



Demystifying Zero Trust

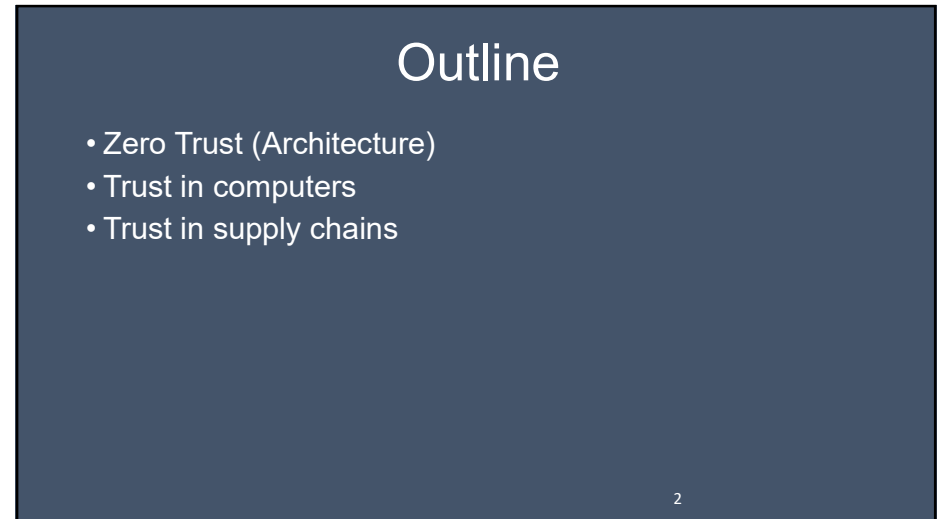
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Secappdev – 14 June 2023

KU LEUVEN

COSIC

nextAuth
Best in mobile user authentication

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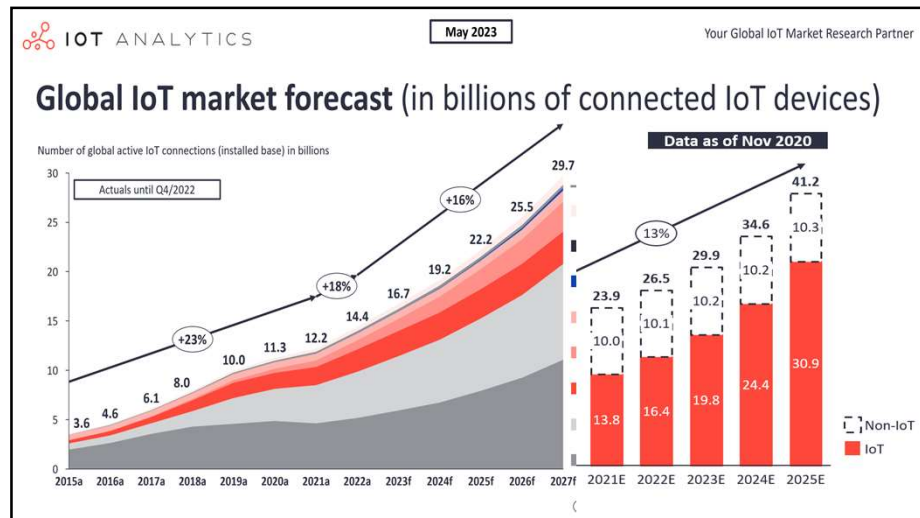


Outline

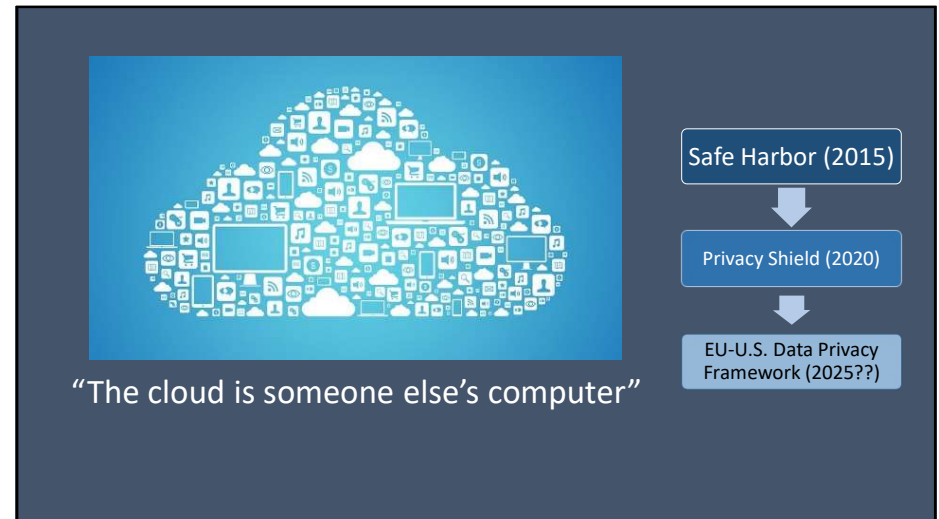
- Zero Trust (Architecture)
- Trust in computers
- Trust in supply chains

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“The cloud is someone else’s computer”

Safe Harbor (2015)

↓

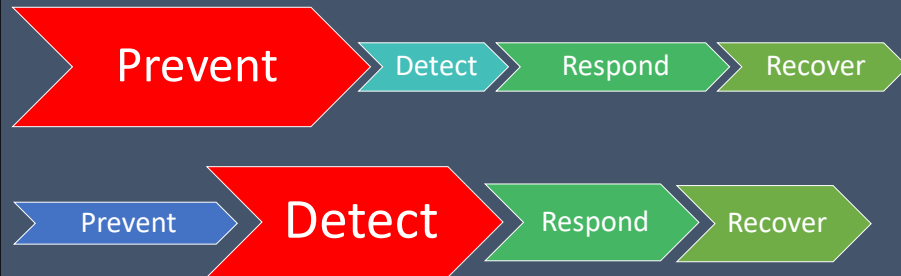
Privacy Shield (2020)

↓

EU-U.S. Data Privacy Framework (2025??)

