



SOC UNVEILED: DECODING THE HEART OF CYBER DEFENSE

MONITORING CYBER TRAIN INTRUDERS

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WELCOME TO THE CYBERSECURITY

- **Cybersecurity:** the practice of protecting computer systems, networks, and digital data from unauthorized access, attacks, damage, or theft.
- **CIA:** Confidentiality, Integrity, Availability.
- **Cyber threats:** are malicious activities that aim to compromise digital systems and data.
- Cyber threats are diverse and evolving.
- Organizations face increasing risks.
- Robust cybersecurity measures are essential for protection.

GRG: THE CORNERSTONE

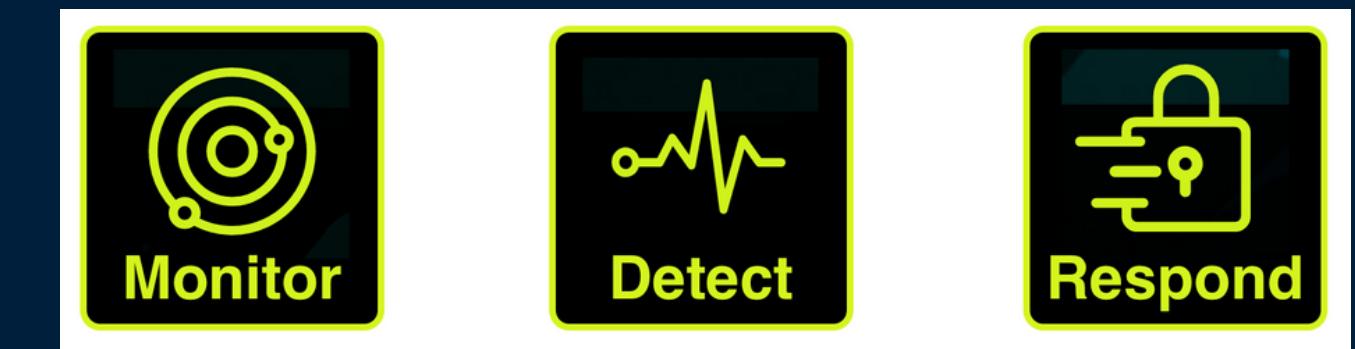
- **Governance:** Ensure that IT goals, policies and processes are aligned with business objectives and leadership for ethical and strategic decision-making. =>**The direction**
- **Risk Management:** iterative process of identifying, assessing, and responding to risks related to financial, operational, and strategic objectives. =>**How to use the resources**
- **Compliance:** Ensuring adherence to applicable laws, regulations, and internal policies to avoid legal issues, financial penalties, and reputational damage. => **Being ethical and within legal boundaries**





