



# Starting Your Journey

A Roadmap for ICS/OT Security

Jason D. Christopher  
Director of Cyber Risk

# JASON D. CHRISTOPHER

Director of Cyber Risk  
DRAGOS

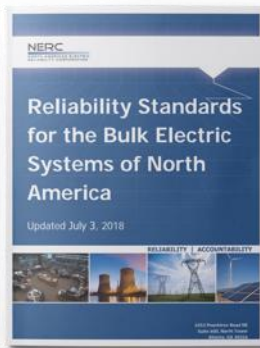
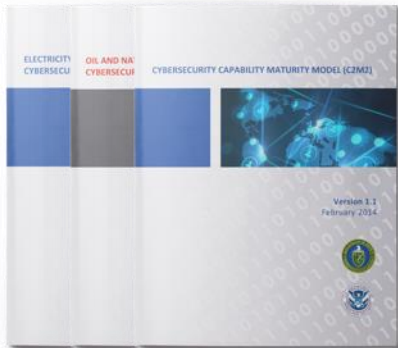


@jdchristopher



linkedin.com/in/jdchristopher

- Cyber risk management professional services, tied to threat intel & Dragos platform
- Certified SANS Instructor for industrial control systems security
- Former CTO for Axio Global, Inc., leading critical infrastructure protection strategy
- Federal energy lead for several industry standards and guidelines, including NERC CIP, NIST CSF, and the C2M2
- Led cyber incident & risk management team for US Department of Energy
- Security metrics development across EPRI and other research organizations
- Began career deploying & securing ICS
- Frequent speaker at conferences & client events
- MS, Electrical Engineering, Cornell



axio



EPRI

ELECTRIC POWER  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

# Today's Discussion

## Roadmapping 101



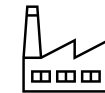
### Some initial questions

Every journey starts somewhere– but do you know where you are going? What's important? And how to begin?



### Deviously “Simple” Roadmap

Cutting down the steps to establish a repeatable, measurable process for ICS/OT security program improvement.



### Use case

Real world and applicable discussions for roadmap creation and timelines.

# ICS/OT = Industrial Operations

Protecting what matters most

Focused on processes that impact the real world, using industrial control systems (ICS) and operational technology (OT)

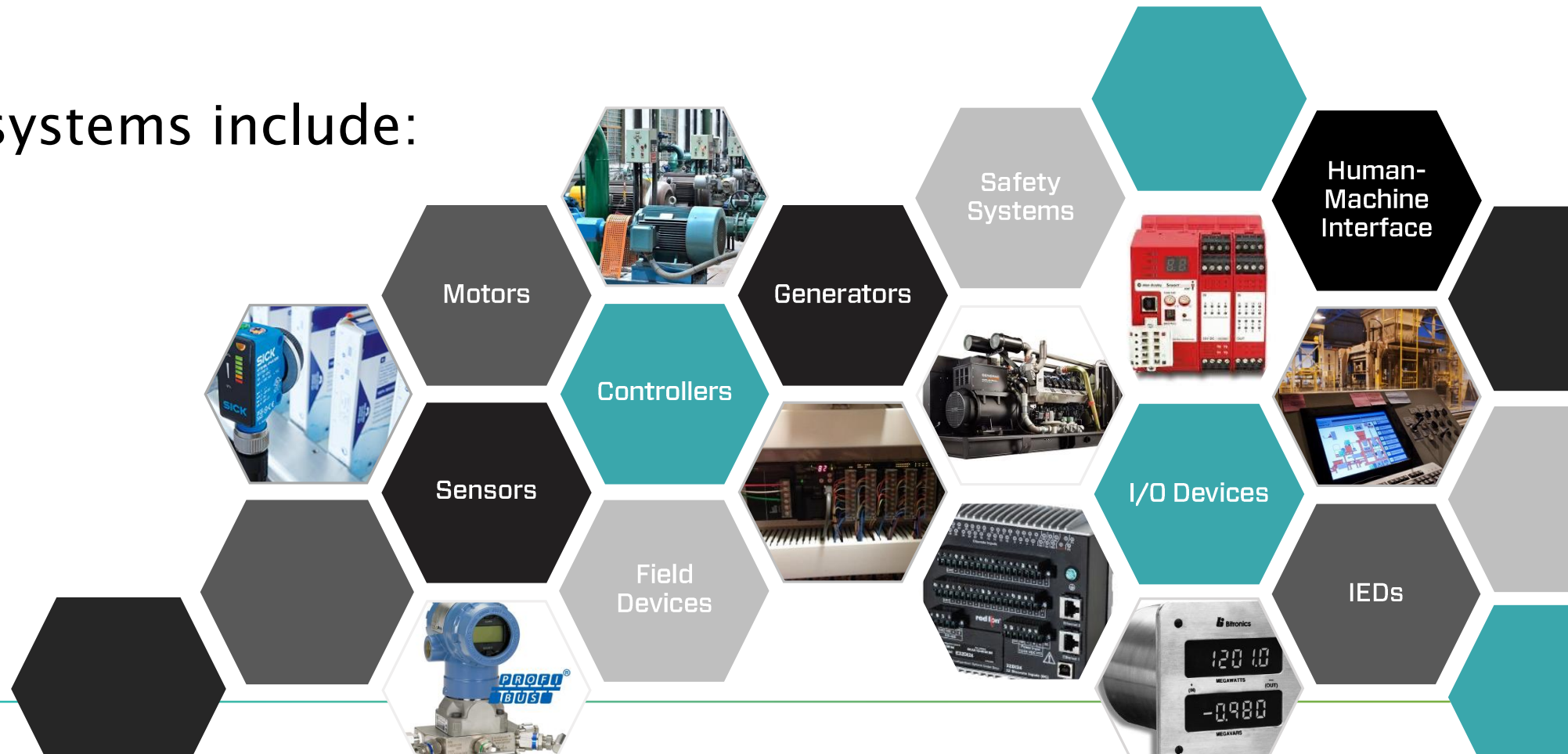
**24 x** operations  
**7** year life cycle  
**10-30** critical infrastructure sectors  
**16**



# What do we mean by ICS/OT?

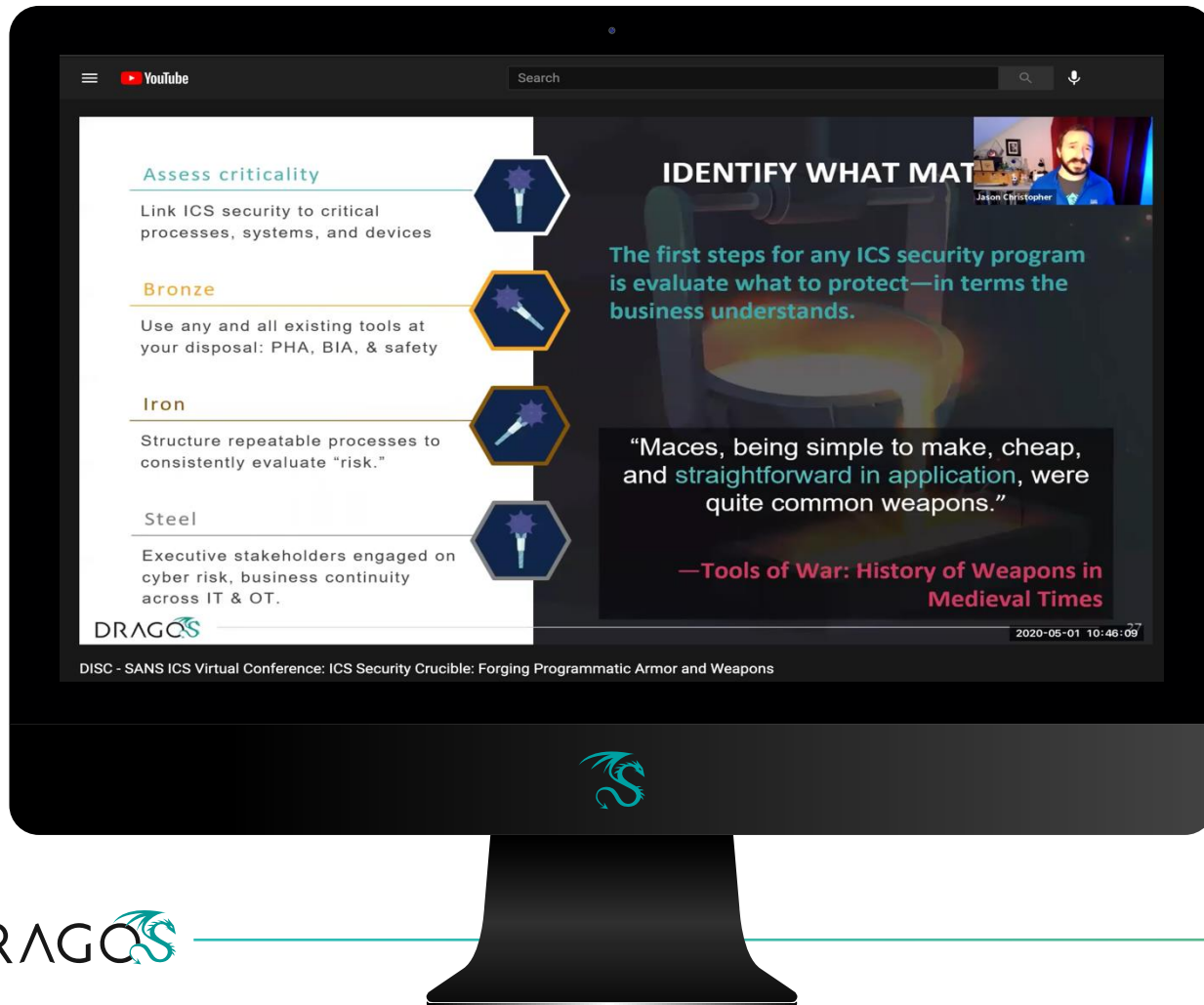
When a 0 or 1 impacts the physical world.

