

Abstract geometric lines in the top-left corner of the slide, consisting of several overlapping, irregular polygons and lines that create a complex, layered effect.

# MASTERING THE (EXTRA)ORDINARY

A New Red Team Maturity Model

## SPEAKERS AND PRIMARY CONTRIBUTORS



**Gareth Stroup**  
Director of Cyber Threat  
Simulation, Humana

Builder, Breaker, Automator of Things



**Brent Harrell**  
Red Team Lead, Humana

Learner, Hole-Poker, Wielder of the Flame of Sarcasm

# AGENDA

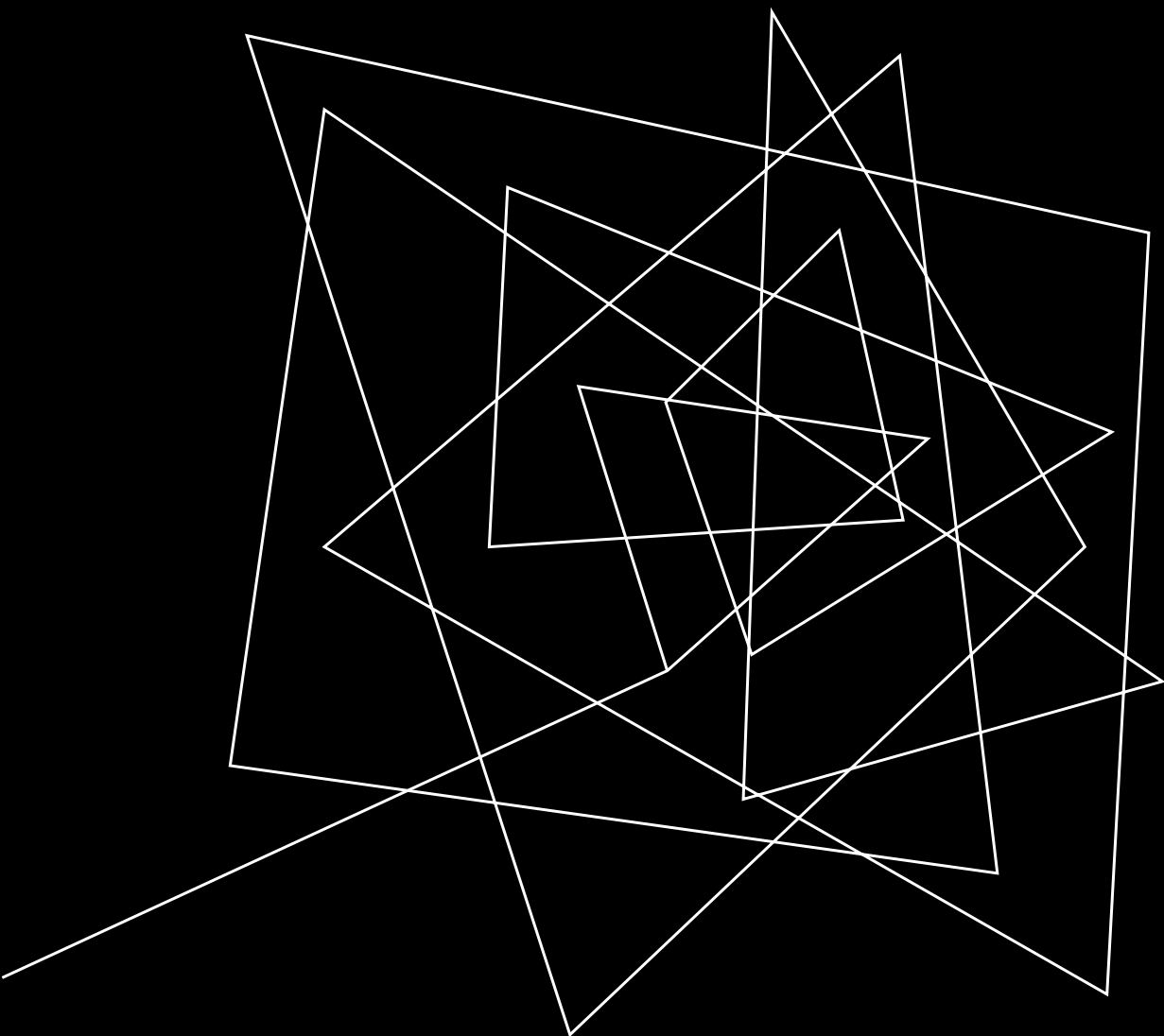
The Problem

The Solution

Key CMM Elements

Implementation Notes

Wrap Up and Questions



# ΓΝΩΘΙ ΣΑΥΤΟΝ

... KNOW THYSELF

RED TEAMS INFORM AN ORGANIZATION'S  
UNDERSTANDING OF ITS RESILIENCY

HOW DO WE MEASURE, REPORT ON, AND PLAN  
FOR RED TEAM MATURITY TO IMPROVE THAT  
INFORMATION?

