



**Cybersecurity: A Strategic Opportunity**  
*Leveraging the CPD Framework for Competitive Advantage*

**GDS Summit – Dinner Keynote Address**  
**May 28, 2025**

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**Duke University**

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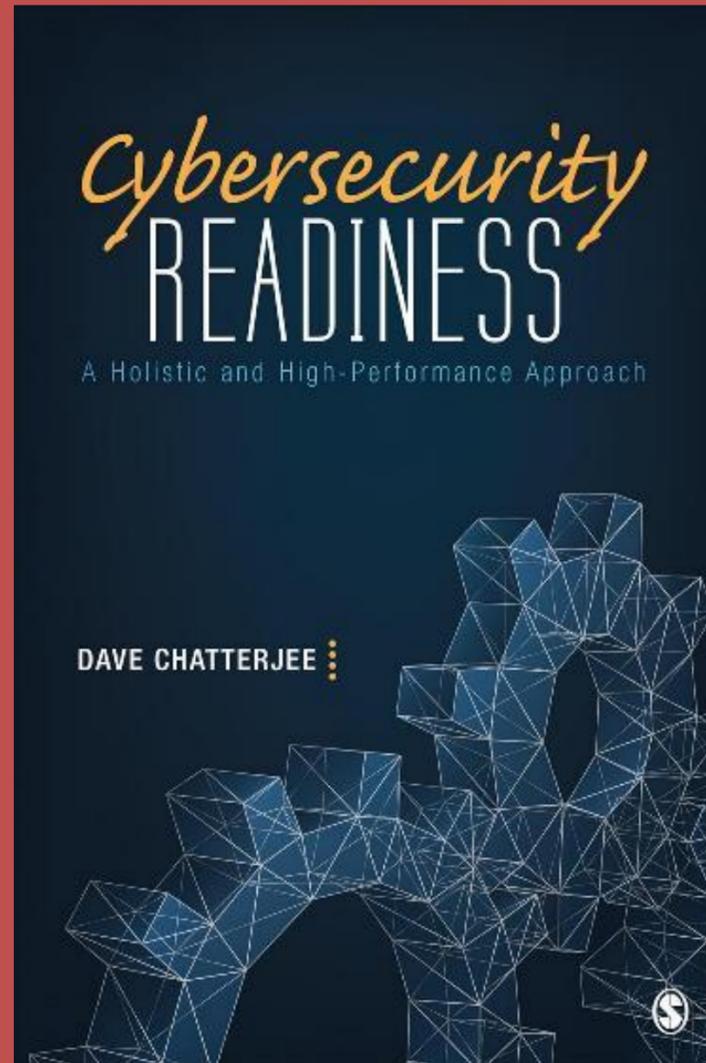
# Agenda

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Setting the Stage
- ▶ Value Creation Potential
- ▶ The CPD Framework
- ▶ Success Factors and Best Practices
- ▶ Practical Roadmap & Closing Thoughts
- ▶ Q&A

# Introduction



# Professional Highlights



[Amazon](#)

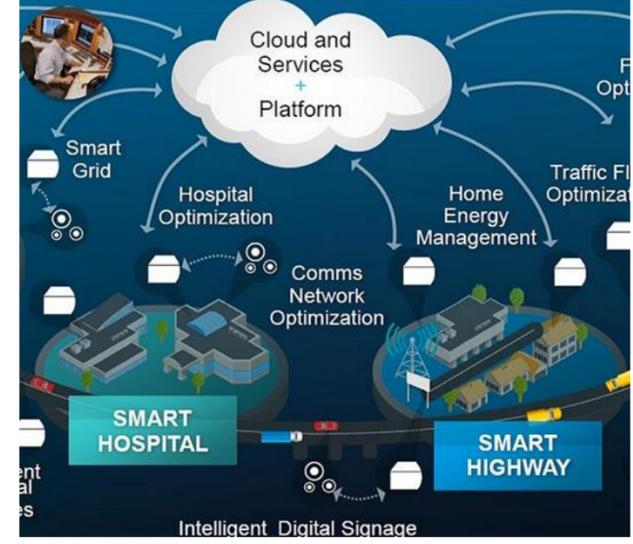
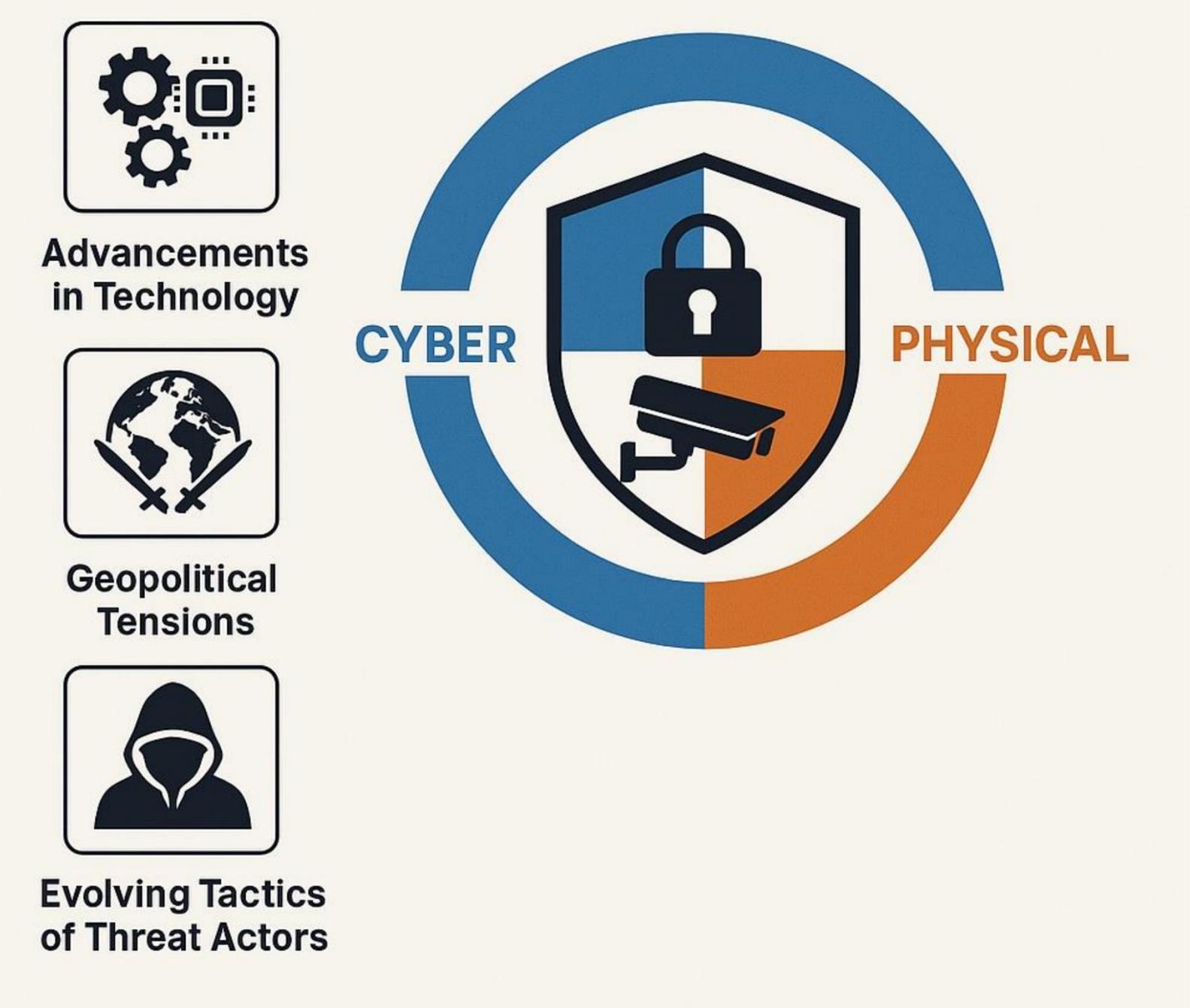
[Sage](#)