The SOC: the train controller

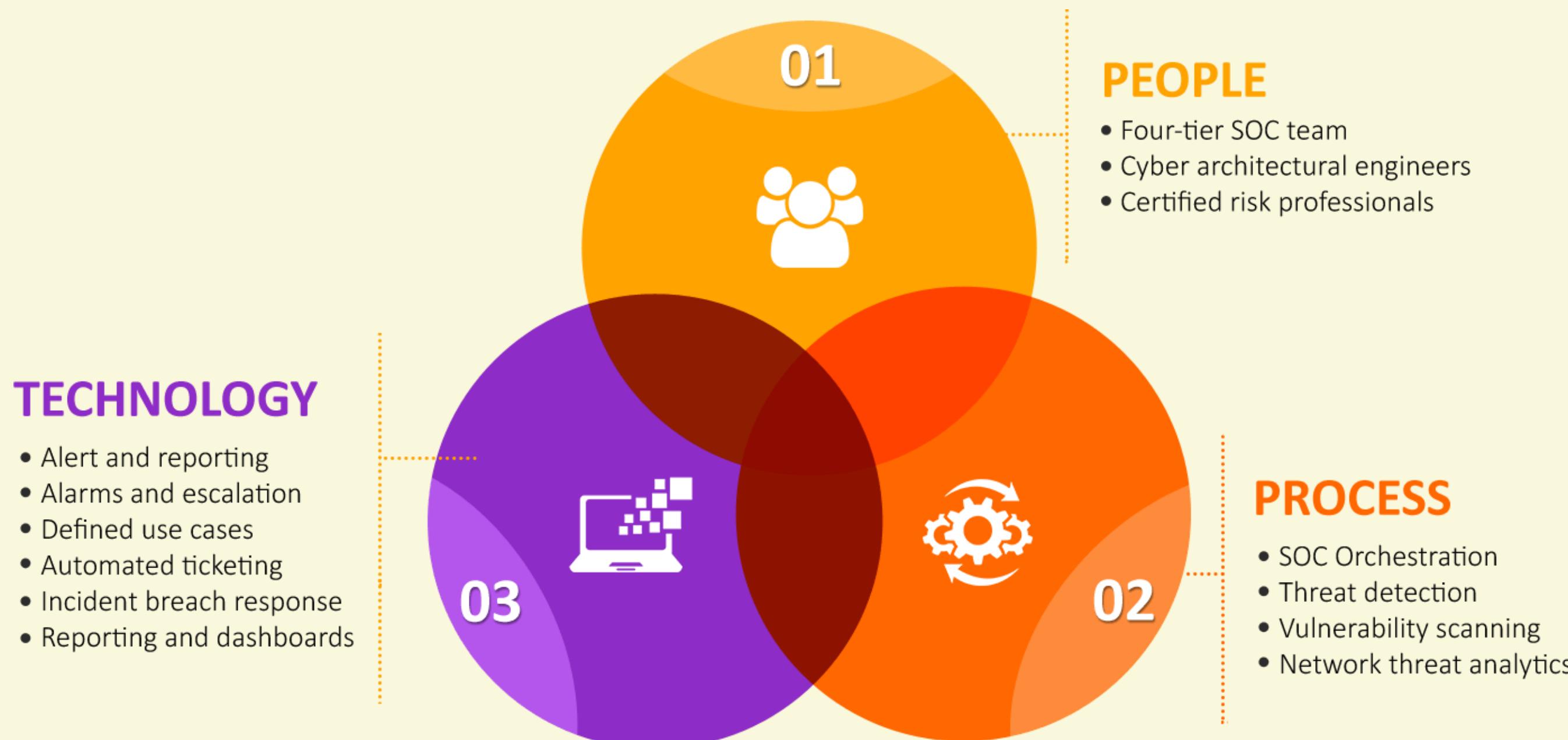
A Security Operations Center (SOC) is a centralized facility equipped to



to cybersecurity threats and incidents in real-time.

The Main Components of the SOC

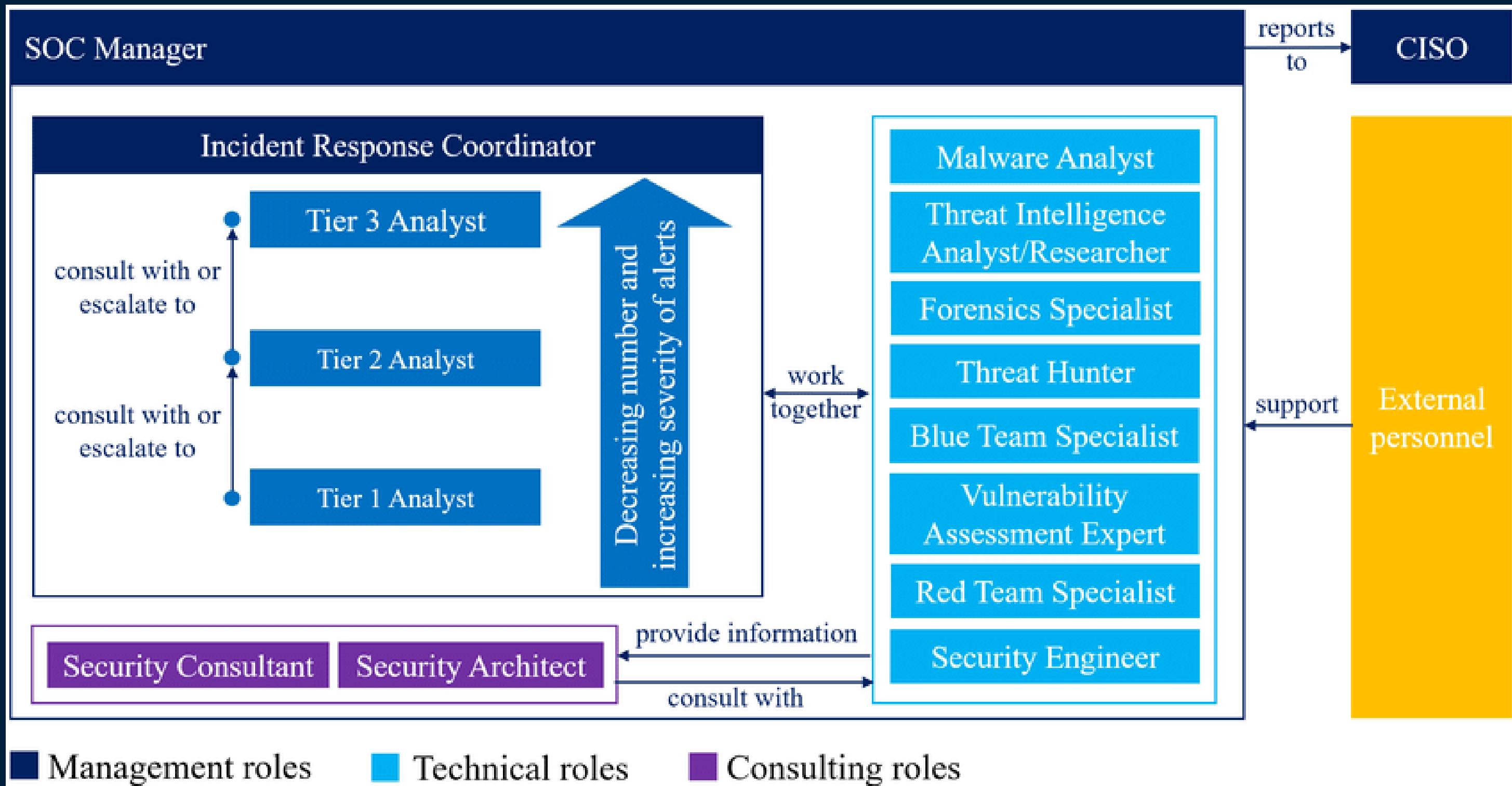
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People