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Paradigm shift (2000s)



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Continuous monitoring and analysis of all humans and devices



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IT environment



Walled fortress

- closed doors, physical isolation
- security as protection
- defend data, networks and systems



Open metropolis

- open, unbounded, interconnected
- trust as an enabler
- share content and resources
- protect data

Zero trust access/architecture
[Stephen Paul March, 1994]
[US DOD, Black Core, 200x]
[Jericho Forum, 2003]
[BeyondCorp, 2009]
[Kindervag, 2010]

Explicit granting of trust
Continuous evaluation
Least privilege



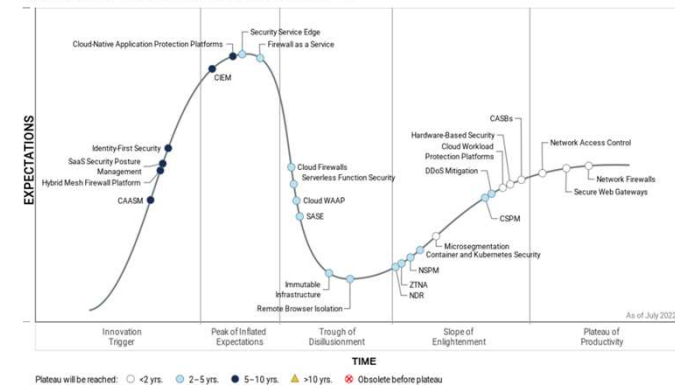
Feudal system

- impose central rules
- data for protection
- loss of control

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Hype Cycle for Workload and Network Security, 2022

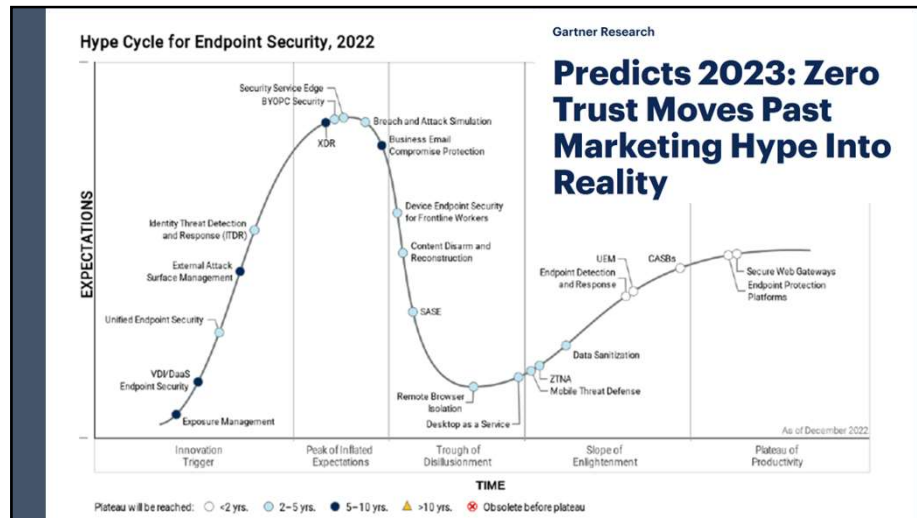


Source: Gartner (July 2022)

Gartner

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What does the industry say?

- Google: application authentication, cloud security model [BeyondCorp]
- Cisco: zero trust networking
- Crowdstrike: identity threat protection
- Banks: Fraud detection based on contextual information

Rather vague concept around mediated access
network -> application -> VM -> data



Credit: Patrick Duvanel

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Some principles

- Continuous verification: never trust, always verify access, all the time, for all resources
- Limit the blast radius: minimize the impact if an internal or external breach occurs
 - Identity based segmentation
 - Least privilege
- Automate context collection and response: incorporate behavioral data and get context from the entire IT stack
 - User credentials, workloads, endpoints,

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Zero trust: Architectural concept across all layers

Recommended reading:
https://tsapps.nist.gov/publication/get_pdf.cfm?pub_id=930420

NIST Special Publication 800-207

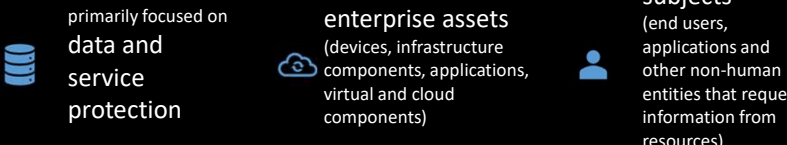
Zero Trust Architecture

Scott Rose
Oliver Borchert
Stu Mitchell
Sean Connelly

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Zero Trust: not a single architecture but a set of guiding principles for workflow, system design and operations



The diagram illustrates the three pillars of Zero Trust. On the left, a database icon represents 'data and service protection', described as 'primarily focused on'. In the center, a cloud icon represents 'enterprise assets', which include 'devices, infrastructure components, applications, virtual and cloud components'. On the right, a person icon represents 'subjects', which are 'end users, applications and other non-human entities that request information from resources'.