# A QUICK CMM REVIEW



- Levels provide behavioral examples
- Progression requires:
  - Meeting the prior level (and, typically, continuing that behavior)
  - Meeting all the described behavior in the new level

# ORIGIN STORY

## Program

Strategy	Level 1 - Defined	Level 2 - Managed	Level 3 - Optimized
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vision, Mission, and Objectives defined</li><li>• Red Team properly defined and differentiated</li><li>• Standard Operation Classes defined</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vision, Mission, and Objectives socialized to broader security org</li><li>• Key operation classes implemented</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vision, Mission, and Objectives socialized to all stakeholders</li><li>• All operation classes implemented and reviewed - revisited annually</li></ul>
Measurements & Results	Level 1 - Defined	Level 2 - Managed	Level 3 - Optimized
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Program Level roadmap reporting</li><li>• Ongoing tracking/reporting of red team operation status based on annual plans</li><li>• Findings formally tracked to completion</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Red Team operations consistently lead to tactical improvements</li><li>• Metrics gathered per operation, such as mean time to (detect respond eradicate)</li><li>• Feedback is collected from stakeholders post Red Team interaction</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Red Team operations lead to measurable organizational improvements such as influencing strategic security decisions and strengthening blue team capabilities</li></ul>

Credit: Jordan Potti, Noah Potti, Trent Edgeworth; redteams.fyi

# STRENGTHS AND GROWTH AREAS

“ [I] decided to move to a more relaxed version given the ambiguity of our industry, and the additional complexity of the traditional CMM models.

- Jordan Potti, original author ”

## Strengths

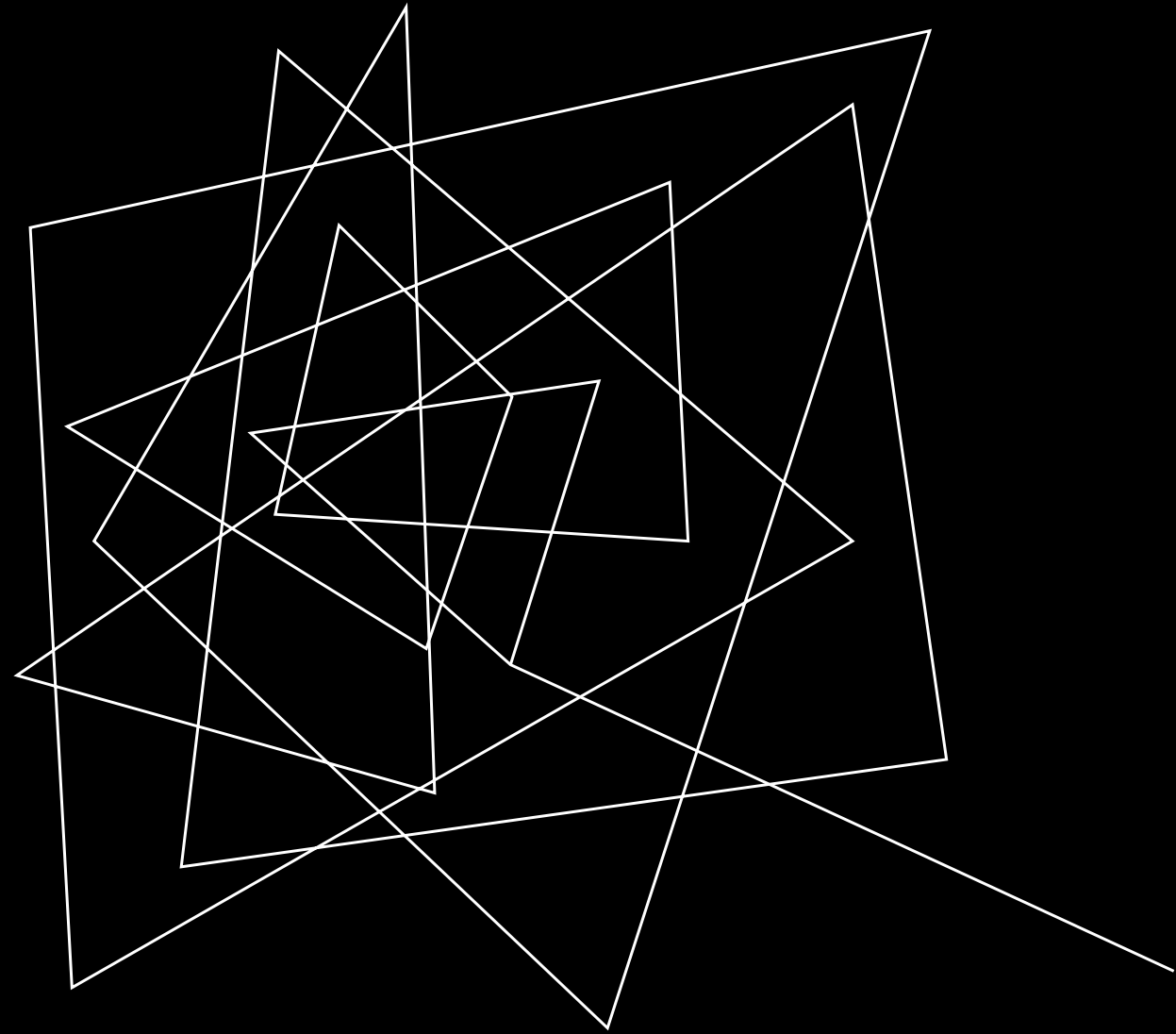
- Captured a lot of areas key to a mature Red Team
- Easily digested framework