- Adjunct Associate Professor, Pratt School of Engineering, Duke University
  - Master of Engineering in Cybersecurity
  - Executive Cybersecurity Certificate Program
- Author, [Cybersecurity Readiness: A Holistic and High-Performance Approach](#), SAGE Publishing
- Host and Producer, [Cybersecurity Readiness Podcast Series](#)
- Published in top academic and practitioner journals
  - Wall Street Journal; MIT Sloan Management Review; MIS Quarterly; Business Horizons; California Management Review
- Served on a cybersecurity SWAT team
- Featured on [Forbes](#), [Chicago Tribune](#), [USA Today](#), [Yahoo!Finance](#), [Business Insider](#), Morning Star, GlobeNewswire, and others.
- Strategic Advisor
- Speaker and Moderator

# Setting the Stage

# Expanding and Converging Cyber Threat Landscape



Digitization of Processes and Business Models



Highly Mobile Work Environment

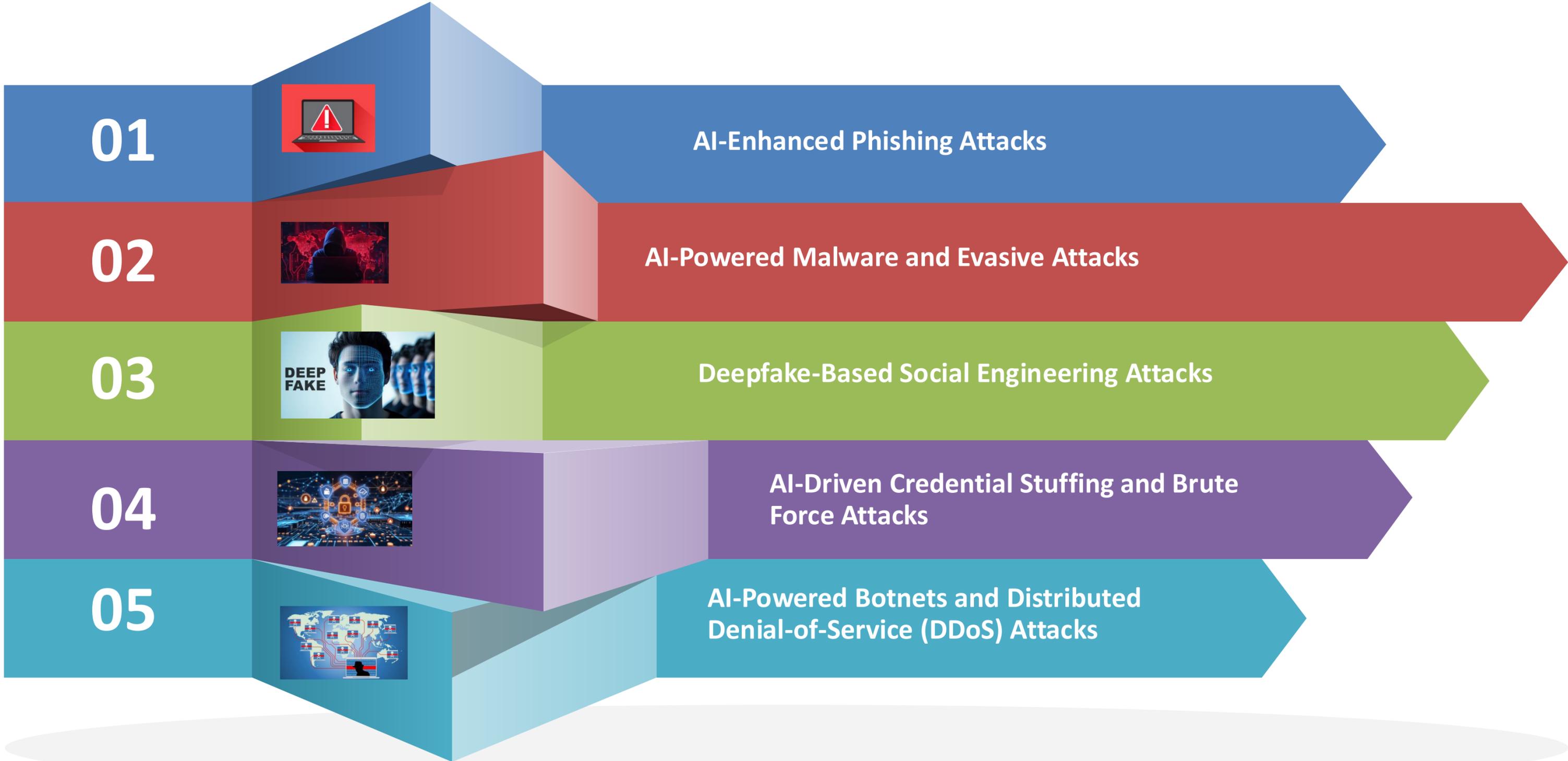


Increasing use of IoT and Smart Devices



Artificial Intelligence

# AI-Powered Attacks



**The human factor continues to be the most significant vulnerability**

# Organization Shortcomings and Vulnerabilities

## Review of Data Breach Records from 2013-2023

- Usernames and Passwords not encrypted