primarily focused on
data and service protection

enterprise assets
(devices, infrastructure components, applications, virtual and cloud components)

subjects
(end users, applications and other non-human entities that request information from resources)

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NIST: Zero Trust Definition



The diagram shows a network of nodes (cylinders) connected by lines, representing a Zero Trust architecture. The text describes it as a 'cybersecurity paradigm focused on resource protection and the premise that trust is never granted implicitly but must be continually evaluated'.

cybersecurity paradigm focused on resource protection and the premise that **trust is never granted implicitly** but must be continually evaluated

- collection of concepts and ideas
- enforcing accurate, least privilege per-request access decisions in information systems and services
- network viewed as compromised

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NIST: Zero Trust Architecture Definition



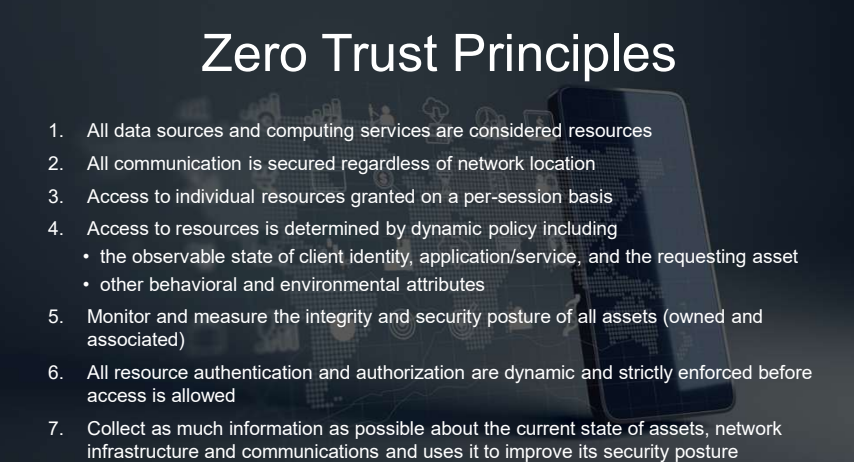
The diagram shows a network of nodes (cylinders) connected by lines, representing a Zero Trust architecture. The text describes it as an 'end-to-end approach to enterprise resource and data security that encompasses identity (person and non-person entities), credentials, access management, operations, endpoints, hosting environments, and the interconnecting infrastructure'.

end-to-end approach to enterprise resource and data security that encompasses identity (person and non-person entities), credentials, access management, operations, endpoints, hosting environments, and the interconnecting infrastructure

- enterprise's cybersecurity plan encompassing component relationships, workflow planning, and access policies
- includes network infrastructure (physical and virtual) and operational policies

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Zero Trust Principles



The diagram shows a smartphone with a world map background, representing Zero Trust principles. The text lists seven principles:

1. All data sources and computing services are considered resources
2. All communication is secured regardless of network location
3. Access to individual resources granted on a per-session basis
4. Access to resources is determined by dynamic policy including
 - the observable state of client identity, application/service, and the requesting asset
 - other behavioral and environmental attributes
5. Monitor and measure the integrity and security posture of all assets (owned and associated)
6. All resource authentication and authorization are dynamic and strictly enforced before access is allowed
7. Collect as much information as possible about the current state of assets, network infrastructure and communications and uses it to improve its security posture

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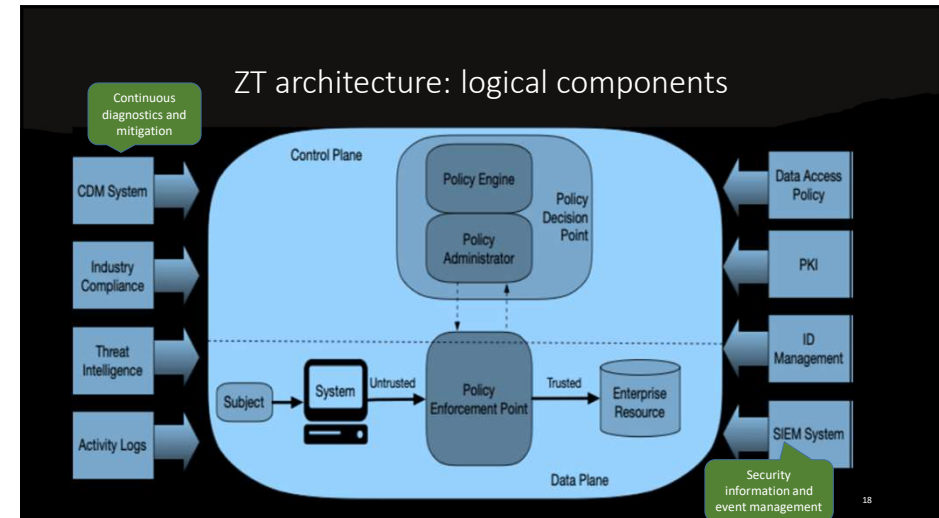


ZT networks

1. The entire enterprise private network is not considered an implicit trust zone
2. Devices on the network may not be owned or configurable by the enterprise
3. No resource is inherently trusted
4. Not all enterprise resources are on enterprise-owned infrastructure
5. Remote enterprise subjects and assets cannot fully trust their local network connection
6. Assets and workflows moving between enterprise and non-enterprise infrastructure should have a consistent security policy and posture