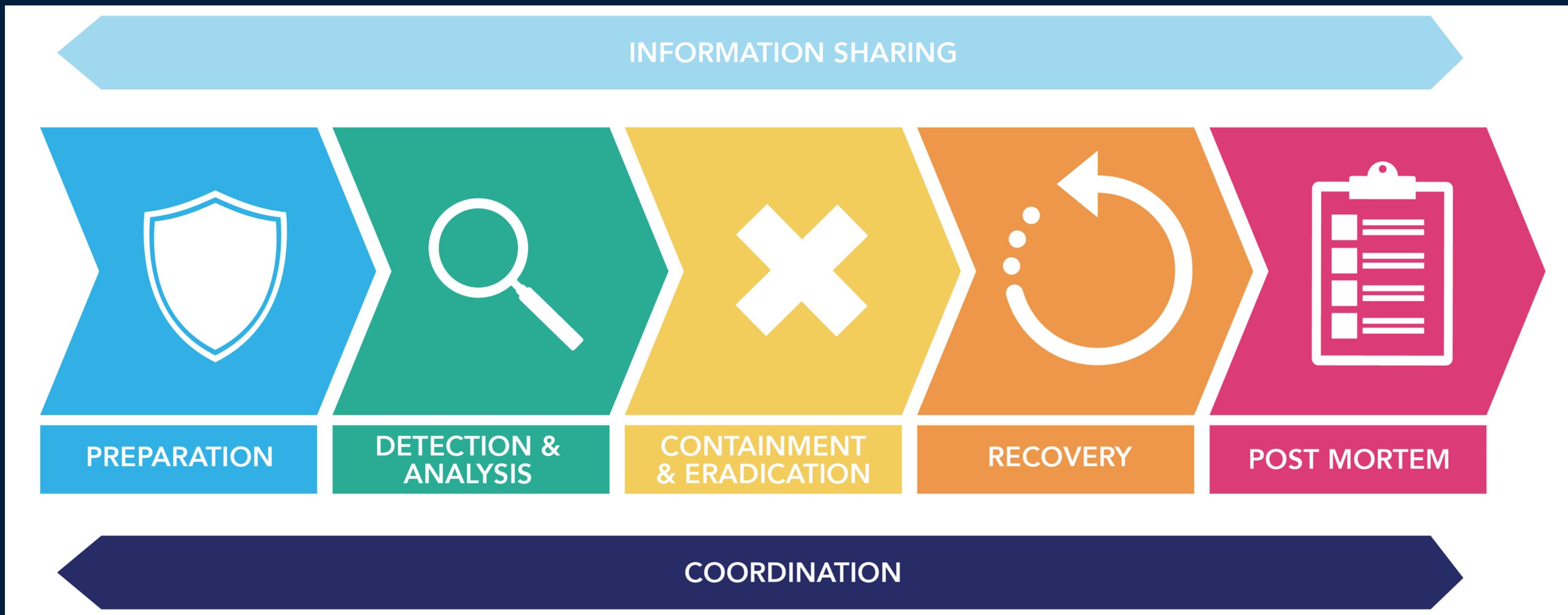
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skilled cybersecurity professionals responsible for monitoring, analyzing, and responding to security incidents.



