Overcoming Security Automation Roadblocks

Overcoming Myths, Determining Best Practices

About the Presenter

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Automation Myths Obscure Reality

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Myth: Automation means fewer jobs

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Automation should supplement, not replace

- Analysts are being inundated with alerts
- Too much time spent on mundane, repeatable tasks
- Automation should supplement, not replace
- Allow analysts to focus on tasks which require human intervention

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Myth: Security it too complex to automate

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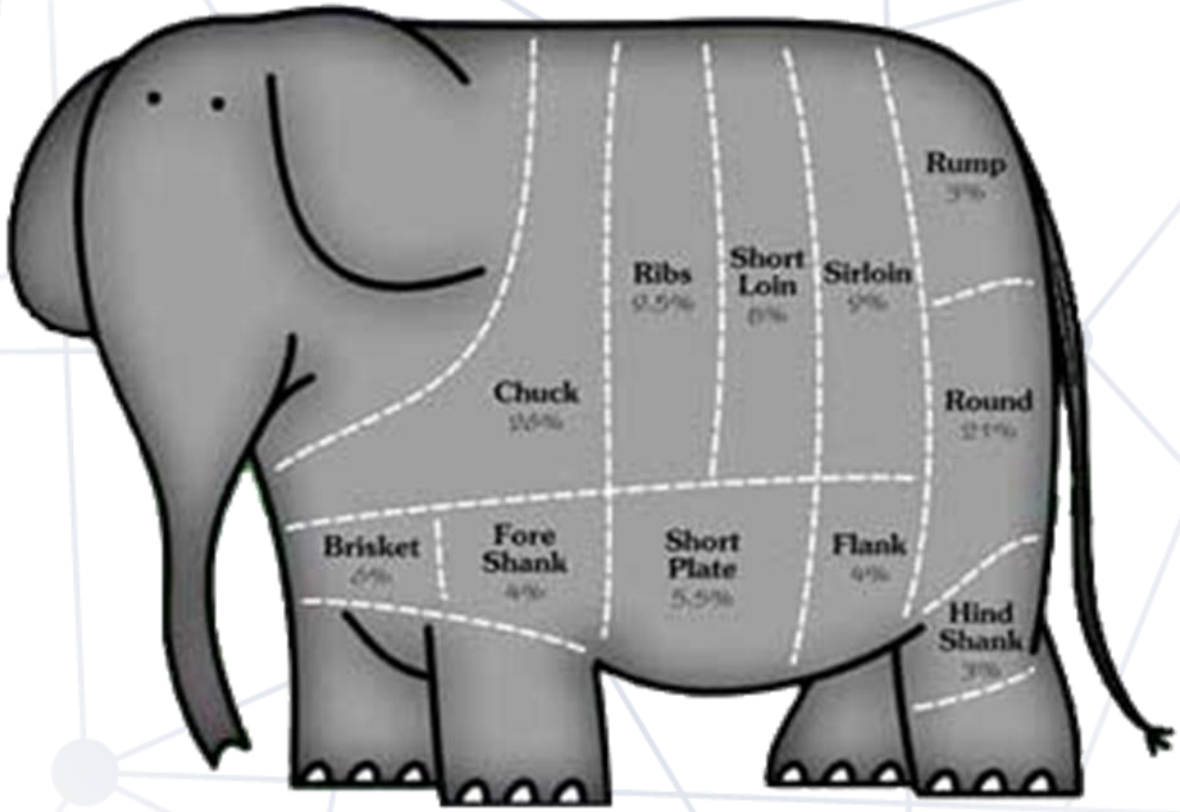
Start with small, manageable bites



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Myth: Automation is dangerous

