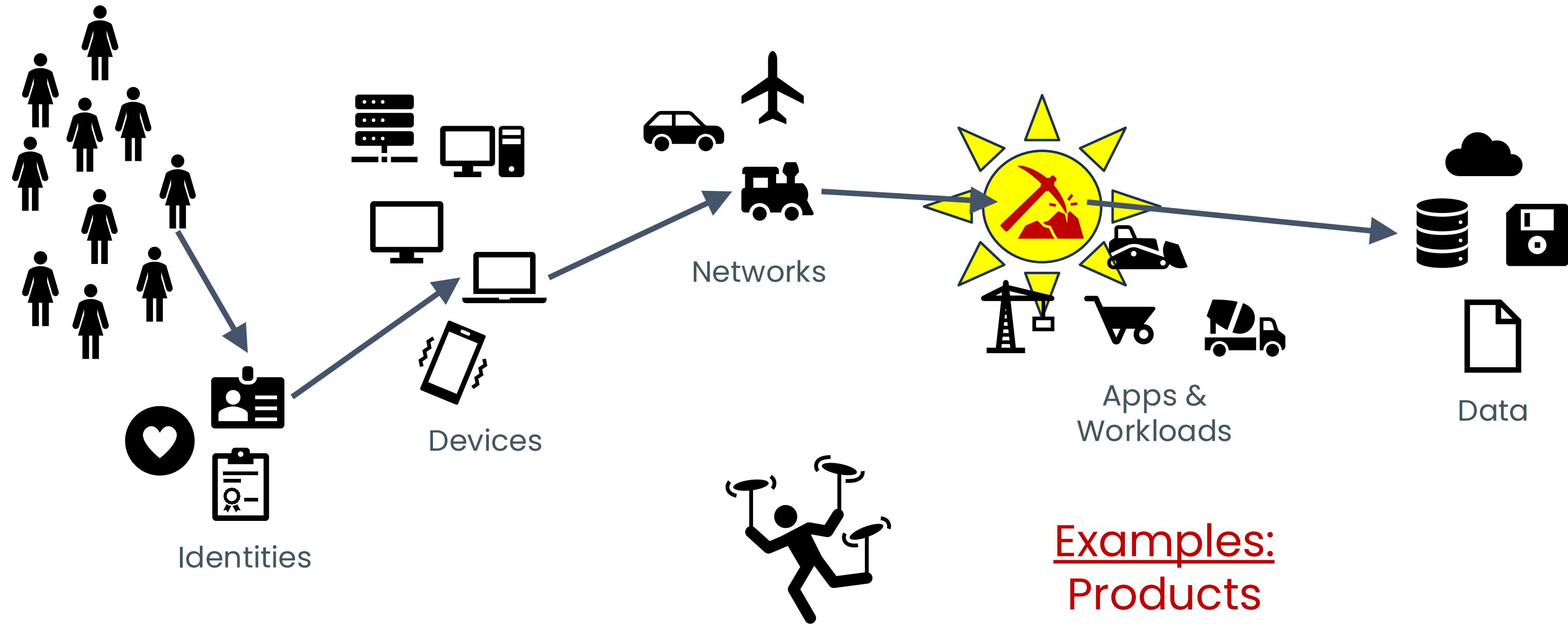


IT Modernization with Zero Trust

Based on **NIST 800.207**, the U.S. Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) developed the **Zero Trust Maturity Model**:

