



# State of Attack Path Management



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VP of Product, SpecterOps





# Who am I

- Product Leader at SpecterOps
- Former Air Force, Network Security
- Father of 4
- I love anything outside
- X: @JustinKohler10





# Agenda

- What is Attack Path Management
- 3 Years of Attack Paths
- Lessons Learned
- Where do we go from here



# What is Attack Path Management

**Attack Path Management** is the continuous discovery, mapping, and risk assessment of Attack Path Choke Points.





# Foundations



**Continuous, Comprehensive Attack Path Mapping**



**Empirical Impact Assessment of Risk**



**Practical, Precise, and Safe Remediation Guidance**



Tenable

<https://www.tenable.com> › source › attack-path-manage...

NCC Group

<https://www.nccgroup.com> › is-attack-path-mapping-part...

Dark Reading

<https://www.darkreading.com> › exposure-management-l...

XM Cyber

<https://xmcyber.com> › attack-path-management

## What is Attack Path Management?

Attack path management (APM) is a process you can use to identify security weaknesses as seen through the eyes of an attacker. Tenable Community For Attack Path Mapping



jumpsec

<https://www.jumpsec.com> › attack-path-mapping

## Attack Path Mapping

If you can understand potential **attack paths** you can build strategies that enable you to cut off these attack paths.



Proofpoint

<https://www.proofpoint.com> › identity-threat-defense › i...

## Importance of Continuous Attack Path

Nov 8, 2023 — **Attack path management**. This refers to the process of identifying, analyzing, and remediating attack paths within a business.

[Key Terms](#) · [Data Exfiltration](#) · [Why An Attack Path...](#)



traxion.com

<https://www.traxion.com> ... › Offensive Security Services

## Attack Path Management - Traxion

With Attack Path Management services from Traxion, you can map your network through the eyes of an attacker and simulate potential attack paths.

## Is Attack Path Mapping Part of Your Cyber Strategy?

Feb 15, 2024 — Continuous testing collaboration and evolution are key to staying ahead of threat actors. The best form of defence is to know the types of attacks they are likely to use.

## BloodHound Enterprise

<https://bloodhoundenterprise.io> › what-is-attack-path-ma...

## What is Attack Path Management?

Microsoft Research published a paper in 2009 describing **Attack Paths** as "Identity sniping". These are attacks [that] leverage the users logged in to a first compromised ...

[Why Active Directory Is The...](#) · [Why Attack Paths Are...](#) · [What Is Attack Path...](#)



TechTarget

<https://www.techtarget.com> › Cybersecurity

## Attack Path Management

May 10, 2023 — In short, **Attack Path Management** is a way to identify and remediate ransomware attacks against company assets.



TechTarget

<https://www.techtarget.com> › searchsecurity › tip › Close

## Close security gaps with attack path analysis

Feb 6, 2024 — Penetration testing and red team exercises can help you identify potential attack paths, but they do so one attack vector at a time.



## Assess Security Configuration of Azure Environment

CISA created the Secure Cloud and Business Applications (SCuBA) assessment tool to help Federal Civilian Executive Branch (FCEB) agencies to verify that a M365 tenant configuration conforms to a minimal viable secure configuration baseline. Although the SCuBA assessment tool was developed for FCEB, other organizations can benefit from its output. CISA and MS-ISAC recommend the following:

- **Use tools that identify attack paths.** This will enable defenders to identify common attack paths used by threat actors and shut them down before they are exploited.
- Review the security recommendations list provided by Microsoft 365 Defender. Focus remediation on critical vulnerabilities on endpoints that are essential to mission execution and contain sensitive data.



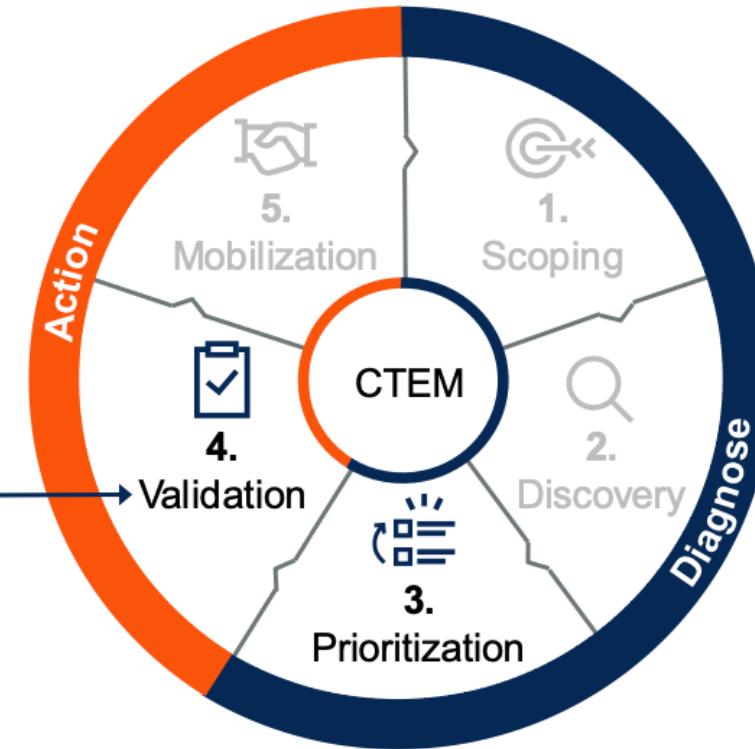
**CISA**  
CYBER+INFRASTRUCTURE

# Continuous Threat Exposure Management

- Initiate or expand Cybersecurity Validation approaches.
- Validate to foster improved mobilization.
- Monitor progress from automated tools.

Security Posture Validation	Attack Path Mapping	Security Control Validation
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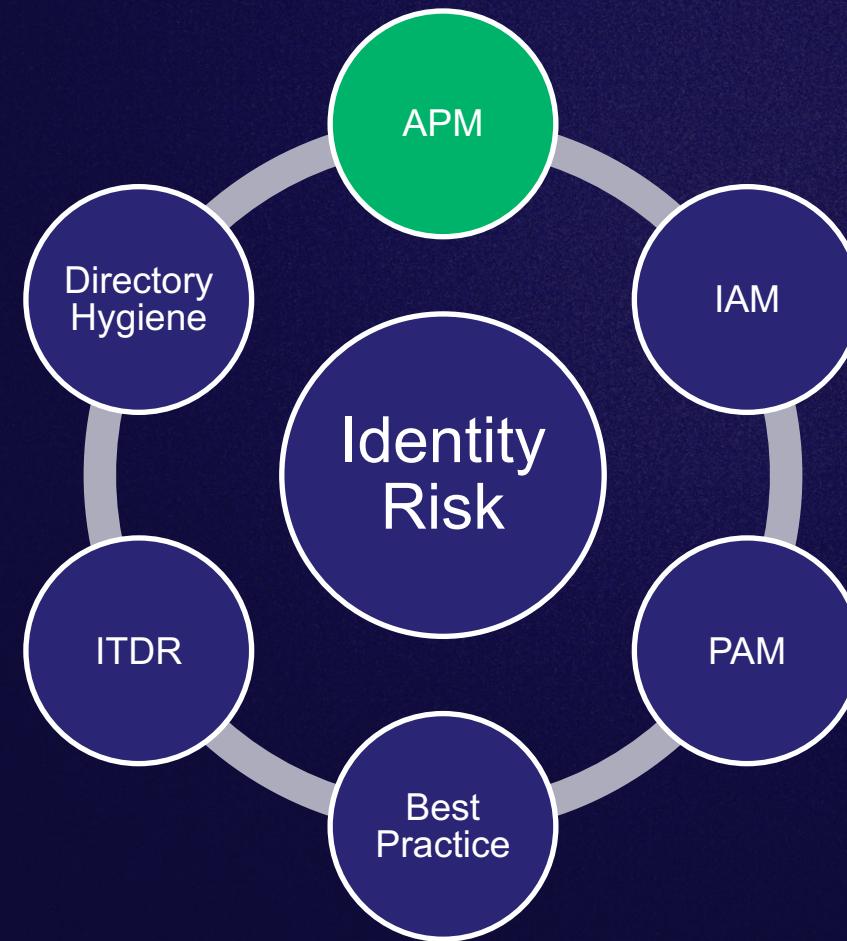
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# APM is the missing capability in Identity Risk



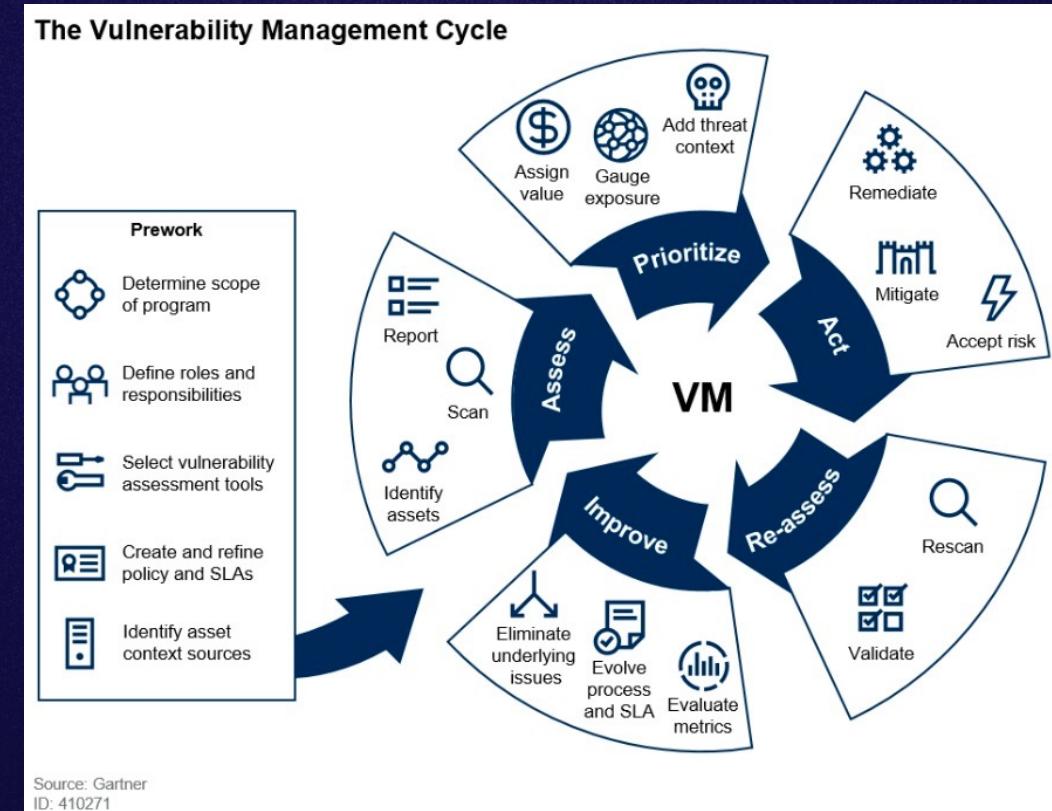


# APM has a familiar process





# APM has a familiar process





## APM has clear benefits

- ✓ Proactive, comprehensive visibility
- ✓ Single fixes to sever multiple Attack Paths
- ✓ Prioritized by exposure and impact
- ✓ Step-by-step remediations
- ✓ Measurable, meaningful progress