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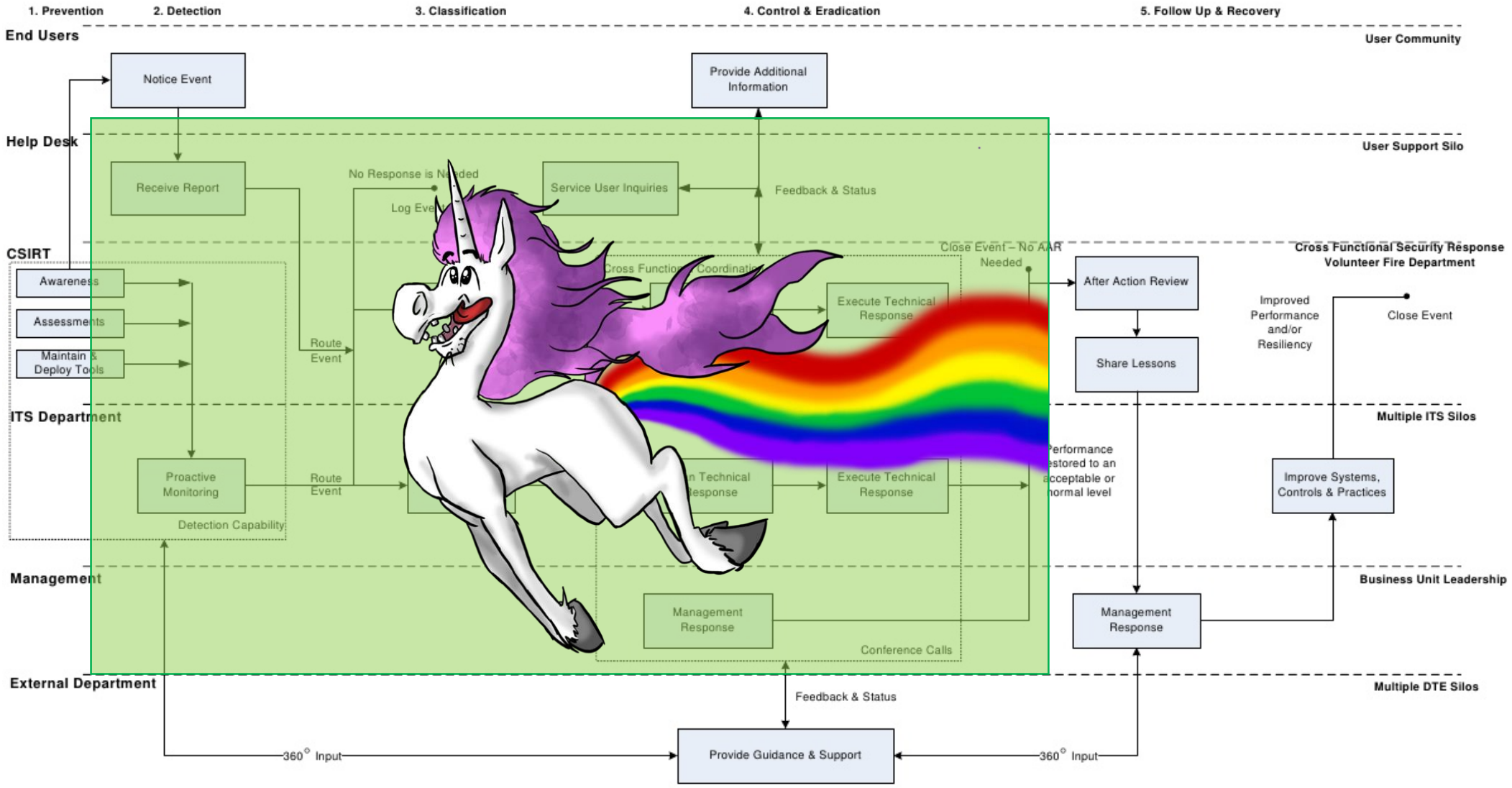