Process

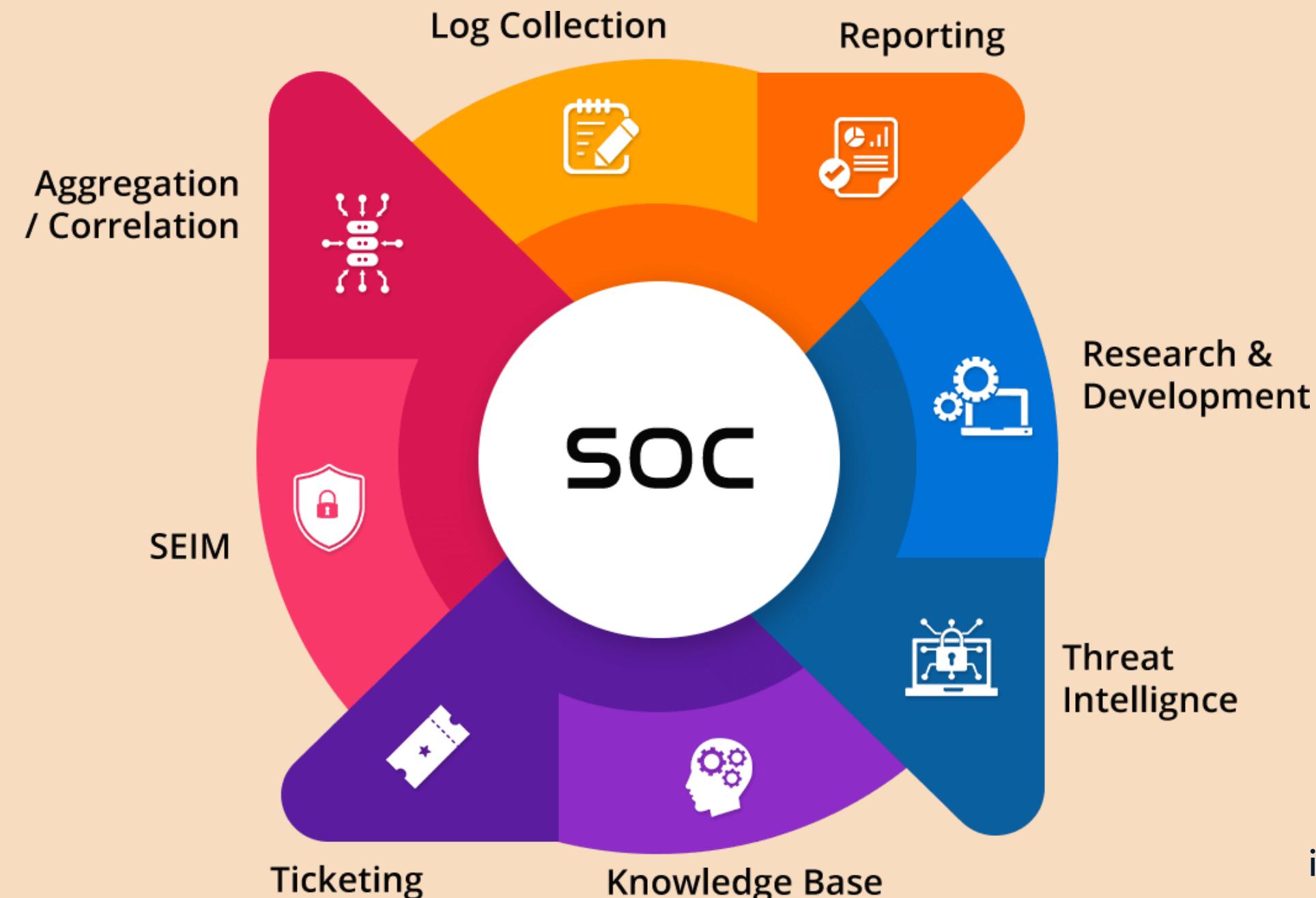
the development and implementation of effective procedures, workflows, and protocols for incident detection, analysis, and response. It ensures a systematic and organized approach to managing cybersecurity incidents within the SOC.



Technology

the tools, technologies, and infrastructure used to monitor networks, analyze security data, and respond to incidents.