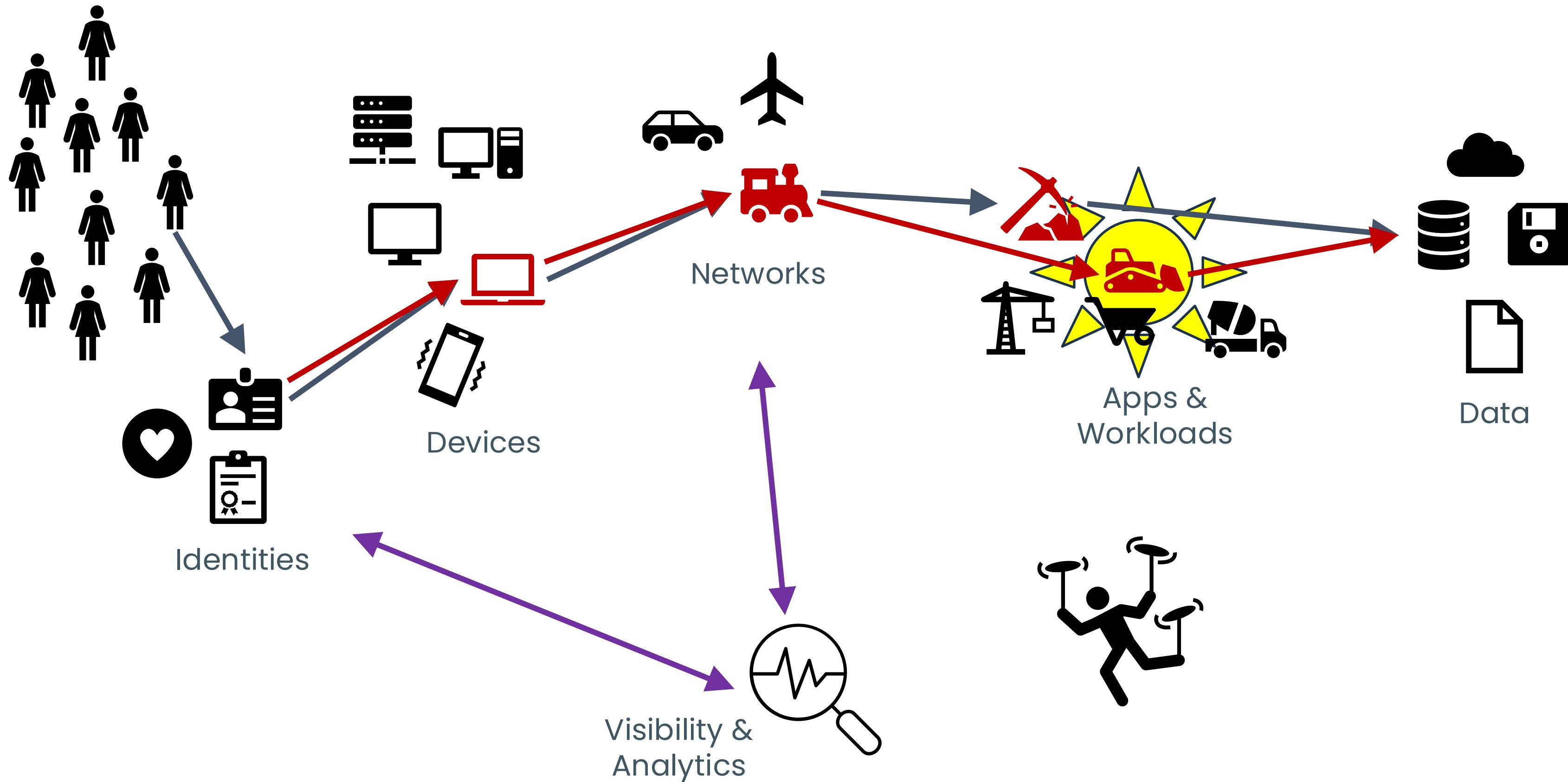


Iterative Steps, Take One

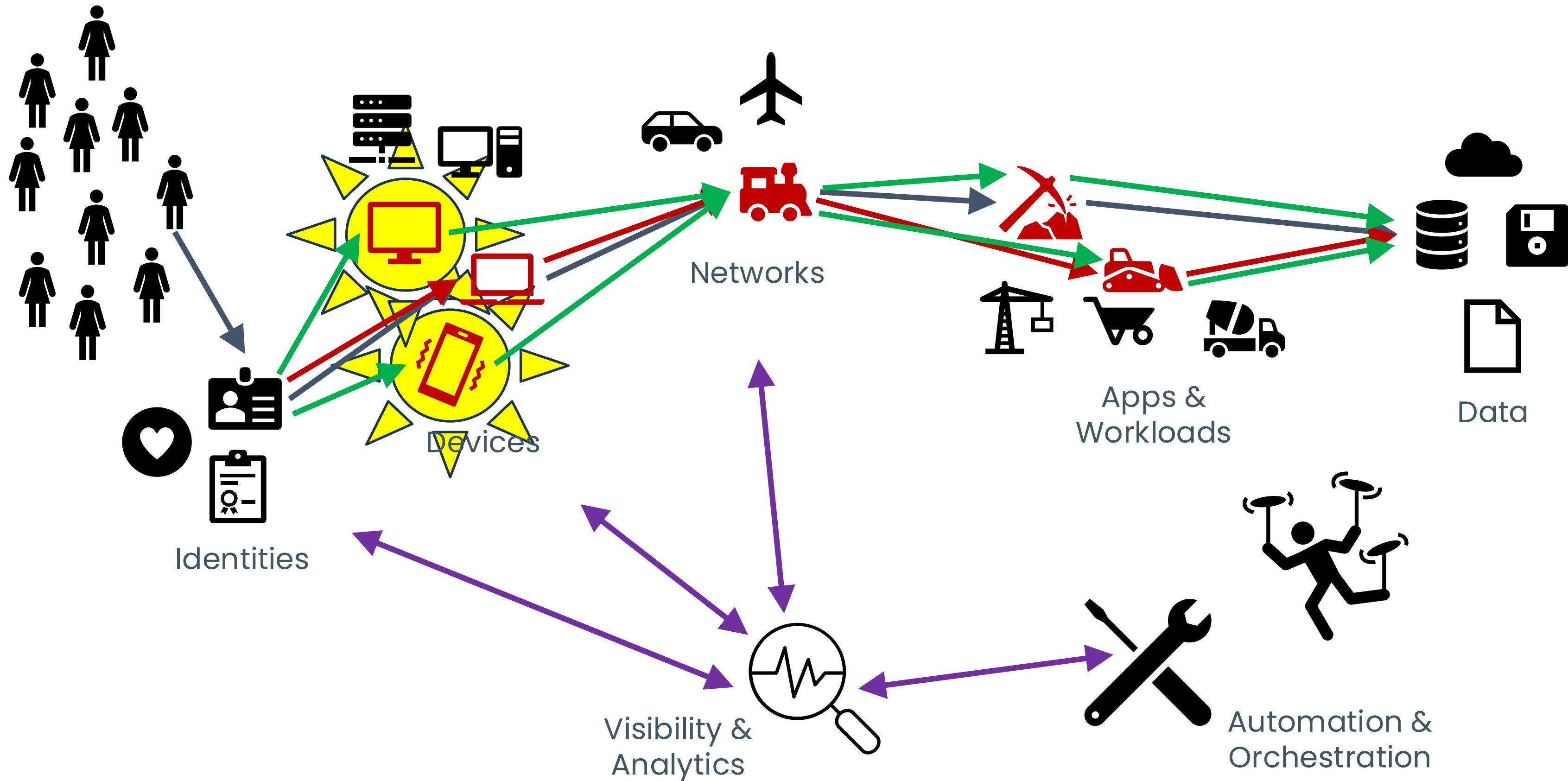


Examples:
Products
Protections
Anomaly Detections
Security Tools

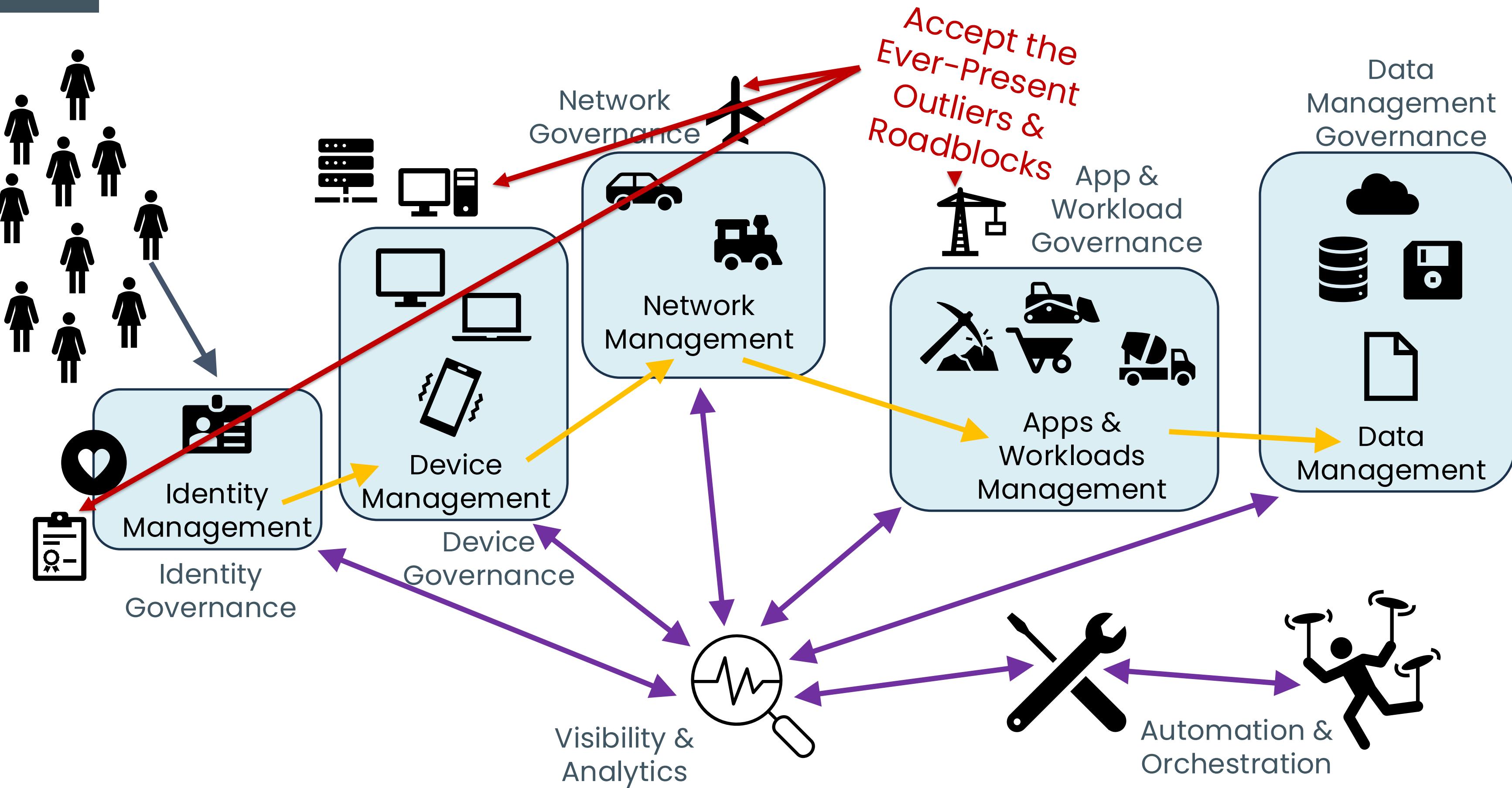
Iterative Steps, Take Another



Iterative Steps, Take More!



A Zero Trust Journey, Over Time



Get Your Data Governance in Order... NOW

Consistent Challenges:

Beware the Overshare:

the unwitting insider threat of, “I clicked a button and everything worked, so we must be good, right?”

Inappropriate Retention:

“I might need this some day”, and “I don’t want to risk someone yelling at me for not having this.”

Data Governance Before CoPilot:

“Locking in Tenant” doesn’t eliminate risk.

Copilot will aid your users in finding *everything you didn’t even know you had, and no-one will tell you.*

‘Surprises’ we almost always uncover:

- Sensitive information stored with no access controls in both on-prem folders and SharePoint Online
- Mailbox permission misconfigurations, including VIPs
- Live data in test databases
- Sensitive records in “archive” folders
- Stale user accounts, some with years of inactivity
- ‘Export to CSV’ from HR and Accounting System nightmares

Human Inoculation

Our technology users are more tech savvy than ever before...

but the boundaries of what people can DO with tech have never been blurrier.

Cybersecurity and Information Technology Professionals: “the call is from heroism; will you accept the charges?”

We're learners
We can be educators
Engage in meaningful conversations





Contact us for a FREE Dark Web Scan
with Hank.

<https://calendly.com/x10technologies/darkweb>



XO | TECHNOLOGIES