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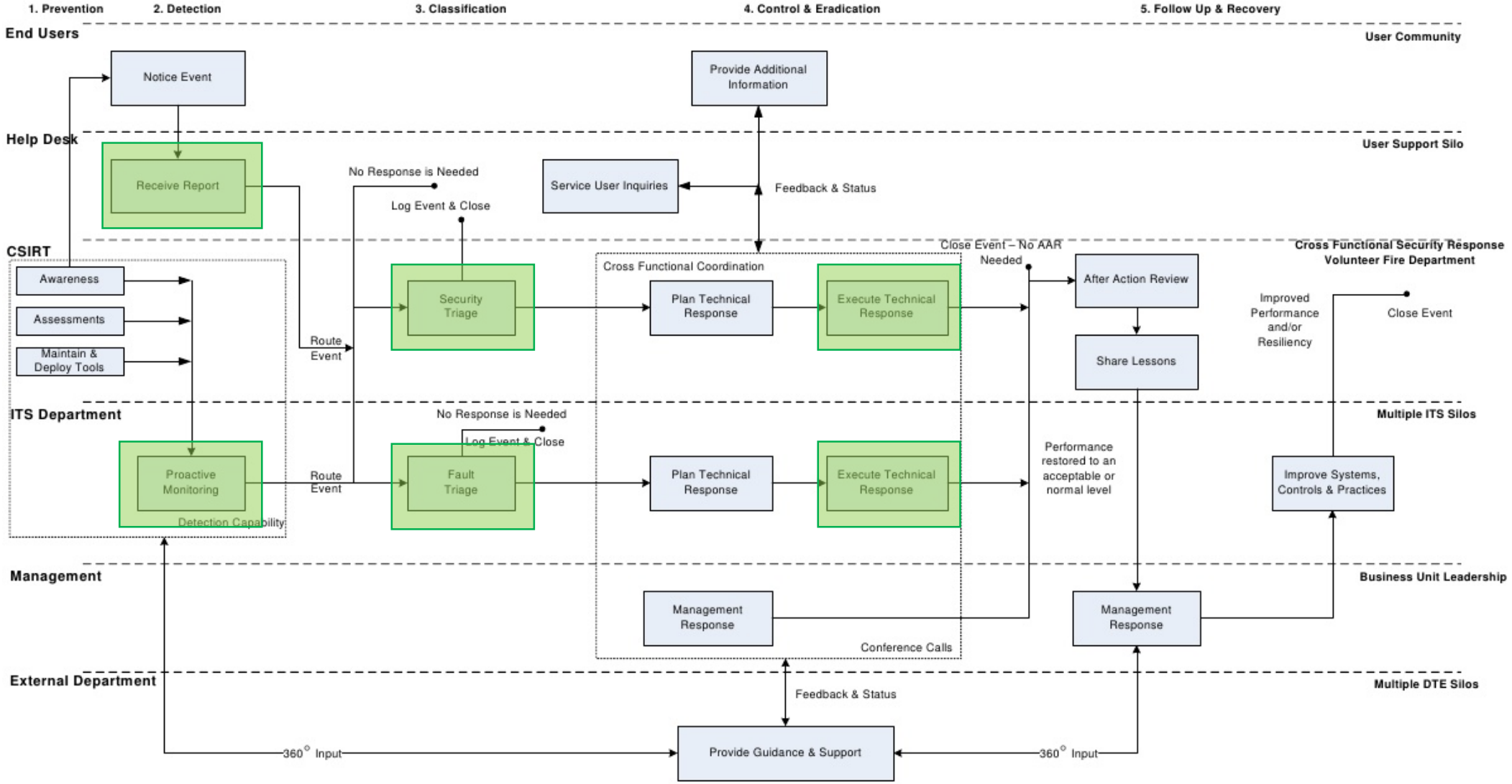

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Best Practices = Best Results

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Why Automate?

- Have measurable goals in mind:
  - Automate the repetitive, mundane tasks
  - Decrease time to respond to an incident
  - Act as a force multiplier for security teams
  - Respond in a documented, repeatable manner
  - Reduce risk

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Identifying Processes to Automate

- Review all security processes and tools
  - Which tools can be easily automated?
  - Which processes are consistent and predictable?
  - Which processes are repetitive?
  - Which processes require little human intervention?
  - Which processes are taking too much time?

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Getting Started

- Small, easy to automate processes
- Well documented, well understood processes
- Quickly and easily show value
- Build out from there…

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Human are not the Enemy!

- The goal is *NOT* to remove humans from the process
- Automation and analysts should complement each other
- Include human interaction at critical junctions or decisions

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Common Use Cases

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Phishing Email

- ✓Query threat data for:
  - Embedded links
  - Sender email
  - IPs in header
- ✓Scan email attachments
- ✓Scan embedded URLs
- ✓Check for other instances
- ✓Quarantine email
- ✓Notify users

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Proxy Alert - URL

- ✓Query threat data
- ✓Get domain info
- ✓Get A records
- ✓Geolocate IPs
- ✓WHOIS queries
- ✓Access URL via Sandbox
- ✓Query Proxy or SIEM logs
- ✓Block domain

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IDS Alert

- ✓Query threat data
- ✓Geolocate IPs
- ✓Reverse DNS
- ✓WHOIS queries
- ✓Traceroute
- ✓Query Proxy or SIEM logs
- ✓Simulate network traffic
- ✓Block IP

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Questions?

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Thanks!

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