Attack Path Management will be the standard



# What does 3 years of Attack Paths look like?



# 2 Billion

Abuseable configurations and behaviors



**30M**  
Users

**12M**  
Groups

**5M**  
Azure Devices

**600K**  
Service Principals

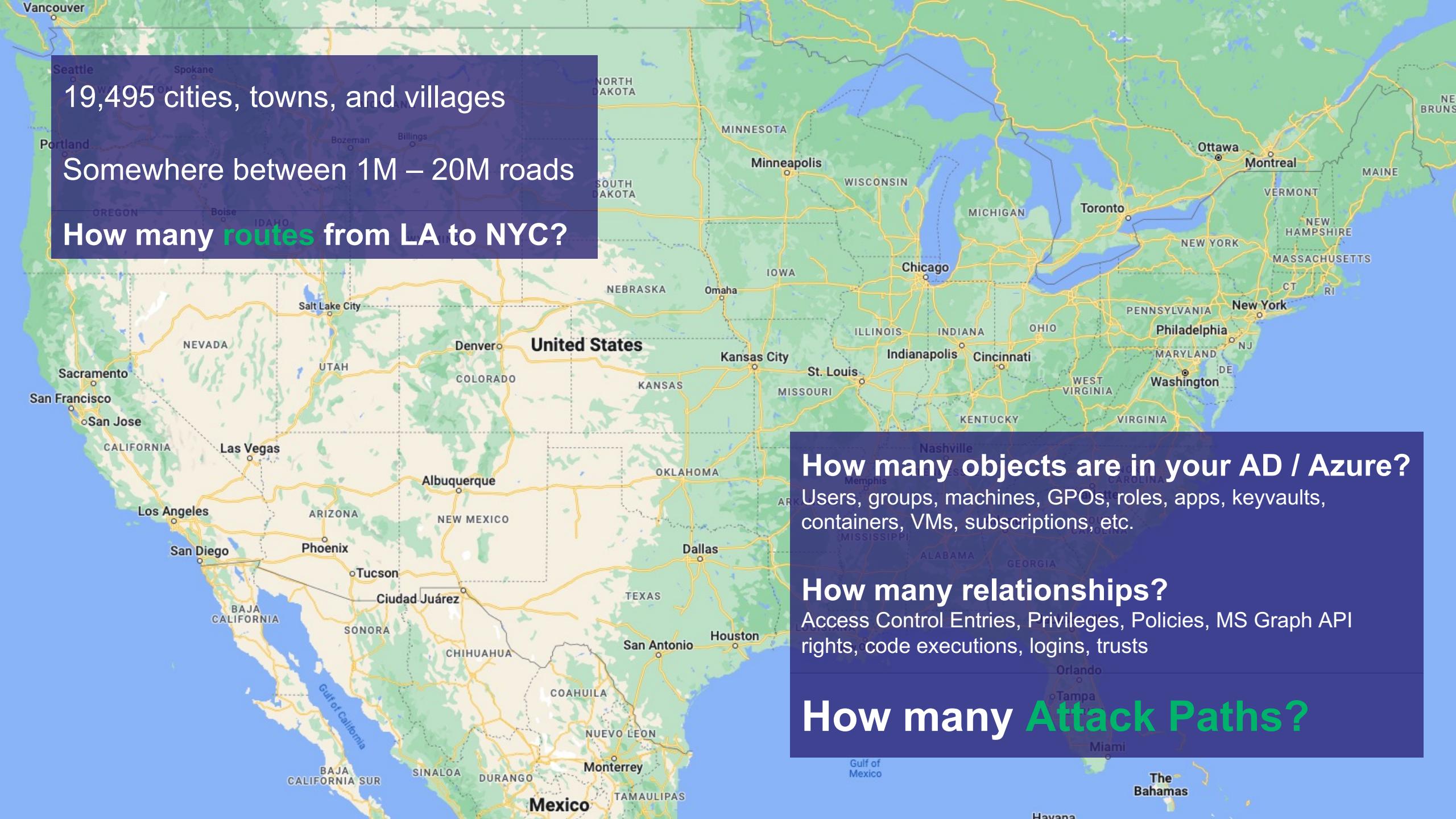
**500K**  
OUs

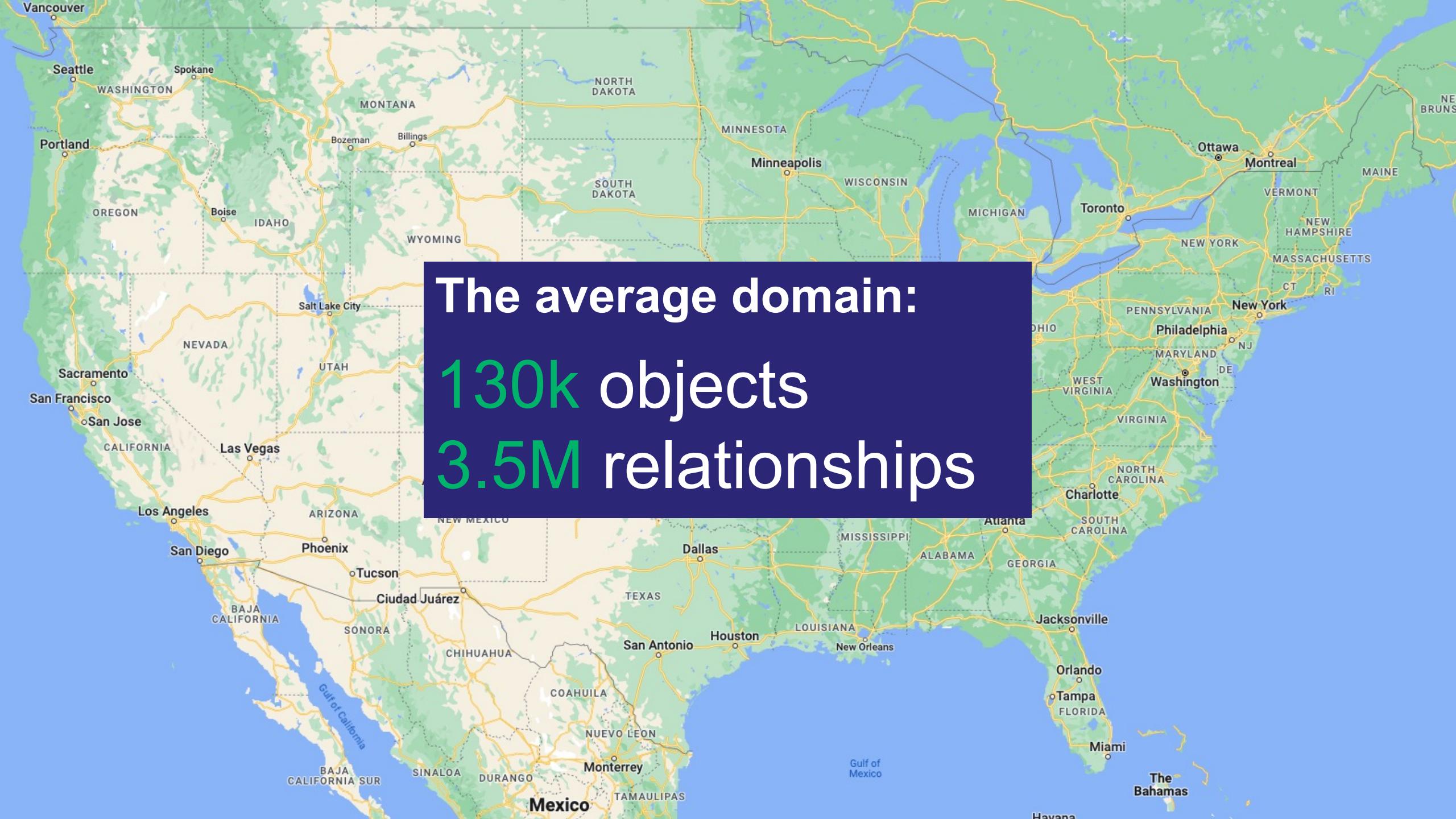
**200K**  
Azure Apps

**150K**  
GPOs