## Growth Areas

- Divergent format
- Subjects do not consistently track across levels

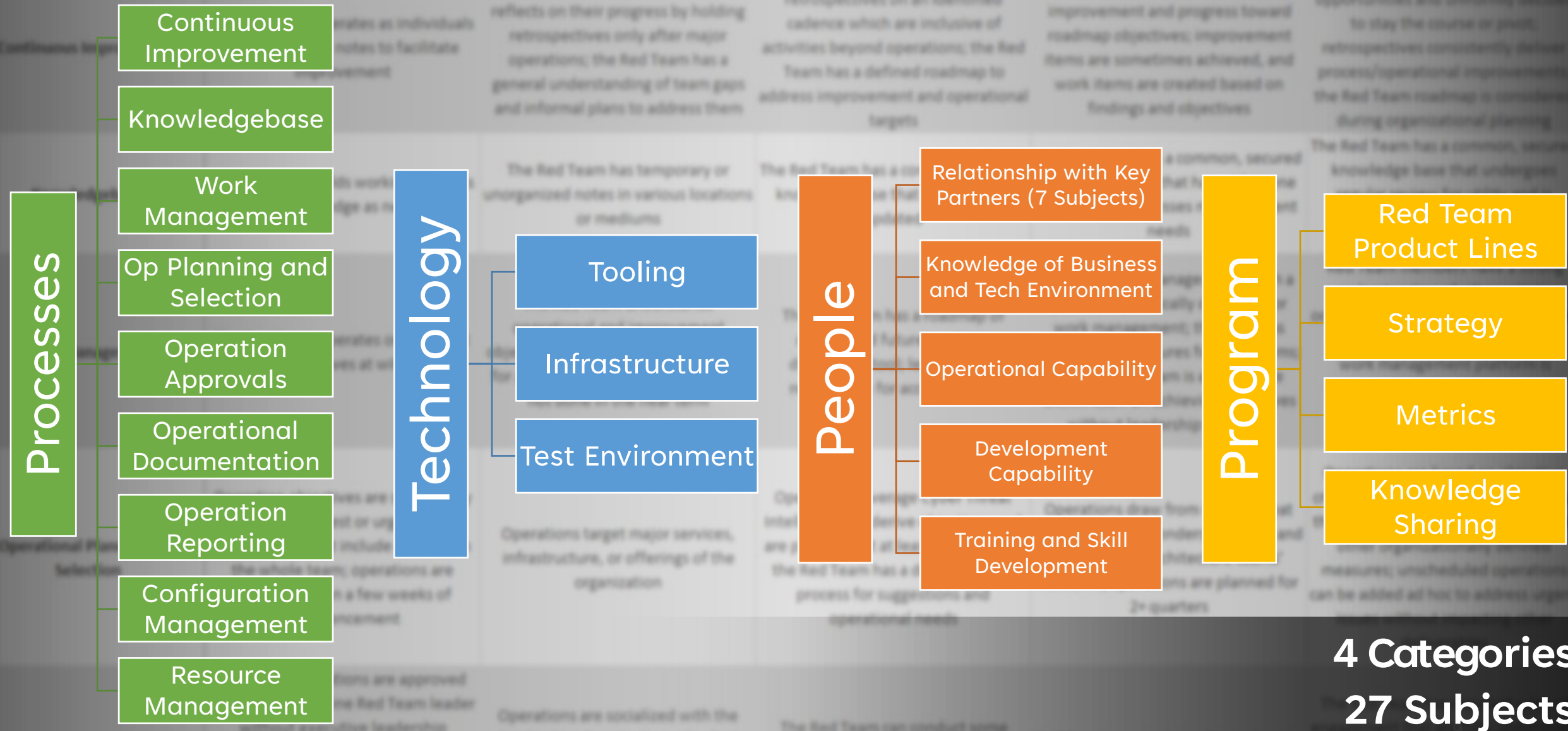
# THE SOLUTION

A standardized Capability Maturity Model





# THE REVISED MODEL

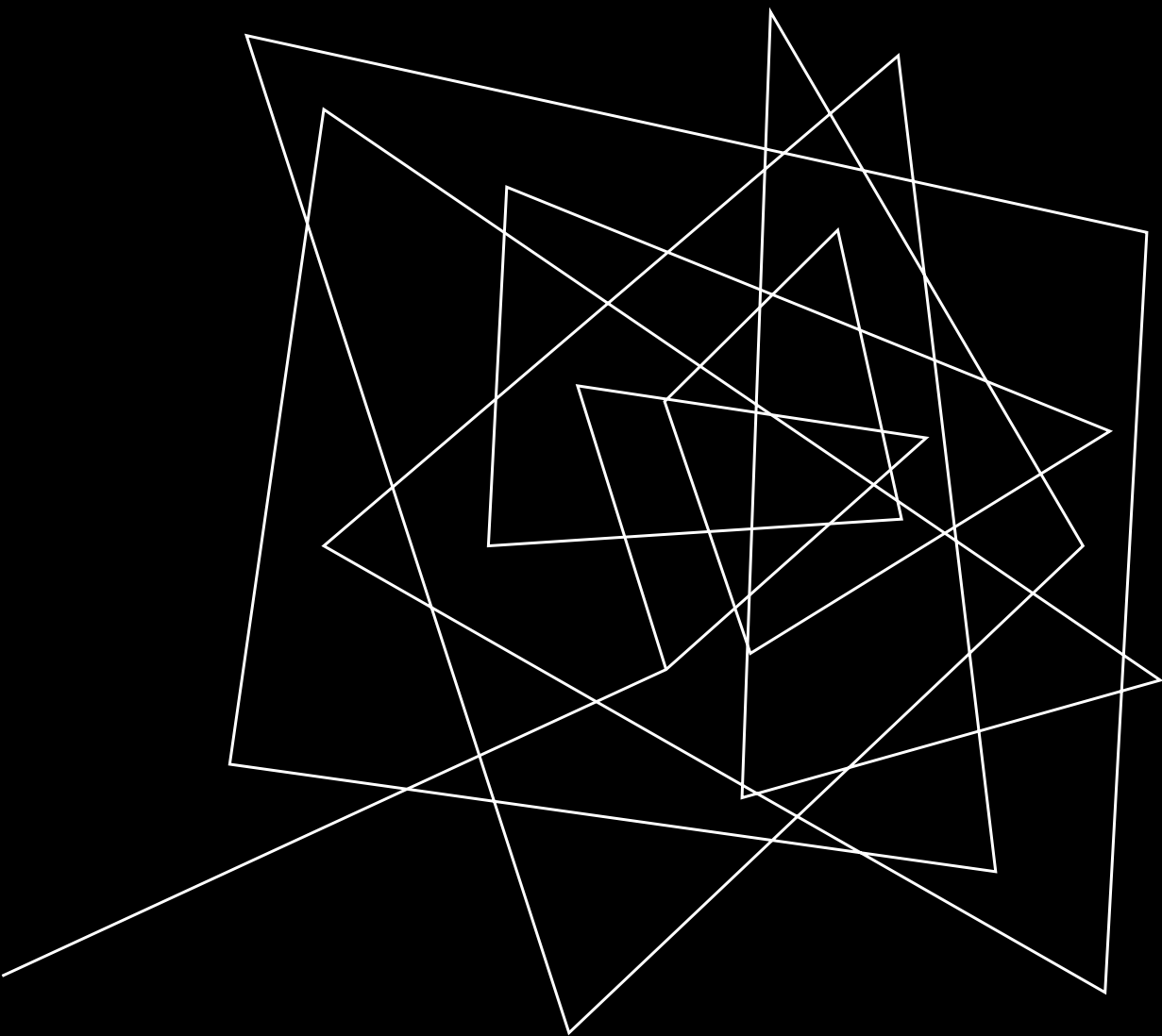


# ADDRESSING EXISTING CHALLENGES

- Expanded from three levels to five to provide common scoring
- Aligned descriptors to language from other CMMs
- Added new subjects to fill gaps left by simplification

# THE NEW CHALLENGES WE FACED

- Existing level descriptors left gaps for Red Team-specific needs
  - Action: Added new descriptors that kept with the spirit of the originals
- “Additive” maturity does not work for all Red Team elements
  - Key offender: Technology subjects
  - Sliding-scale of maturity instead
- Keeping the subjects unique while not creating too many