Good technology needs good people



The Models of SOC (1/2)

SOC-as-a-Service

Customer Target:

Small to mid-sized organizations.

Pros:

- Cost-effective with a subscription-based model.
- Access to specialized security expertise.
- Scalability without the need for in-house infrastructure.

Cons:

- Limited control over the security infrastructure.
- Potential concerns about data confidentiality.

Co-Managed SOC

Customer Target:

Organizations with an existing internal SOC collaborating with a third-party provider.

Pros:

- Utilizes both in-house and external expertise.
- Enhanced 24/7 monitoring and response capabilities.
- Collaboration allows for knowledge exchange.

Cons:

- Requires effective coordination between internal and external teams.
- Potential challenges in aligning processes and workflows.



The Models of SOC (2/2)

Multifunction SOC / NOC

Customer Target:

Larger organizations.

Pros:

- Comprehensive monitoring of both security and network operations.
- Improved coordination between security and IT operations.
- Efficient use of resources for organizations with both functions.

Cons:

- Complexity in managing diverse tasks.
- Potential challenges in maintaining expertise in both areas.

Dedicated SOC

Customer Target:

Large enterprises with significant security needs and resources.

Pros:

- Complete control over security infrastructure and operations.
- Tailored to the specific needs and risks of the organization.
- Direct oversight of all security processes.

Cons:

- High upfront and operational costs.
- Resource-intensive to establish and maintain.
- May require ongoing investments in training and technology.

Command SOC

Customer Target:

Government agencies, critical infrastructure providers, or large enterprises with extremely high-security requirements.

Pros:

- Operates at the highest level of security and authority.
- Coordinates responses to complex, large-scale cyber threats.
- Typically involves collaboration with law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

Cons:

- High costs associated with maintaining a Command SOC.
- Requires stringent adherence to regulatory and compliance standards.

SOC Maturity Levels

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Non-existent: the aspect is not present in the SOC

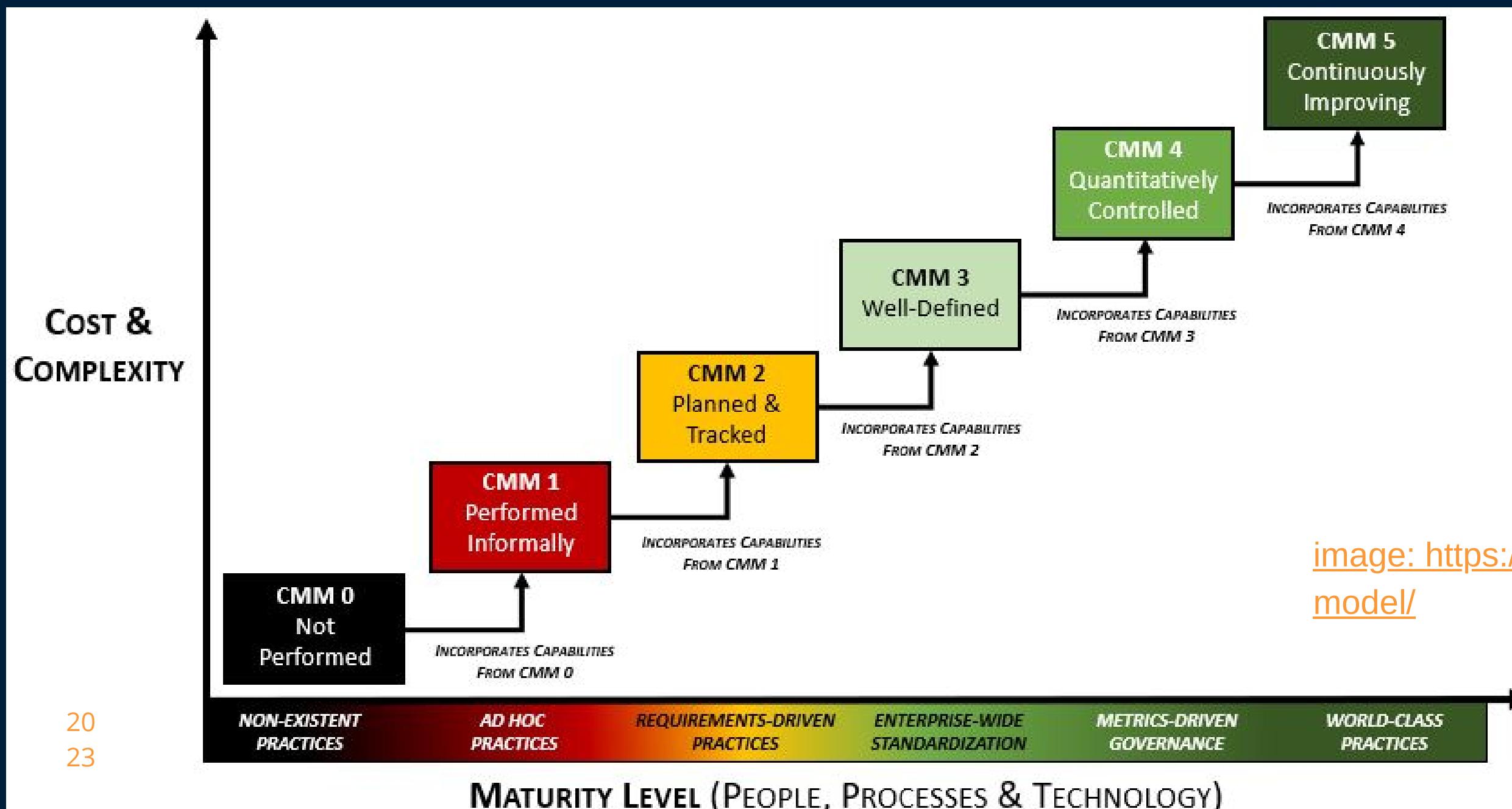
Initial: The aspect is delivered in an ad-hoc fashion

