

# RSAC<sup>®</sup>Conference2020

San Francisco | February 24 – 28 | Moscone Center

**HUMAN**  
ELEMENT

SESSION ID:

## Preventing an Enterprise Win10 Rollout Being Remotely Controlled and Ransomed



**Murray Goldschmidt**

Chief Operating Officer

Sense of Security (a CyberCX Company)

@ITsecurityAU

#RSAC

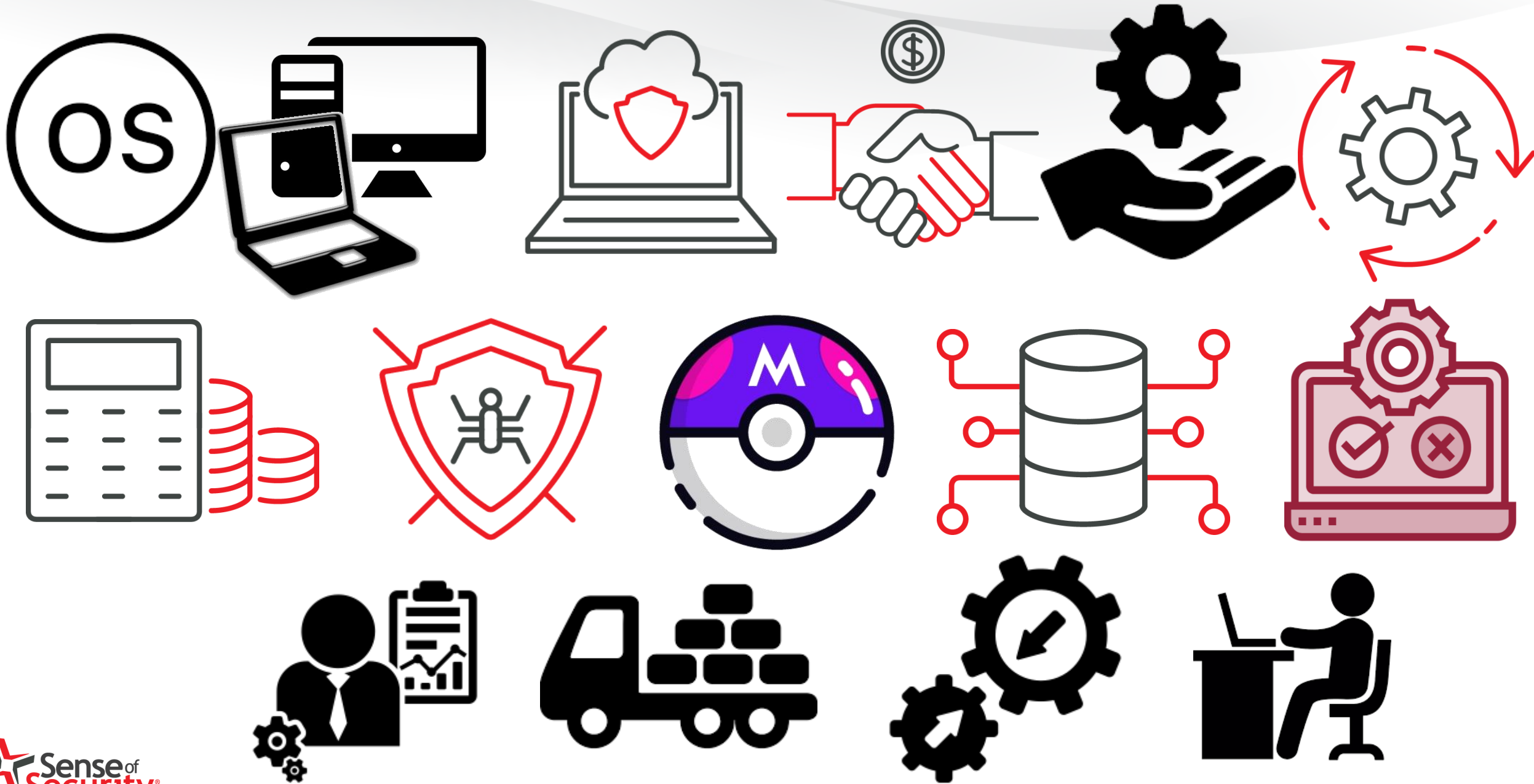
# Concerned about this?

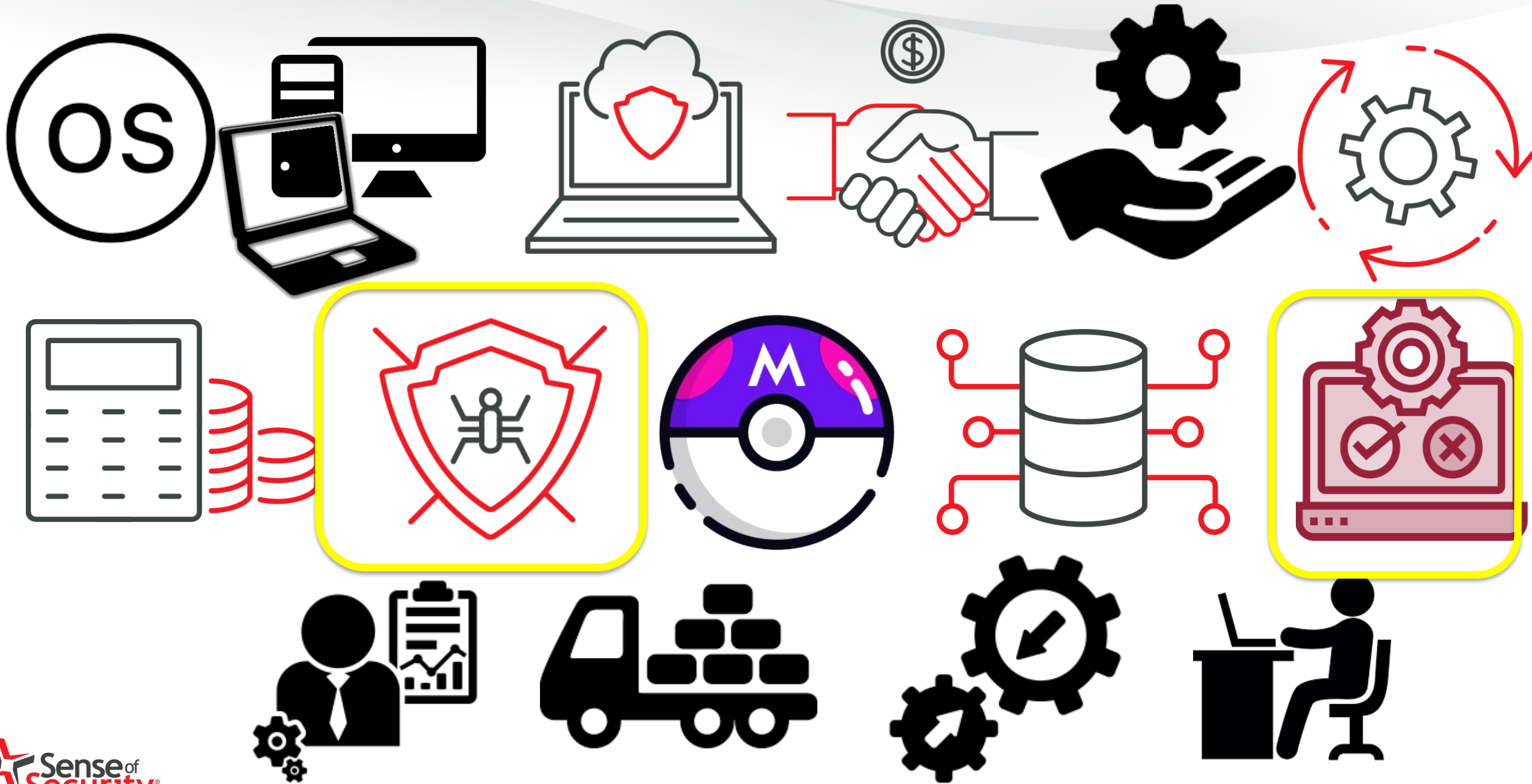


# Enterprise Computer Rollout - Security









# But not enough forward thinking .....

- Expensive Programs → Live with your decisions
- Long time-in-deployment (years)
- Address Compliance Requirements
- Address Corporate Policies (Push Down, Local Enforcement)
- Support Field Upgrades
- Deliver Cyber Resilience
- Avoid Catastrophic Situations (Losing control of your entire fleet)