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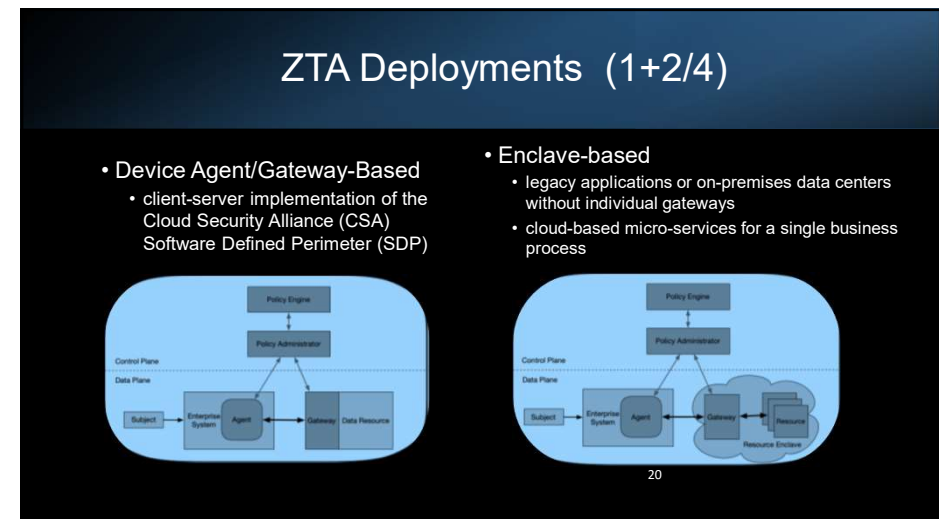
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ZTA Approaches

- Enhanced Identity Governance: resource portal model or cloud-based applications/services
 - Open network: risk of DDOS
- Micro-segmentation: gateway component act as PEP
 - Next generation firewall or host-based
- Network Infrastructure and Software Defined Perimeters:
 - overlay network
 - Software Defined Networking (SDN)
 - intent-based networking (IBN)

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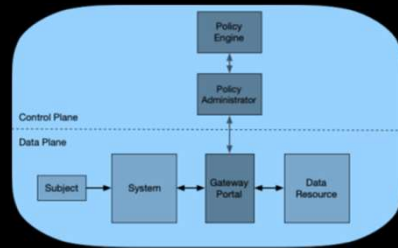
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ZTA Deployments (3/4): Resource portal model

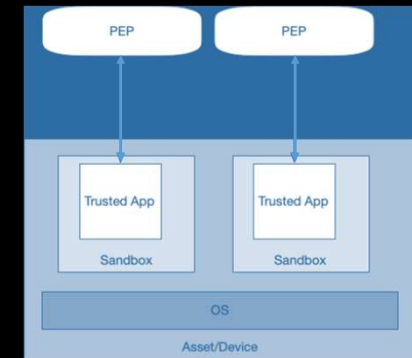
- PEP is a single component that acts as a gateway for subject requests
 - No need to deploy agent on device
 - Less control over device
 - Less visibility
 - Risk for DOS



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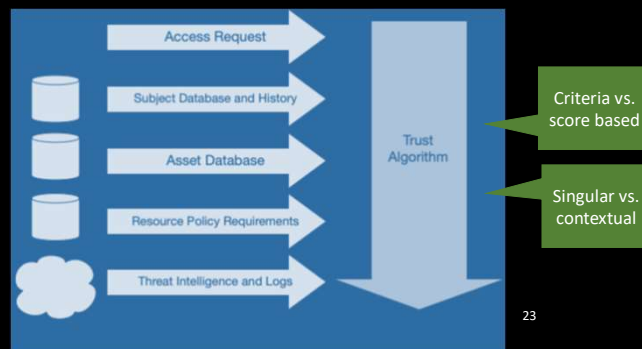
ZTA Deployments (4/4): Device Application Sandboxing

- Individual applications are segmented from the rest of the asset
- Less visibility into client assets
- Application needs to be secure



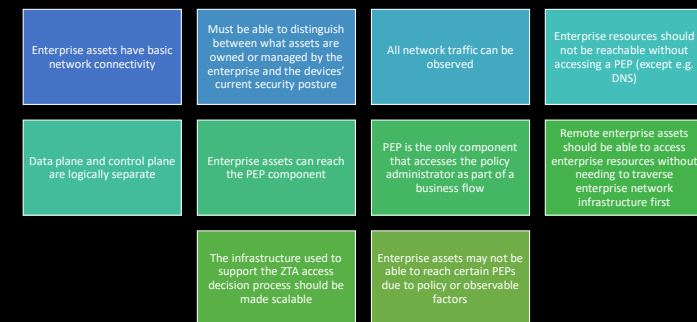
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Trust Algorithm: process used by the policy engine to ultimately grant or deny access to a resource



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ZT network requirements



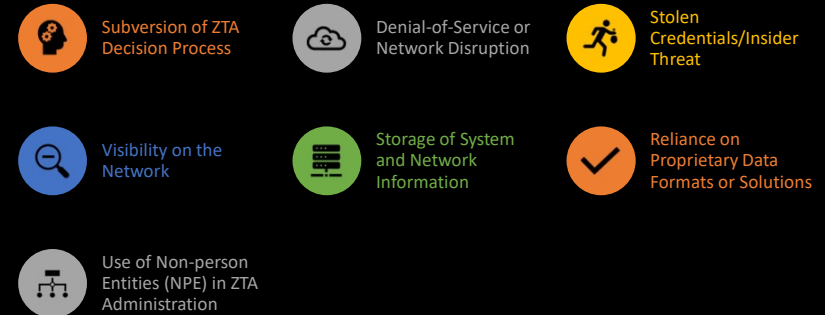
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ZT deployment scenarios