**50K**  
Key Vaults





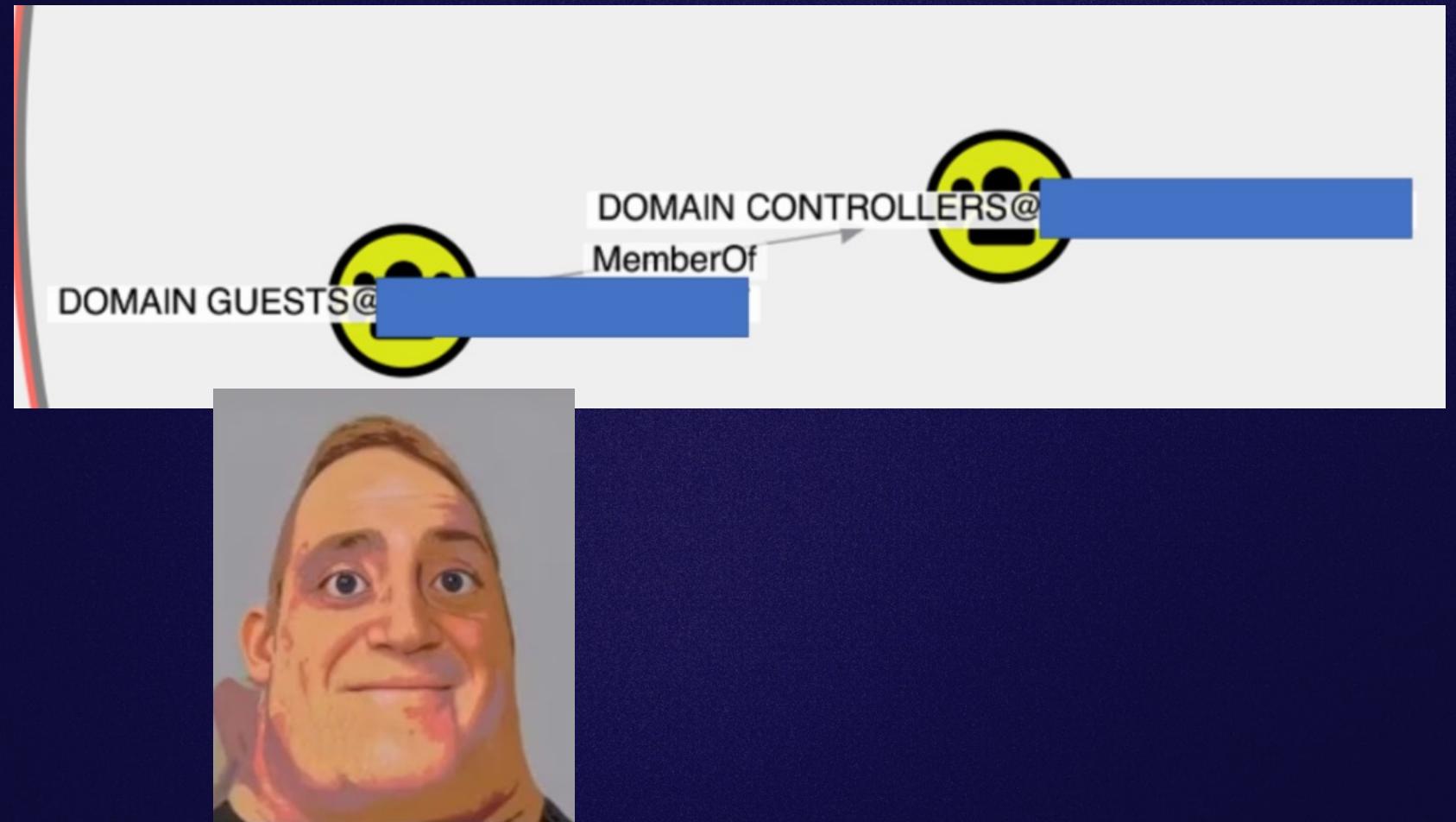


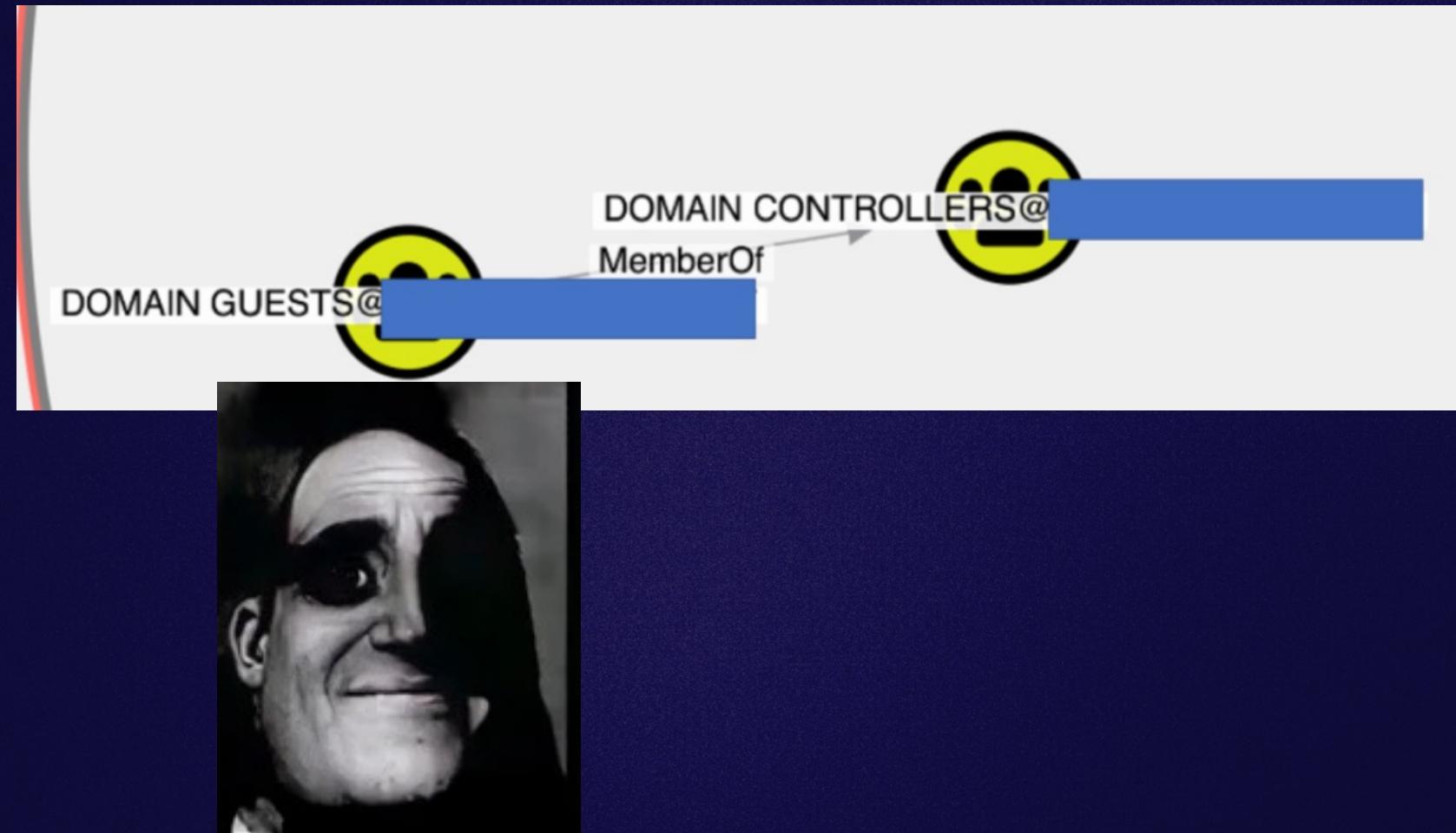
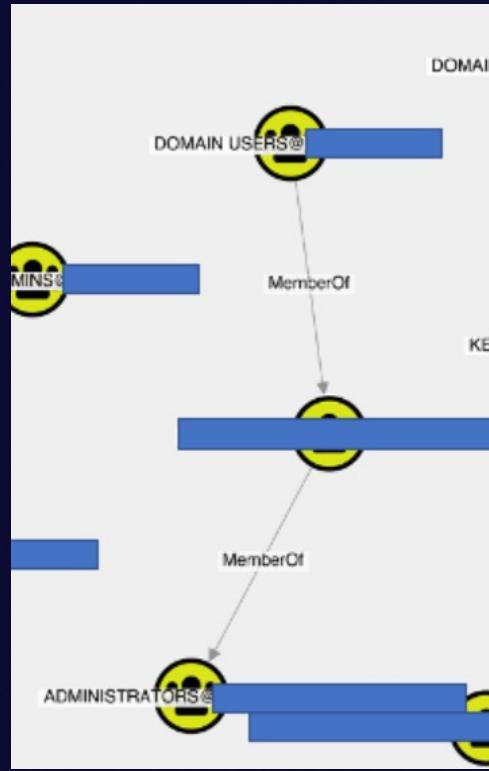
The average domain:  
130k objects  
3.5M relationships

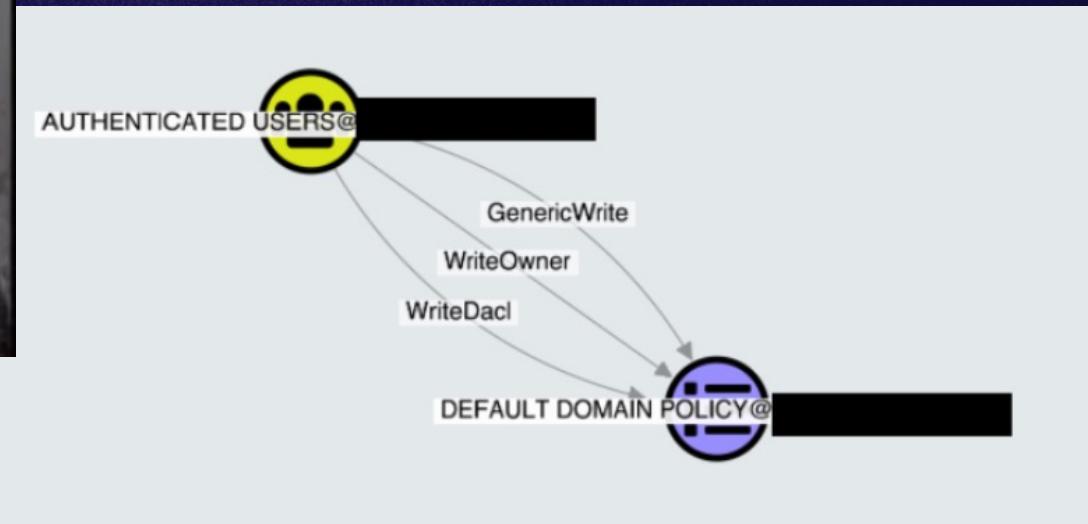
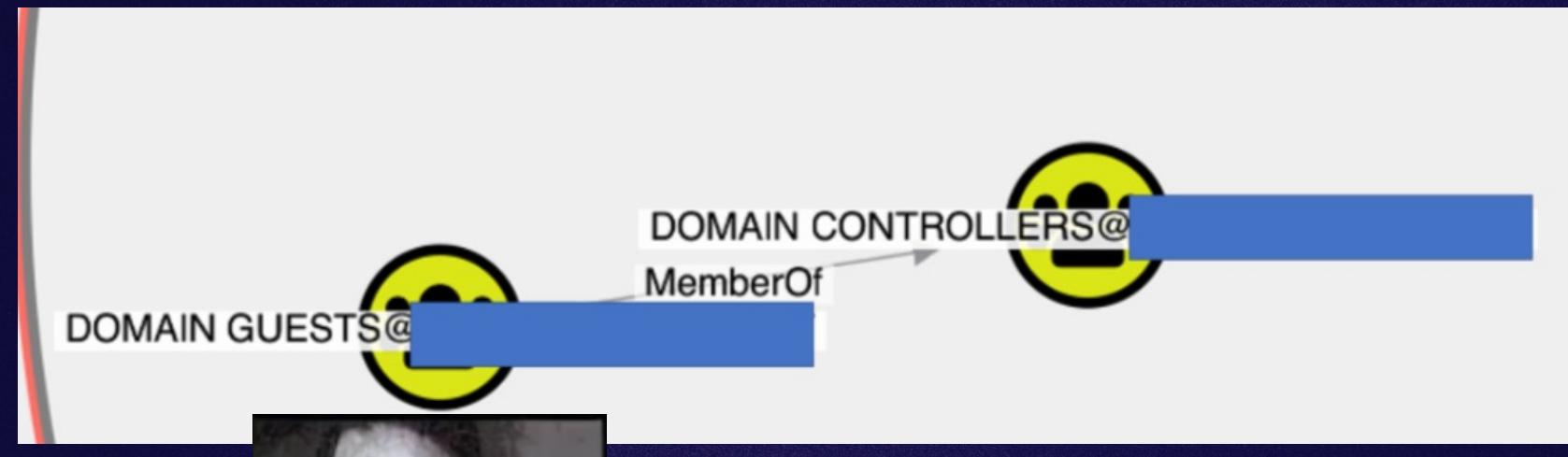
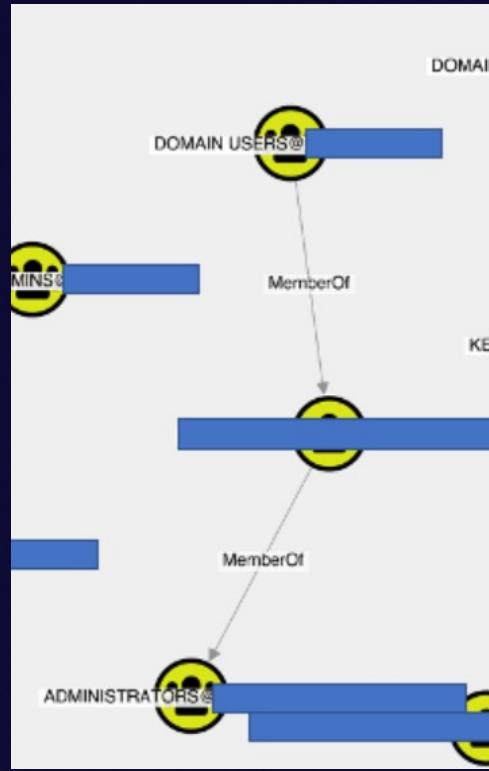
What does 3 years of Attack Paths **actually** look like?