- Weak encryption system
- Unencrypted customer data stored in multiple locations
- Networks not adequately segmented
- Multi-factor Authentication (MFA) not in place
- Delay in notifying victims
- The breach went undetected for several weeks
- The company did not pay heed to the alerts sent by the monitoring company
- Misconfigured web application firewall
- Lack of well rehearsed disaster recovery and incident response plan



## Massive data breach exposes 184 million passwords for Google, Microsoft, Facebook, and more

The file was unencrypted. No password protection. No security. Just a plain text file with millions of sensitive pieces of data.

# Organization Shortcomings and Vulnerabilities

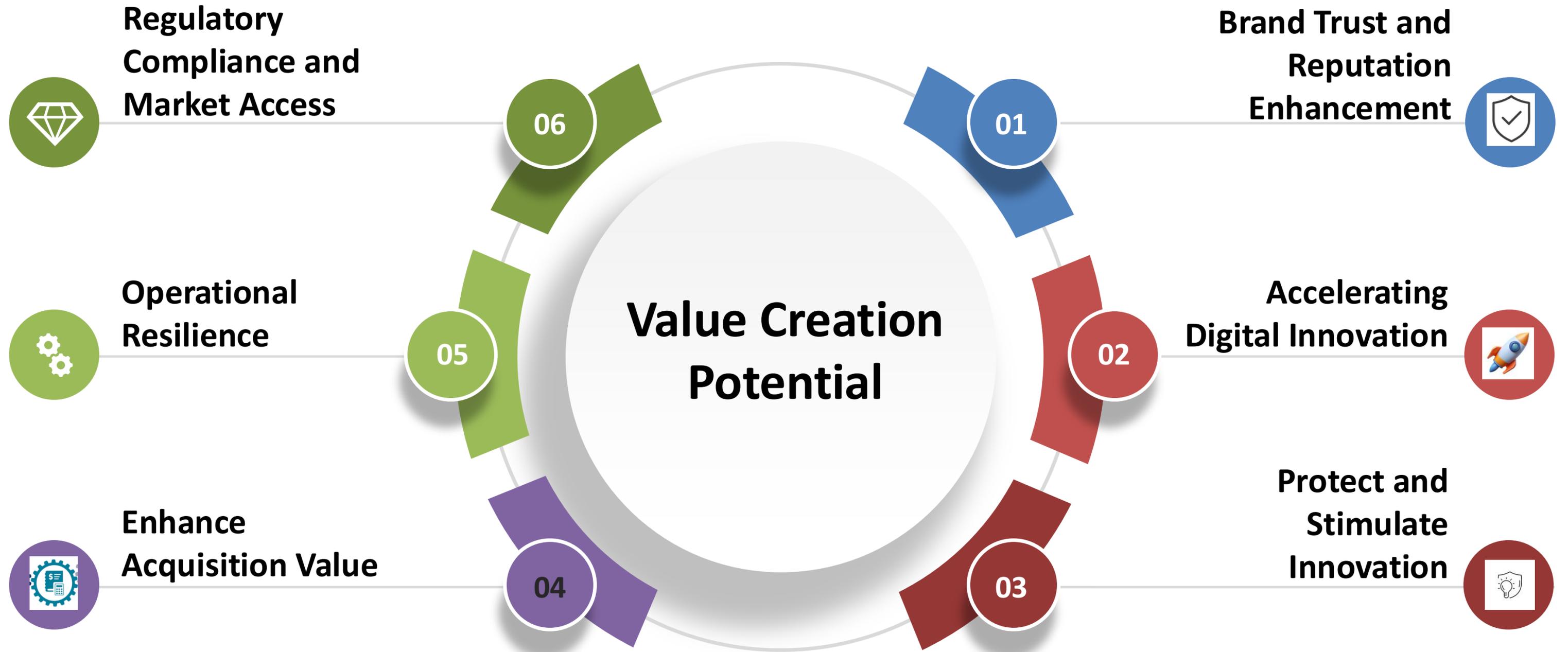


- Lack of coordination
- Lack of strategic alignment
- Operating in silos
- Business continuity, safety, and cybersecurity are not integrated



# Value Creation Potential

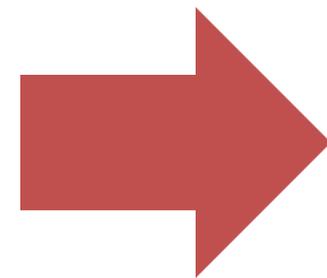
# Value Creation Potential



# Strategic Cybersecurity Model

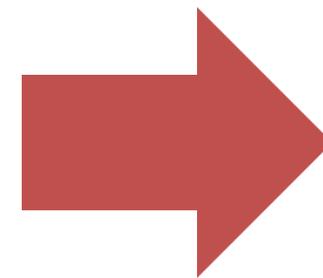
## Cybersecurity Strategy Characteristics