# Coverage? Budget?





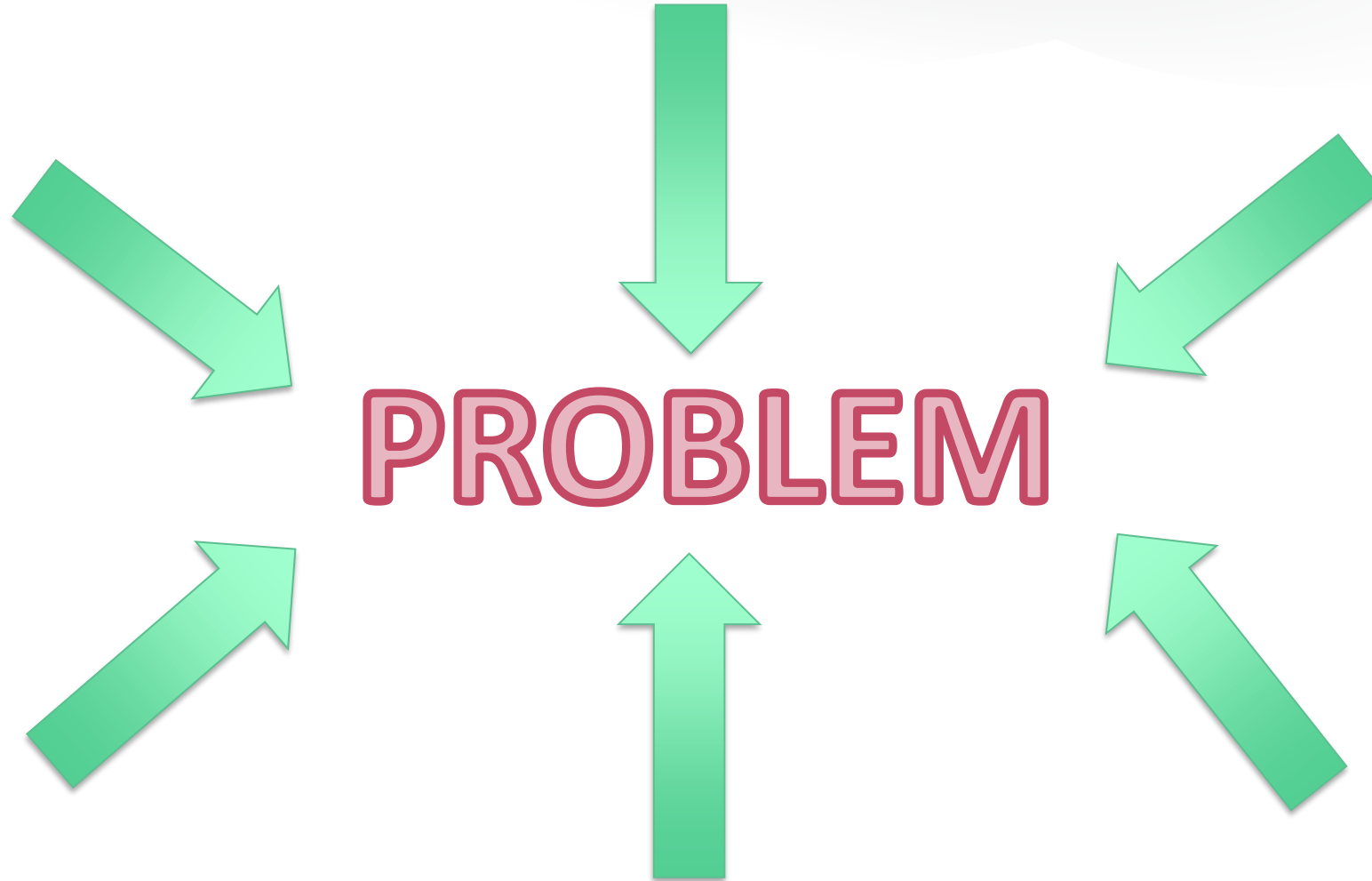


THINK  
ABOUT  
THINGS  
DIFFERENTLY



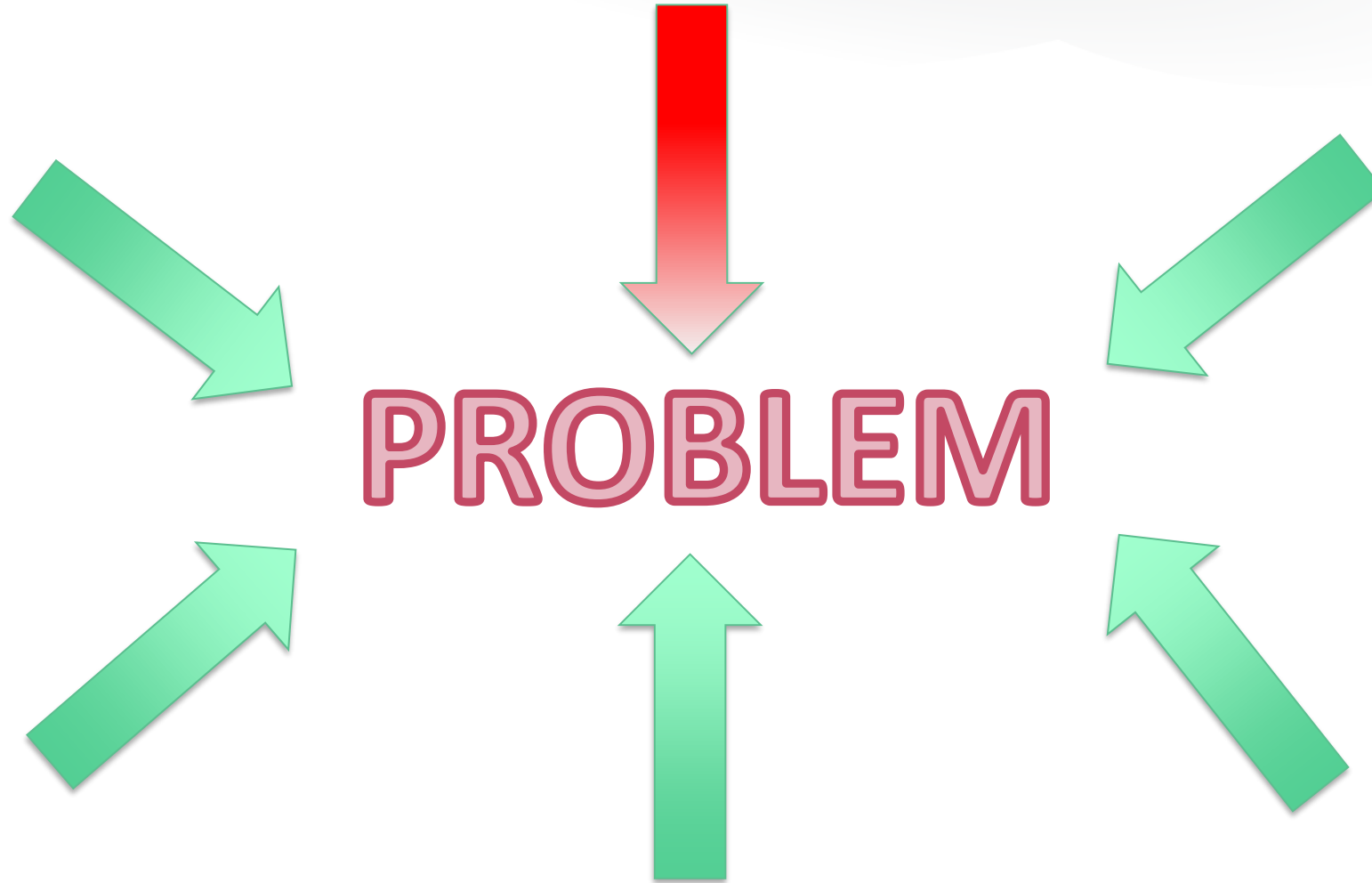


# Explore the Options and Areas for Improvement

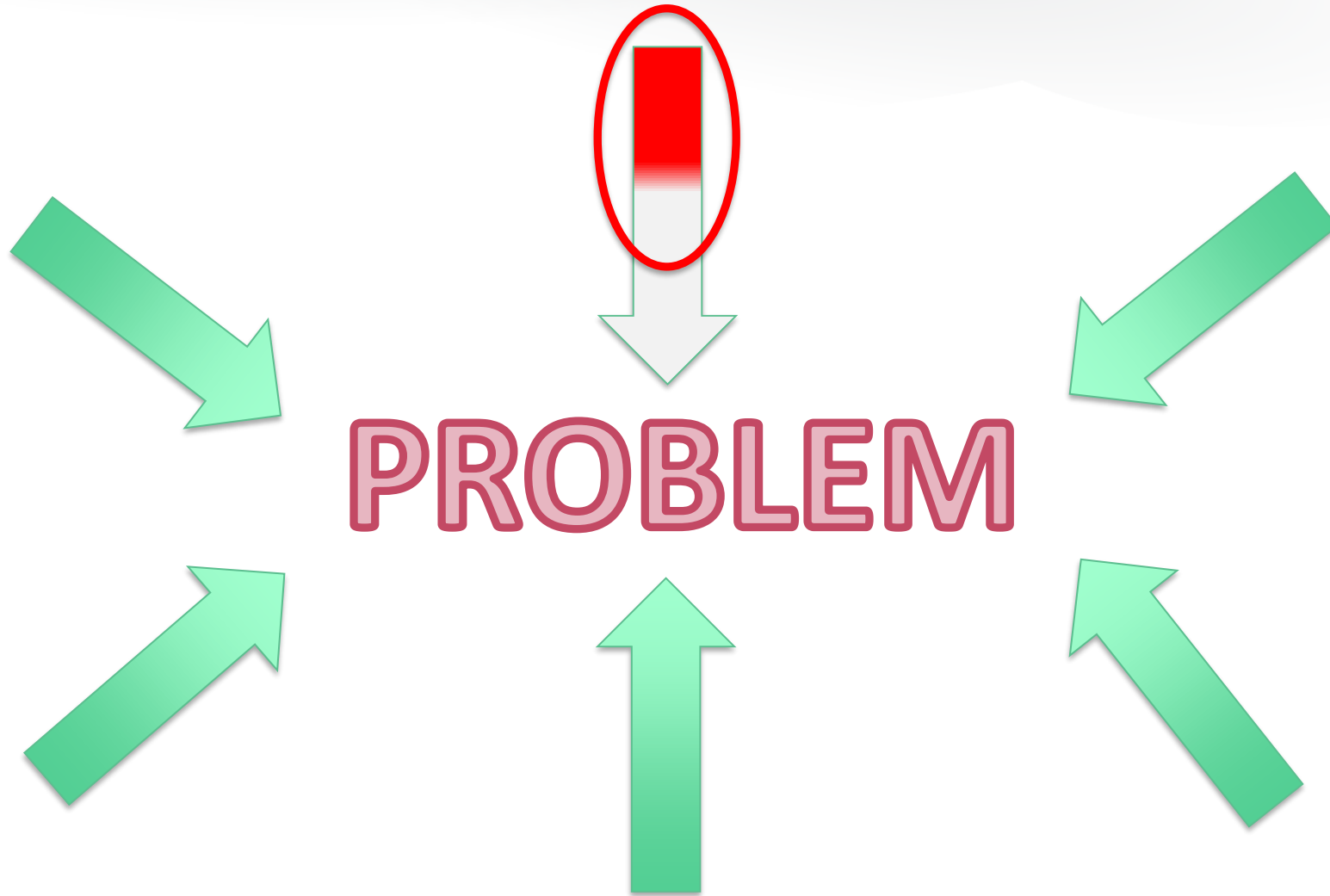


**PROBLEM**

# Explore the Options and Areas for Improvement

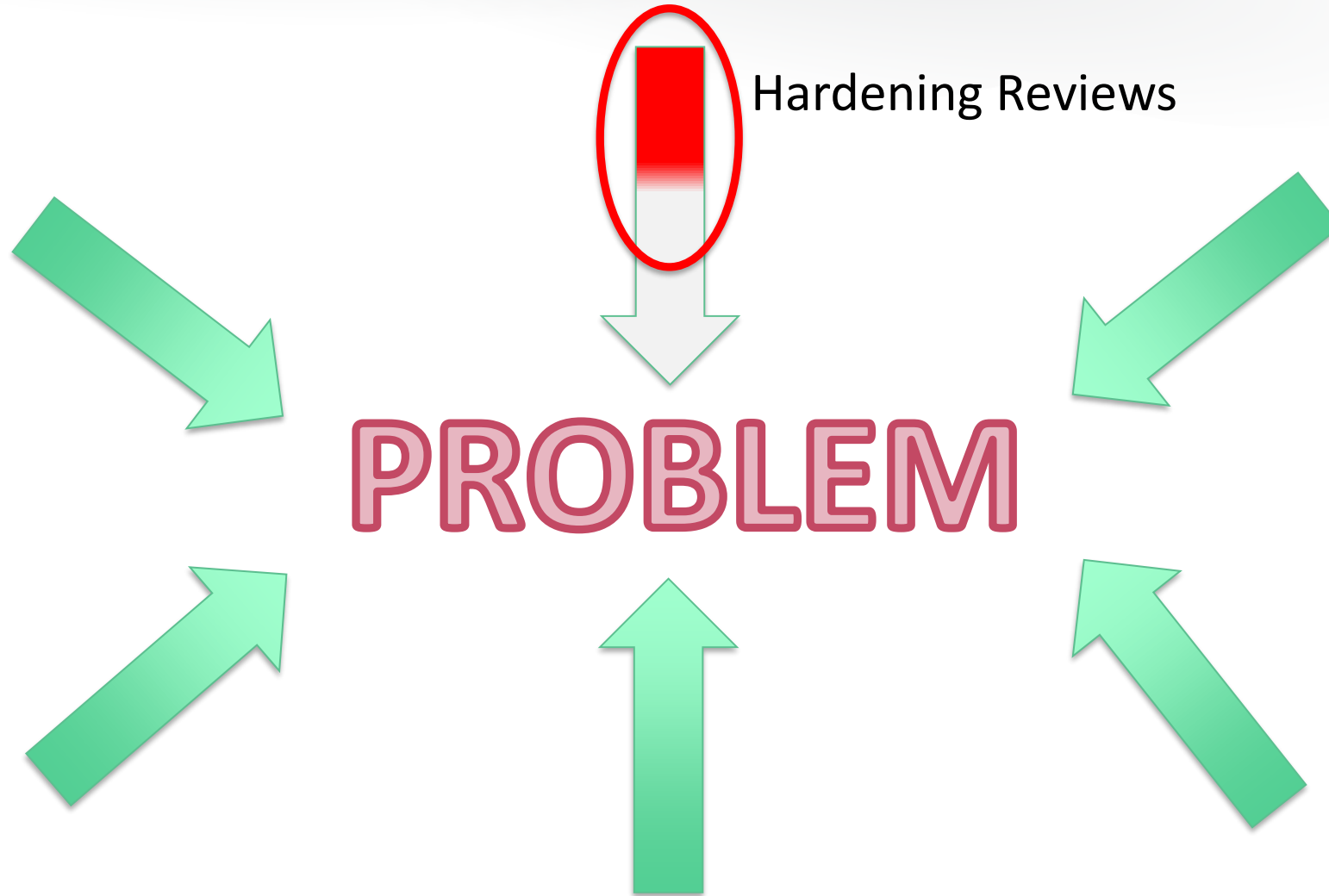


# Explore the Options and Areas for Improvement





# Explore the Options and Areas for Improvement



**STATIC**

**DYNAMIC**

# Static Testing - Limitations





Step	✓	To Do	MFD	UT Note	Cat I	Cat II/III	Min Std
		<b>Preparation and Installation</b>					
1		If machine is a new install, protect it from hostile network traffic, until the operating system is installed and hardened.		<u>§</u>	!	!	<u>4.5.1</u>
2		Consider using the Security Configuration Wizard to assist in hardening the host.		<u>§</u>			
		<b>Service Packs and Hotfixes</b>					
3		Install the latest service packs and hotfixes from Microsoft.		<u>§</u>	!	!	<u>4.5.2</u>
4		Enable automatic notification of patch availability.		<u>§</u>	!	!	<u>4.5.5</u>
		<b>User Account Policies</b>					
5		Set minimum password length.	1.1.4	<u>§</u>	!	!	
6		Enable password complexity requirements.	1.1.5	<u>§</u>	!		
7		Do not store passwords using reversible encryption. (Default)	1.1.6	<u>§</u>	!	!	

Windows10andWindowsServer2019PolicySettings--1809.xlsx - Excel

Martin Brinkmann

File Home Insert Page Layout Formulas Data Review View Developer Help Tell me what you want to do

Clipboard Font Alignment Number Styles Cells Editing

C36

Configure additional sources for untrusted files in Windows Defender Application Guard.

		B	C
		File name	Policy Setting Name
27	1809	apphvsi.admx	Allow Windows Defender Application Guard to use Root Certificate Authorities from the user's device
30	1809	apphvsi.admx	Allow camera and microphone access in Windows Defender Application Guard
35	1809	apphvsi.admx	Allow users to trust files that open in Windows Defender Application Guard
36	1809	apphvsi.admx	Configure additional sources for untrusted files in Windows Defender Application Guard.
196	1809	controlpanel.admx	Settings Page Visibility
260	1809	datacollection.admx	Disable deleting diagnostic data
261	1809	datacollection.admx	Disable diagnostic data viewer.
262	1809	datacollection.admx	Configure Microsoft 365 Update Readiness upload endpoint
283	1809	deliveryoptimization.admx	[Reserved for future use] Cache Server Hostname
370	1809	dmaguard.admx	Enumeration policy for external devices incompatible with Kernel DMA Protection
556	1809	globalization.admx	Allow users to enable online speech recognition services
560	1809	grouppolicy-server.admx	Allow asynchronous user Group Policy processing when logging on through Remote Desktop Services