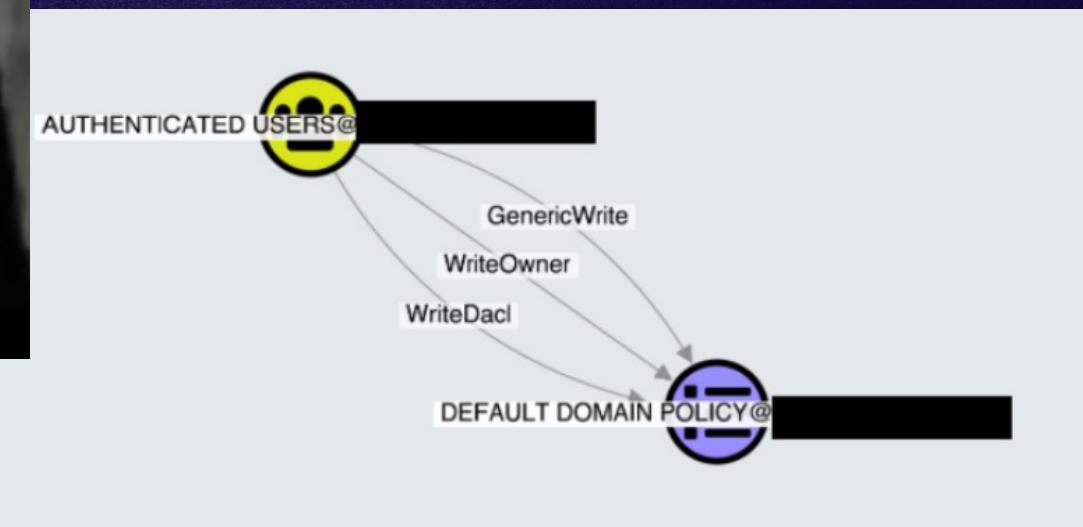
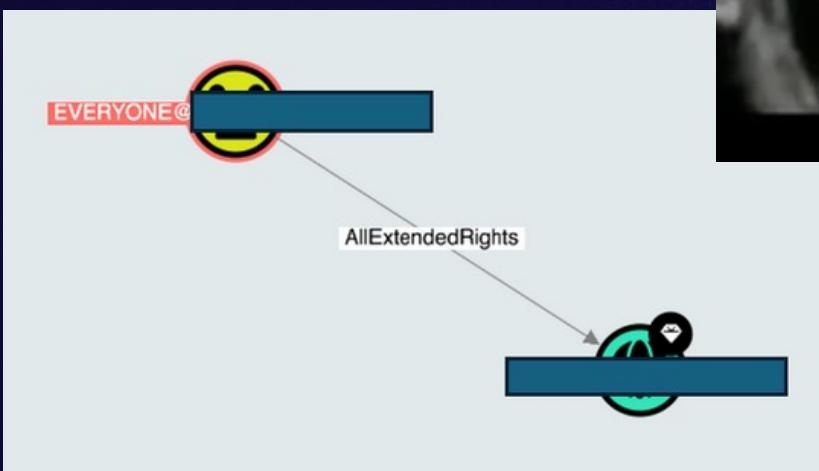
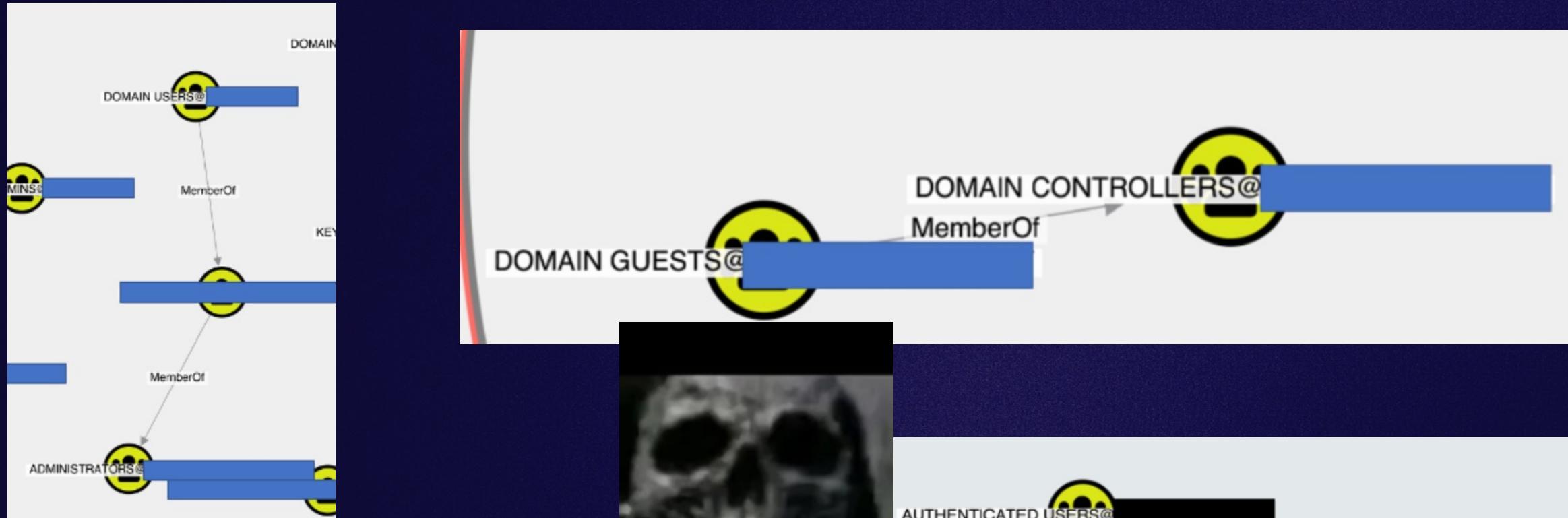


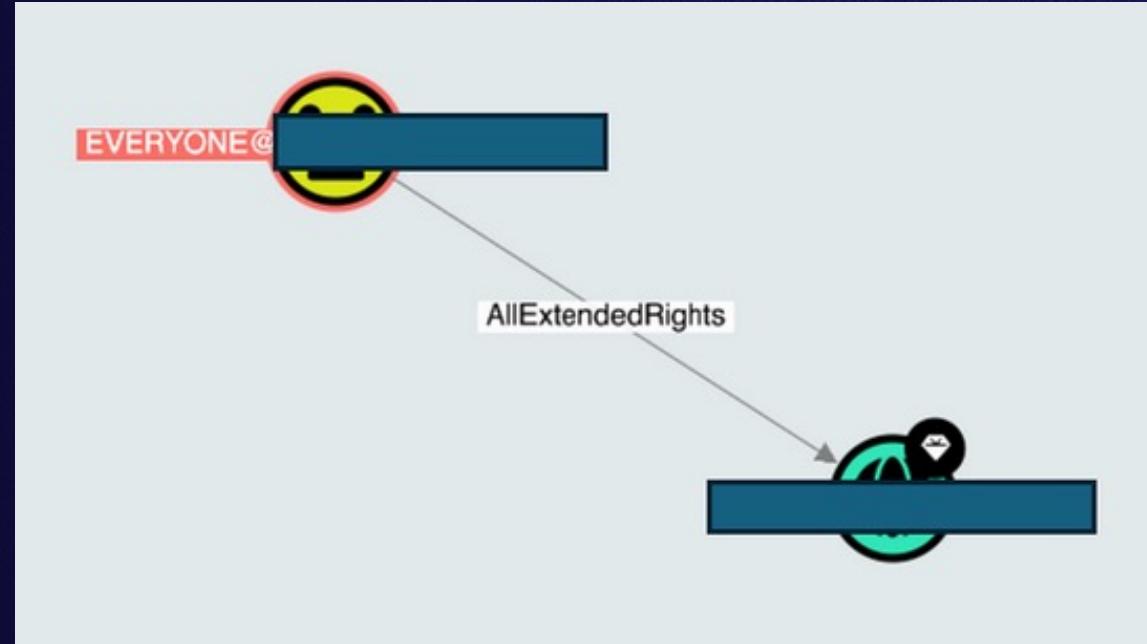






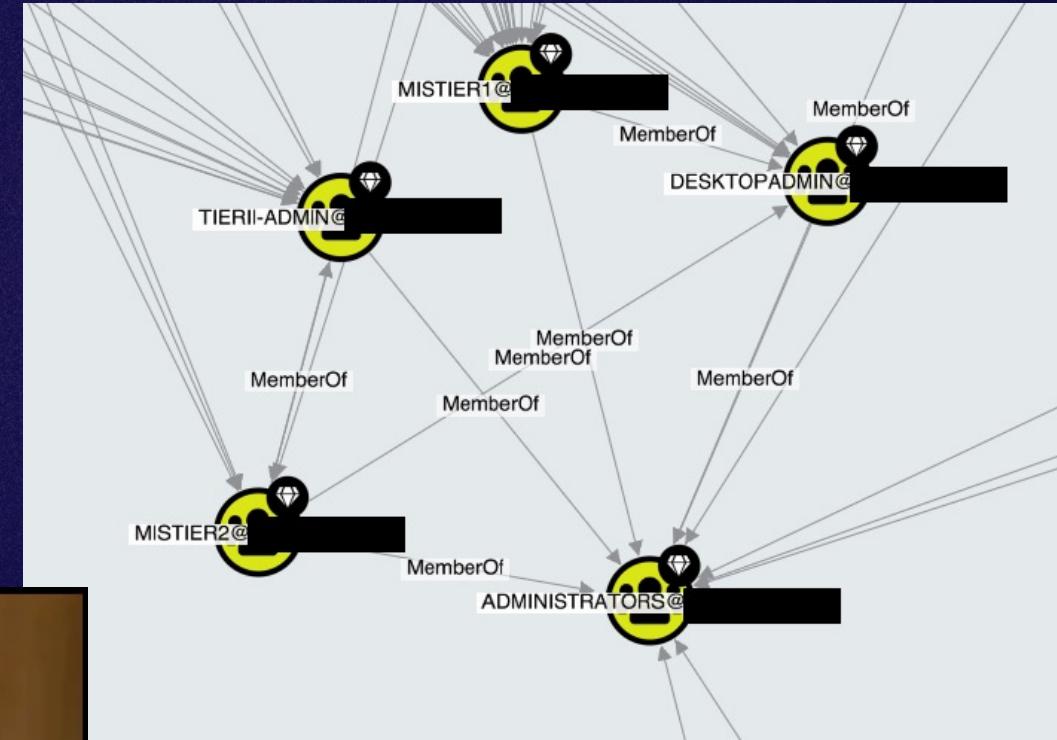
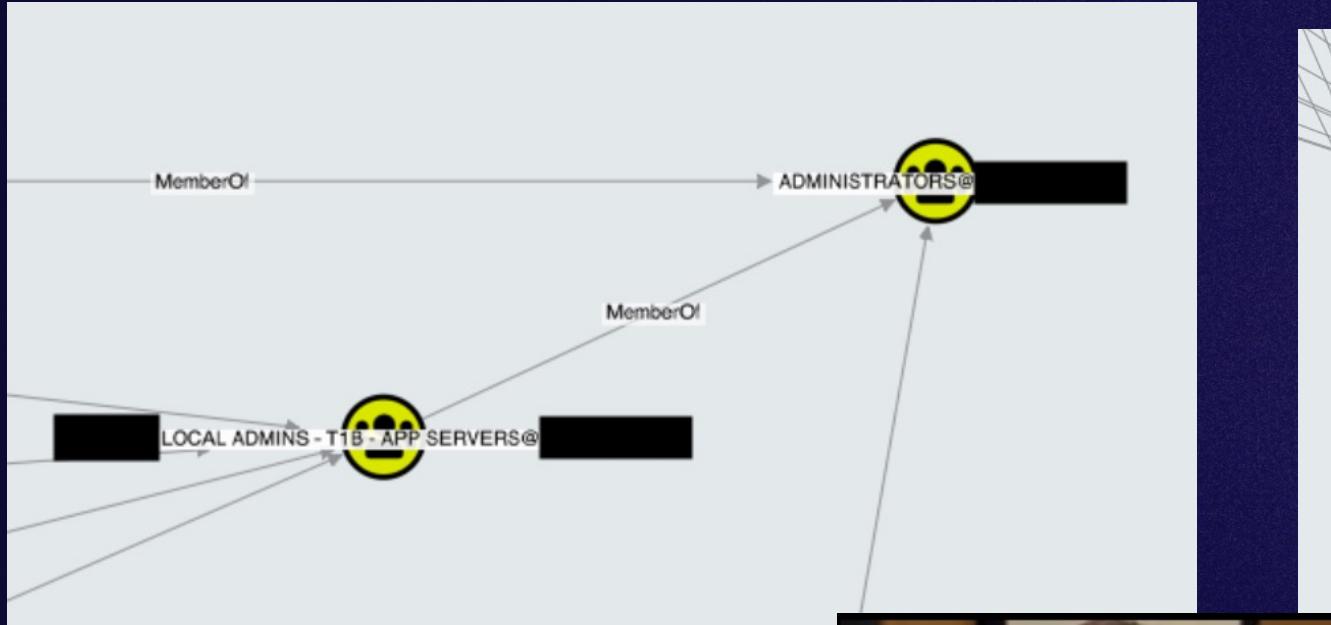