Devices and systems include:



# Not the first time...

Other presentations on “starting”



Way, way back... in 2020

- Explored the **ICS Security Crucible**
- Built a starting point and assess maturity for *any* OT security program
- Used medieval weapons

<https://hub.dragos.com/on-demand/sans-virtual-ics-security-crucible>

By 2023, ***75% of organizations will restructure risk and security governance*** to address converged IT, OT, Internet of Things (IoT), and physical security needs, an ***increase from fewer than 15%*** in 2021.

– Gartner

# Why now?

## Workforce

Growing base of skilled ICS security practitioners in need of team leaders and managers

## Governance

Boards and executives increasingly highlight industrial cyber risk as a top concern

## Projects

Increased connectivity in technology deployments requiring ICS security project management

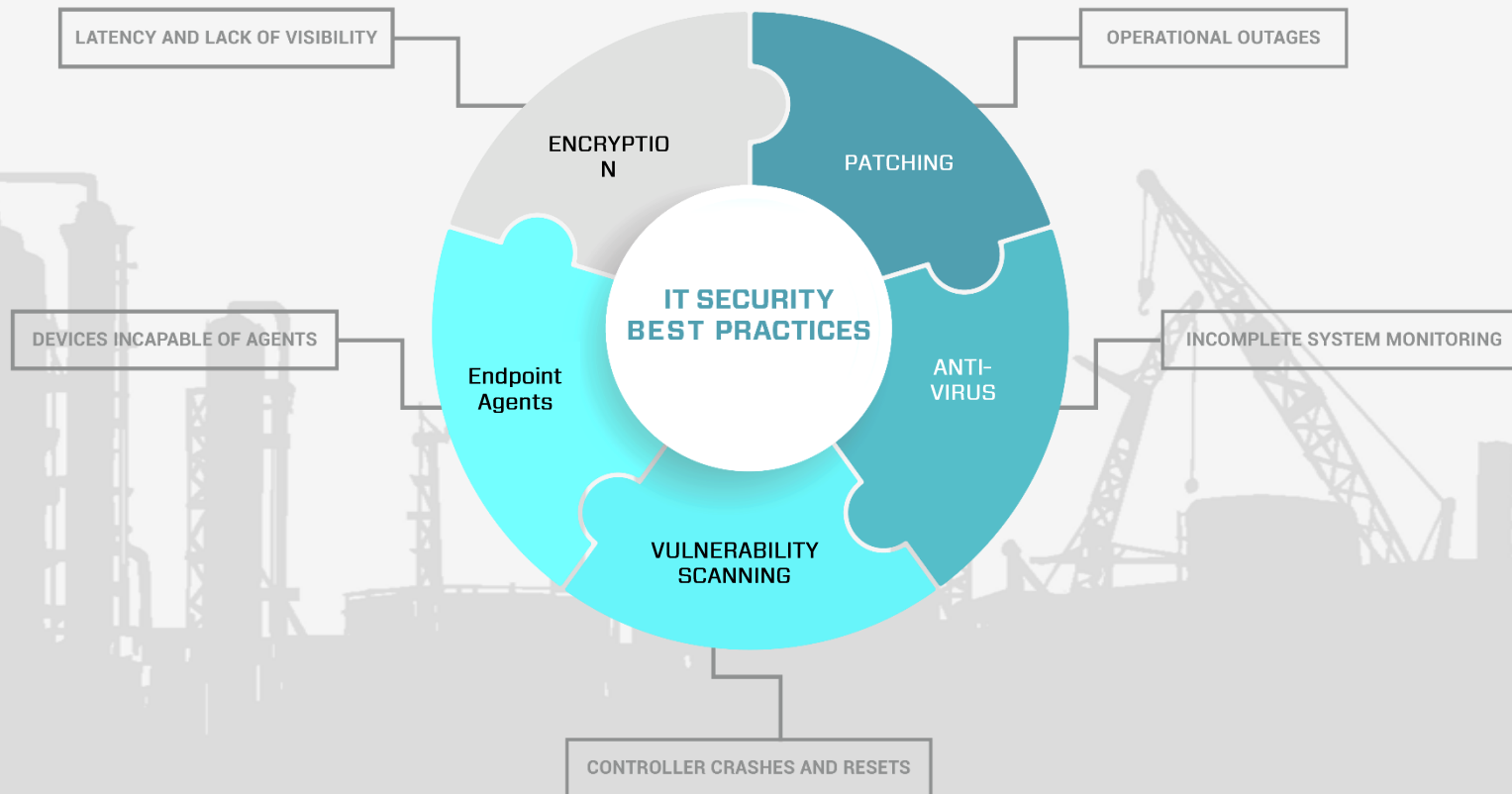
## OT vs. IT

Specific impacts to security controls, incident response, and risk evaluation within OT environments