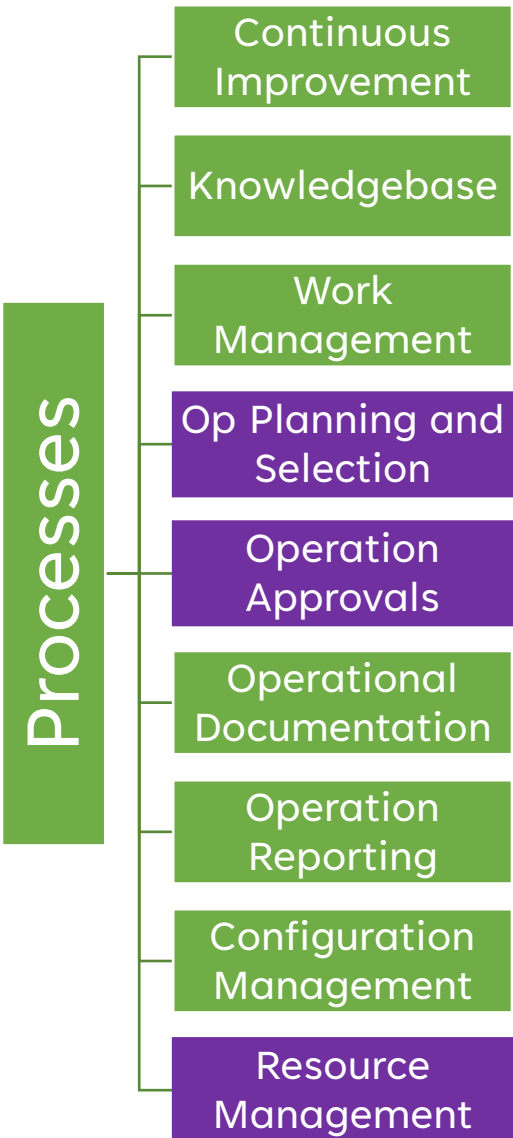


## KEY CMM ELEMENTS

# KEY ASSUMPTIONS AND GUIDELINES

- This CMM is predominantly for internal red teams
- The CMM presumes you have a staffed red team (not just a manager)
- Except for levels that describe a *negative*, teams must exhibit the preceding behavior before progressing
- If a team does not meet all the described behavior for a level, they cannot be at that level (including level 1)

# PROCESSES

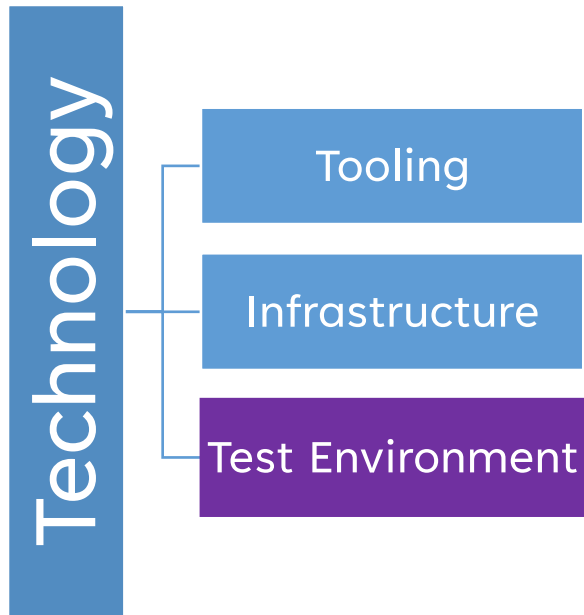


## Key Notes – Processes

*(Purple items denote areas with heightened leadership or organization interest – enabling or benefiting from Red Team maturity)*

- Definition: Continuous Improvement – Red Team iterative improvement through planning and retrospection
- Definition: Work Management – Use of practices, like Agile, to guide efforts
- Note: Operational Approvals – Follows a forked path, either a bell-curve or linear downward slope ultimately leading to trust by leadership
- Definition: Resource Management – Accounts, licenses, or other non-personnel needs

# TECHNOLOGY

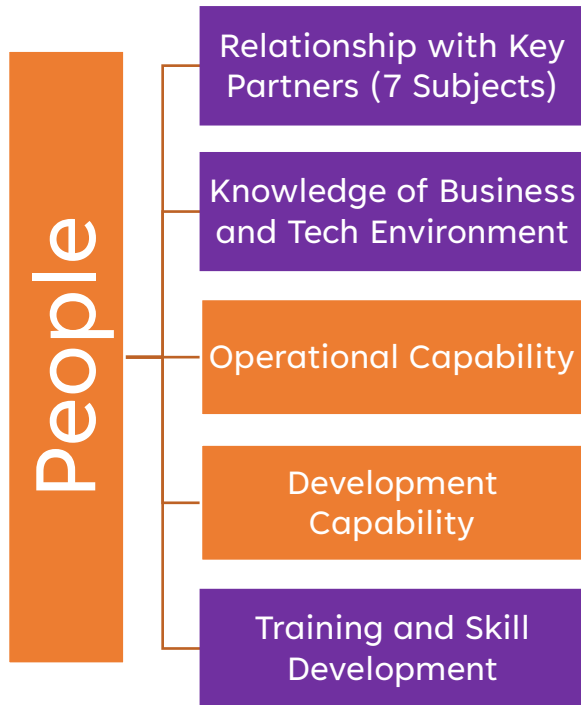


## Key Notes – Technology

*(Purple items denote areas with heightened leadership or organization interest – enabling or benefiting from Red Team maturity)*

- Note: In general, this category follows more of a sliding scale of maturity rather than a layered approach
- Note: Key differentiators between levels are effectiveness of technology solutions and OPSEC considerations