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ZT does not mean Zero Threats



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ZT implementation challenges

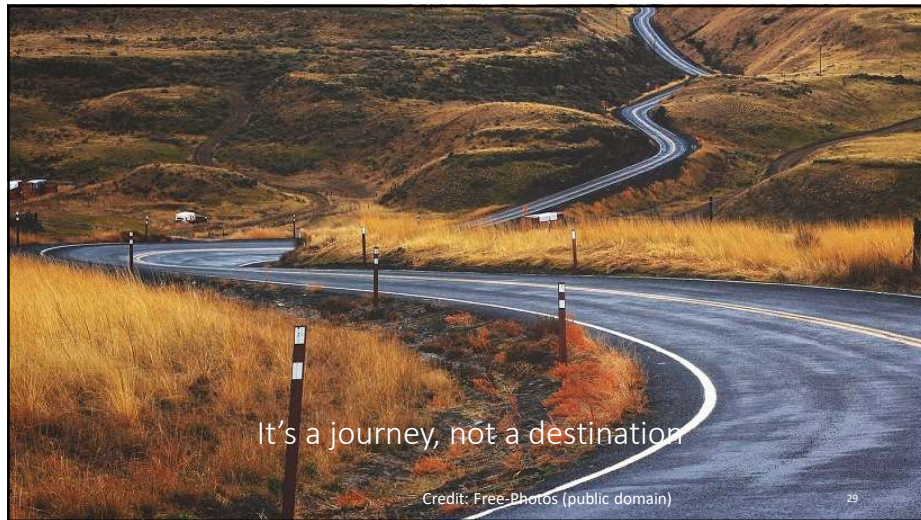


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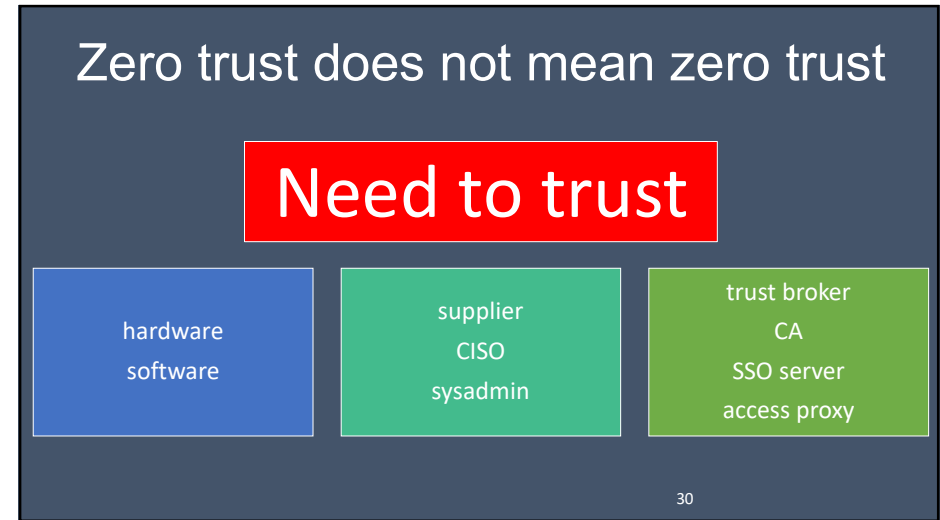
Gartner

- Zero trust is top of mind for most organizations as a critical strategy to reduce risk in their environments, but very few organizations have completed the scope of their zero-trust implementations.
- Zero trust addresses specific risks in the environment, such as restricting lateral movement on networks and limiting third party and insider threat damages, but not all risks are addressed by a zero-trust posture.
- Moving from theory to practice with zero trust is challenging. It is easy to fall into the trap of deploying point zero-trust solutions without developing a strategy, resulting in failed zero-trust project attempts.

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What is a secure computer? (one you can fully trust)

- a computer placed in a basement with no windows and a well-protected door
- with no network connections
- locked up in a vault
- ...and switched off



computer security: “the protection resulting from all measures to deny unauthorized access and exploitation of friendly computer systems”

L. M. Molho: Hardware Aspects of Secure Computing, International Workshop on Managing Requirements Knowledge, Atlantic City, NJ, USA, 1970, p. 135

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Software security

“it's turtles all the way down”

preacher Joseph Frederick Berg (1854):

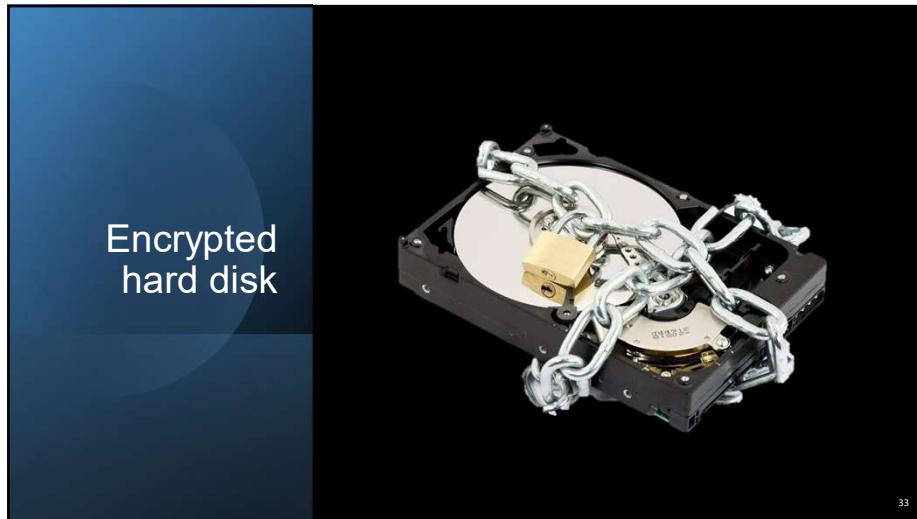
My opponent's reasoning reminds me of the heathen, who, being asked on what the world stood, replied, “On a tortoise.”