507	1809	grouppolicypreferences.admx	Configure Applications preference extension policy processing
508	1809	grouppolicypreferences.admx	Configure Applications preference logging and tracing
509	1809	grouppolicypreferences.admx	Configure Data Sources preference extension policy processing
510	1809	grouppolicypreferences.admx	Configure Data Sources preference logging and tracing
511	1809	grouppolicypreferences.admx	Configure Devices preference extension policy processing
512	1809	grouppolicypreferences.admx	Configure Devices preference logging and tracing
513	1809	grouppolicypreferences.admx	Configure Drive Maps preference extension policy processing
514	1809	grouppolicypreferences.admx	Configure Drive Maps preference logging and tracing
515	1809	grouppolicypreferences.admx	Configure Environment preference extension policy processing
516	1809	grouppolicypreferences.admx	Configure Environment preference logging and tracing
617	1809	grouppolicypreferences.admx	Configure Files preference extension policy processing

Instructions Administrative Templates Security

Ready Filter Mode

100%



Australian Government  
Australian Signals Directorate

ACSC Australian  
Cyber Security  
Centre

# Hardening Microsoft Windows 10 version 1709 Workstations

JANUARY 2020

<https://www.cyber.gov.au/publications/hardening-microsoft-windows-10-version-1709-workstations>



## Introduction

## High priorities

Application hardening	2
Application versions and patches	2
Application whitelisting	2
Attack Surface Reduction	5
Credential caching	6
Controlled Folder Access	7
Credential entry	8
Early Launch Antimalware	8
Elevating privileges	9
Exploit Protection	10
Local administrator accounts	11
Measured Boot	11
Microsoft Edge	12
Multi-factor authentication	13
Operating system architecture	13
Operating system patching	13
Operating system version	14
Password policy	15
Restricting privileged accounts	15
Secure Boot	16

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## Medium priorities

Account lockout policy	17
Anonymous connections	17
Antivirus software	18
Attachment Manager	20
Audit event management	20
Autoplay and AutoRun	22
BIOS and UEFI passwords	23
Boot devices	23
Bridging networks	23
Built-in guest accounts	24
CD burner access	24
Centralised audit event logging	24
Command Prompt	25
Direct Memory Access	25
Endpoint device control	26
File and print sharing	27
Group Policy processing	27
Hard drive encryption	28
Installing applications	31
Legacy and run once lists	32
Microsoft accounts	33
MSS settings	33
NetBIOS over TCP/IP	34
Network authentication	34
NoLMHash policy	35
Operating system functionality	35

#RSAAC

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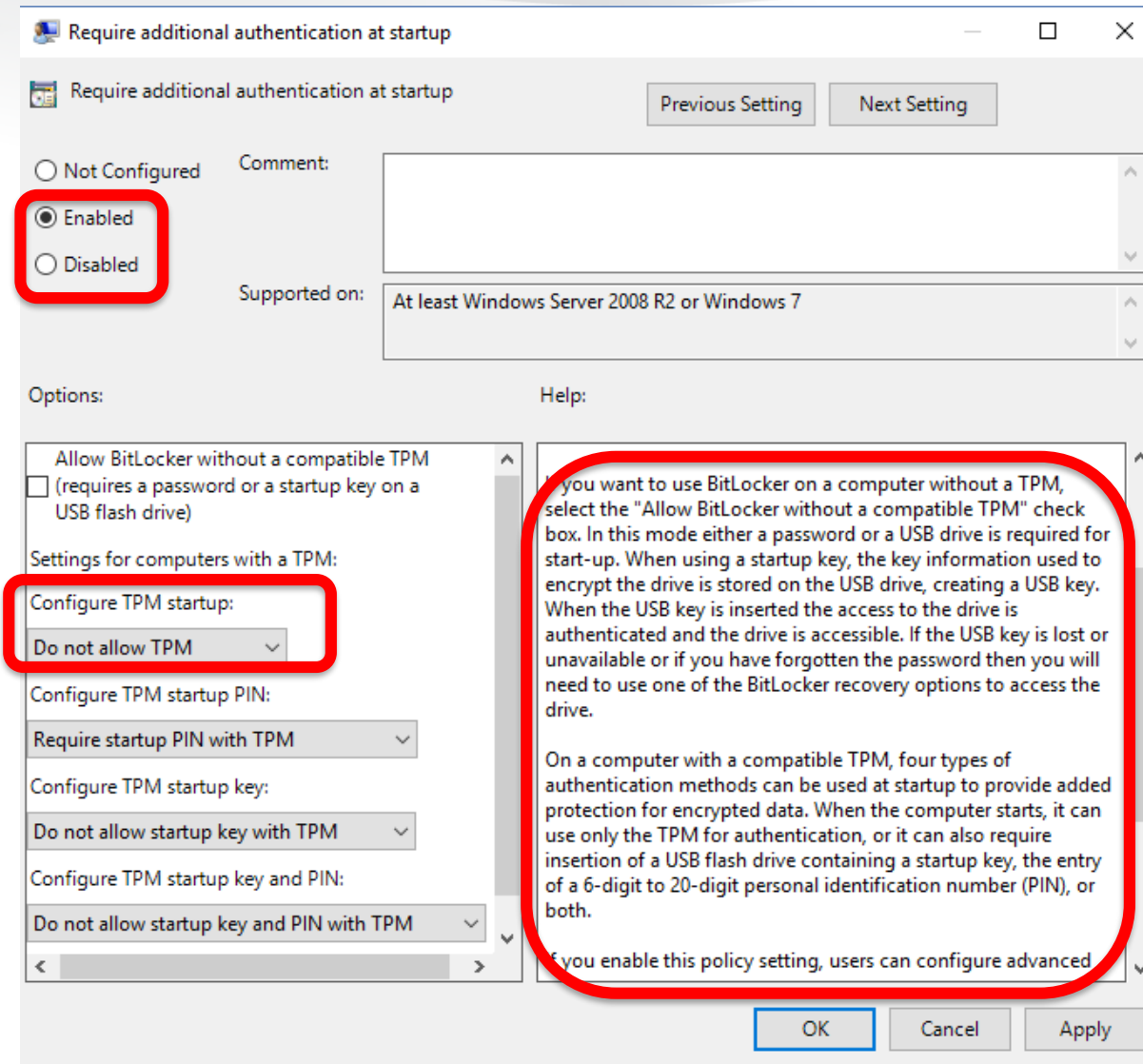
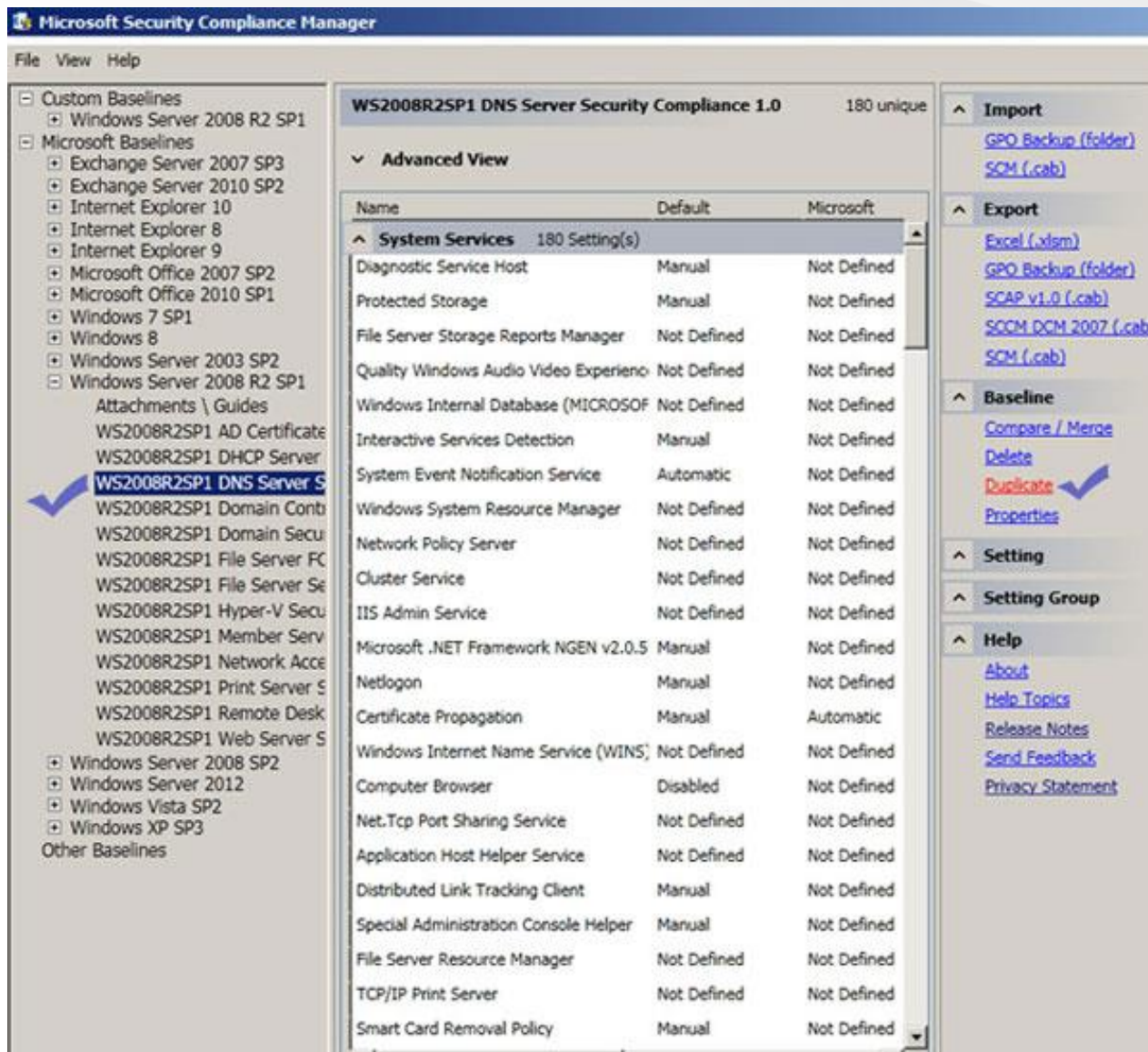
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## Top recommendations