# PEOPLE



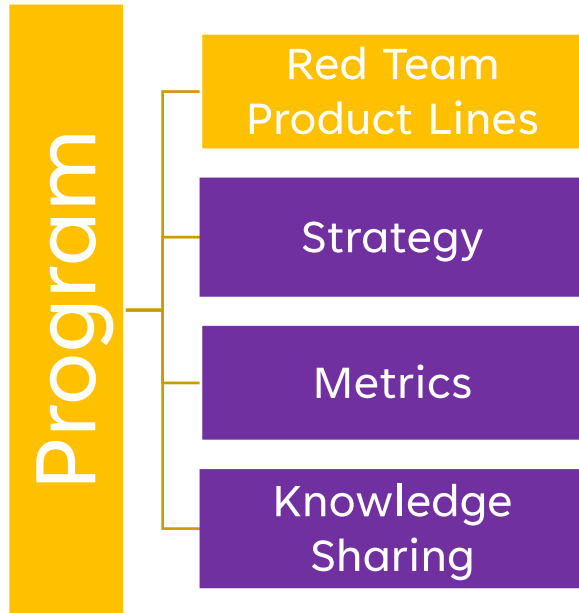
## Key Notes – People

*(Purple items denote areas with heightened leadership or organization interest – enabling or benefiting from Red Team maturity)*

- Note: The CMM contains 7 distinct subjects for partners like response teams, engineers, legal, and leadership
- Definition: Knowledge of Technical and Business Environment – The Red Team’s awareness of key organization initiatives and technology stacks
- Note: To accurately simulate threats, the organization can support skill development with time and resources



# PROGRAM



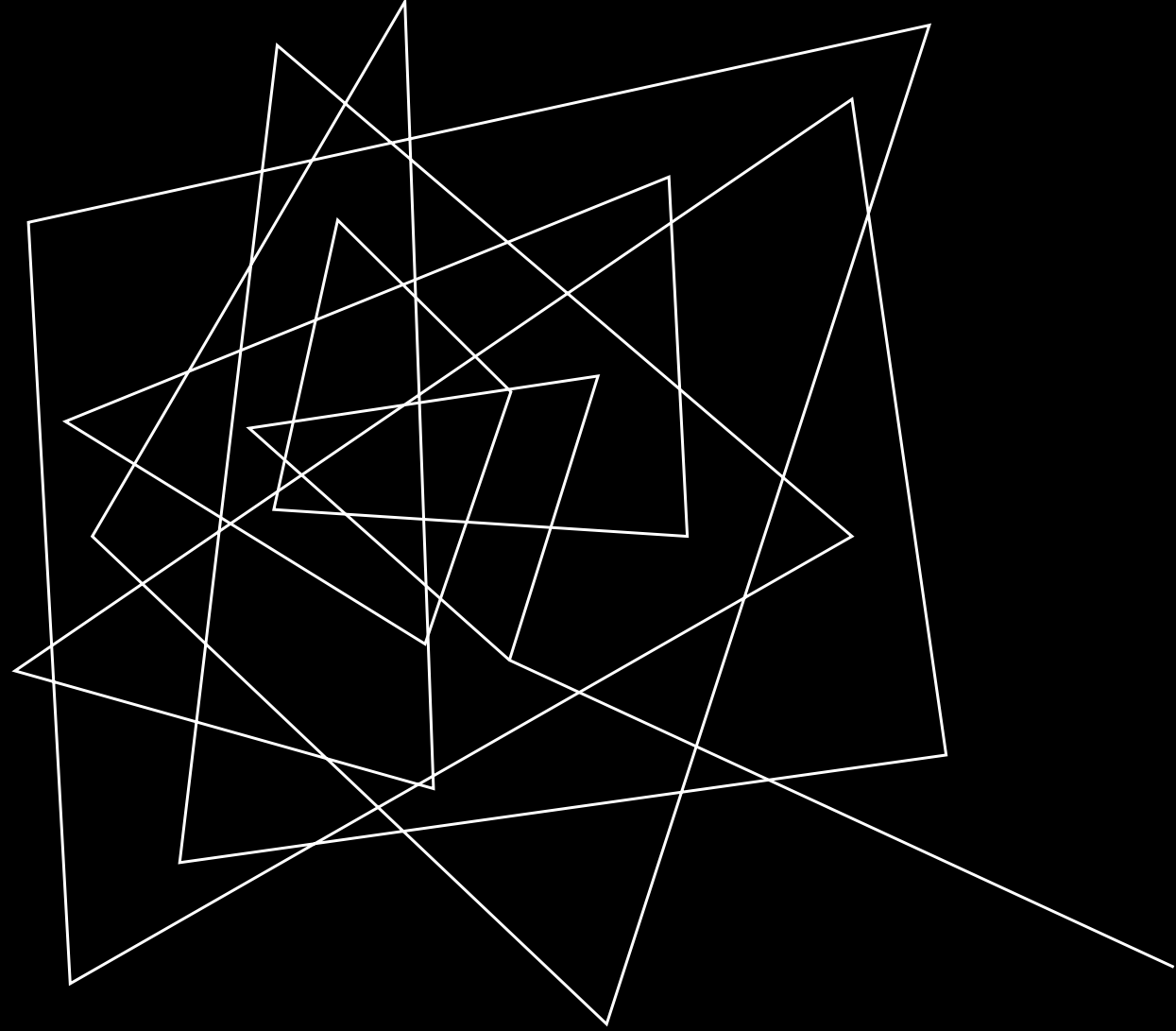
## Key Notes – Program

*(Purple items denote areas with heightened leadership or organization interest – enabling or benefiting from Red Team maturity)*