But on what does the tortoise stand? “On another tortoise.”

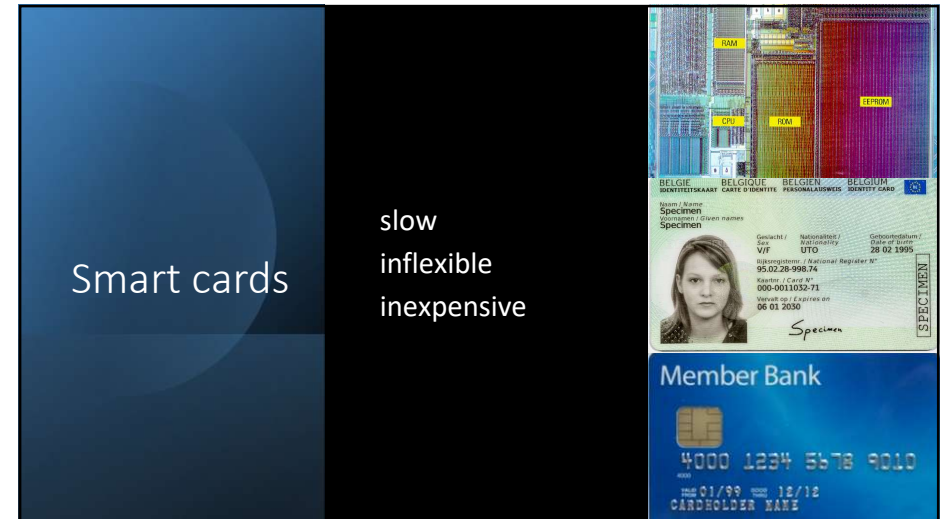
With Mr. Barker, too, there are tortoises all the way down.



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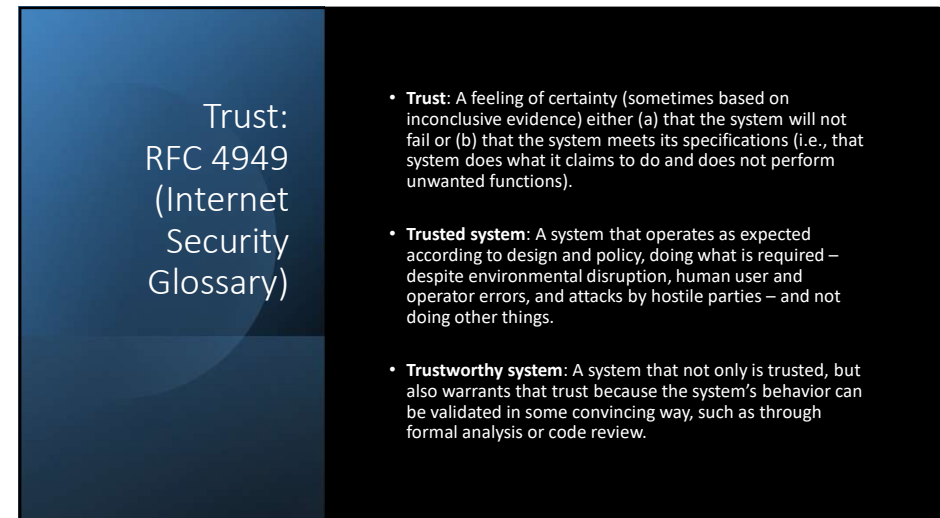
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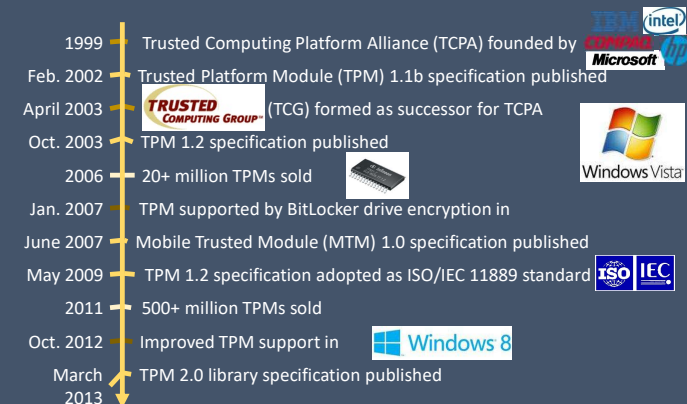
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Trust definitions - revisited

- Trusted Computing Group (TCG) definition
 - “an entity can be **trusted** if it always behaves in the expected manner for the intended purpose.”
- some people now regret the name **Trusted Computing**
 - Trustworthy Computing* or maybe *Trustable Computing* could be a better name, but it is too late to change

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Early History of Trusted Computing