OS security updates	Install the latest security updates	+72 points
Exploit Guard ⓘ	Turn on Attack Surface Reduction rules	+33 points
Exploit Guard ⓘ	Set controlled folder access to enabled...	+32 points
Antivirus	Fix antivirus reporting and get emerge...	+19 points
Credential Guard ⓘ	Turn on Credential Guard	+17 points
BitLocker ⓘ	Ensure drive compatibility ⓘ	+17 points
BitLocker ⓘ	Encrypt all supported drives	+8 points
Windows Hello ⓘ	Encourage all users to use Windows He...	+7 points



# Assessing Hardening - Problems

- Generally where most SOE/Image tests start & end
- Static assessments cost more than they are worth
- Results in constraints of budget. Money spent in the wrong places
- Done ineffectively through manual means
- Scope ineffective (generally trying to match benchmark stds only)
- Then cut out items in the “too hard basket”
- Seldom cover broad ranges of controls
  - Full Disk Encryption (no excuse its built in!)
  - App Whitelisting (its built in – but more complicated to get right)
  - File Integrity Monitoring (much more accessible in Vuln Mgt)

# Assessing Hardening – Increasing the Scope

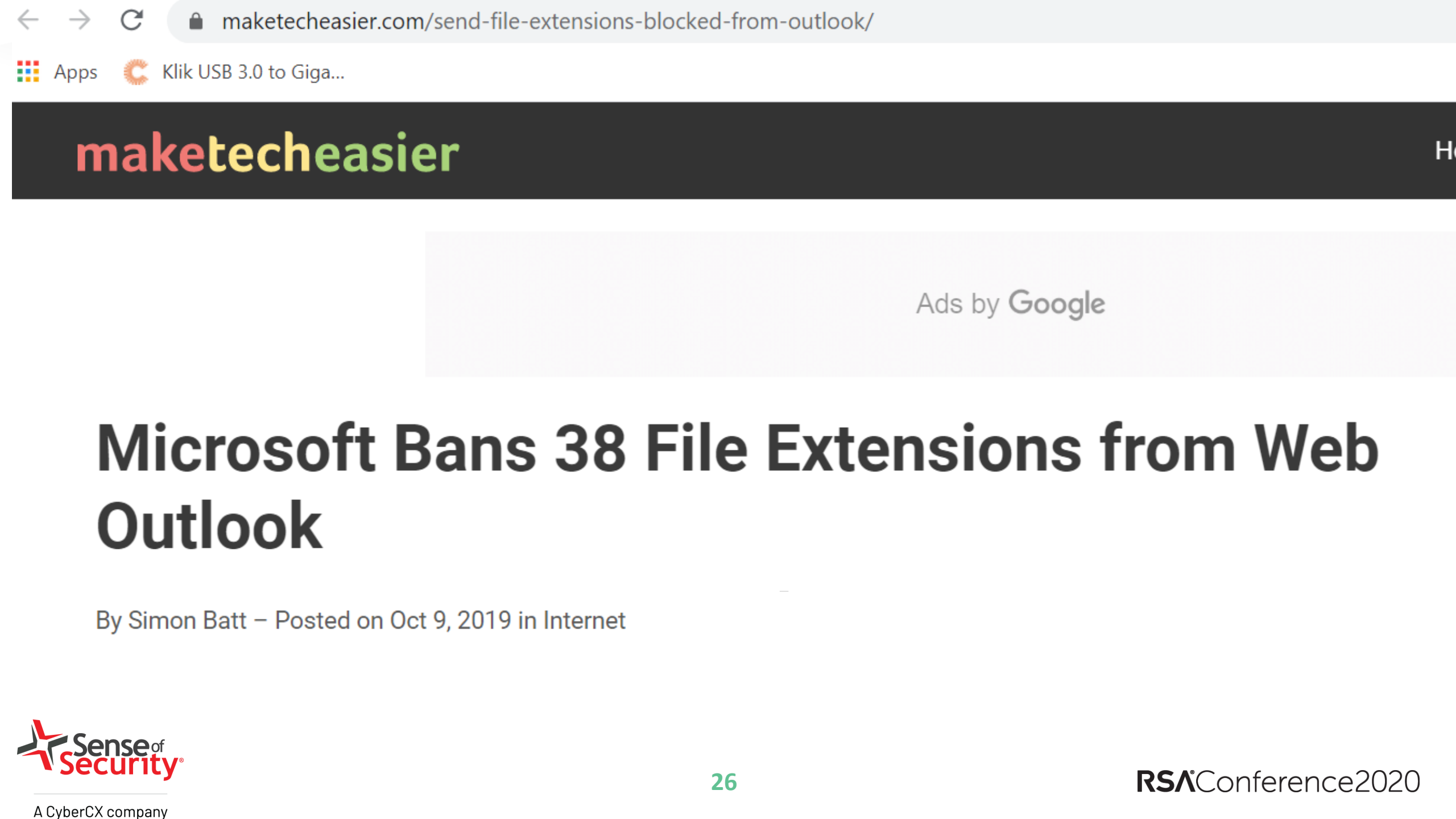
- Assess for seemingly benign configs that can be trojaned
- Examples:
  - PDF controls
    - BADPDF: Stealing Windows Credentials via PDF Files
      - The fundamental issue has been fixed CVE-2018-4993
      - Huge number of orgs remain susceptible to this ([points to s/w supply chain issue](#))
  - Understanding Appref.MS Config Files
    - Windows 10 victim host - Fully patched with Windows Defender enabled
    - See <http://i.blackhat.com/USA-19/Wednesday/us-19-Burke-ClickOnce-And-Youre-In-When-Appref-Ms-Abuse-Is-Operating-As-Intended-wp.pdf>
    - [Points to S/W and Services Supply Chain Issues & Config Mgt Issues & Vuln Mgt Issues](#)

The .appref-ms file can be ran to check for updates and run the application. This is the crux of the malicious deployment mechanism, as an .appref-ms file can be ran even if the application was not previously installed. Upon execution it will connect with the deployment server to install and run

By selecting “The application should check for updates” the application will always check in with the deployment server to see if there is a more recent version of the application. By setting “Before the application starts” it can be specified that the application will force install any established updates before running the application should they be found. As long as the user approved of the initial application installation, any updates to the application will not require user approval. In this section a minimum version number can also be specified for updates, in addition to specifying a separate location where the update is located if required.

As the .appref-ms filetype is not flagged as malicious by Gmail or Outlook, you could attach it directly to an e-mail to gain initial access upon code execution on the end user's host. However, to further give credence to the social engineering aspects of phishing it may be prudent to use the .appref-ms file as an OLE within a Word document.