Defined: The aspect is documented and delivered consistently

Managed: The aspect is managed using ad-hoc feedback on the quality and timeliness of deliverables

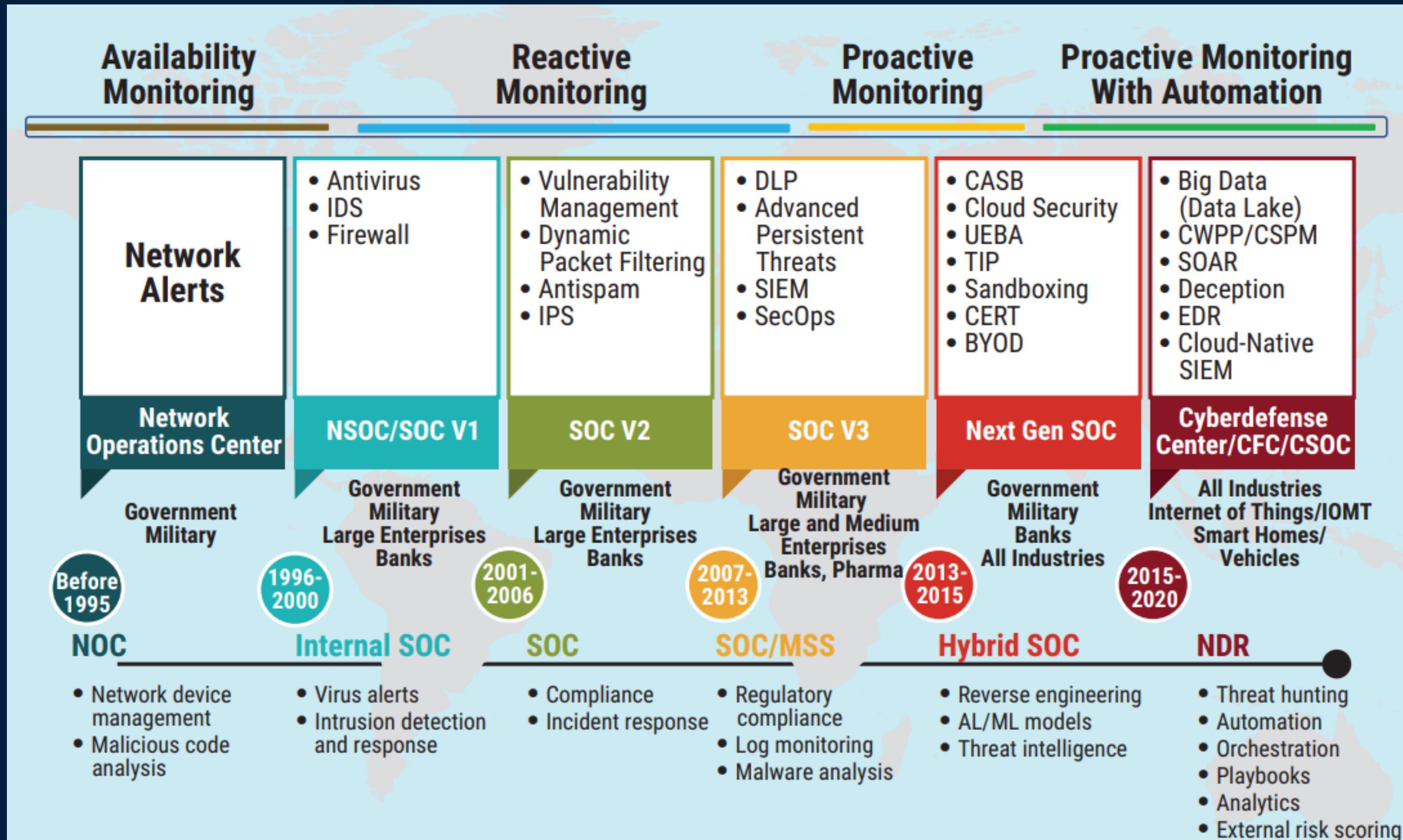
Quantitatively Managed: The aspect is systematically being measured for quality, quantity and timeliness of deliverables