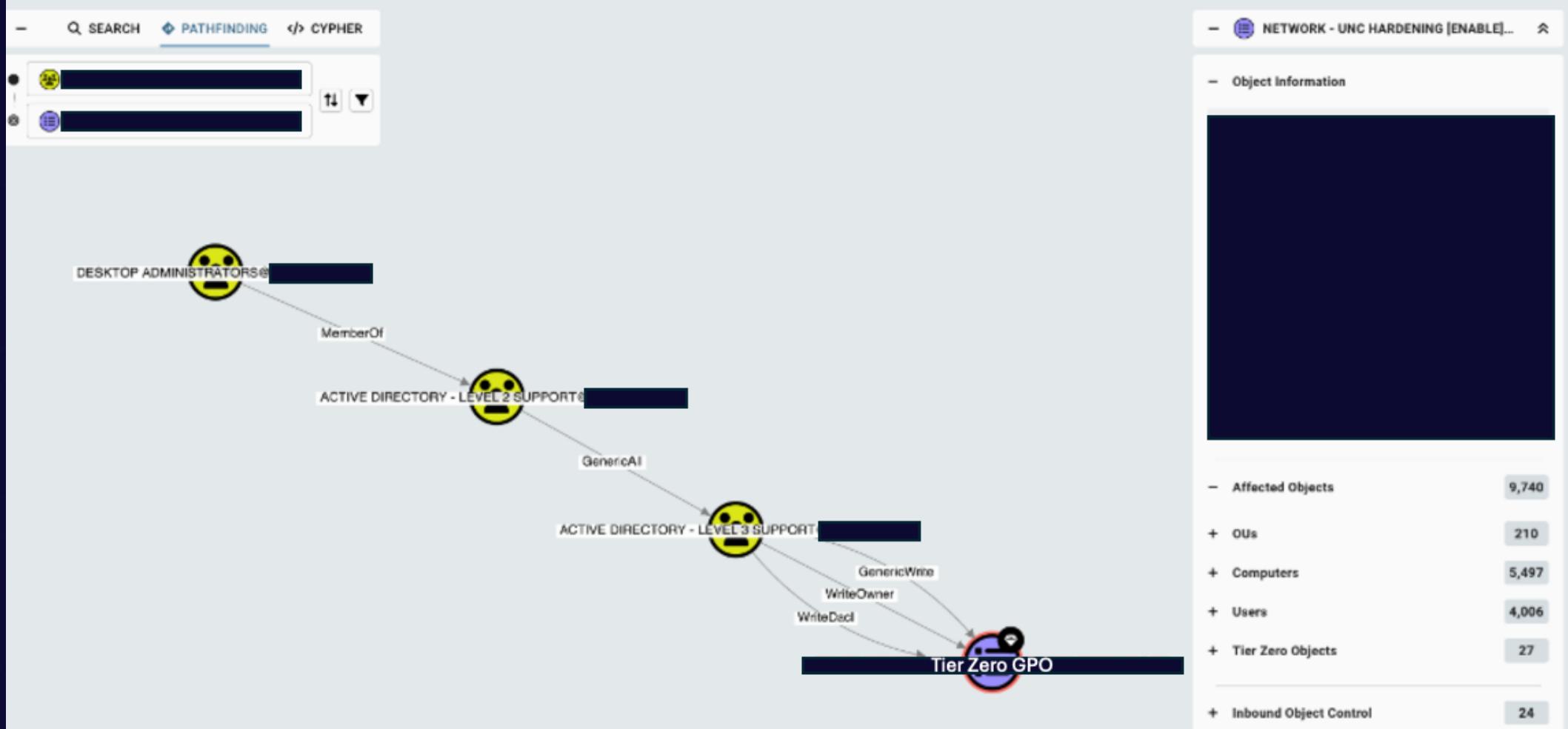


# People tried to do the right thing



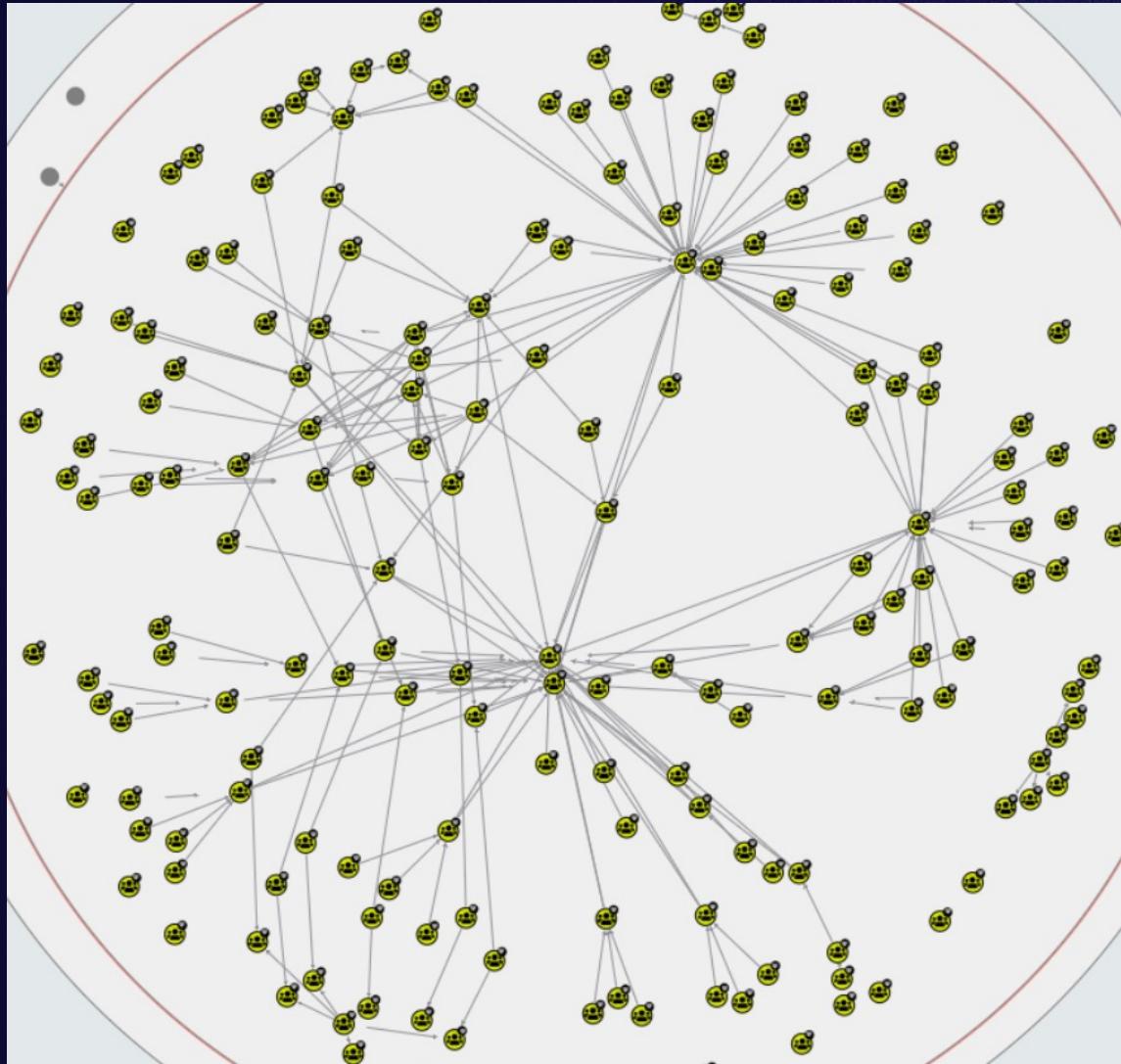


# But the **details** matter



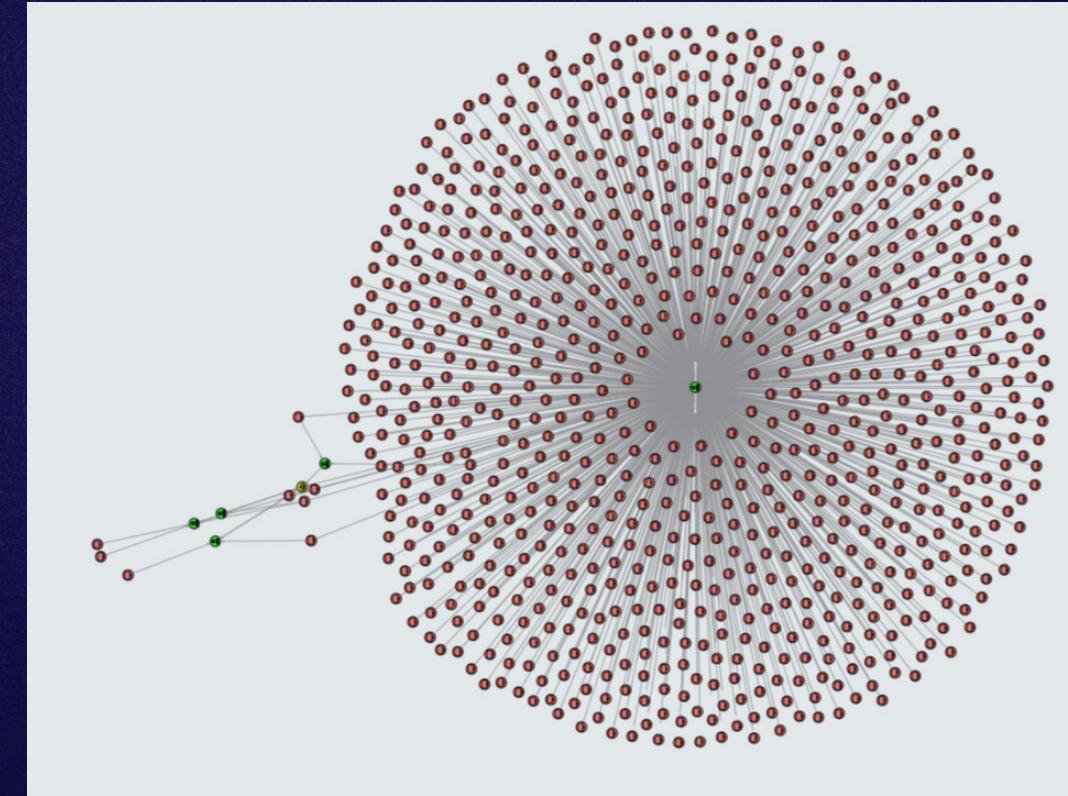
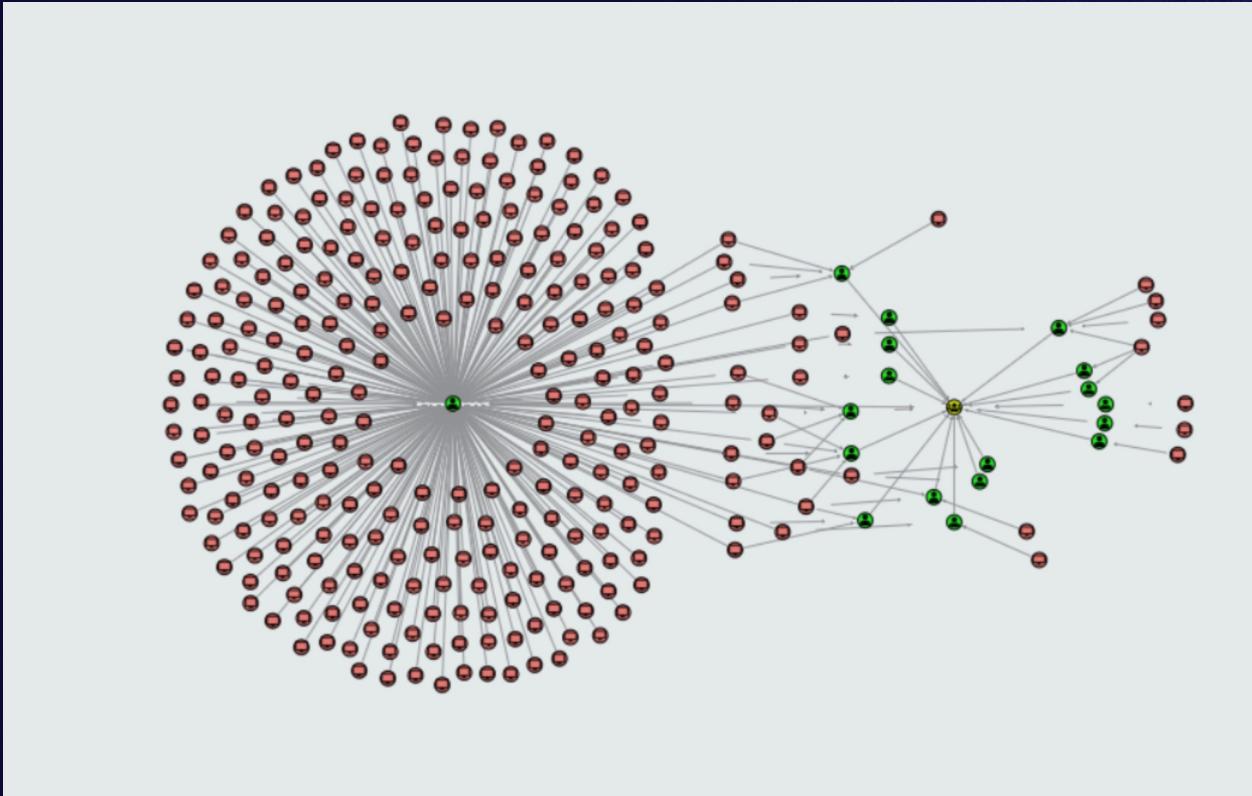