Ads by Google

# Microsoft Bans 38 File Extensions from Web Outlook

By Simon Batt – Posted on Oct 9, 2019 in Internet

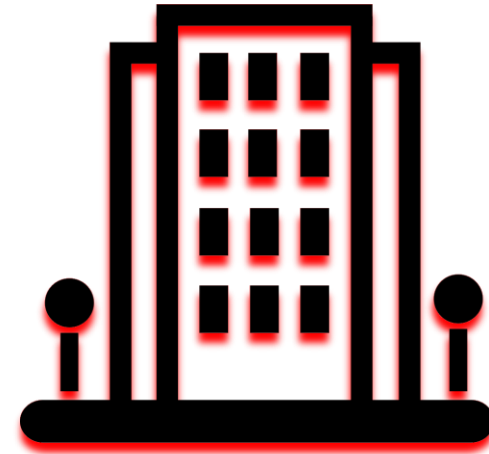
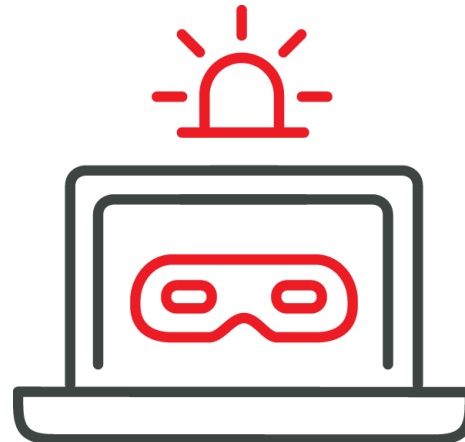
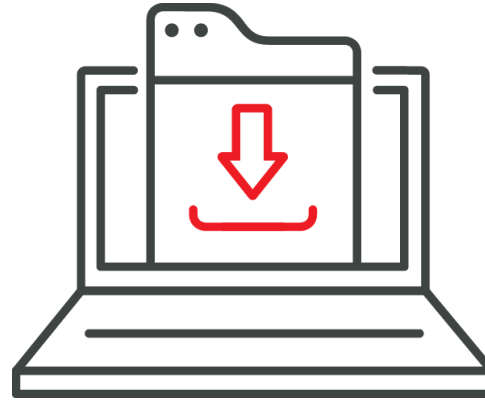
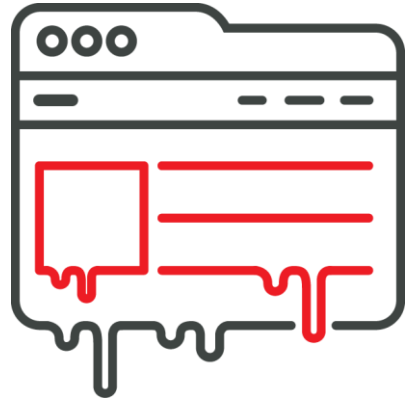
# Microsoft Bans 38 File Extensions from Web Outlook – Here’s How to Send Them

By Simon Batt – Posted on Oct 9, 2019 in Internet

As per the announcement announcing this change, [Microsoft has listed the exact file extensions](#) that are now blocked. These include:

- Files related to the Python scripting language (".py," ".pyc," ".pyo," ".pyw," ".pyz," and ".pyzw")
- Files related to the PowerShell scripting language (".ps1," ".ps1xml," ".ps2," ".ps2xml," ".psc1," ".psc2," ".psd1," ".psdm1," ".cdxml," and ".pssc")
- Java Files (".jar" and ".jnlp")
- Digital Certificate Files (".cer," ".crt," ".der")
- Windows ClickOnce Files (".appref-ms")
- Microsoft Data Access Components (".udl")
- Windows Sandbox files (".wsb")
- Files used by "various applications" as stated by Microsoft (".appcontent-ms," ".settingcontent-ms," ".cnt," ".hpj," ".website," ".webpnp," ".mcf," ".printerexport," ".pl," ".theme," ".vbp," ".xbap," ".xll," ".xnk," ".msu," ".diagcab," and ".grp")

# Scenario for Total Loss of Control of Computer Fleet





# Assessing Hardening - Improvements

- Still important, must be more effective.
- Adopt Automation!
- Strive towards Continuous Monitoring.
  - Hardening profiles change over time.
  - You need to review WHAT you are checking for and UPDATE as the landscape changes
  - Hardening is more than core OS hardening. Need to check for configuration of crypto/app whitelisting and configs that will cause problems @ run time (appref.ms)
  - Hardening reviews are next to useless if performed once off

# Assessing Hardening - Improvements

## Summary

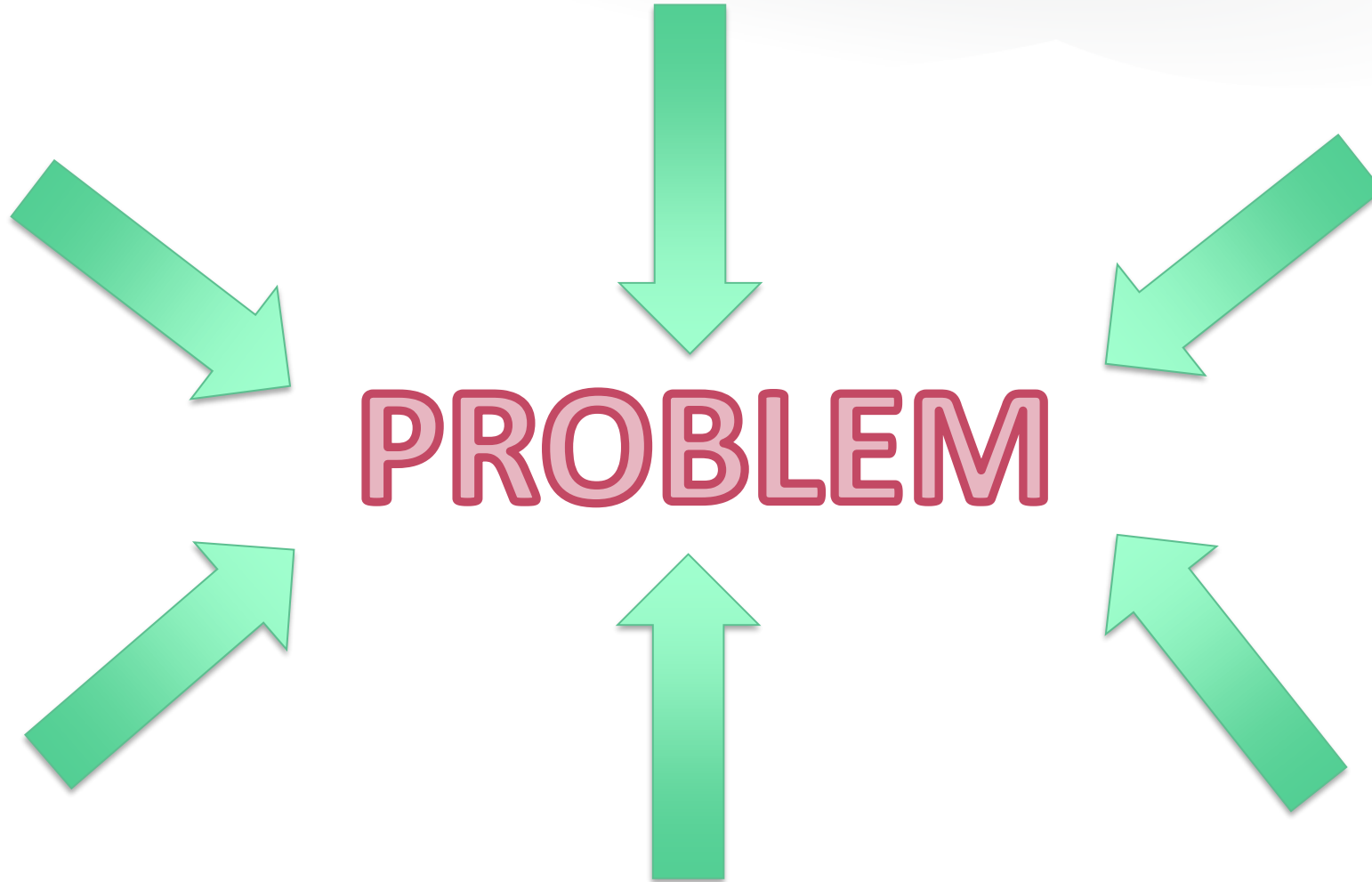
- Hardening Validation is part of Config/Vuln Mgt
  - should be ongoing operational activity – not capital expense.
- If hardening validation is BAU will represent a small portion of security budget for SOE/Rollout Programs
- Creates room for Dynamic Testing

Introducing Dynamic Testing

# Root Cause of Problems: Configuration Mgt



# Explore the Options and Areas for Improvement



**PROBLEM**



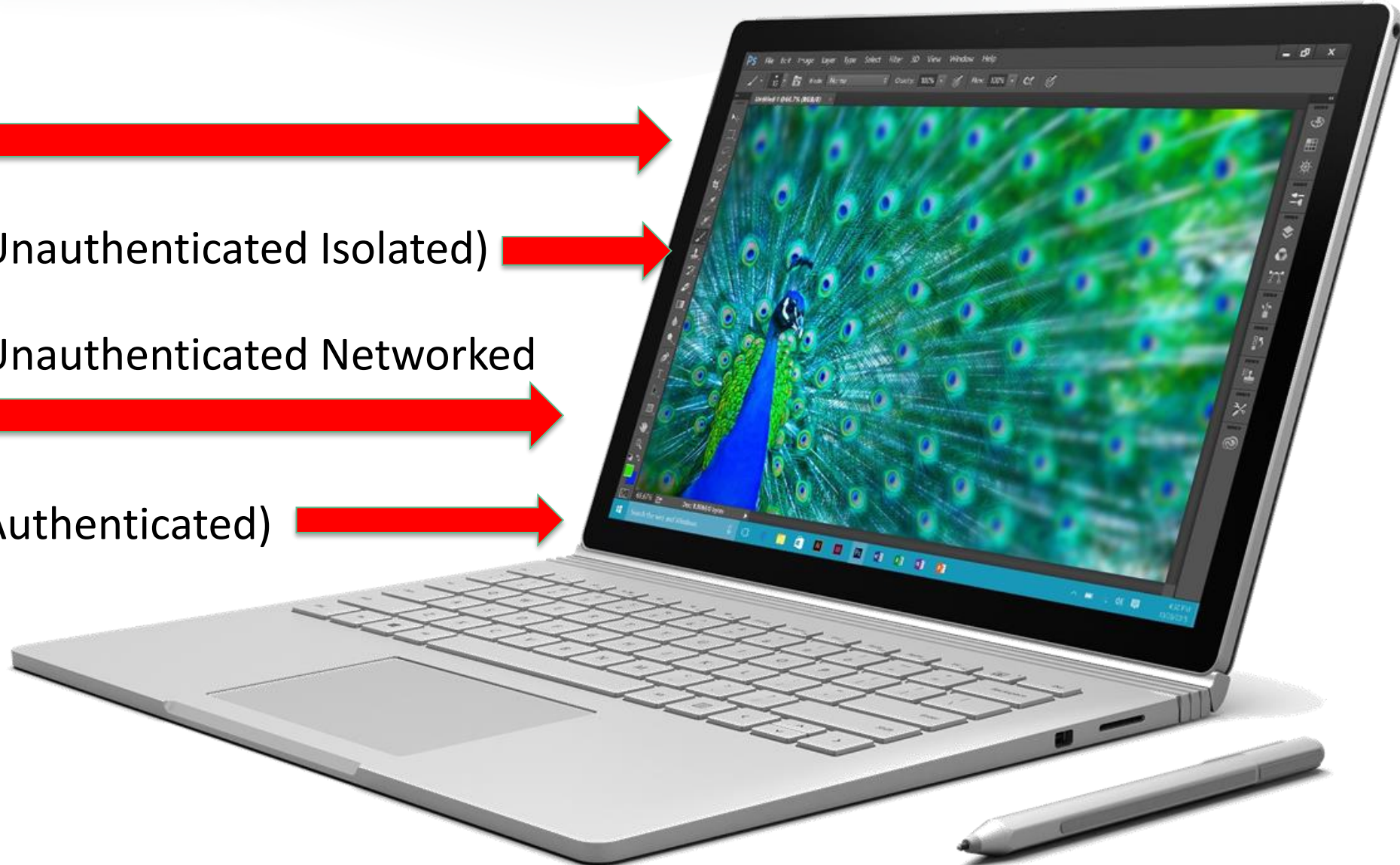
# Dynamic Testing Variants

Pre Boot Testing

Post Boot Testing (Unauthenticated Isolated)