Substantive  
Integrative  
Responsive  
Resilient  
Transparent



## Value Creation Potential

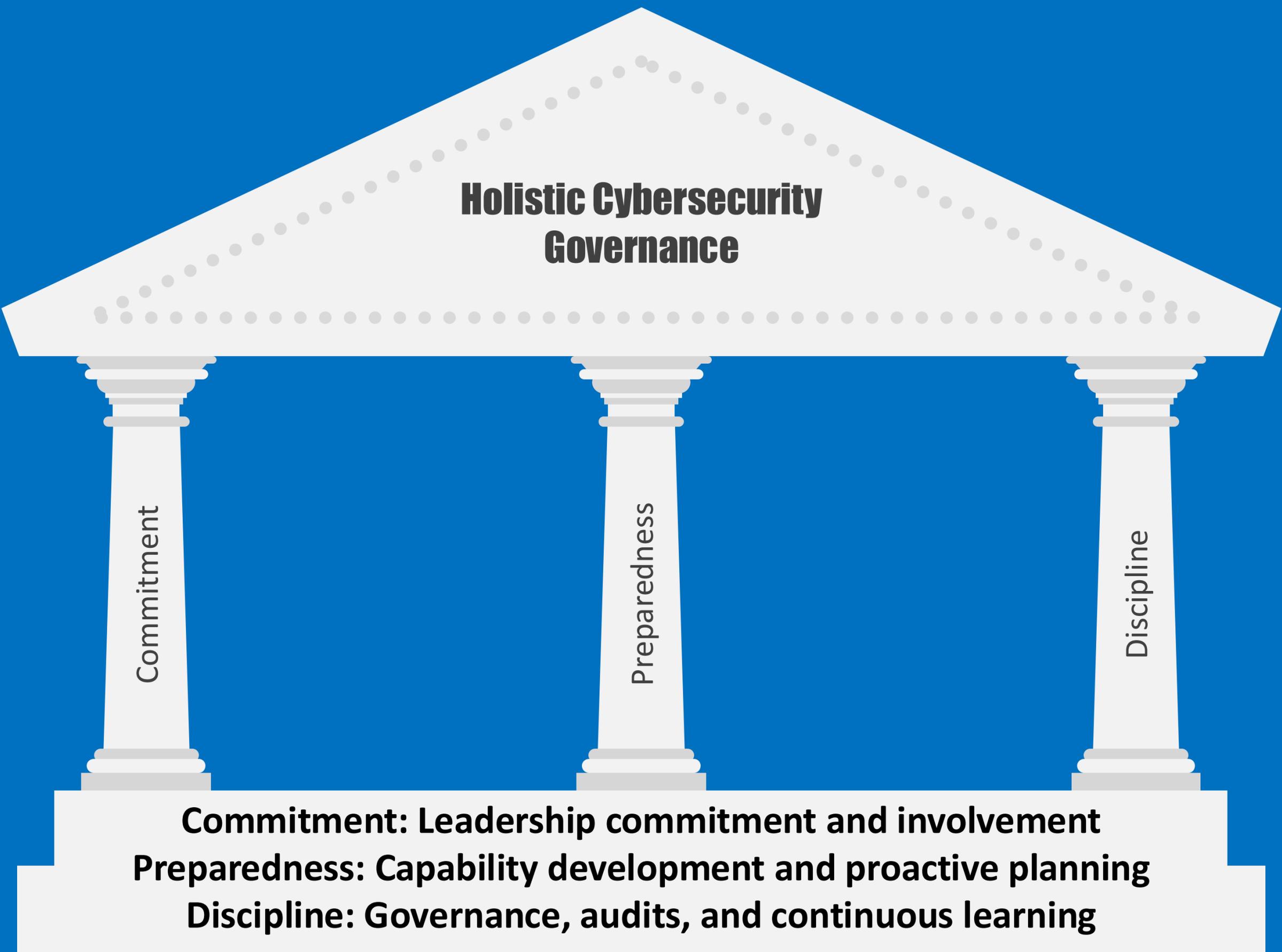
Increase Customer Confidence and Trust  
Enhance Operational Resiliency  
Regulatory Compliance  
Accelerate Digital Innovation  
Protect and Stimulate Innovation



## Strategic Outcomes

Cost Reduction  
Revenue Generation  
Growth in Market Share

# The CPD Framework



## Holistic Cybersecurity Governance

Commitment

Preparedness

Discipline

**Commitment: Leadership commitment and involvement**

**Preparedness: Capability development and proactive planning**

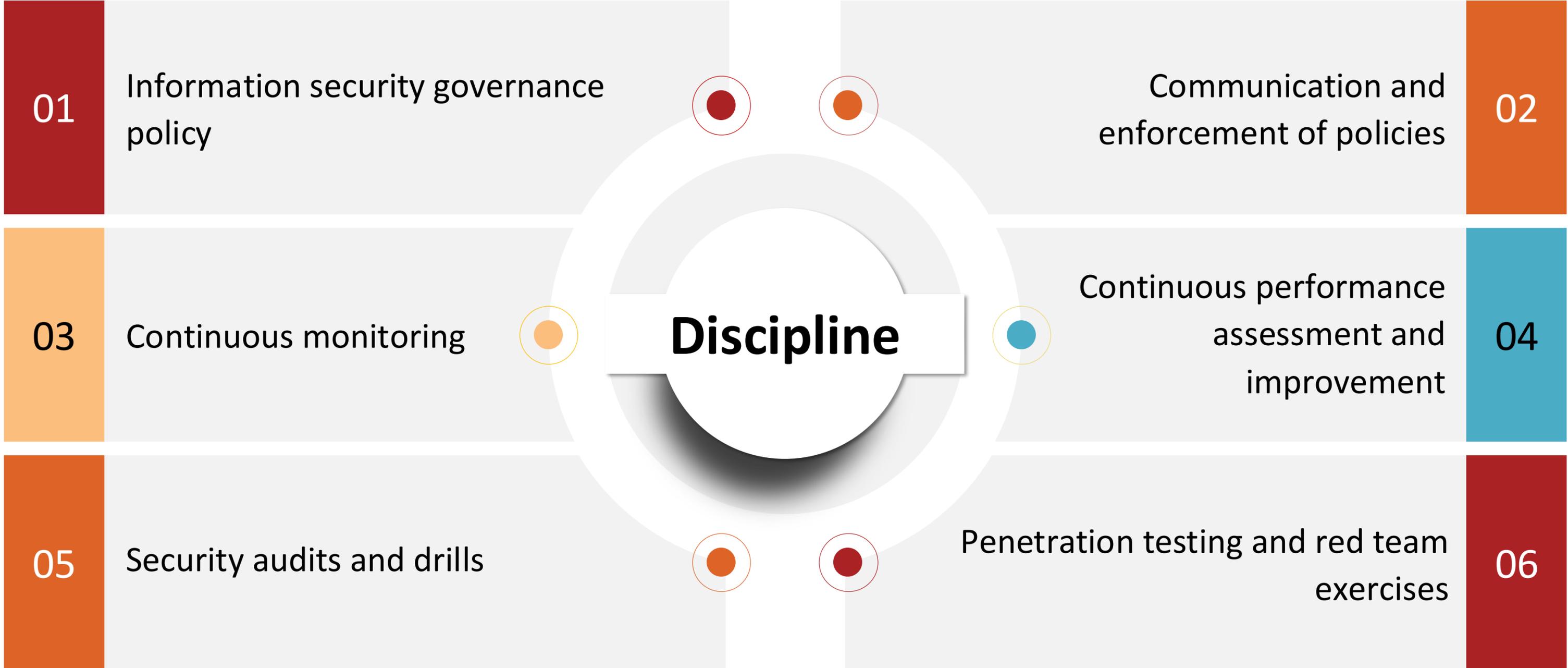
**Discipline: Governance, audits, and continuous learning**