# Can't have Attack Paths if everyone is Tier Zero



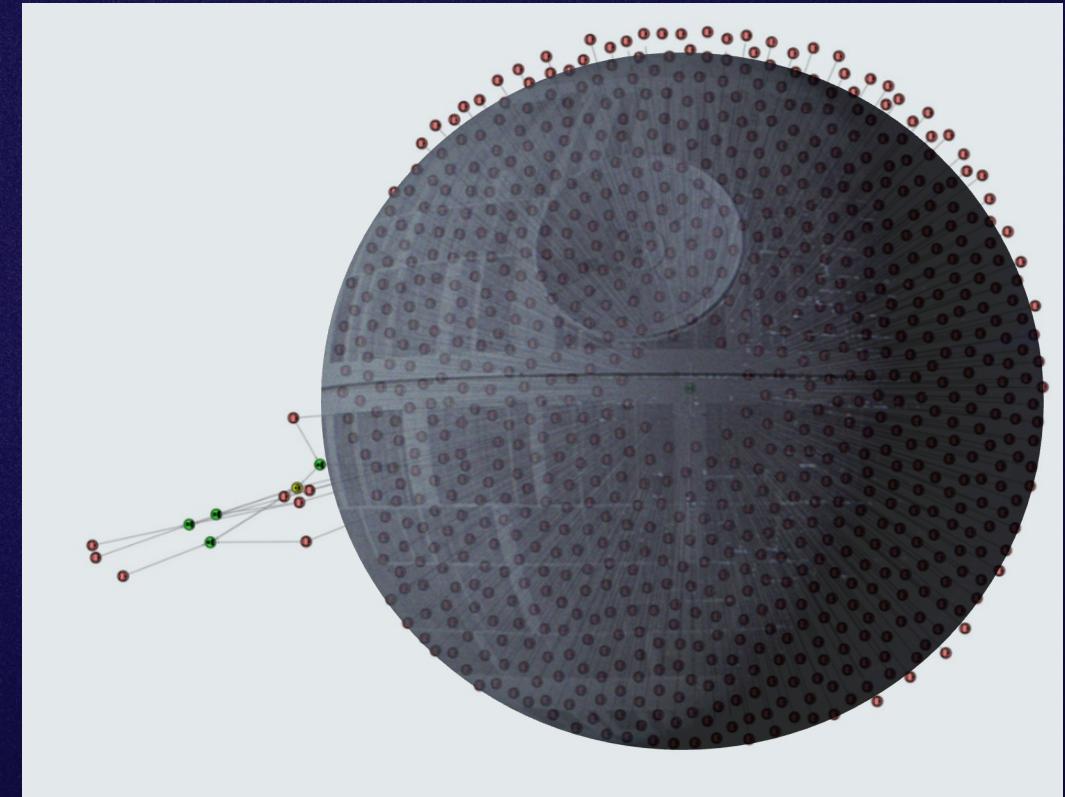
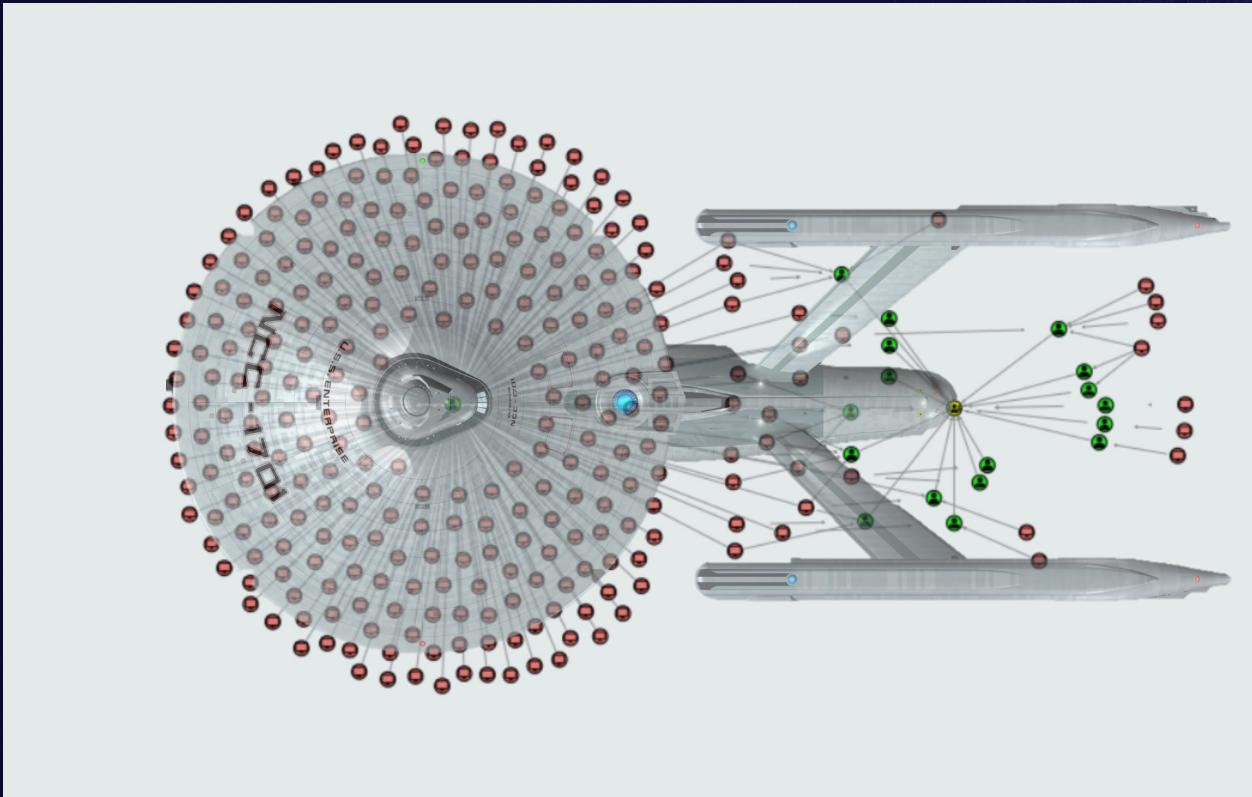


# Security software making us **safe**



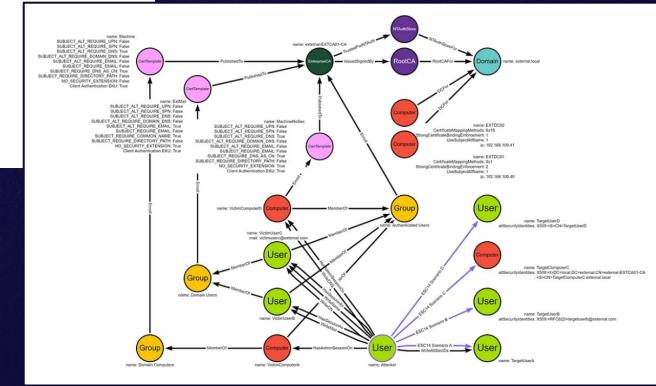
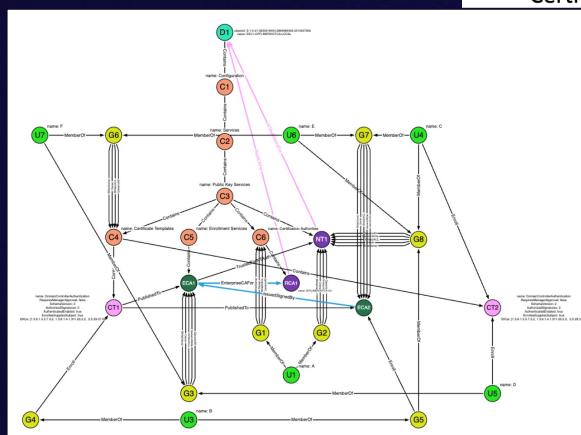
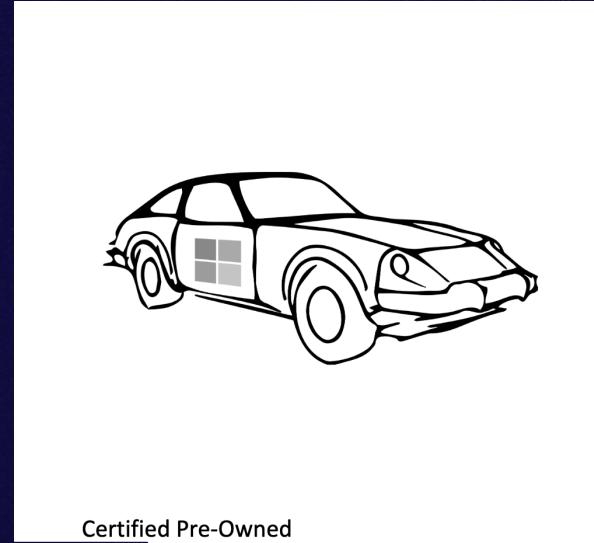