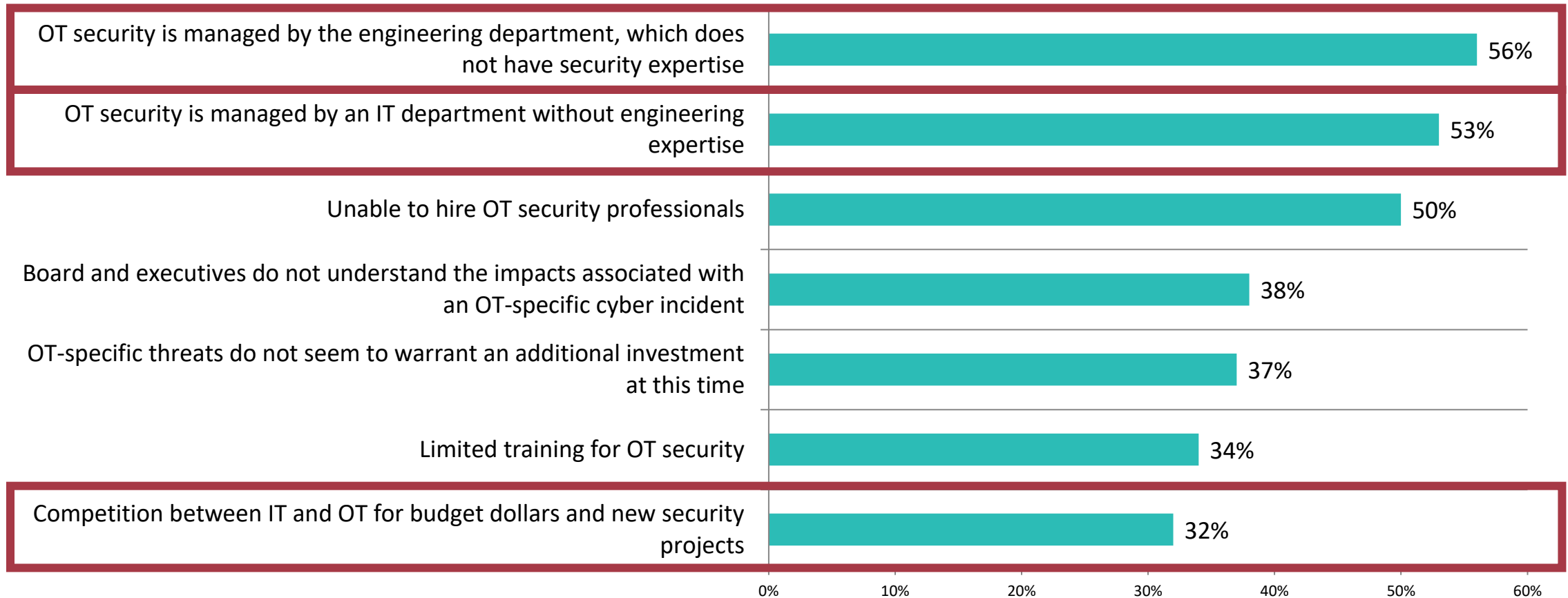
## Culture

Increased focus on safety and reliability as a “wrapper” for security

# Not all security controls are equal

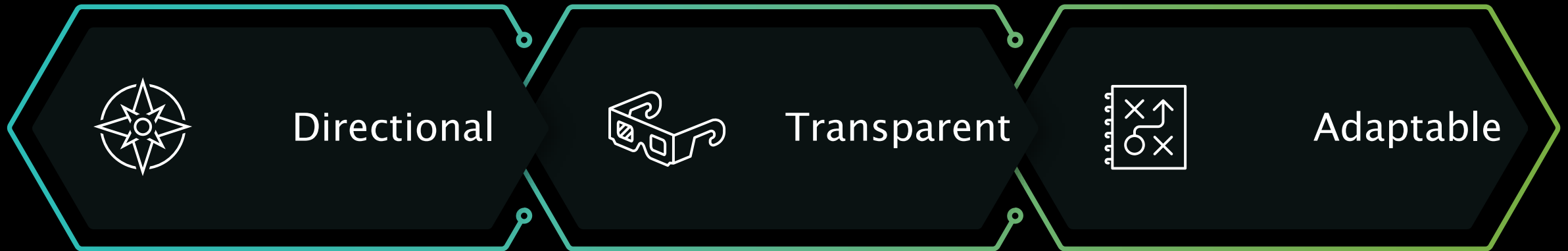


# Insights to Challenges



# Using Roadmaps

A deceptively simple solution



Roadmaps help:

- Align business objectives to cyber risk
- Prioritize projects and programmatic improvements

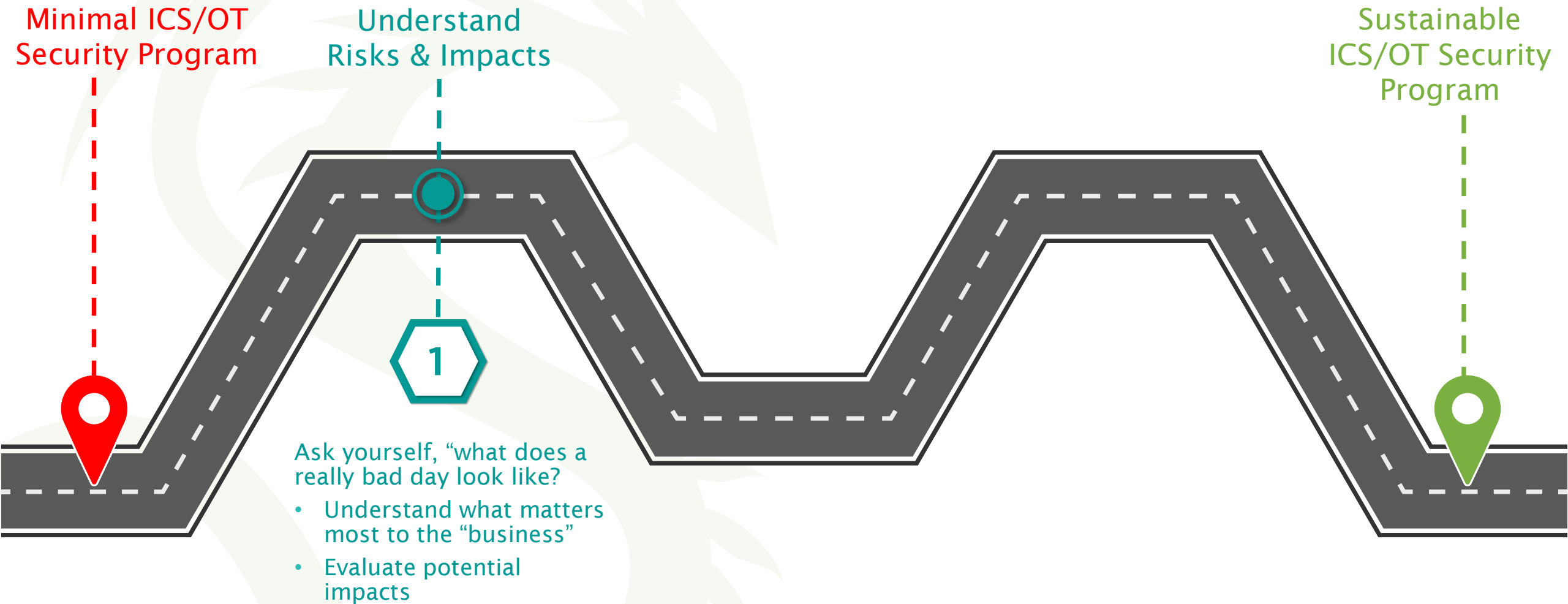
When broadly shared, they also:

- Provide insights into resourcing needs
- Can be tied to threat trends and incidents

Roadmaps are not:

- Auditable standards
- Written in stone
- Replacements for cyber risk governance models

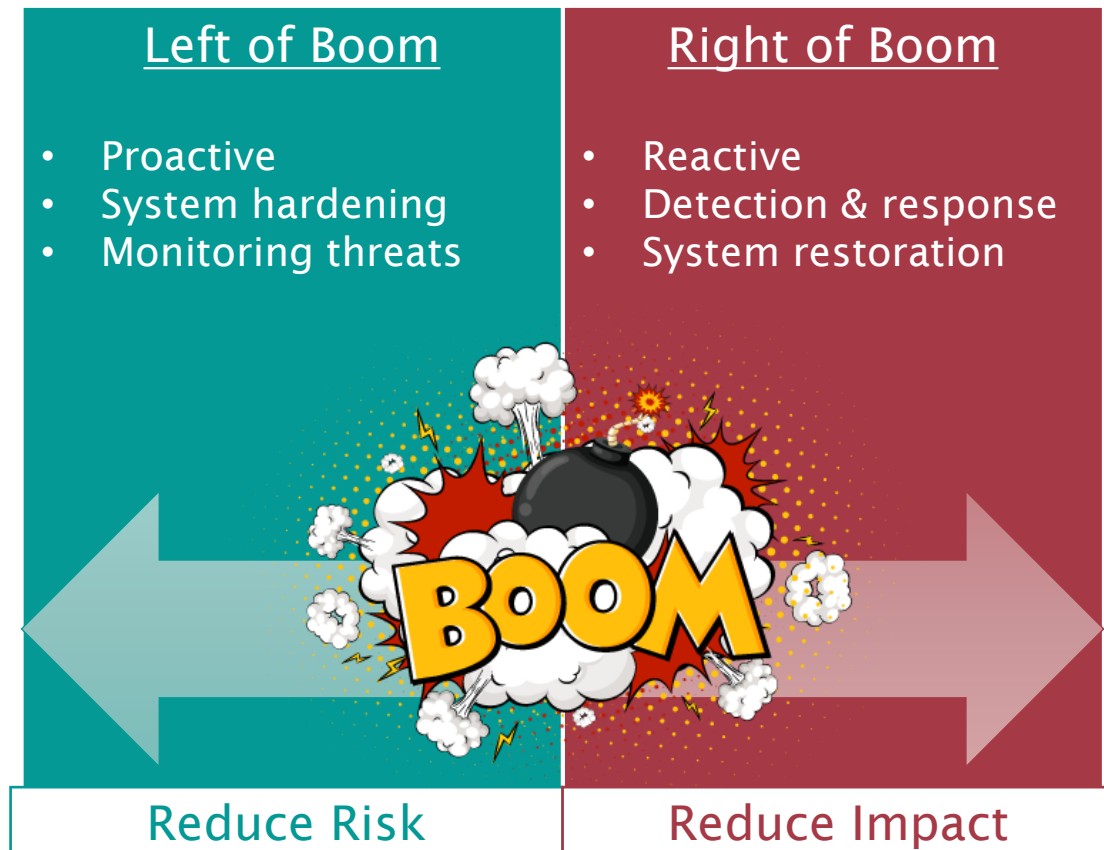
# How do we get there?