- 1
- 2
- 3





Preparedness	Identify	Protect	Detect	Respond & Recover
	Organization role recognition Cyber risk assessment Asset identification and prioritization	Access control Configuration management Securing clients and browsers Securing networks Managing removable media Data security Data back up and retention Asset maintenance Awareness and training Business continuity planning	Detect anomalies and events	Incident response capability Disaster recovery planning



# Success Factors & Best Practices

# Hands-on Top Management

## Mindset Shift

- Treat cybersecurity challenges as a strategic opportunity
- Treat cybersecurity capabilities as core competencies

## Active Engagement

- In all aspects of cyber governance – from strategizing to monitoring and measurement
- Take ownership and responsibility
- Serve on governance teams
- Participate in training and awareness programs



**Rohit Verma**  
Chairman and CEO, Crawford and Company

“Several of us in senior leadership are digital immigrants and not digital natives. Many of the security issues are new to us. We will be naïve if we don't take interest and are not willing to learn and stay updated.

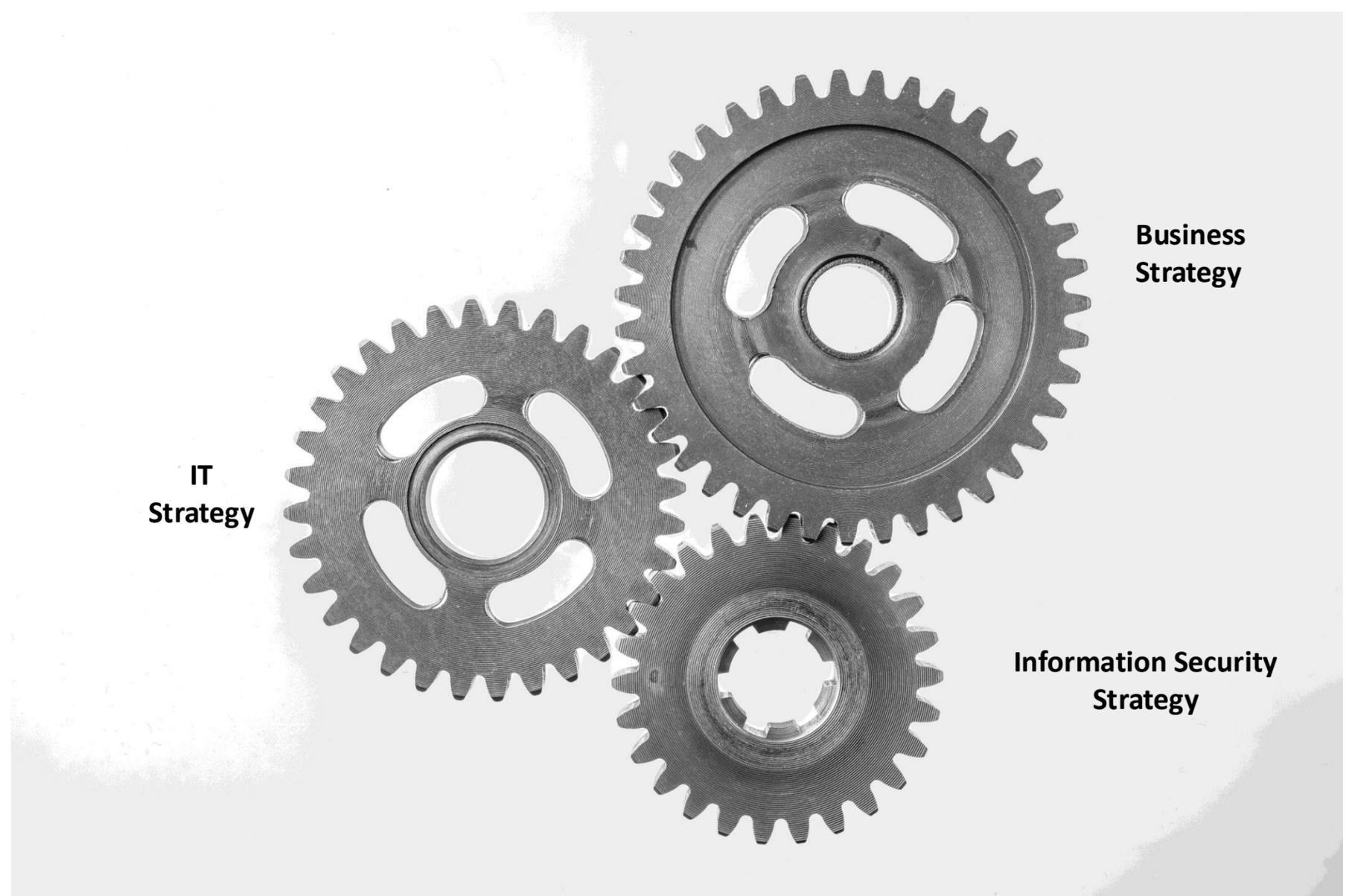
# Gaining Top Management Attention & Commitment

## Destroy Your Business (DYB) Scenario



- ▶ Come up with various security breach-related scenarios
- ▶ For each scenario, discuss
  - ▶ How the attack or breach is likely to happen?
  - ▶ What are the implications and consequences of the breach?
  - ▶ How can the potential attack/breach be prevented?