# Security software making us **safe**



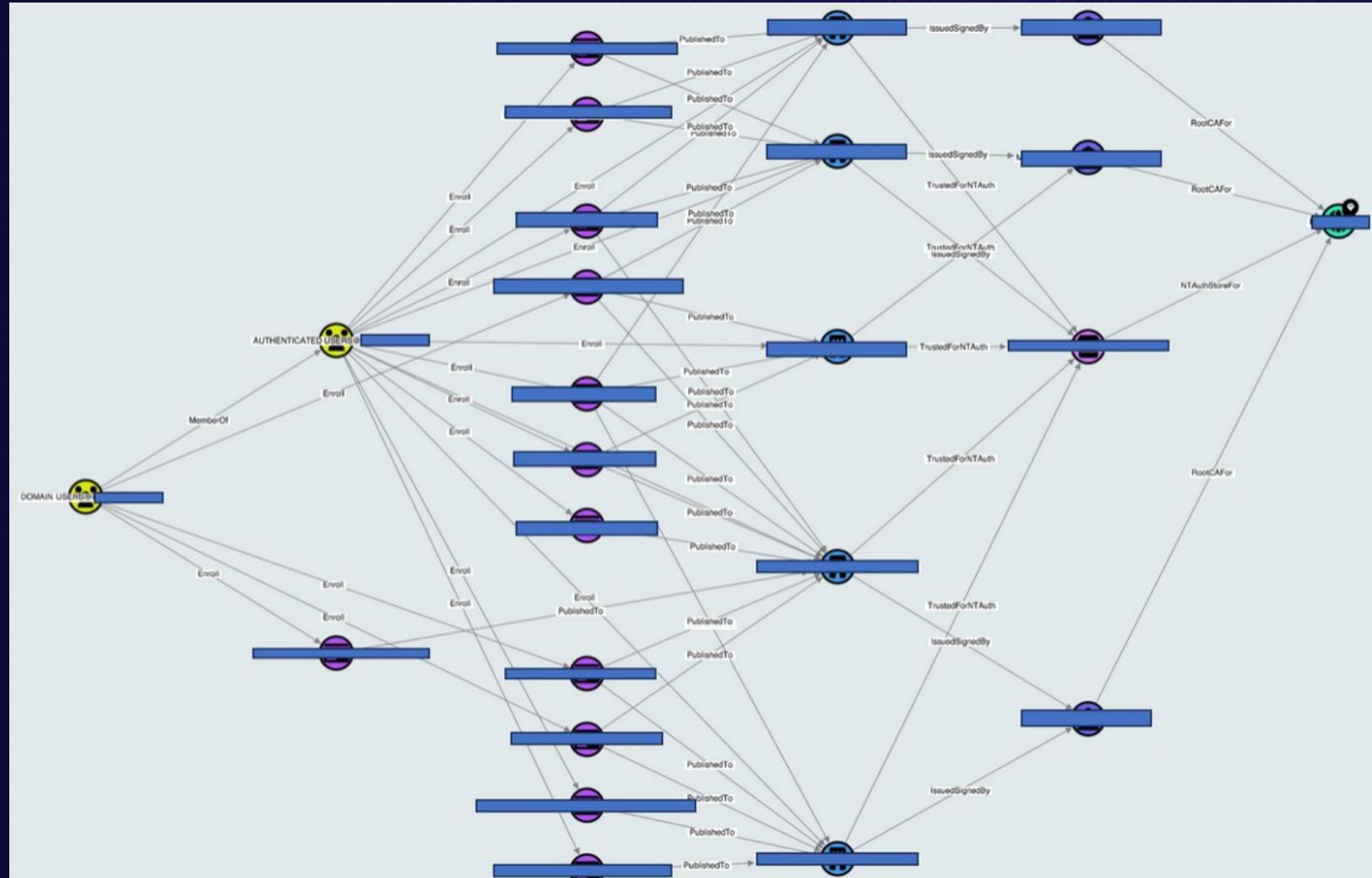


# ADCS gave new meaning to complexity





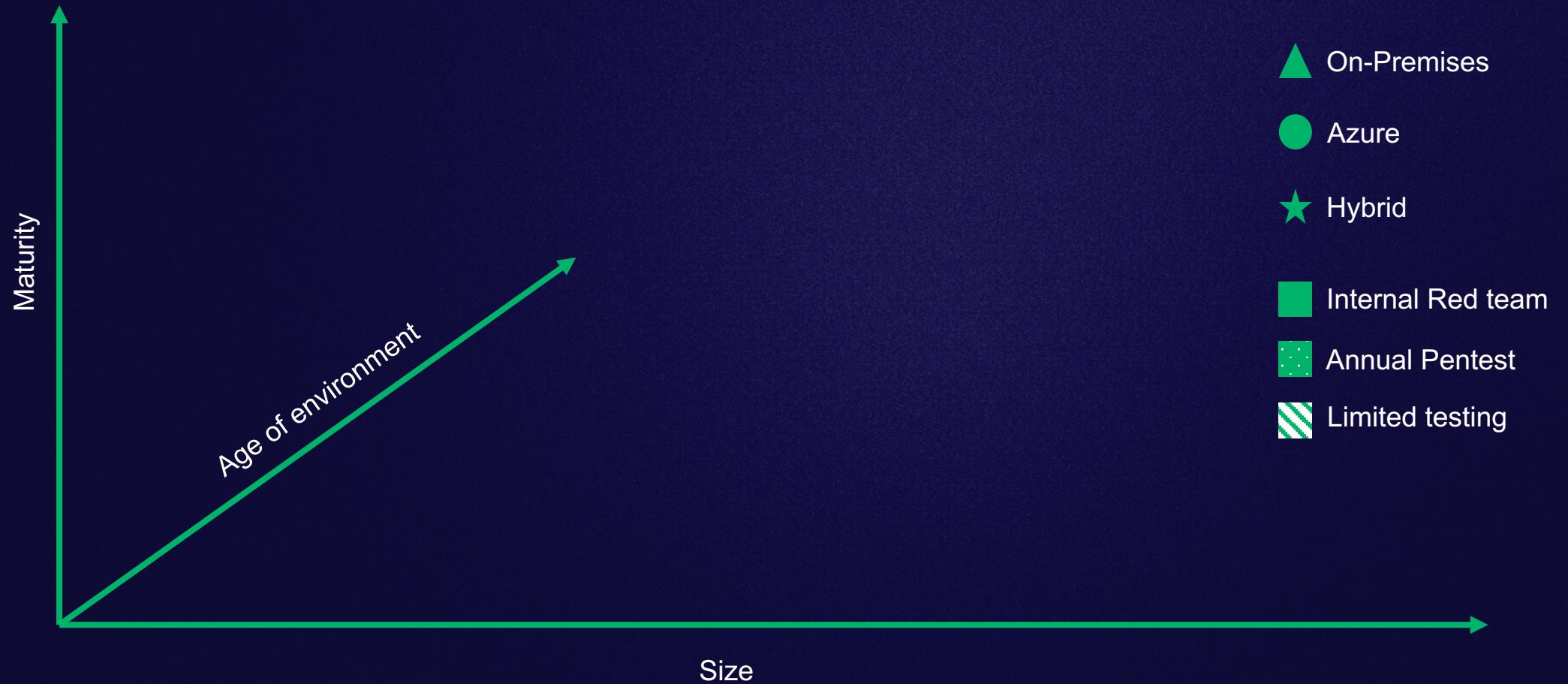
# And closed critical gaps



# Lessons Learned



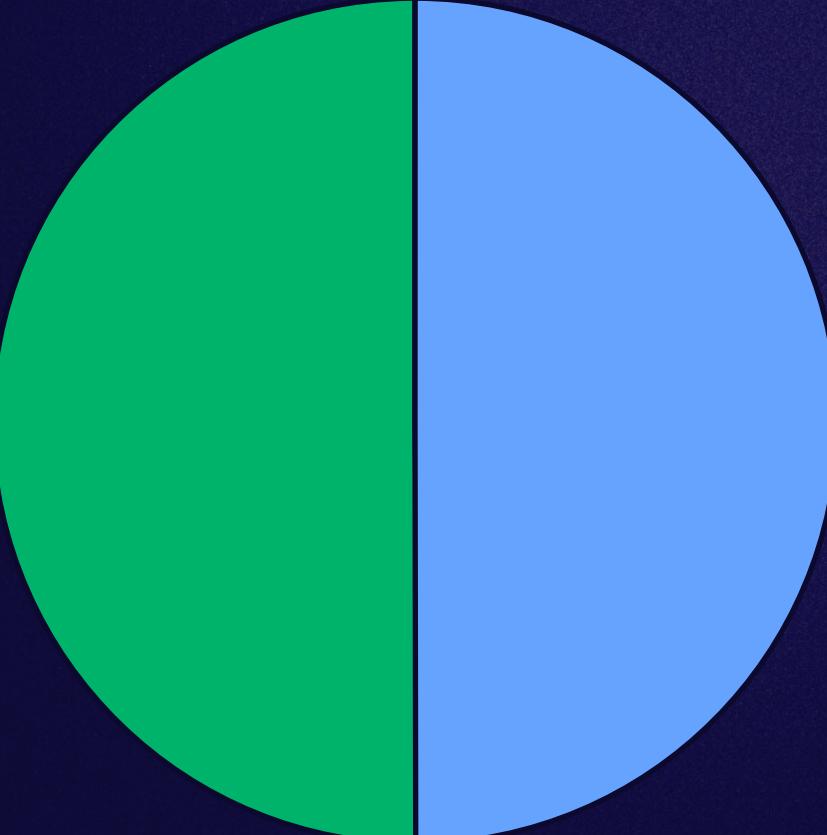
# Attack Path distribution analysis





# Attack Path distribution analysis





Organizations with  
Attack Paths

Those that haven't  
deployed yet



# AD is *still* not going away

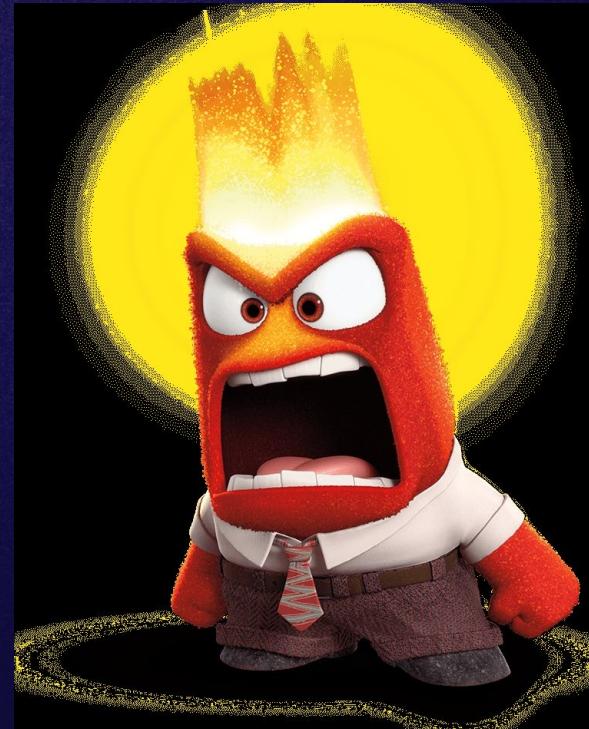
- AD is more complex than anyone imagines
- It's always worse than you think
- AD SMEs are disappearing
- Common knowledge is not common





# Azure is *still* a foreign language

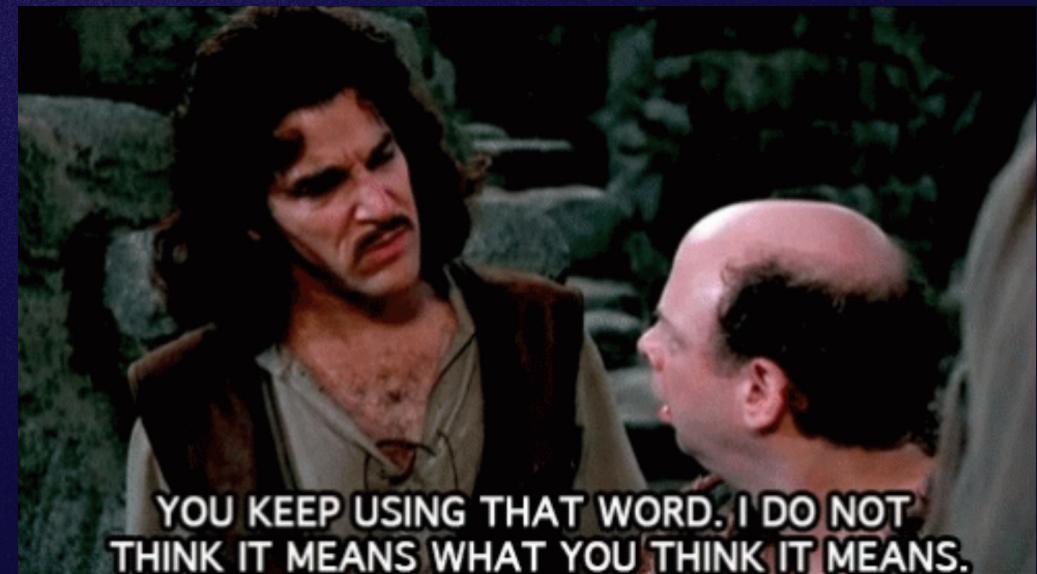
- The amount of knowledge to maintain is extreme
- Constant updates exacerbate this
- Hybrid environments have 3x the risk
- You can do everything right today to have it undone tomorrow





# Least Privilege is **not possible** without visibility

- Introduced 50 years ago
- Recommended during every breach or annual report
- “We separate our admin accounts”
- Perception vs reality can be a real shock