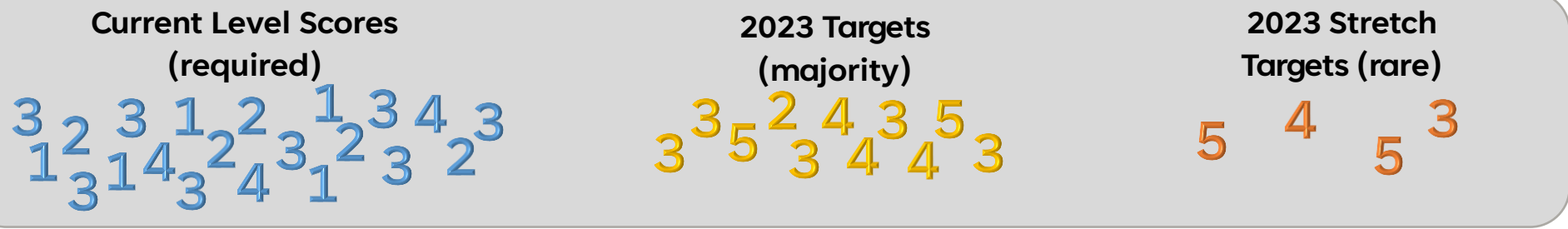
- Note: Organizational strategy guides Red Team operations; Red Team data can feed back into the organizational strategy
- Note: Level 4 typically entails metrics, but that does not apply to all the subjects in this CMM, leading to a category on metrics themselves
- Note: Information Security field relies on shared knowledge and resources to stay ahead; the Red Team should contribute