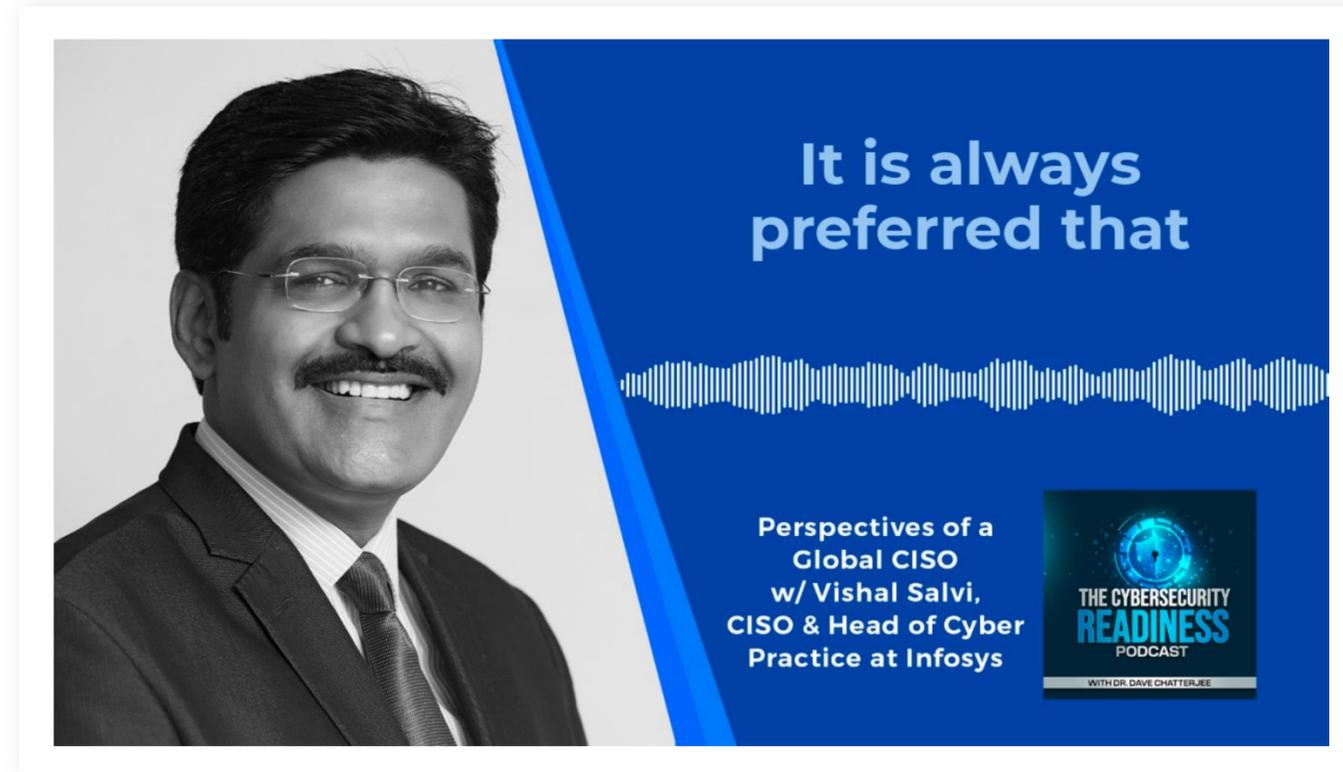
# Strategic Alignment



“Implications of data security and protection must feature in every strategic and operational decision making”

# CISO Empowerment

- CISO must be appropriately empowered to be effective
- Ideally, the CISO should be part of the C-level team or at least have direct access to the top management



**Vishal Salvi**  
Former Global CISO & Head of Cyber Practice  
Infosys

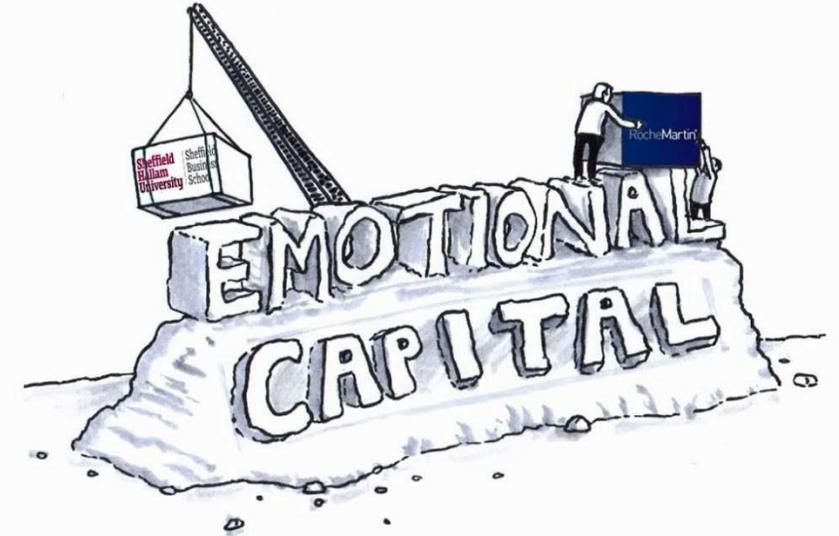


There is growing recognition that the CISO is much more than a risk or technology officer. They are business enablers and must be involved in strategic and value creation activities

# Creating a Culture of Empathy and Enablement

## ▶ Building Emotional Capital

- Feeling valued
- Developing a sense of belonging
- Taking pride in their work
- Having fun
- Perceiving leadership to be genuine and authentic



# Role Reversal



# Joint Ownership and Accountability

WHO IS  
ACCOUNTABLE



Business partners, third party service providers,  
and vendors must share responsibility in  
protecting sensitive data

# Preparedness Fundamentals



## Comprehensive Asset Discovery

Automated and Continuous



## Asset Prioritization

Criticality; Strategic Value



## Enhance Data Protection

Adopting the most rigorous encryption methods



## Robust Identity and Access Management

Phishing-resistant MFA solutions; least privileged access; regular account reviews



## Reliable Data Backup and Retention

Frequent Testing



## Regulatory Compliance

Going beyond checking the box.