# Who owns this problem?

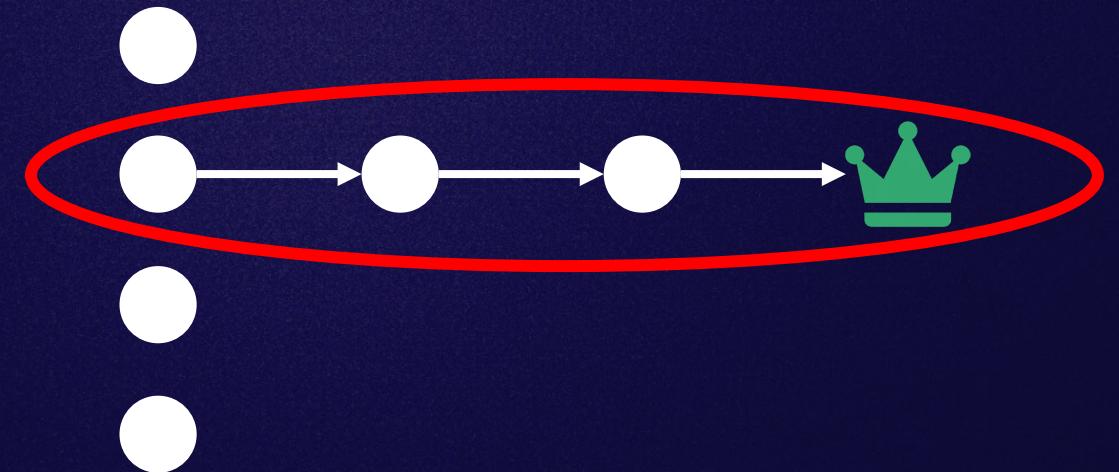
- New problem without clear owner
- Red Team > Operationalized
- Evolution of existing processes





# Visualizing Attack Paths is powerful

- AD Administrators and GPOs
- Incident Response
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- SOC Enrichment



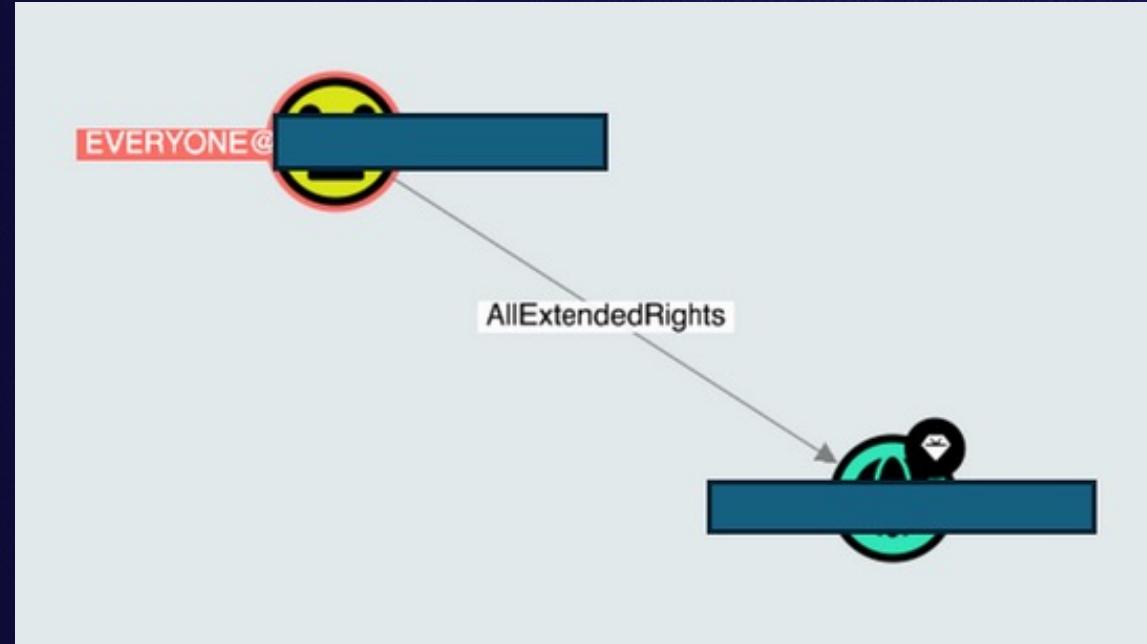


# APM Steps for Success

- Recognize it's a new capability
- Build a repeatable program with stakeholder buy-in
- It's no one's fault (for now)
- Start small: fix one, then two, then ten
- Crawl, Walk, Run on expanding use cases

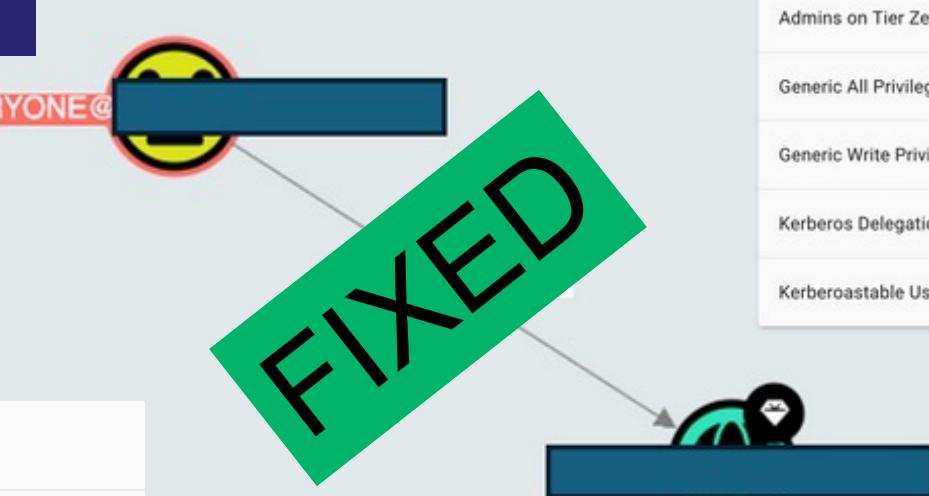
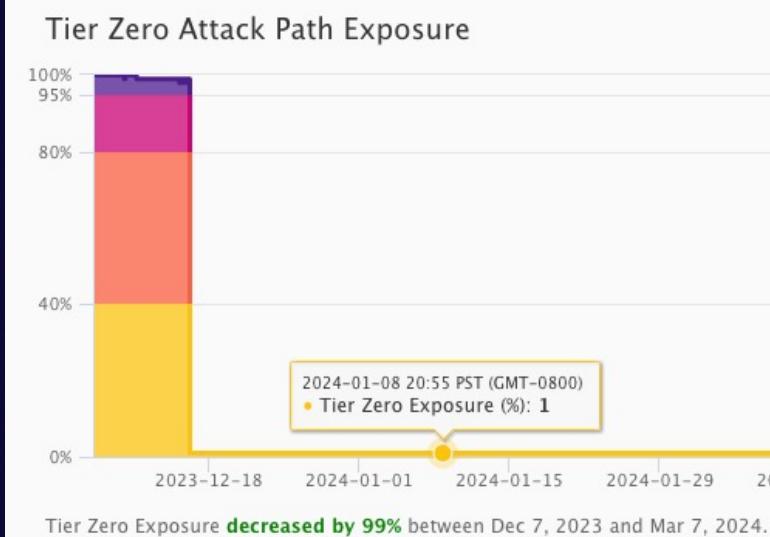
We can take back control





*"BloodHound Enterprise has easily been the greatest reduction of risk in our organization to advanced attackers in the last year"*

*"I've learned more about our Active Directory environment in the past week than in the previous 4 years"*



#### Active Attack Paths

Attack Path	Impacted Principals	Change over 90 days
Add Member Privileges on Tier Zero Security Groups	1	-3
Read LAPS Password Privileges on Tier Zero Objects	4	-1
Logons from Tier Zero Users	54	-1,552
Admins on Tier Zero Computers	8	-6
Generic All Privileges on Tier Zero Objects	15	-21
Generic Write Privileges on Tier Zero Objects	4	-8
Kerberos Delegation on Tier Zero Objects	8	-8
Kerberoastable User Accounts	3	-11

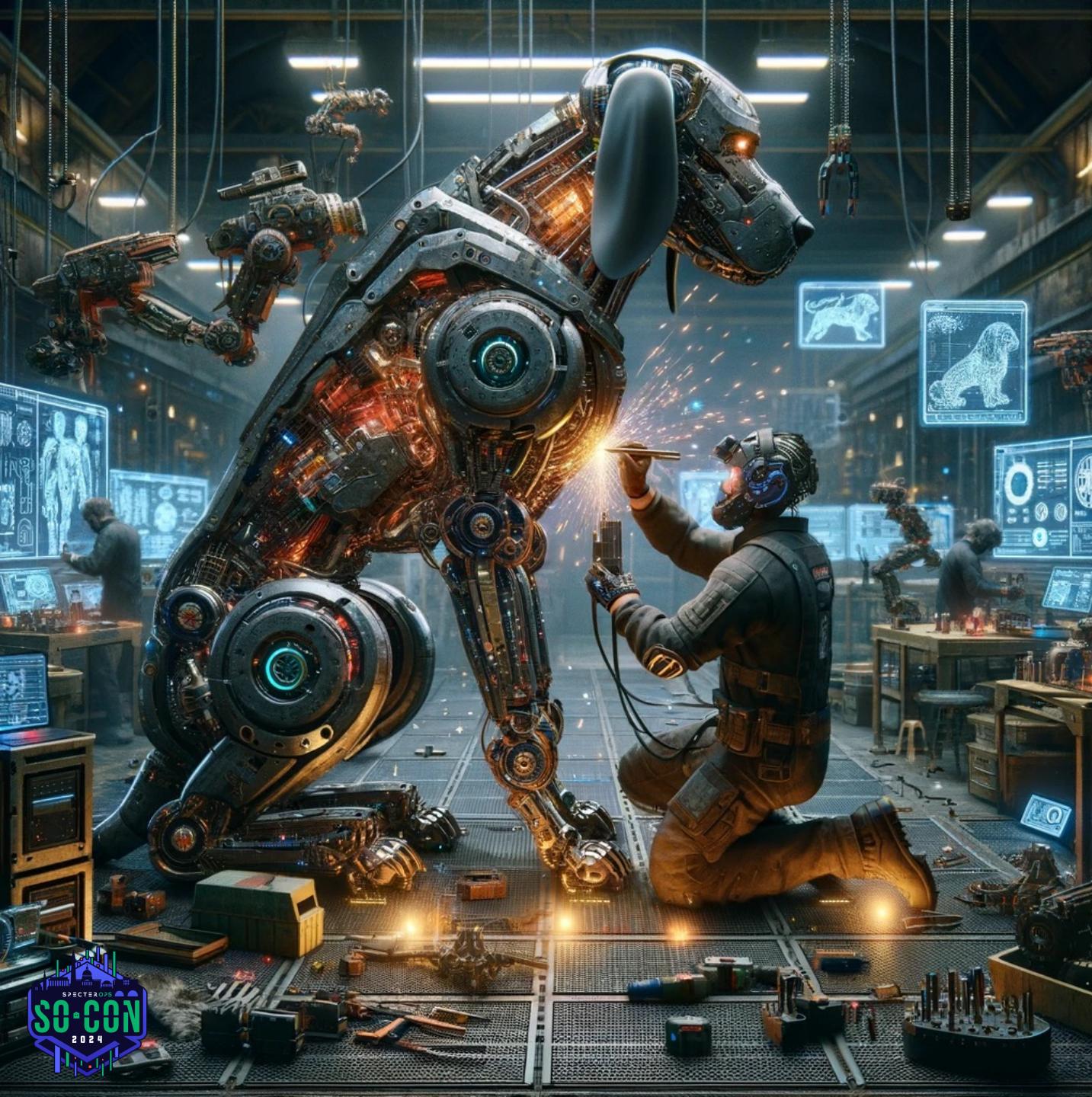
Tier Zero Attack Paths	Impacted Principals	Change over 90 days	Severity
Logons from Tier Zero Users	294	-86	Low
Add Member Privileges on Tier Zero Security Groups	1	-1	Low
Generic Write Privileges on Tier Zero Objects	42	-4	Low
RDP Users on Tier Zero Computers	0	-518	Resolved
Write DACL Privileges on Tier Zero Objects	0	-5	Resolved
Write Owner Privileges on Tier Zero Objects	0	-4	Resolved

0.02% of Attack Paths **actually** matter



# Where we go from here





## Supportive Community

<https://ghst.ly/BHSlack>

## So easy I can deploy it

<https://github.com/BloodHoundAD/BloodHound>

## Remove these today:

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/find-fix-three-common-ad-issues-andy-robbins/>

# BLOODHOUND ENTERPRISE

- Demo today
  - See what we see
- <https://bloodhoundenterprise.io/demo/>





Thank you