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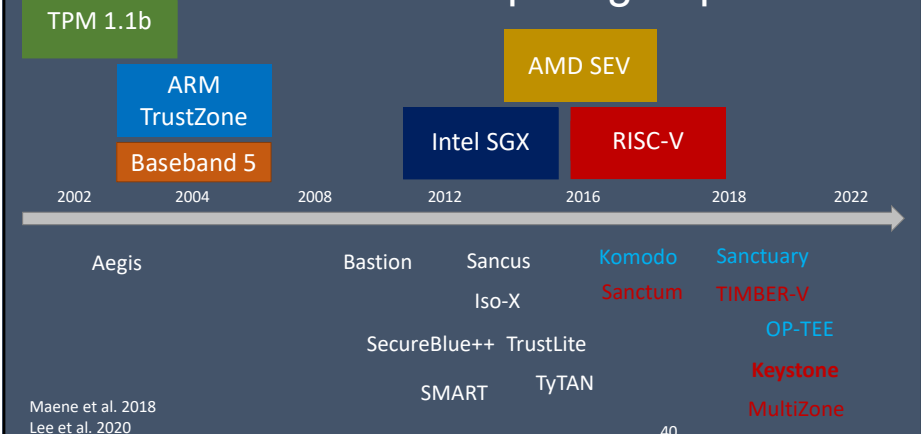
Cryptographic Instructions

- 2009-2011: Intel/AMD add instructions for
 - AES
 - PCLMULQD – multiplication over finite field
- Authenticated encryption:
 - 2010: GCM mode at < 10 cycles/byte
 - 2022: AES OCB: 0.6 cycles/byte
 - 2022: AEGIS: 0.25 cycles/byte

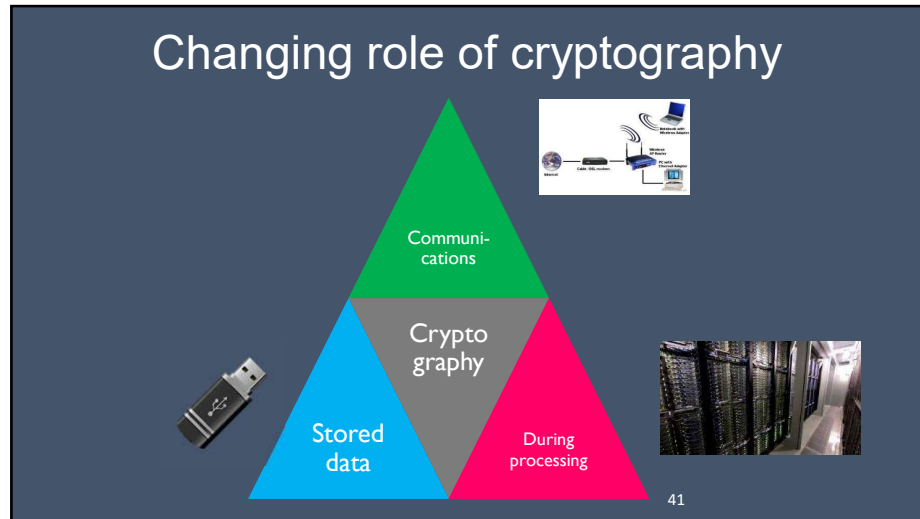


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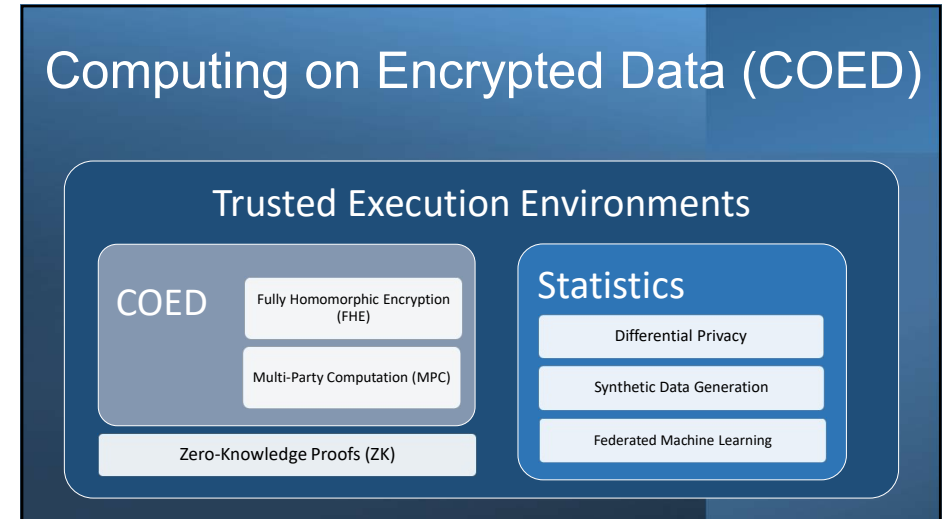
Trusted Computing Explosion



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(U) Capabilities
(TS//SI//REL TO USA,FVEY) RAGEMASTER provides a target for RF flooding and allows for easier collection of the VAGRANT video signal. The current RAGEMASTER unit taps the red video line on the VGA cable. It was found that empirically, this provides the best video return and cleanest readout of the monitor contents.



(U) Concept of Operation
(TS//SI//REL TO USA,FVEY) The RAGEMASTER taps the red video line between the video card within the desktop unit and the computer monitor, typically an LCD. When the RAGEMASTER is illuminated by a radar unit, the illuminating signal is modulated with the red video information. This information is re-radiated, where it is picked up at the radar, demodulated, and passed onto the processing unit, such as a LFS-2 and an external monitor, NIGHTWATCH, GOTHAM, or (in the future) VIEWPLATE. The processor recreates the horizontal and vertical sync of the targeted monitor, thus allowing TAO personnel to see what is displayed on the targeted monitor.