# Understand Risks & Impacts



## Bad days and crown jewels



DESCRIPTION	IMPACT RANKING
<b>Financial:</b> Up to \$X losses in recovery costs and property damage. <b>Safety:</b> Possibility of minor injury; no fatalities. <b>Business Continuity:</b> Very short term (up to X days) business interruption/expenses. <b>Environmental:</b> No environmental impacts. <b>Reputational:</b> No reputational harm or loss of public confidence. <b>National:</b> Little or no impact to business sectors beyond the organization. Little to no impact on community services.	Very Low
<b>Financial:</b> \$X to \$Y losses in recovery costs and property damage. <b>Safety:</b> On-site injuries that are not widespread; no fatalities or injuries anticipated off-site. <b>Business Continuity:</b> Short term (>X days to Y weeks) business interruption/expenses. <b>Environmental:</b> Minor environmental impacts to immediate incident site area only, less than X year(s) to recover. <b>Reputational:</b> Low loss of reputation or public confidence; possible regulatory query; significant local press coverage. <b>National:</b> Potential to impact a business sector or local community services.	Low
<b>Financial:</b> Over \$X to \$Y losses in recovery costs and property damage. <b>Safety:</b> Possibility of widespread on-site injuries; no fatalities or injuries anticipated off-site. <b>Business Continuity:</b> Medium term (X weeks to Y weeks) business interruption/expenses. <b>Environmental:</b> Environmental impacts to on-site and/or off-site impact, Y year(s) to recover. <b>Reputational:</b> Medium loss of reputation or public confidence; regulatory action; national press coverage. <b>National:</b> Potential to impact a business sector or local community services.	Moderate
<b>Financial:</b> Over \$X to \$Y losses in recovery costs and property damage. <b>Safety:</b> Possibility of X to Y on-site fatalities; possibility of off-site injuries. <b>Business Continuity:</b> Long term (X months to Y months) business interruption/expenses. <b>Environmental:</b> Very large environmental impacts to on-site and/or off-site impact, Y to Z year(s) to recover. <b>Reputational:</b> High loss of reputation or public confidence; legal prosecution; extensive national press coverage. <b>National:</b> Impacts to business sectors beyond the organization. Disruption to community services.	High
<b>Financial:</b> Over \$X losses in recovery costs and property damage. <b>Safety:</b> Possibility of any off-site fatalities from large-scale disaster; possibilities of multiple on-site fatalities. <b>Business Continuity:</b> Very long term (over X months/years) business interruption/expenses. <b>Environmental:</b> Major environmental impacts to on-site and/or off-site, more X years/poor chance to recover. <b>Reputational:</b> Very high loss of reputation or public confidence; international press coverage. <b>National:</b> Impacts to business sectors beyond the organization. Disruption to community services or national economy.	Very High

## Historic

- Real events based on data from your organization, industry, or peers
- No explanation needed for plausibility
- Can be evaluated with minor internal information requests

VS

## Hypothetical

- Hypothetical, yet plausible, events that may reasonably occur with a set impact
- Plausibility requires business unit input
- Requires judgement, trained resources, and understanding of the business unit

An industrial cyber risk management approach for OT must include both.

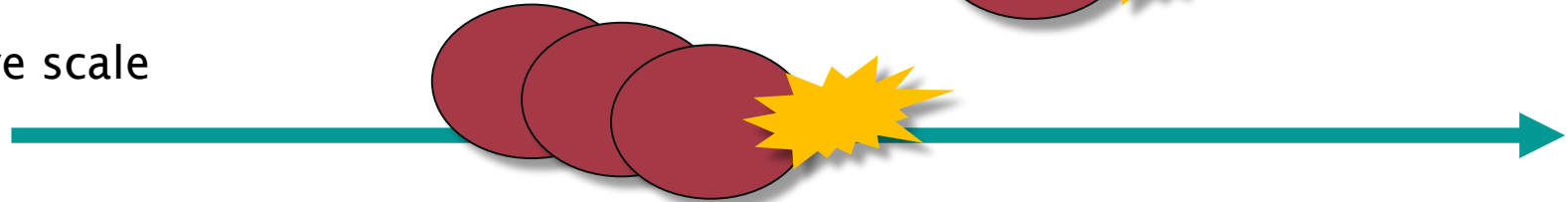
# Scenario Scale Considerations

Choose your own adventure

One scenario, massive scale



Multiple scenarios, massive scale



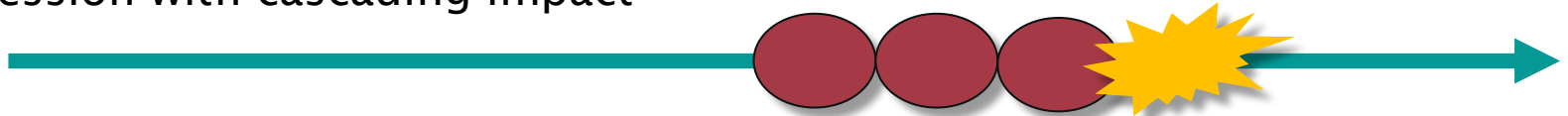
Multiple scenarios at small scale simultaneously



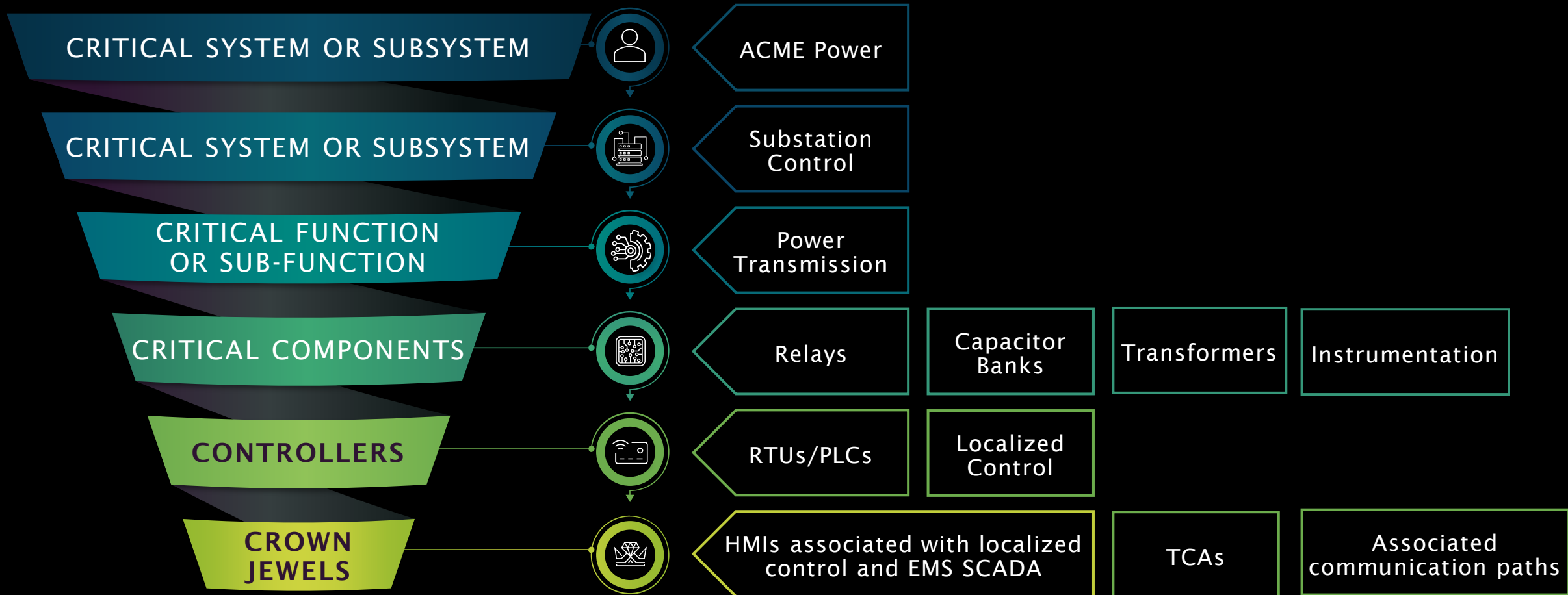
Multiple scenarios at small scale over time