# Preparedness Fundamentals



## Proactive Threat Hunting

Proactively anticipate and thwart attacks



## Defend the Cloud Infrastructure

Invest in cloud-native application protection platforms



## Prioritize Vulnerability Management

Prioritize regular patching and upgrading of critical infrastructure



## Robust Vendor Management Program

Thorough vetting and regular reviews



## Educate Users

Customized; Incremental; Continuous



## Conduct Regular Security Assessments

Audit SaaS providers to ensure compliance with security frameworks

# Developing and Leveraging AI Capabilities



- Leverage AI tools for proactive defense
  - Threat Detection and Prediction
  - Automated Incident Response
  - Threat Intelligence and Analysis
  - Identity and Access Management
  - Phishing and Social Engineering Defense
  - Vulnerability Management
- Robust Data Handling and Validation
- Continuous Testing
- Limited Application Permissions
- Rigorous vetting of vendors
- AI Policy Committee

# Highly Rehearsed Response and Recovery Capability



- **Cross-functional Involvement**
- **Inter-Organizational Participation**

# Customized Awareness and Training

01

Role-based

02

Incremental and continuous

03

Engaging and interactive

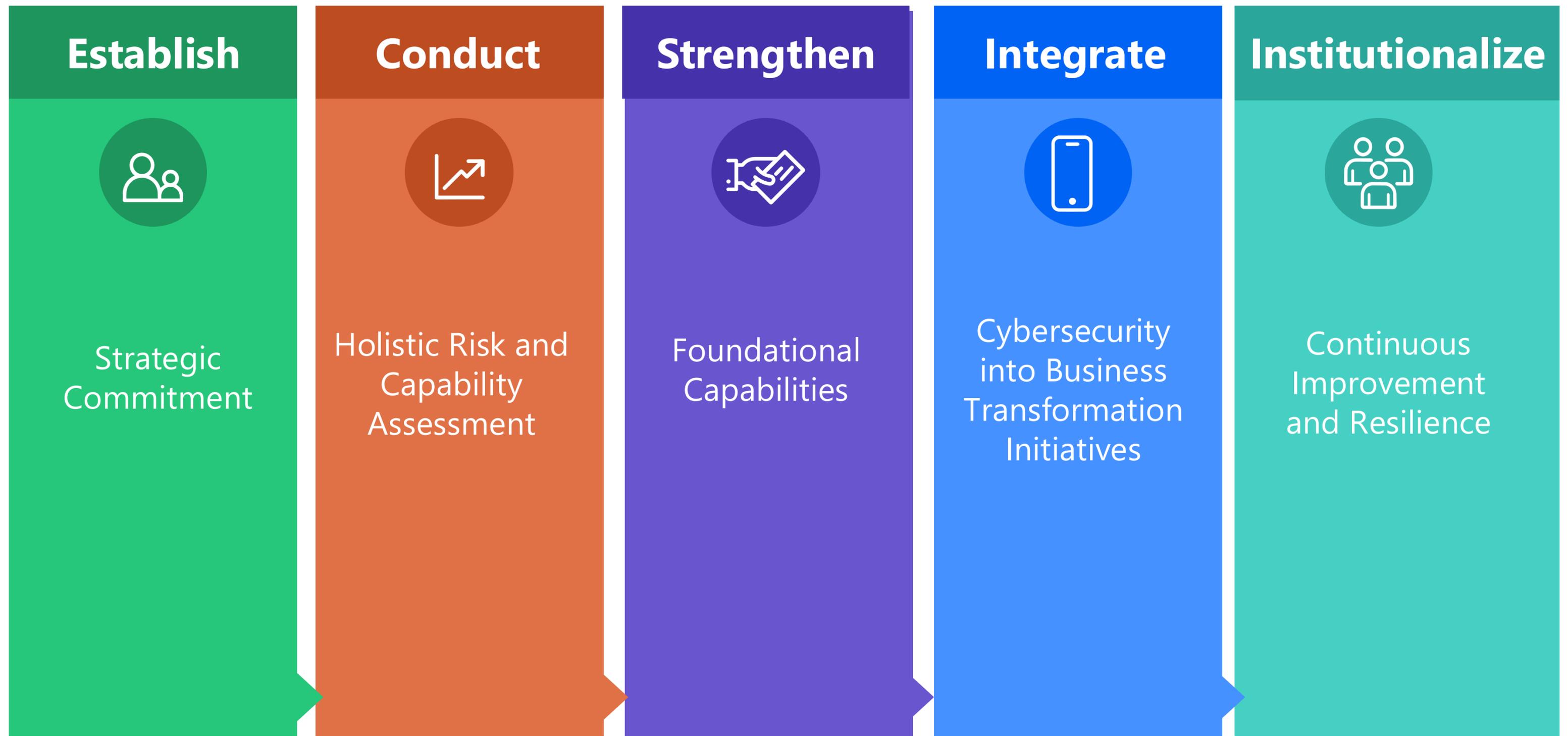
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Important component of  
performance review

Like Wordle and Nerdle, the daily word and mathematics games and challenges, organizations can adopt an incremental and continuous approach to spreading security awareness and knowledge.