Optimizing: The aspect is continuously being optimized and improved



Evolution of the SOC

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Key Operational Components

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Skilled Personnel

- The success of a SOC heavily relies on skilled individuals, including security analysts, incident responders, and SOC managers.
- Continuous training and development are crucial to keeping the team abreast of evolving threats and technologies.

Well defined Processes

- Effective SOC operations require well-defined processes and workflows to streamline incident response, threat intelligence integration, and continuous improvement.
- Processes ensure a systematic approach to managing cybersecurity incidents.

Technology

- SOCs leverage advanced tools such as Security Information and Event Management (SIEM), Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR), and Security Orchestration, Automation, and Response (SOAR).
- Automation plays a pivotal role in enhancing operational efficiency by handling routine tasks and allowing analysts to focus on critical issues.



Key Business Considerations

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Costs and Budgeting

- Running a SOC involves operational costs, including personnel salaries, technology investments, and ongoing training.
- Budgeting is essential to allocate resources effectively and ensure sustained operations.

Return on Security Investment (ROSI)

- A well-functioning SOC delivers a strong ROSI by preventing and mitigating cyber threats, reducing the impact of security incidents on the organization.
- SOCs provide immeasurable value in protecting sensitive data, maintaining business continuity, and safeguarding organizational reputation.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

- Measuring SOC performance involves tracking key metrics such as mean time to detect (MTTD), mean time to respond (MTTR), and the number of incidents resolved.
- KPIs contribute to demonstrating the tangible business impact of the SOC.

Compliance and Reporting

- SOCs play a critical role in ensuring compliance with industry regulations and standards.
- Accurate reporting and documentation are imperative for meeting regulatory requirements.



How to choose your SOC Partner/Provider

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How to start a SOC analyst career

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- **Networking and IT Fundamentals:** Linux, windows, cisco, Fortinet....
- **Cybersecurity Fundamentals:** Comptia security+
- **Learn Cloud Technologies:** AWS, GCP, Azure
- **Master a SIEM:** ELK stack, Qradar, Microsoft Sentinel, splunk
- **Create Your Own Lab**
- **Engage in Platforms and Challenges:** TryHackMe, Hack The Box, Let's Defend, and participate in Capture The Flag (CTF) challenges
- **Seek Professional Advice**
- **Apply for Internships or Entry-Level Positions**
- **Develop Soft Skills**



What Makes a Difference in your SOC? (1/2)

- Effective Leadership and Management
- Skilled and Well-Trained Personnel
- Well-Defined Processes and Workflows
- Advanced Technologies and Tools
- Proactive Threat Intelligence Integration
- Collaboration and Communication
- Continuous Monitoring and Analysis
- Incident Response Planning



What Makes a Difference in your SOC? (2/2)

- Regular Auditing and Compliance
- Investment in Automation and Orchestration
- Learning from Incidents
- Strong Relationships with External Entities
- Cybersecurity Awareness and Training
- Metrics and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
- Community Engagement and Information Sharing
- Ethical and Legal Considerations