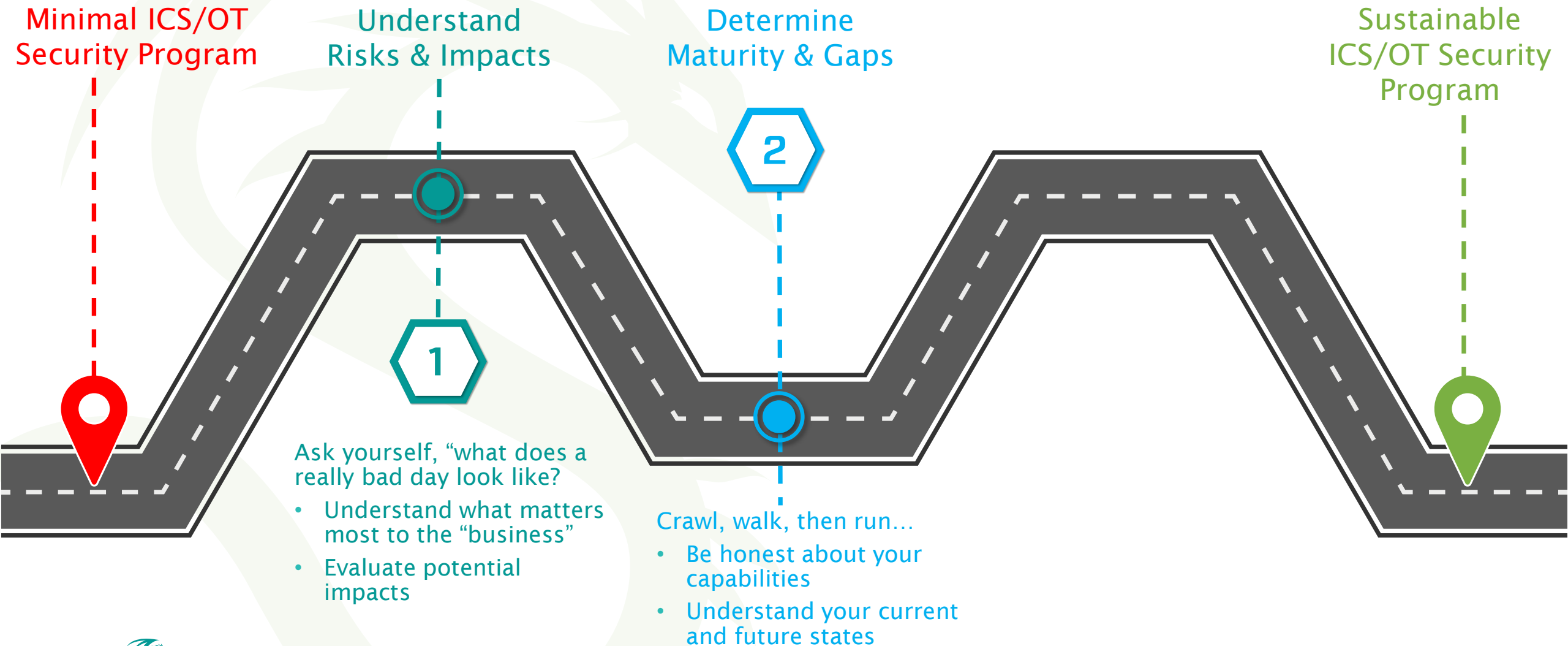
Multiple scenarios in succession with cascading impact



# Related “Crown Jewels”



# How do we get there?



# What do we mean by “maturity?”

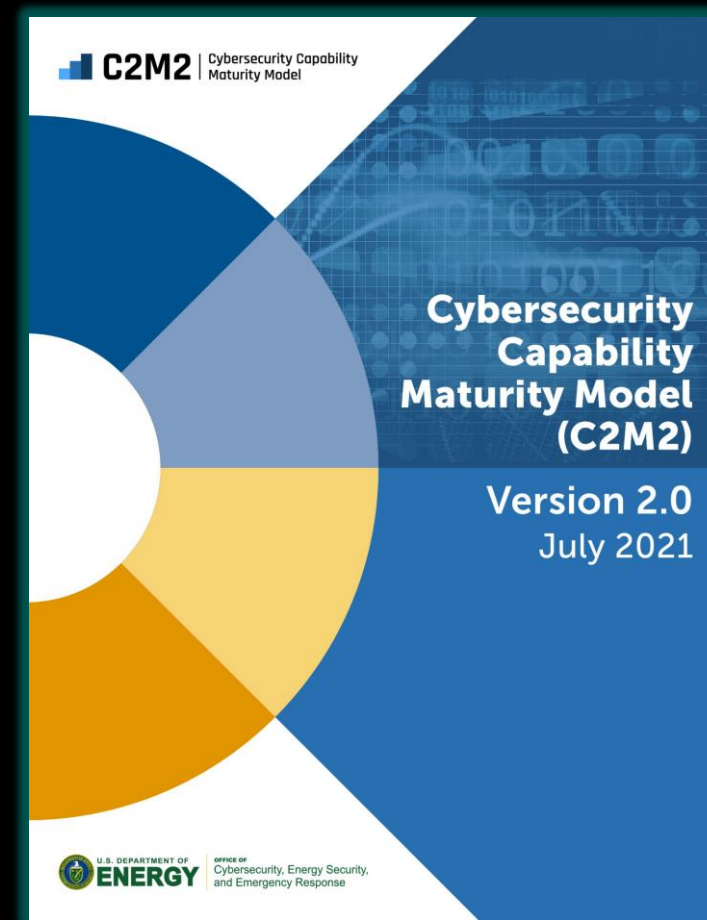
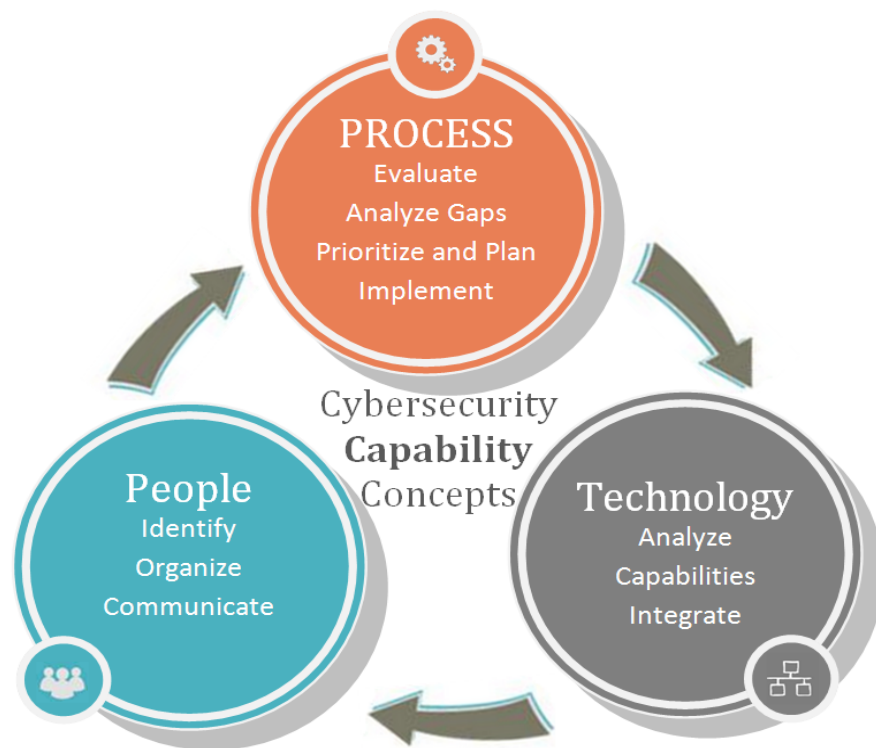


These various “Maturity Indicator Levels” (MILs) can *indicate* potential areas for growth.