Post Boot Testing (Unauthenticated Networked  
(WLAN/LAN))

Post Boot Testing (Authenticated)



# Pre Boot Security Testing

- Looking to exploit issues in:
  - BIOS Config
    - E.g. boot from alternative OS (USB etc)
  - Full Disk Encryption (FDE)
    - Limitations of FDE relying on TPM only and no PIN
      - Windows 10 users can update their BitLocker PINs and passwords themselves, without administrator credentials.
      - But PIN is **not** the default.
      - <https://www.moderndeployment.com/require-startup-tpmpin-for-bitlocker-encryption-enterprise-security/>

Authentication method	Requires user interaction	Description
TPM only	No	TPM validates early boot components.
TPM + PIN	Yes	TPM validates early boot components. The user must enter the correct PIN before the start-up process can continue, and before the drive can be unlocked. The TPM will enter lockout if the incorrect PIN is entered repeatedly to protect the PIN from brute force attacks. The number of repeated attempts that will trigger a lockout is variable.
TPM + Network key	No	The TPM successfully validates early boot components, and a valid encrypted network key has been provided from the WDS server. This authentication method provides automatic unlock of operating system volumes at system reboot while still maintaining multifactor authentication.
TPM + startup key	Yes	The TPM successfully validates early boot components, and a USB flash drive containing the startup key has been inserted.
Startup key only	Yes	The user is prompted to insert the USB flash drive that holds the recovery key and/or startup key and reboot the computer.

## ○ Network Unlock

- **Network Unlock enables BitLocker-protected PCs to start automatically when connected to a wired corporate network on which Windows Deployment Services runs. ???????**
- <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/security/information-protection/bitlocker/bitlocker-device-encryption-overview-windows-10>



# Read the Fine Print – for the Countermeasures

## Attacker with skill and lengthy physical access

Targeted attack with plenty of time; this attacker will open the case, will solder, and will use sophisticated hardware or software.

Mitigation:

- Pre-boot authentication set to TPM with a PIN protector (with a sophisticated alphanumeric PIN to help the TPM anti-hammering mitigation).

-And-

- Disable Standby power management and shut down or hibernate the device before it leaves the control of an authorized user. This can be set using Group Policy:
  - Computer Configuration|Policies|Administrative Templates|Windows Components|File Explorer|Show hibernate in the power options menu
  - Computer Configuration|Policies|Administrative Templates|System|Power Management|Sleep Settings|Allow standby states (S1-S3) when sleeping (plugged in)
  - Computer Configuration|Policies|Administrative Templates|System|Power Management|Sleep Settings|Allow standby states (S1-S3) when sleeping (on battery)

These settings are **Not configured** by default.

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/security/information-protection/bitlocker/bitlocker-countermeasures>

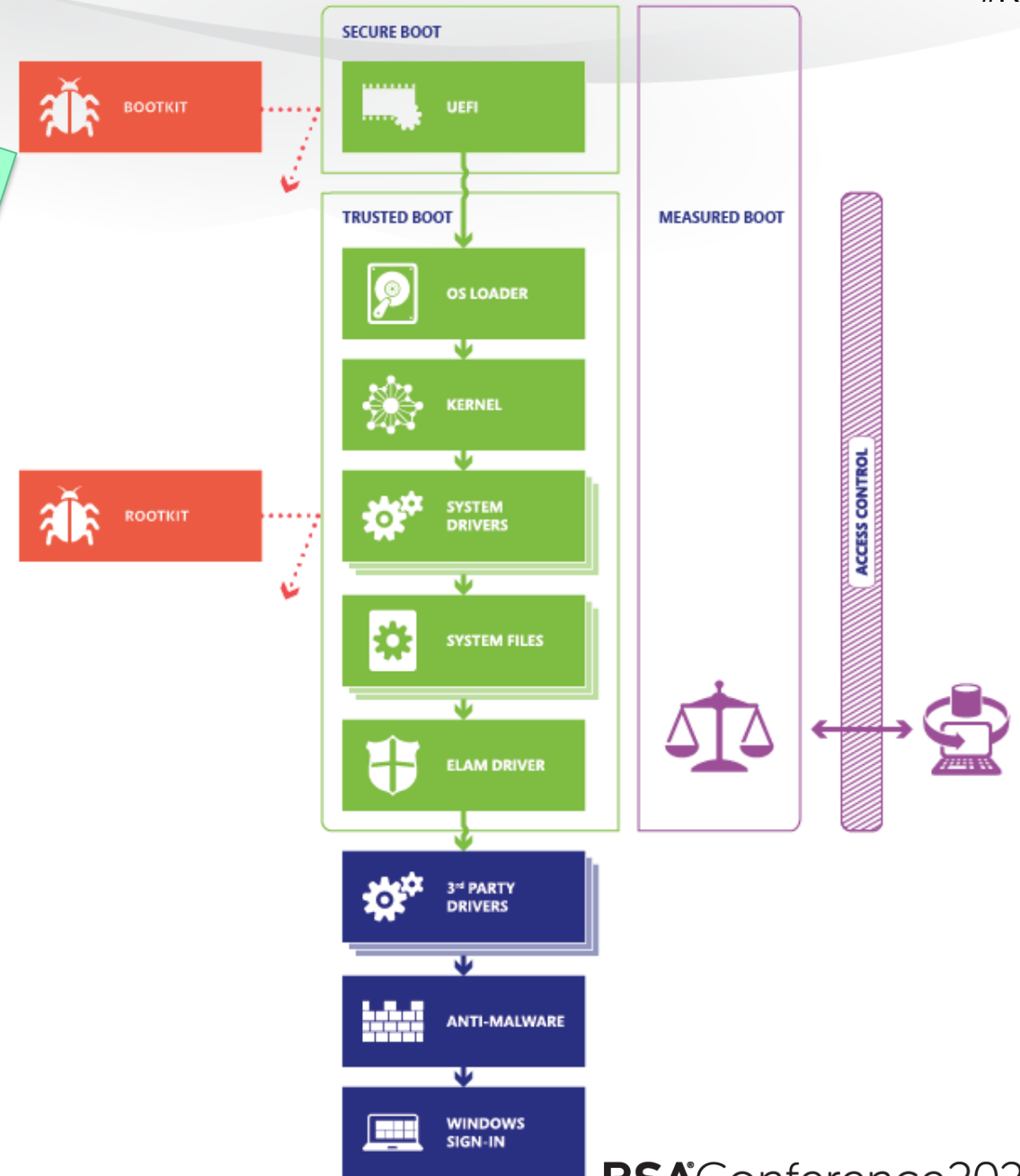
# Securing the Boot Process

- Secure Boot, a component of Trusted Boot, is a security feature supported by Microsoft Windows 10 version 1709 and motherboards with an UEFI2
  - Relevant to new fleets of computers
  - Not so much for refresh of old fleets
  - This is why testing how different computers in the fleet may respond to different attack scenarios is relevant.
  - <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/security/information-protection/secure-the-windows-10-boot-process>

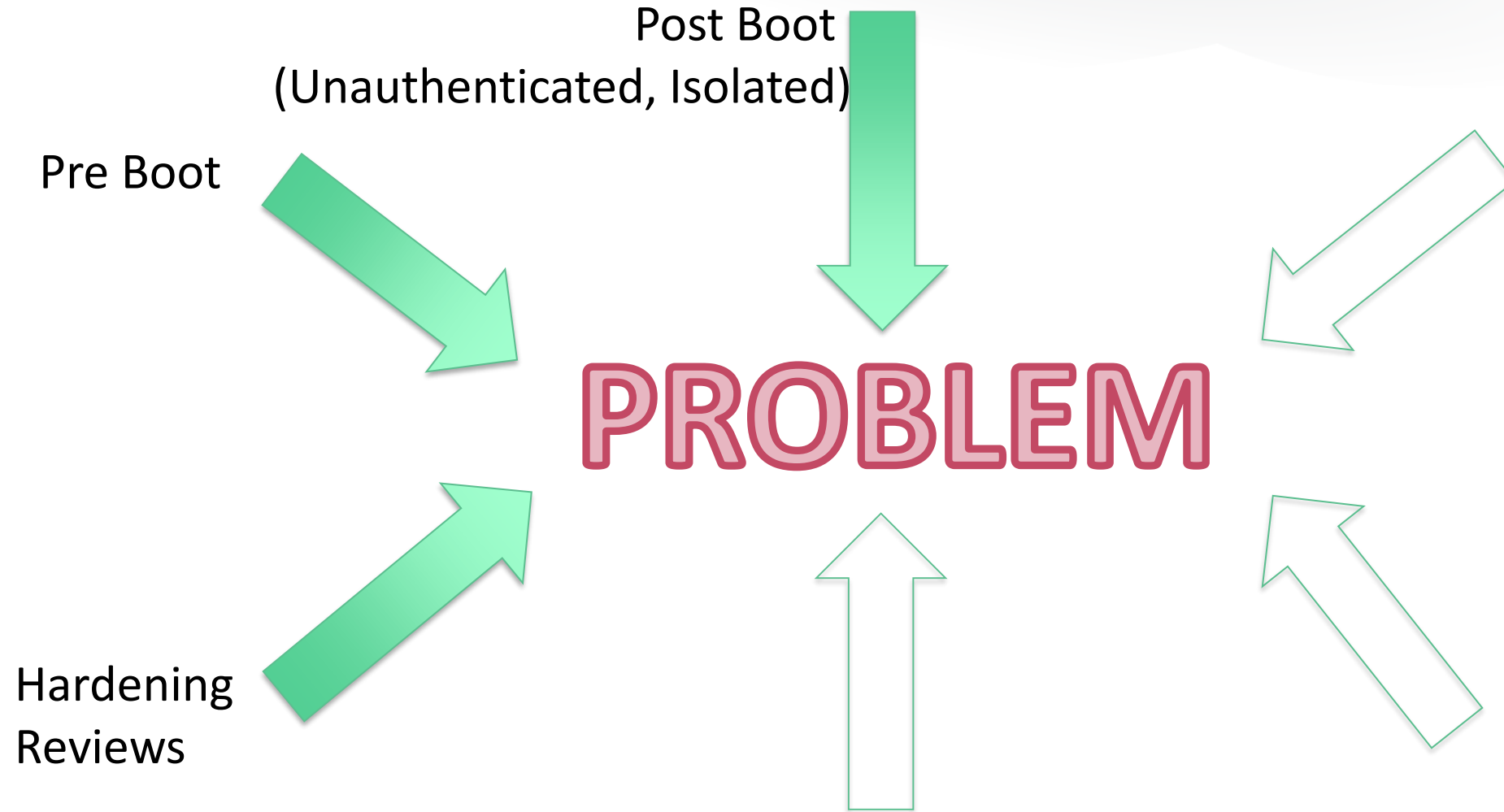
Because part of your fleet may be susceptible to **bootkits**