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Solar Winds: SUNBURST (2020)

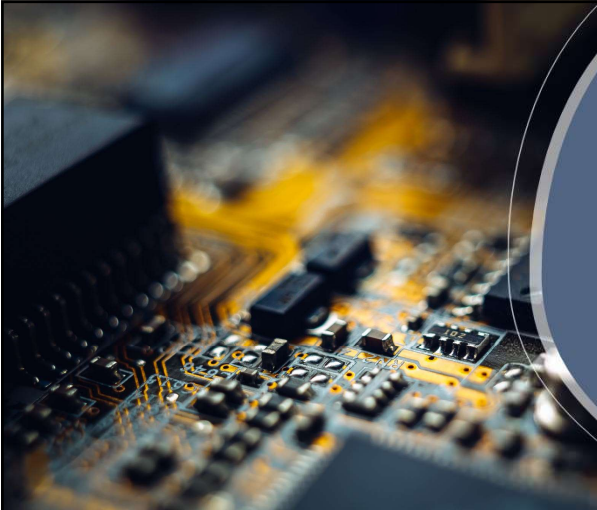
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020_United_States_federal_government_data_breach

- Pre March – December 2020
- 18000+ organizations worldwide
- Supply chain of Microsoft and SolarWinds + weaknesses in VMWare
- Likely Russia's Foreign Intelligence Services (SVR)



Defense, Labor, Energy, State, National Institutes of Health, Commerce, Homeland Security, Treasury, Agriculture, Justice, NATO, the U.K. government, the European Parliament, Microsoft, Cisco,...

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How to achieve a trustworthy supply chain for software and hardware?

Very hard problem
More than technology

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Axiomatic Basis of Trust

		
Accept without evidence	Based on accountability	Supply chain source selection
Reputation of source ISO cert. People cert.	Institutions Processes	Secret purchase Random selection

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Analytic Basis of Trust



Observation
Testing (never exhaustive)



Deductive
Verification
Model checking

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Synthesized Basis of Trust: based on components and the way they are put together



Smaller trusted computing base
e.g. hypervisor



Split device fabrication



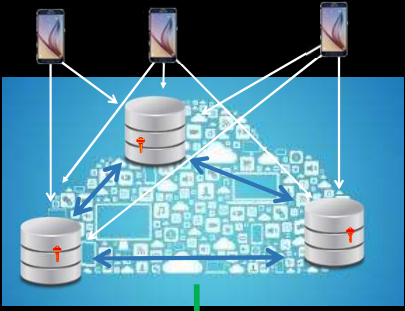
Fault tolerant systems
blockchains
secure MPC

Secure composition
External monitor for catastrophic failures

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MPC (Multi-Party Computation)



+ secrets shared over multiple servers
+ moderate computation
- high communication overhead

Trust cryptographers
Trust implementers
Trust integrators
Trust your device to operate correctly
Trust your device to protect its data/keys

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Analytic Trust: Technical depends on complexity, application, access by vendor post deployment

01
Testing
• Testing never exhaustive, e.g. VW

02
Isolation

03
Attestation

04
Distribution
• Blockchain
• Secure MPC

05
Encryption
• FHE

Technical cost

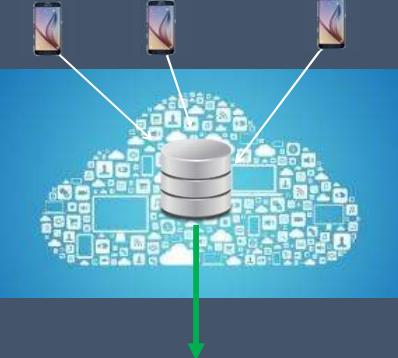
Competition Issues

Transparency (to whom)

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Fully Homomorphic Encryption



- + single server
- + low communication
- high computation cost
- simple functions: basis statistics, neural networks

Trust cryptographers
Trust implementers
Trust integrators
Trust your device to operate correctly
Trust device that stores the decryption key

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Axiomatic Trust: Corporate Governance

implementation of technology requires people and processes

- Exists for accounting: GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles)
- ISO 27000, NIST cybersecurity framework: partial

Design	Operations	Effective
• Based on business • Takes into account industry practice + legal framework • comprehensive •	• Integrated with operational activity • Auditable • C-level commitment • Workable •	• Continuous improvement • Internal and external audit • Historical record •

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Axiomatic Trust: Nation-State Policy and Law

Informal influence	Formal law
• Everything between compelled to and might please	• Interference with national influence: narrowly drawn and independent arbiter

Transparency	Right to contest (in advance?)	Selective enforcement	Independent decision maker
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Towards a Framework to Evaluate Trust

Transparency	Accountability
Independent evaluation	Provable analytic verification rather than axiomatic non-verifiable approach

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Key questions

How does one build an artifact that is trustworthy?

How does one assess the trustworthiness of the artifact?

How does one decide to treat an artifact as trustworthy?

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Avoid a single point of trust that is a single point of failure

Architecture is politics [Mitch Kapor'93]

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Open (source) solutions

Effective governance

Transparency for service providers



EU-FOSSA

EU Free and Open Source Software Auditing

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Conclusions



Zero trust does not mean zero trust
Trustworthy computing has non-technical dimension
Rethink architectures: distributed
Open technologies and review by open communities

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KU LEUVEN **COSIC**
nextAuth Next in mobile user authentication



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Hard National Security Choices

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TRUSTWORTHINESS IN HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE

How Can One Know When To Trust Hardware and Software?

By **Paul Rosenzweig, Benjamin Wittes** Monday, May 2, 2022, 3:36 PM

<https://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/21831749/creating-a-framework-for-supply-chain-trust-in-hardware-and-software.pdf>

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