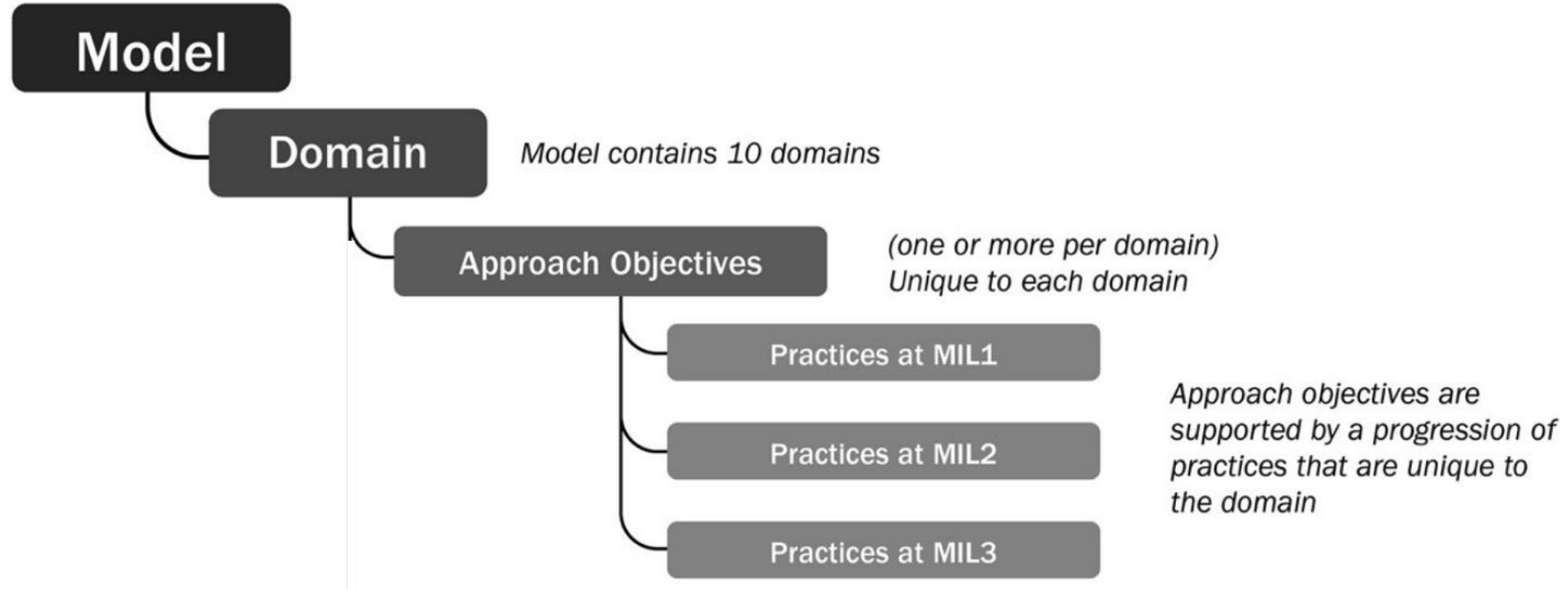
# Determine Maturity & Gaps



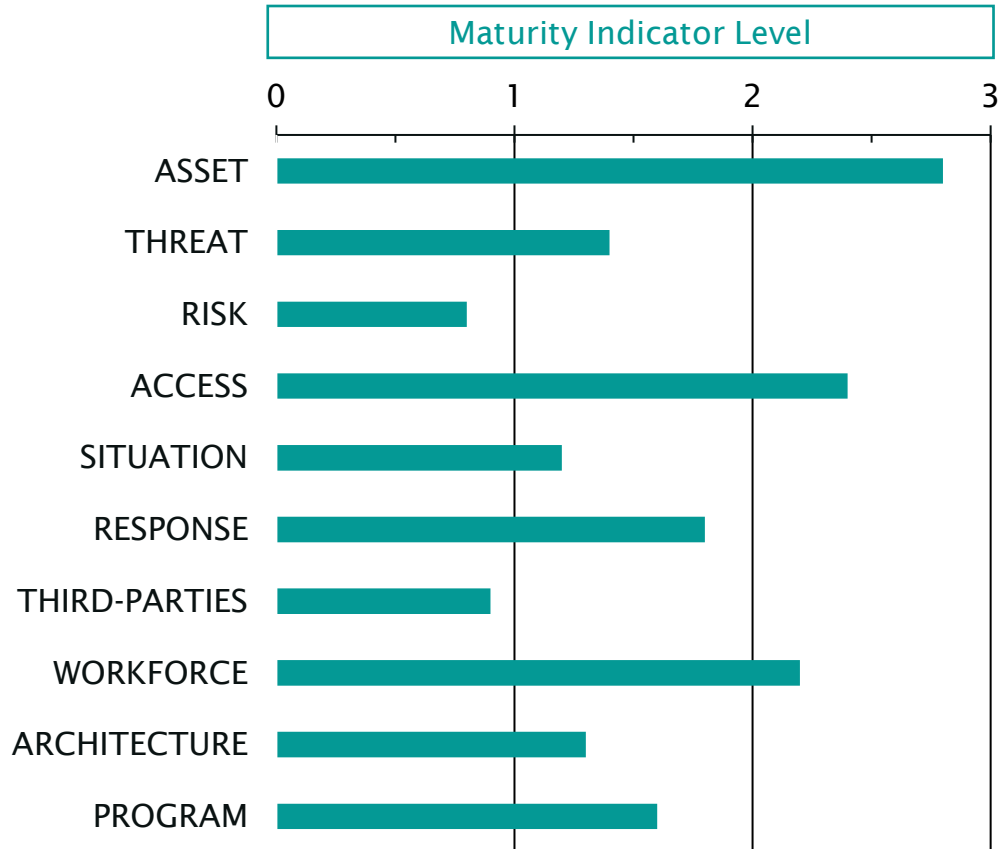
## Evaluating capabilities



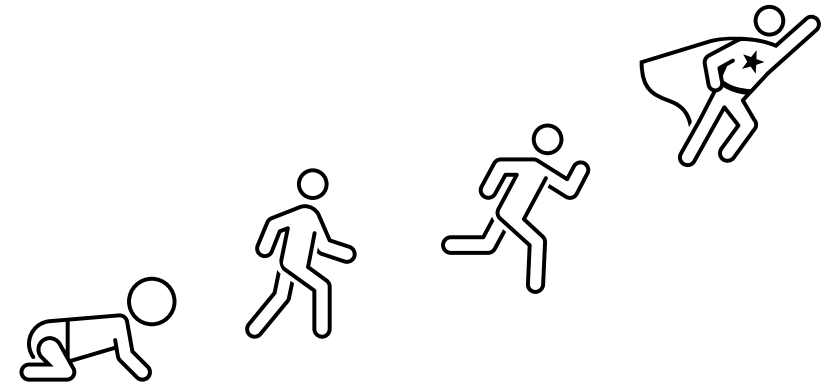
# Organization of a Domain



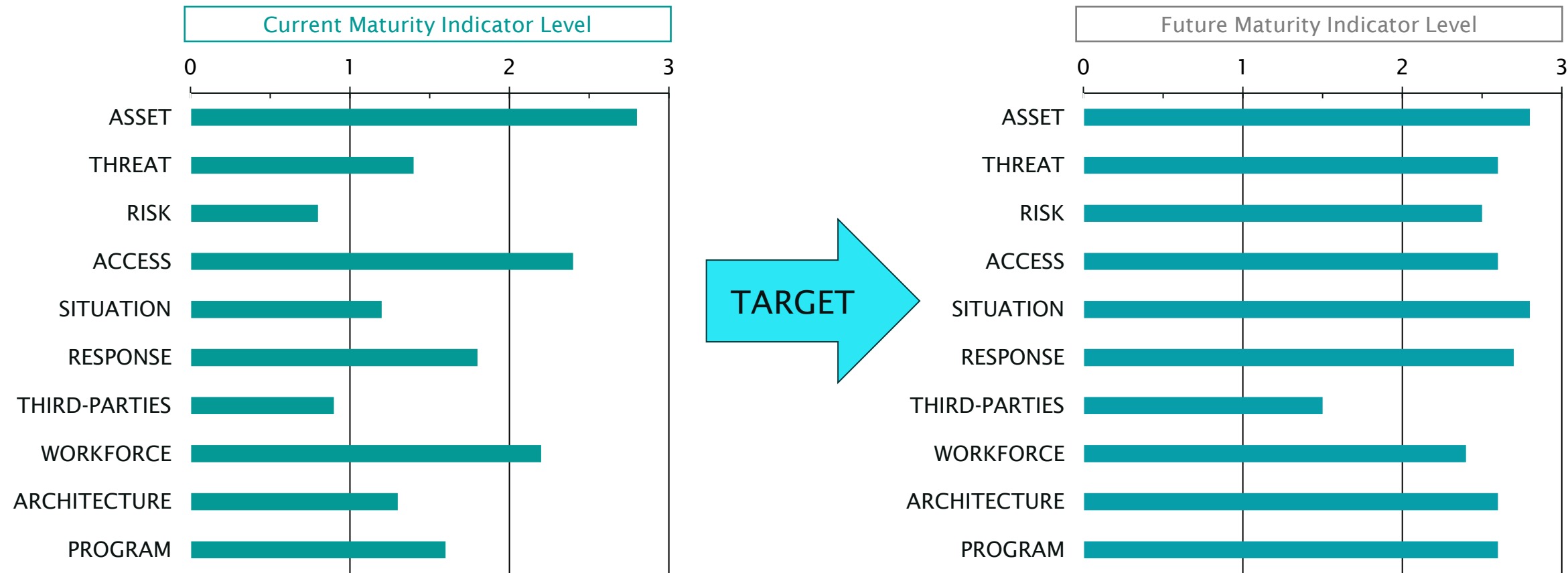
# Current and Future States



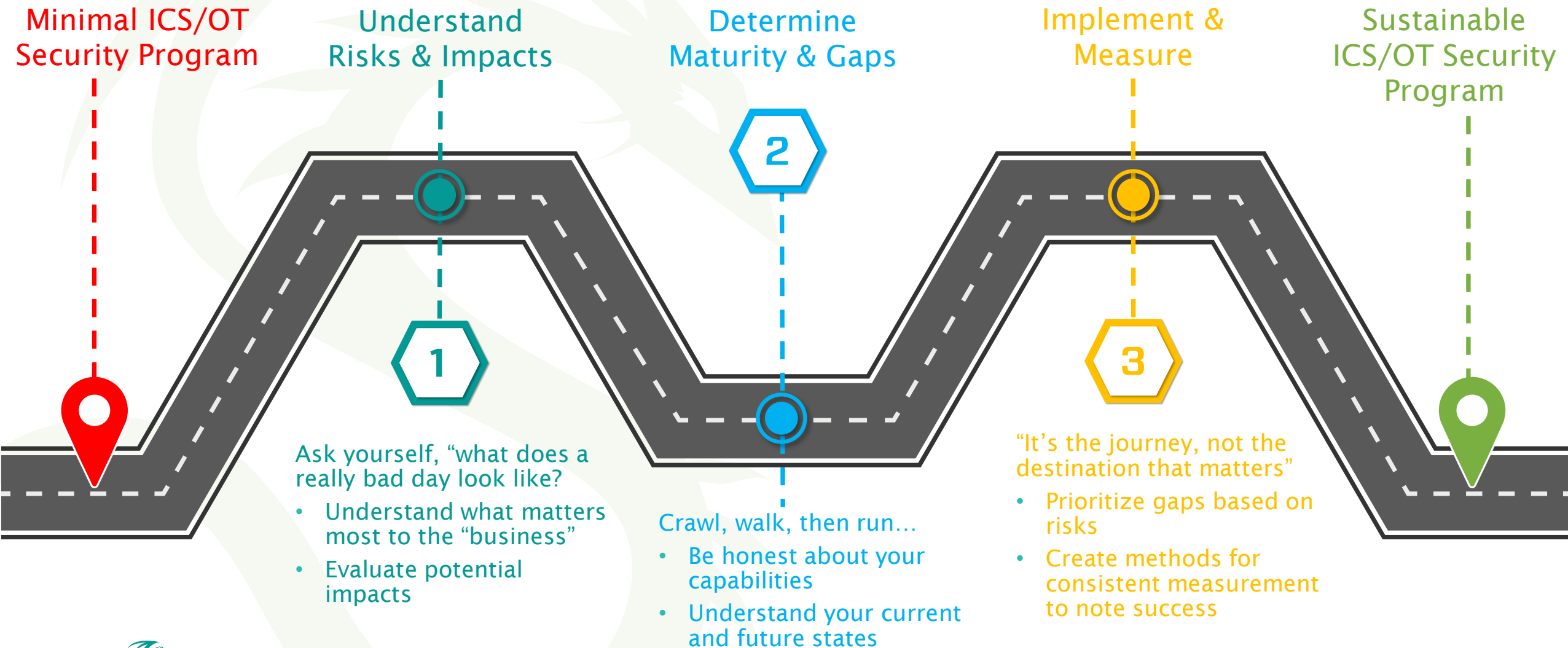
Maturity models can help establish “where you are” in your journey, based on the resources you have, applied to a crawl-walk-run approach.



# Current and Future States



# How do we get there?



# Implement & Measure

## Practical use of risk registers

ID	PRIORITY	RISK DESCRIPTION	RISK CATEGORY	INDUSTRIAL CYBER RISK EVALUATION						RISK RESPONSE	COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS	RISK OWNER	STATUS
1	Very High	An advanced threat activity group targets our safety systems, leading to complete plant shut down and associated property damage.	Cyber Incident: Loss of Safety	\$70.5M	M	M	L	M	L	Install additional OT monitoring at the plant. Increase operator training for incident response and recovery.	\$350k for monitoring & training.	Plant Management	Open