and **rootkits**

**Microsoft Windows 10 version 1709 and motherboards with an UEFI2**



# Explore the Options and Areas for Improvement





# Post Boot – Unauthenticated, Isolated



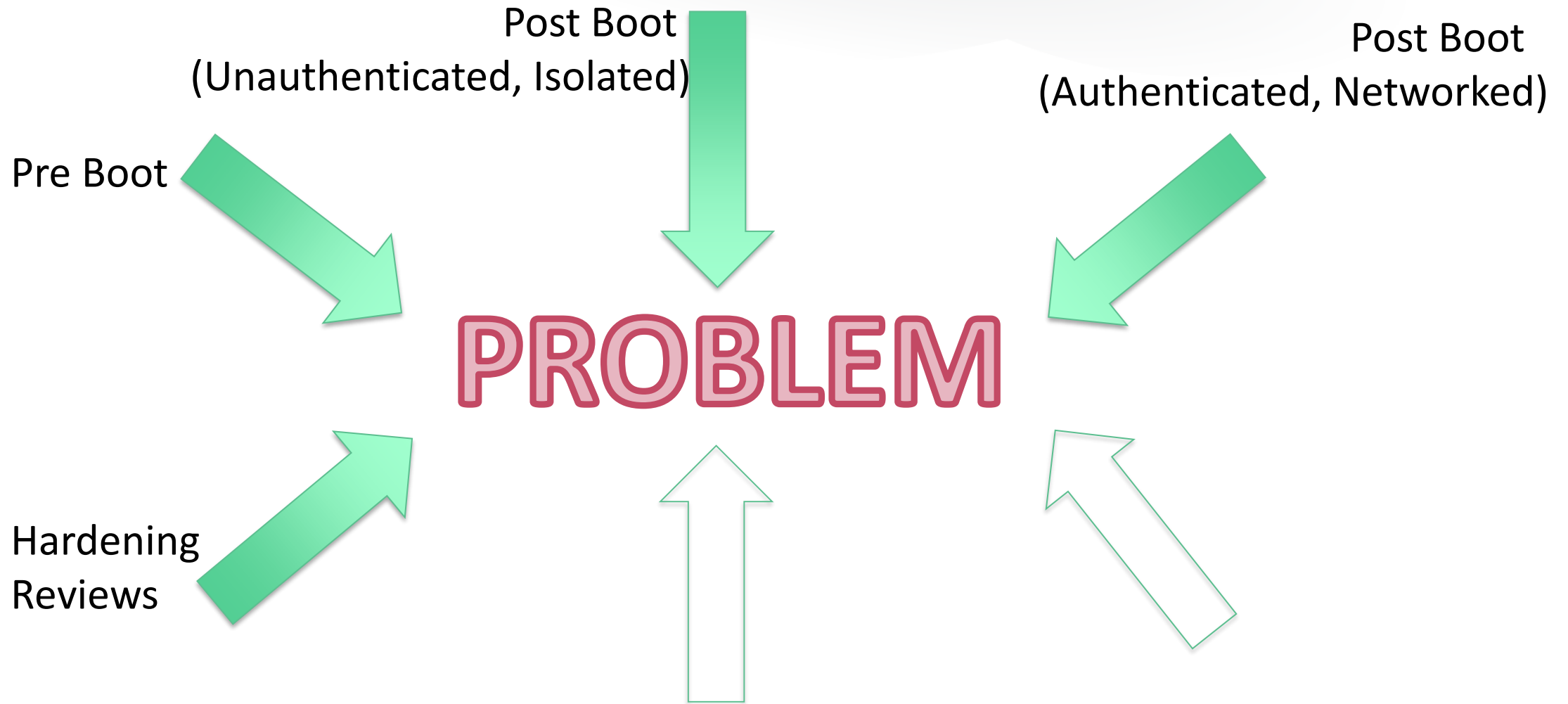
# Post Boot – Unauthenticated, Isolated

- Problems
  - Relying on OS Authentication Controls
  - Account Guessing/Brute Forcing
    - Local Accounts
    - Domain Accounts (Cached)
    - Therefore testing of the laptop on and off network is required.
- Other components of the footprint are:
  - USB
  - Bluetooth
  - Ethernet
  - Any service that is operational on the OS and can be connected to if on the network (e.g. remote desktop, SNMP or other protocols)

# Post Boot – Unauthenticated, Isolated

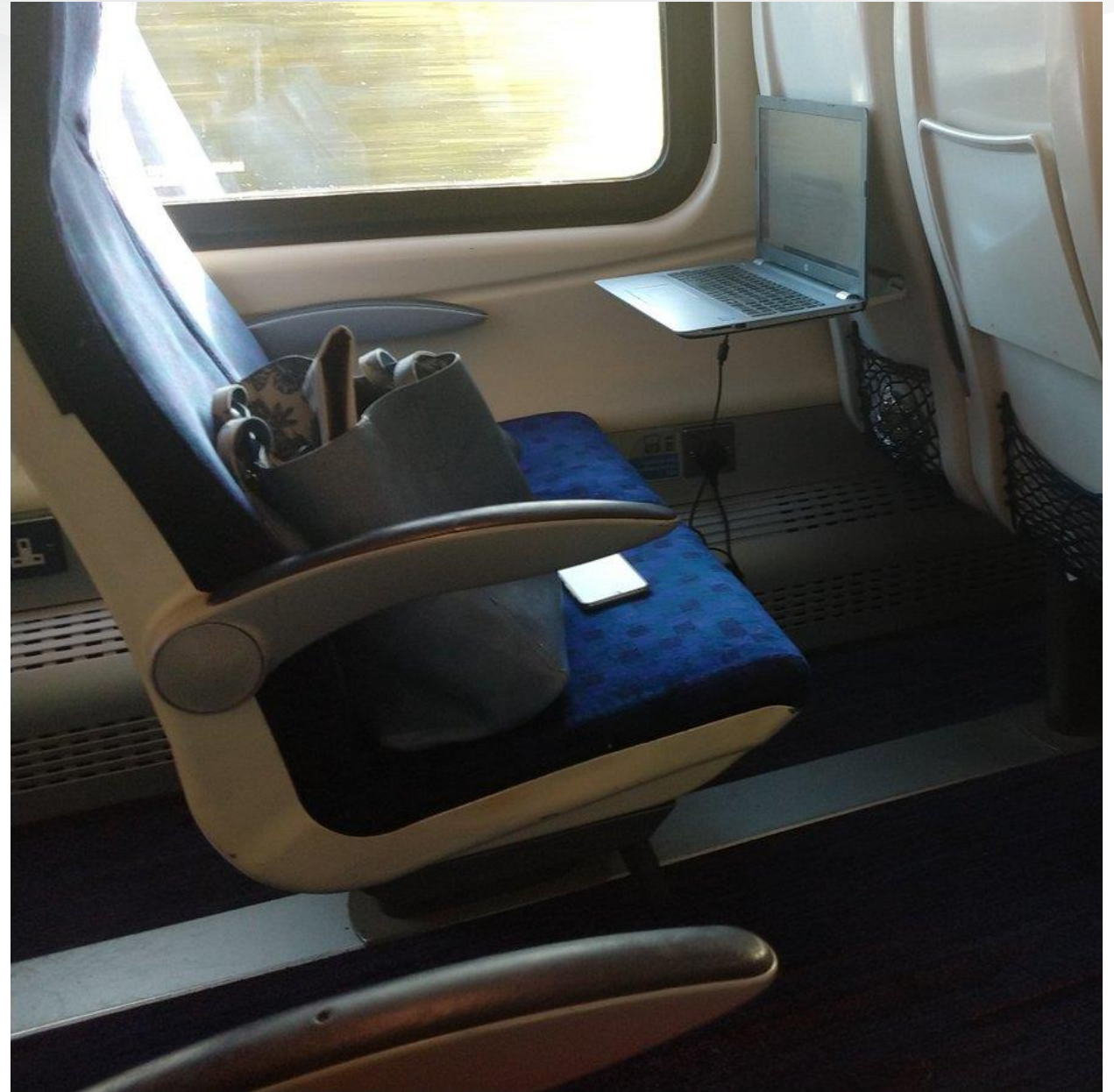
- Testing
  - Local Password Attacks
  - Wireless Stimulation – assisted with OSINT/SE (Credential Leakage)
  - Perform attacks against online device, when connected to client premises/LAN
  - Perform attacks against online device, under normal use, i.e. as a remote worker
- Improvements
  - Smart Card, Biometric Access Controls – for Auth
  - Effective Password Policies (Local and Domain, LAPS)
  - Peripherals Security
  - Run Once Protections/App Whitelisting

# Explore the Options and Areas for Improvement





# Post Boot - Authenticated

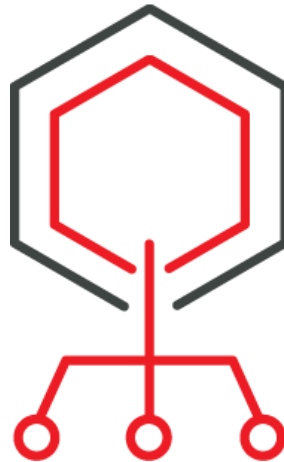
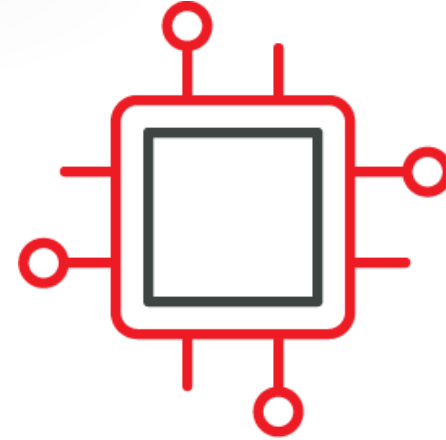
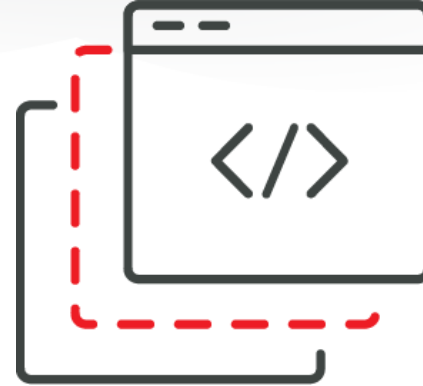




# The General Corporate User Case ....



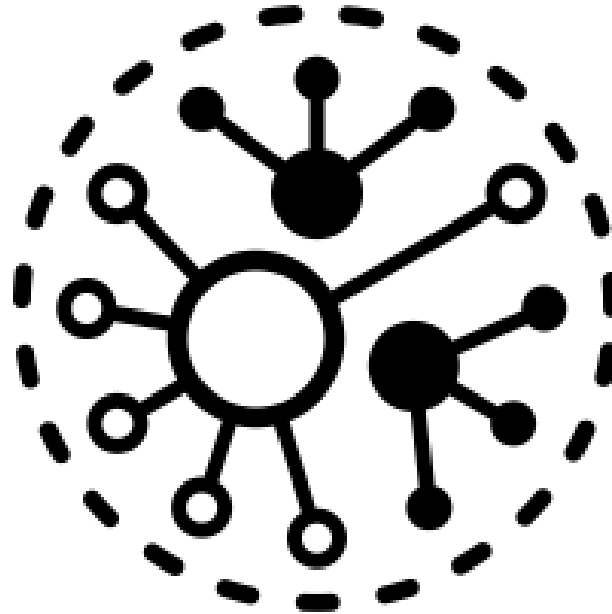
# Enterprise Breach Assessment Break-Out Penetration Test



# Unvalidated Controls



But we hired a security guard!