# STORY TIME:

TALES FROM IMPLEMENTATION



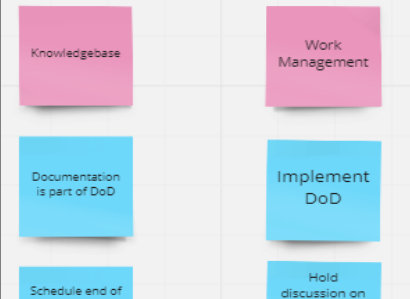
Independent  
Team Scoring



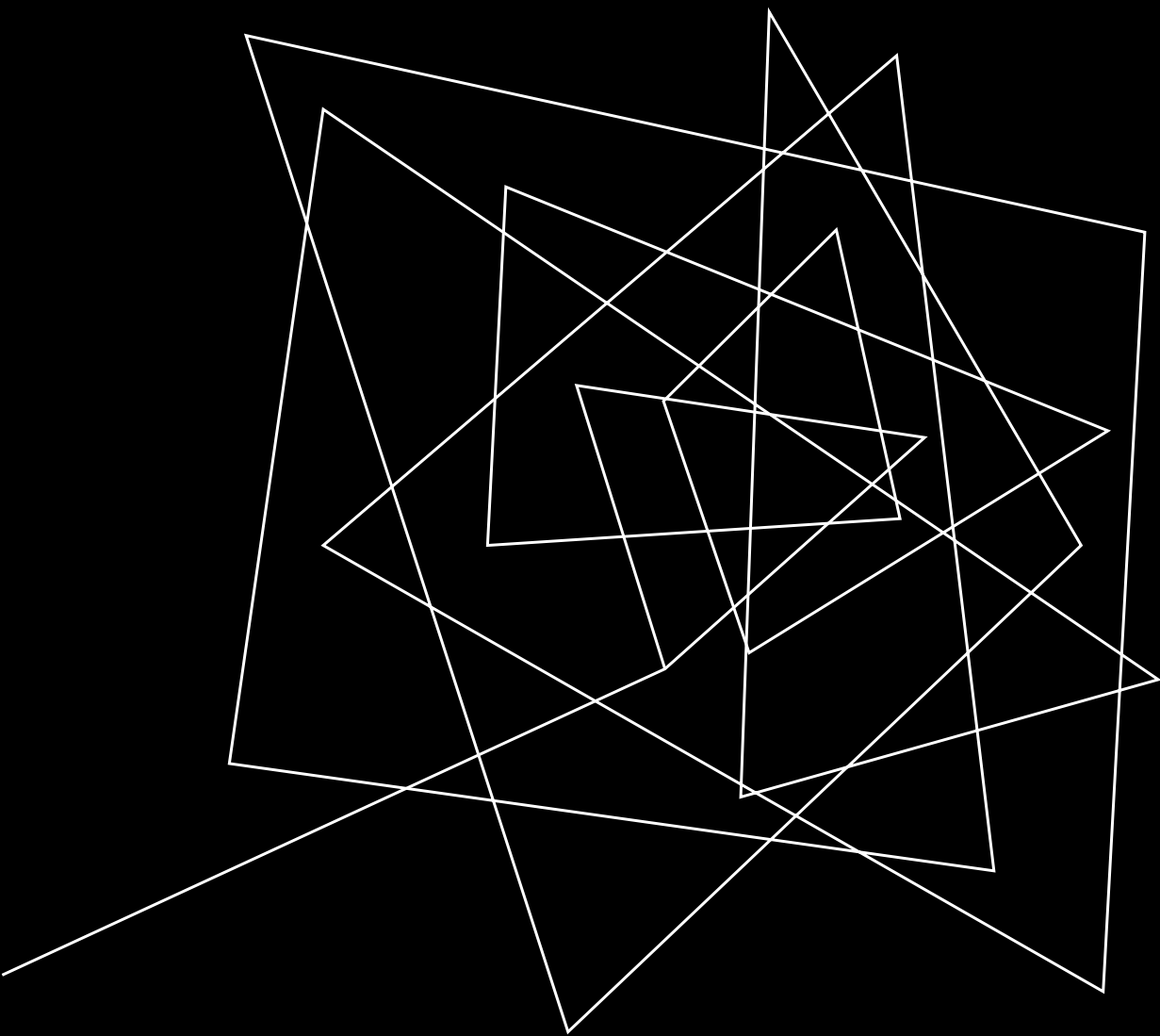
Delta Analysis and  
Friendly Arguing

<div><div>G</div><div>T</div></div> <div>Red Team uses an inconsistent location for source code, infrastructure configurations, documentation, or tools</div>	<div></div> <div>The Red Team leverages a shared location, without version control, to house source code, infrastructure configurations, documentation, or tools</div>	<div><div>D</div><div>G</div></div> <div>The Red Team uses an industry-standard code repository for source code, infrastructure configuration files, and these items are versioned</div>	<div><div>N</div><div>B</div><div>D</div><div>J</div><div>G</div></div> <div>Red Team uses merge and pull requests or similar, prior to changing production-ready versions</div>	<div><div>D</div><div>J</div></div> <div>Red Team leverages automated CI/CD actions to expedite delivery and maintain quality of products</div>
<div></div> <div>Licenses and accounts are only tracked upon reminder of expiration or renewal needs; ownership is dispersed across multiple people</div>	<div><div>N</div><div>B</div><div>G</div><div>T</div></div> <div>One person tracks accounts, payment methods, or licenses; knowledge not available to the entire Red Team</div>	<div><div>J</div><div>G</div><div>T</div></div> <div>Accounts and licenses are centrally tracked, understood, and reviewed as needed by the Red Team; Red Team account passwords are secured</div>	<div><div>N</div><div>B</div><div>J</div></div> <div>Accounts, licenses, and recurring expenses are reviewed quarterly for need or expiration</div>	<div></div> <div>Tracking methods provide alerts or other easily identifiable information to indicate actions needed in the next thirty days</div>

Build a Backlog



- |         |   |  |
|---------|---|--|
| Feature | > | 🏆 Managing team knowledge                        |
| Feature | > | 🏆 Improving Work Management Practices            |
| Feature | > | 🏆 Growing team knowledge on key technologies     |
| Feature | > | 🏆 Understanding Team Skill Needs                 |
| Feature | > | 🏆 Creating SOPs                                  |
| Feature | > | 🏆 Enabling Red Team operations with Custom Tools |



# SUMMARY AND THANKS

## New Resource

A new, community-owned Capability Maturity Model to plan for, and report on, Red Team maturity in a business-standard format

## Where To Find It

The CMM can be found online at:  
<https://redteammaturity.com>

## How You Can Pitch In

We welcome contributions. Please view our GitHub page for guidance on submitting additions or modifications as well as to submit a change.

<https://github.com/BCHarrell/redteamcmm>

*(also linked from the primary website)*

## SUMMARY

WE WANT TO THANK THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIS PROJECT AND ITS PREDECESSOR

## NEW CONTRIBUTORS

Johann Rehberger

Red Team Director,  
Electronic Arts

Andy Grant

Head of Offensive  
Security, Zoom

Matthew Bjornstad

Principal Security  
Engineer, Red Team,  
Charter Communications

## ORIGINAL CMM CONTRIBUTORS

Jordan Potti

Red Team Lead, Norton  
Life Lock

Noah Potti

Senior Red Team  
Operator, Bishop Fox

Trevin Edgeworth

Red Team Practice  
Director, Bishop Fox

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QUESTIONS?