2	Moderate	ICS vendor is compromised, resulting in malware sent to all field devices in the form of a “legitimate” software update.	Cyber Incident: Supply Chain Compromise	\$1.2M	M	M	L	M	M	Include procurement language for supply chain risk. Add technical evaluation to all patch management cycles.	\$50k for insurance & an additional \$150k for new patch management and supply chain recommendations	OT Security Team	Open
3	Low	Operator uses infected USB to transfer project files across plant operations. Untargeted malware causes network latency issues.	Cyber Incident: Engineering Workstation Compromise	\$750k	L	L	L	L	L	Limit ports and services across Level 3 and Level 2 assets, including physical ports. Include additional security awareness for plant personnel.	\$25k in hourly work to create OT-based strategy for plant operations and USB protections.	Plant Management	Open

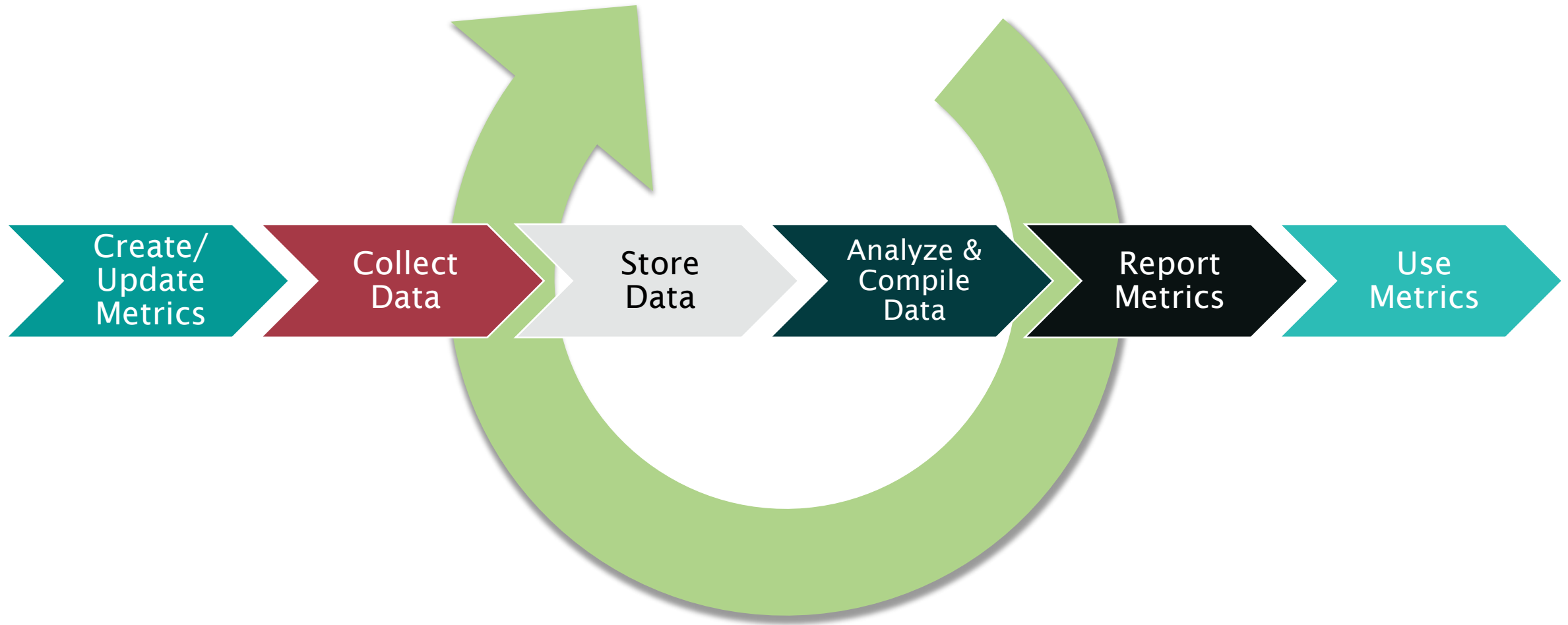
A risk register is:

- One stop shop for high-level risk discussions
- A management and tracking tool

A risk register is not:

- Static: it must be used to be useful
- Magic: risks still need to be managed!