# Practical Roadmap & Closing Thoughts

# Roadmap for Advancing Cybersecurity Maturity



# Ideal Mindset and Approach

## Mindset



Consider the cyber attack epidemic to be a strategic opportunity



Treat cybersecurity as a strategic competency/capability



Everyone has a role to play in securing the organization



# Ideal Mindset and Approach

## Approach



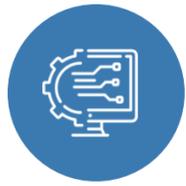
Be proactive



Be prepared



Continuously monitor and make adjustments



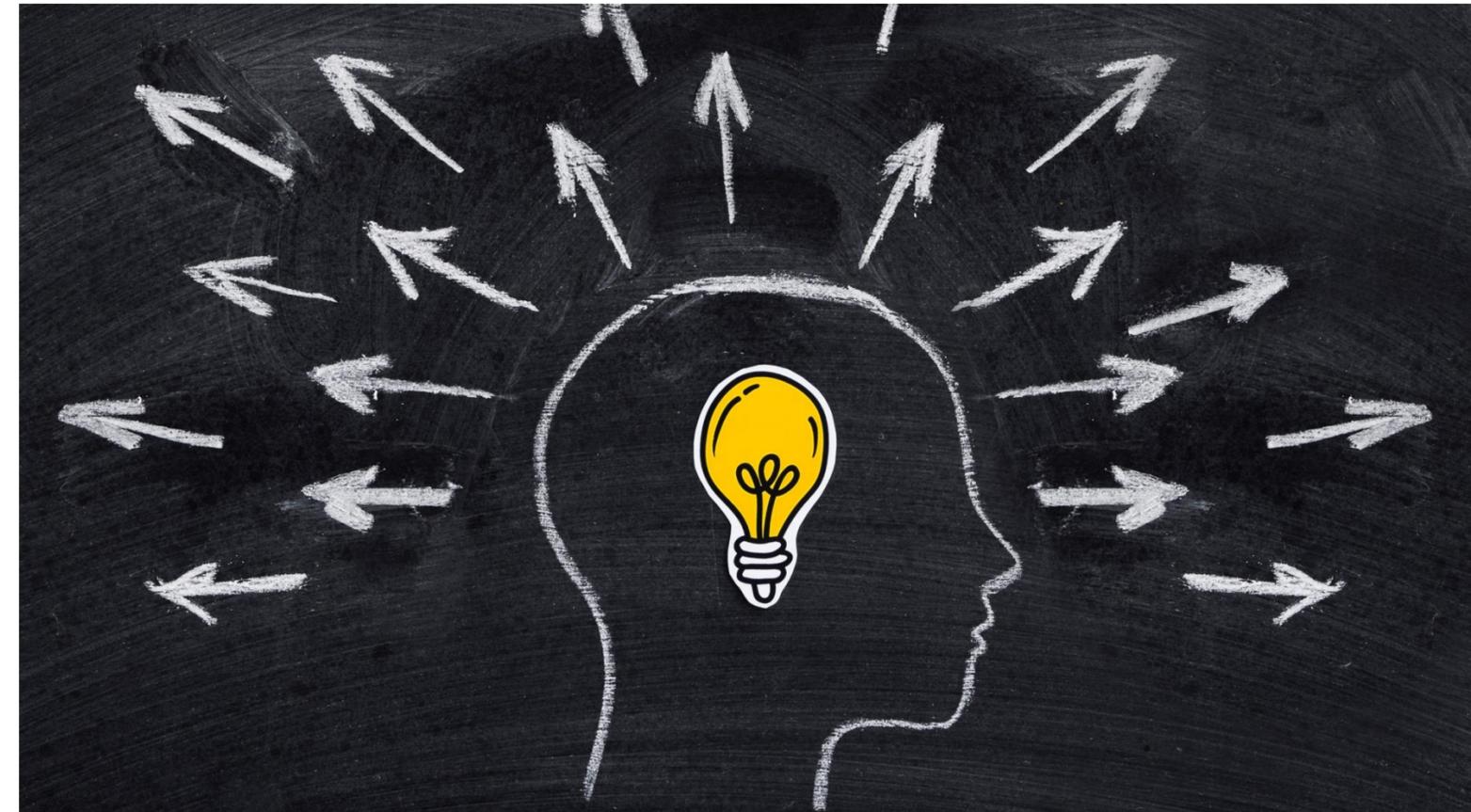
Promptly act on the intelligence received



Continuous training



Don't outsource cybersecurity governance;  
actively engage and manage



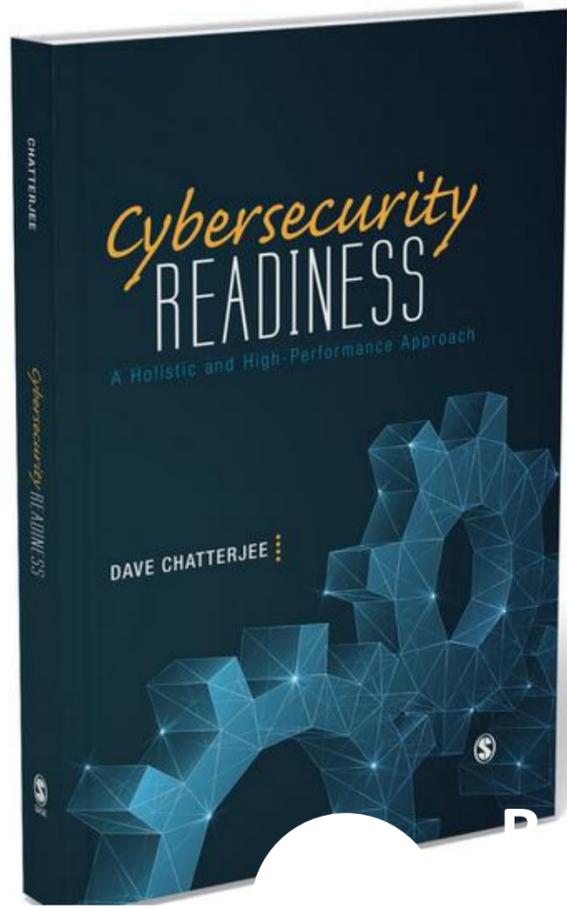
Be truly committed to protecting  
confidential and strategic assets



Go above and beyond the Check-the-  
Box approach

# Q&A





Amazon



<https://www.dchatte.com/podcast/>



<https://www.cybersecurityreadinesspodcast.com>



**THANK YOU!!**



### Book

Cybersecurity Readiness: A Holistic and High-Performance Approach

20



### Podcast

The Cybersecurity Readiness Podcast

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