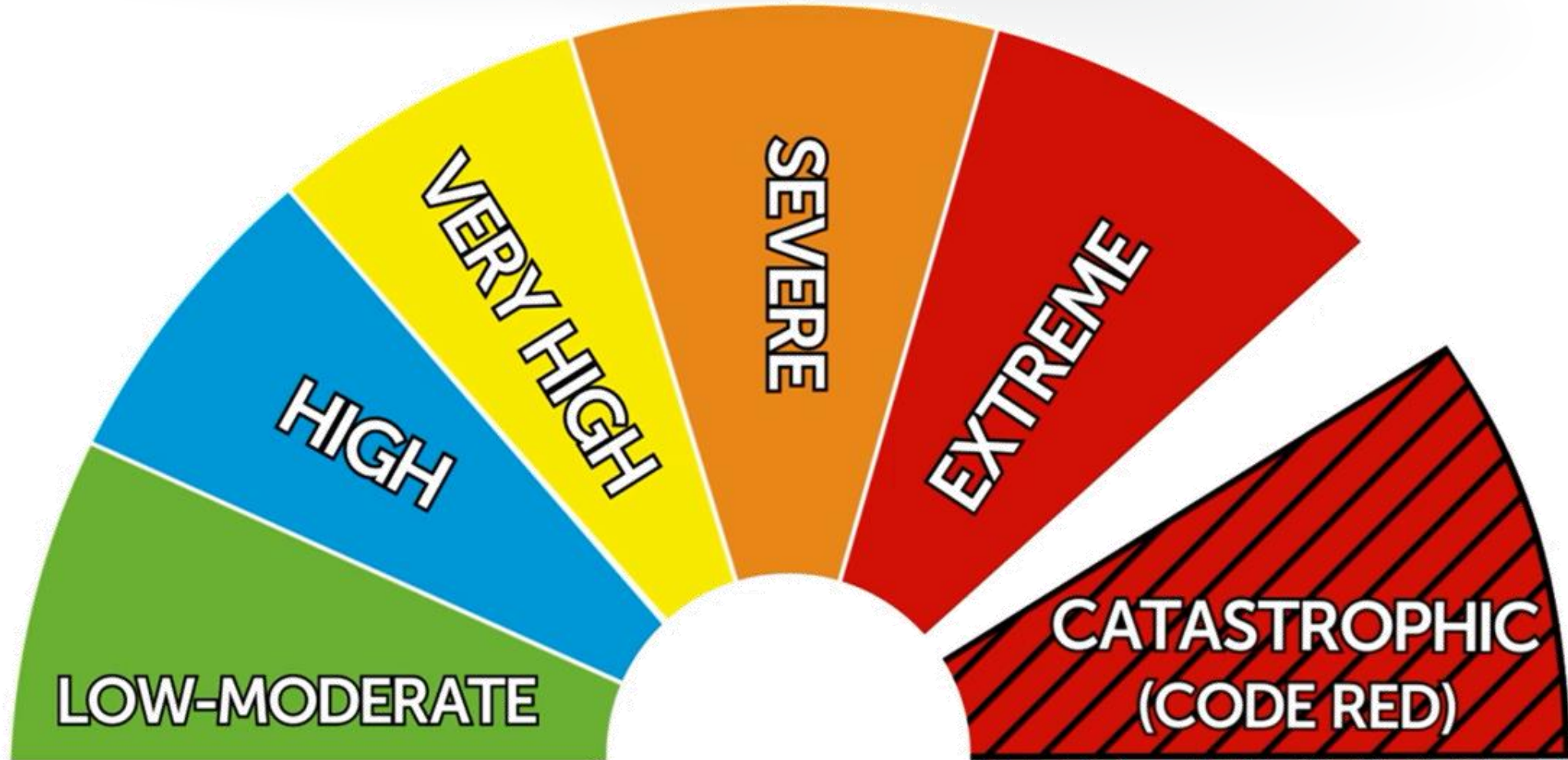
Risk correlation?  
Cumulative risk?  
Linear vs Interconnected Risks

# Full Stack Security

- Problems
  - Gateway Controls that allow malware inbound (email)
  - Gateway Controls that allow alternative paths for malware (email → web)
  - OS Controls that don't block execution (failed whitelisting)
  - End Point Controls that don't stop sleeper malware (appref.ms)
  - End Point Controls that don't stop malware!
  - Enterprise Controls that don't detect changes to OS's (Config Mgt)
- Testing
  - Various scenarios to test breadth and depth of above
- Improvements
  - As needed to defeat the attacks. This is the crux of the SOE/Golden Image philosophy



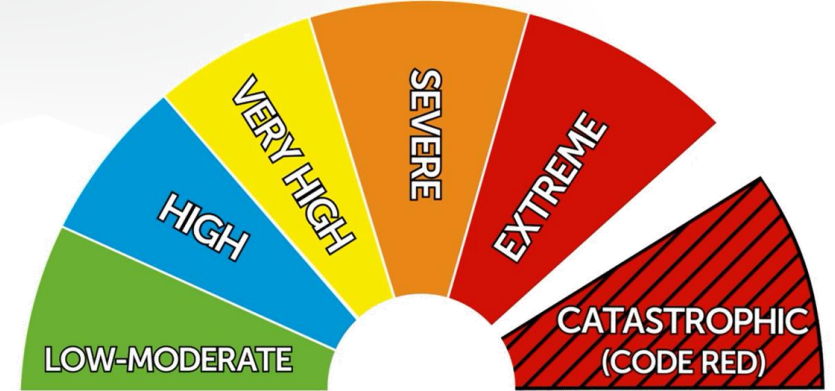
# Catastrophe Scale

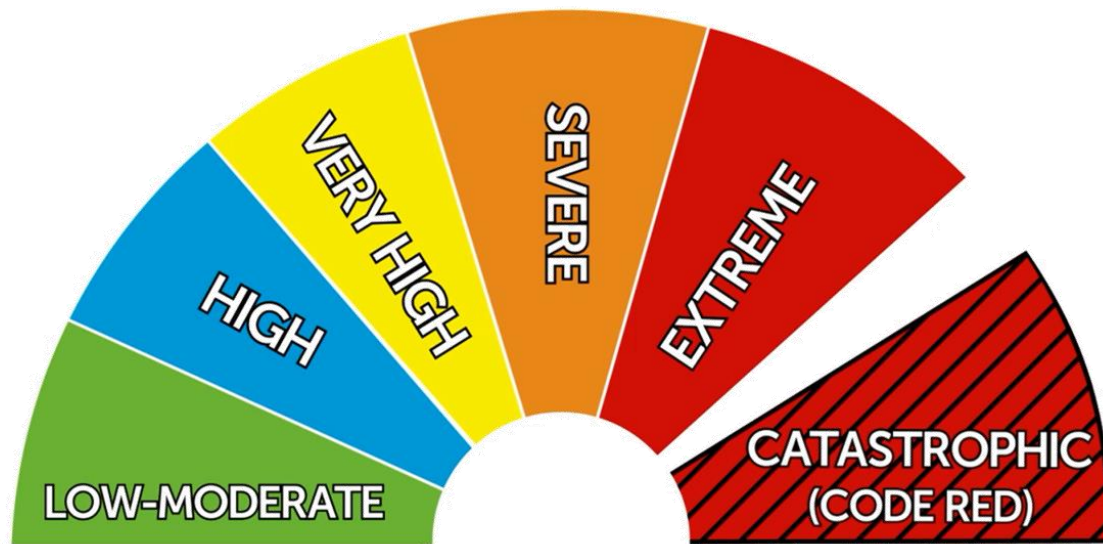




# Catastrophe Scale

- One isolated user affected
- One user infected, but issue is propagating over the network
- Loss of Integrity of Workstation Fleet, but operational
- Total loss of control of Workstation Fleet, not operational (encrypted, ransom)
- [sort of like Corona Virus situation now.....]







# SUMMARY

- Understand your Supply Chain Risks (S/W and Services)
- Incorporate Static & Dynamic Tests – Upfront & Ongoing
- Validation of Effectiveness of Hardening
- Validation of Effectiveness of End Point Control
- Fault Condition Injection
- Introduce Continuous Monitoring/Validation (across wide attributes)
- Incorporate into Vuln Mgt Program

# Apply What You Have Learned Today

- Next week you should:
  - Identify where your SOE/Rollout Security Strategy is
    - Already rolled out? Not too late.
      - Gap assessment of the coverage of the testing vs what we learned today
    - Planning a rollout?
      - Consider the assessments from all the angles.
    - Budgeting?
      - Look at the Catastrophe scale and determine your risk appetite?
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> Parties
      - Identify the extent to which you rely on 3<sup>rd</sup> Parties to secure your deployments



# Apply What You Have Learned Today

- In the first three months following this presentation you should:
  - Develop & Execute Assessment Plan (all the methods described here)
  - Understand the relationship between configuration (static) and actual operation (dynamic)
  - Build resilience into your OS's at all the layers
  - Automate hardening validation & Implement Continuous Monitoring to identify Configuration Drift

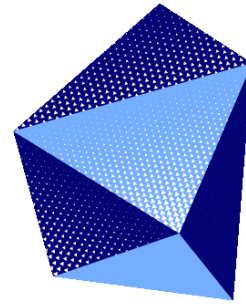
# Apply What You Have Learned Today

- Within six months you should:
  - Improve the overall security of the OS and the ecosystem
  - Manage 3<sup>rd</sup> party risk
  - Implement Continuous Monitoring to identify sleeper malware
  - Run Time Security Testing: Enter Purple Teaming, SOC, NOC, Validation
- Beyond:
  - Automate Testing to demonstrate current state without the need to conduct intensive manual tests

# Questions



A CyberCX company



# CyberCX

Cyber Security + Customer Experience

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