# Metrics and more indicators!



# A quick word on “measuring what matters”

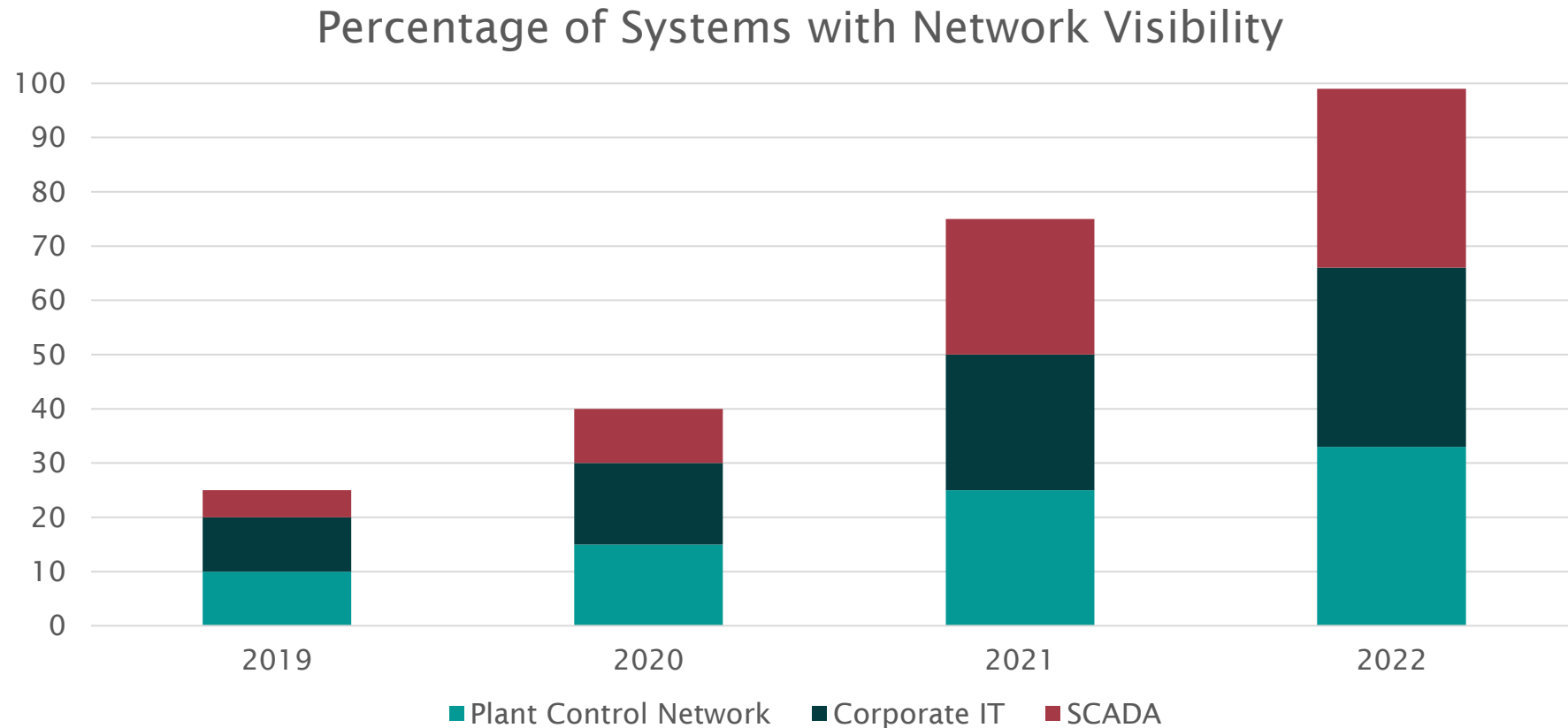
Not all measurements are equal

- State goals and benefits
- Identify data sources (both automated and manual)
- Understand how goals/benefits relate to data
- Create a series of metrics to support

Goal	KPI	Benefit	Data Needed
Decrease potential down time from ICS cyber incident	Mean-Time-to-Fix (MTTF)	Demonstrates IR team's effectiveness	Hours spent on incidents
	Incidents Requiring Manual Clean-up	Highlights trend of IR requiring manual effort	IR tickets and total number of incidents with malware
	Number of ICS security skills per employee	Track and improve IR team capabilities	HR and training information

# Too advanced?

Then pick what works for you. The right first metric could be as simple as:



# PROTECTING THE CROWN JEWELS



**“PROTECTION IS IDEAL,  
DETECTION IS A MUST”**



# Real-life Application

## Manufacturing Use Case



### Initial discussion

“How good are we doing?” led to an in-depth discussion on crown jewels and the architecture within the relevant systems.

Unsurprisingly– issues were found.



### Quick Wins

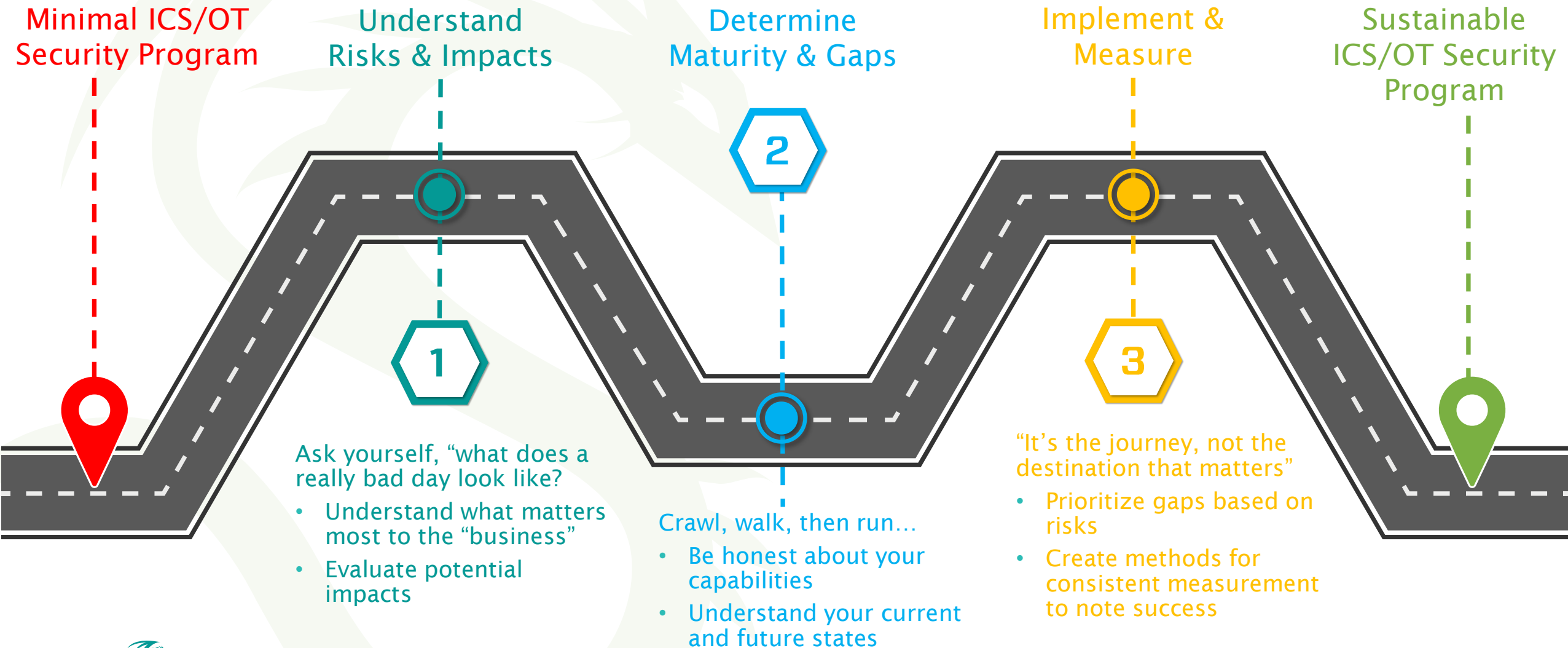
Immediate remediation with both “low hanging fruit” and high severity issues across incident response, network visibility, and system hardening.



### Scorecards and Success

Only one year later, established a more robust program linking projects to maturity levels, board and executives were more aligned to OT and IT cyber risk relationships.

# How do we get there?



# Questions?