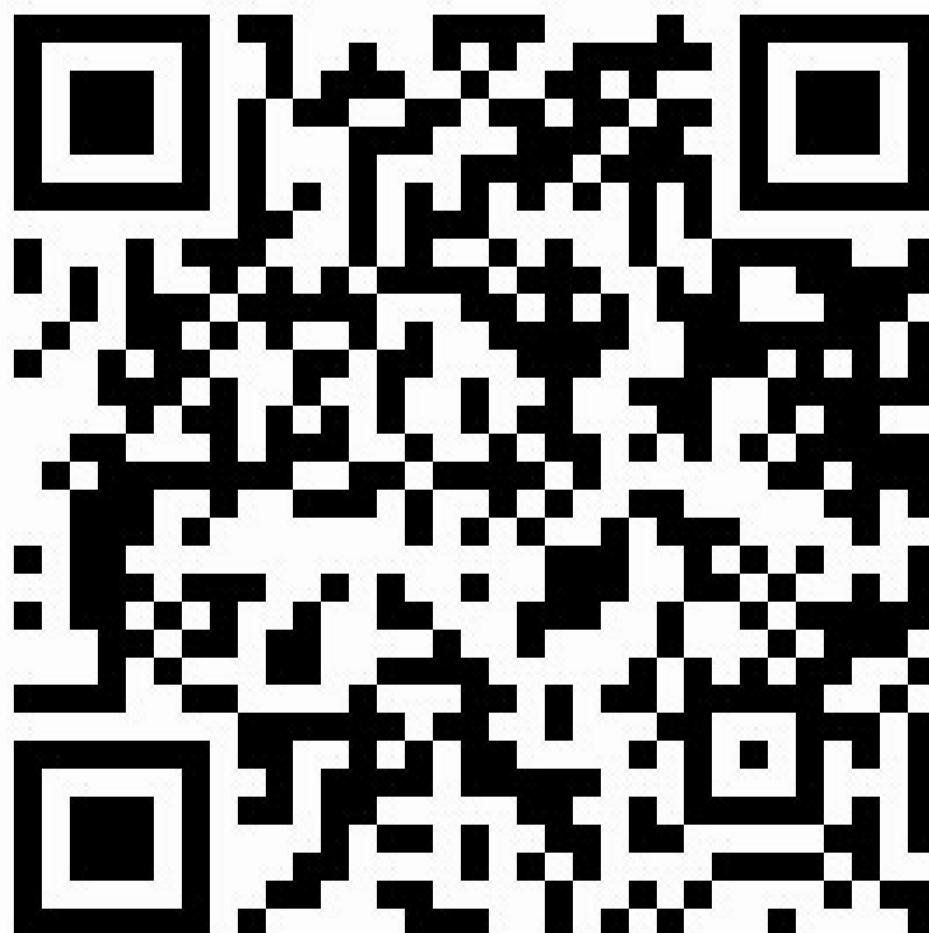


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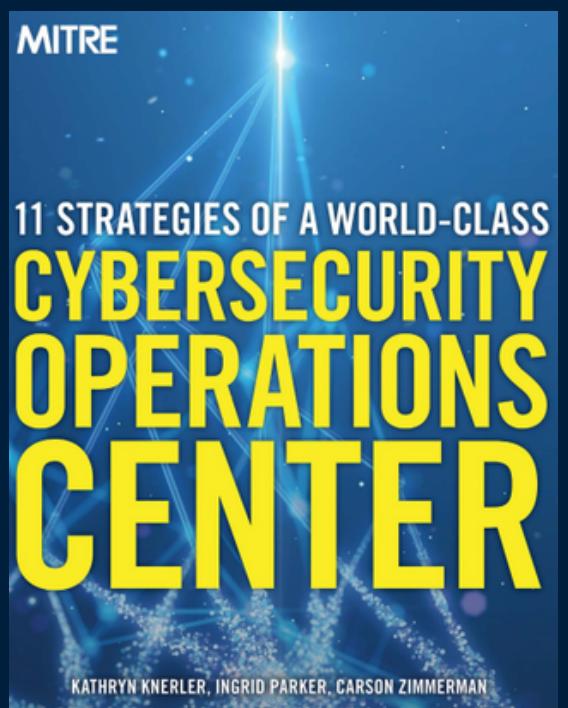
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Medium: <https://medium.com/@br.riadh>

References



Acronyms

- AI/ML: Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning
- BYOD: Bring Your Own Device
- CASB: Cloud Access Security Broker
- CERT: Computer Emergency Response Team
- CFC: Cyber Fusion Center
- CSOC: Cyber Security Operations Center
- CSPM: Cloud Security Posture Management
- CWPP: Cloud Workload Protection Platform
- DLP: Data Loss Prevention
- EDR: Endpoint Detection and Response
- IOT/IOMT: Internet of Things/Internet of Medical Things
- IPS: Intrusion Prevention System
- SecOps: Security Operations
- SIEM: Security Information and Event Management
- SOAR: Security Orchestration, Automation, and Response
- TIP: Threat Intelligence Platform
- UEBA: User and Entity Behavior Analytics