

Dealing with Information Security, Risk  
Management & Cyber Resilience



TODAY FOR TOMORROW

## Introductions

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- >19 years working in all areas of IT
- Former Associate Director, KPMG
- Former Lead Security Analyst & Architect for American-based CCBill
- Lecturer on Information Security & Computer Forensics, NCC
- >6 years PCI-DSS industry
- Information Security, Software Engineering, IT & Telecoms Law



## Brief Agenda

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### [Information Security]

1. Why the need to think about it?
2. What exactly are we talking about?
3. How do we go about doing something about it?
4. Is there a one-size-fits-all framework?

## Information Security?

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*[Information Security]* is the preservation of confidentiality, integrity and availability of information.

But how do you **really** go about it within your business?

- After an **incident** occurs?
- If **budget** permits?
- Because you are mandated to **comply**?
- Who possesses the **knowledge** within your company to advise?
- Is it even a **priority** or a concern?
- Is there any **structure** to your approach?
- Are you really prepared / in **control**?

# IT Governance..1/3

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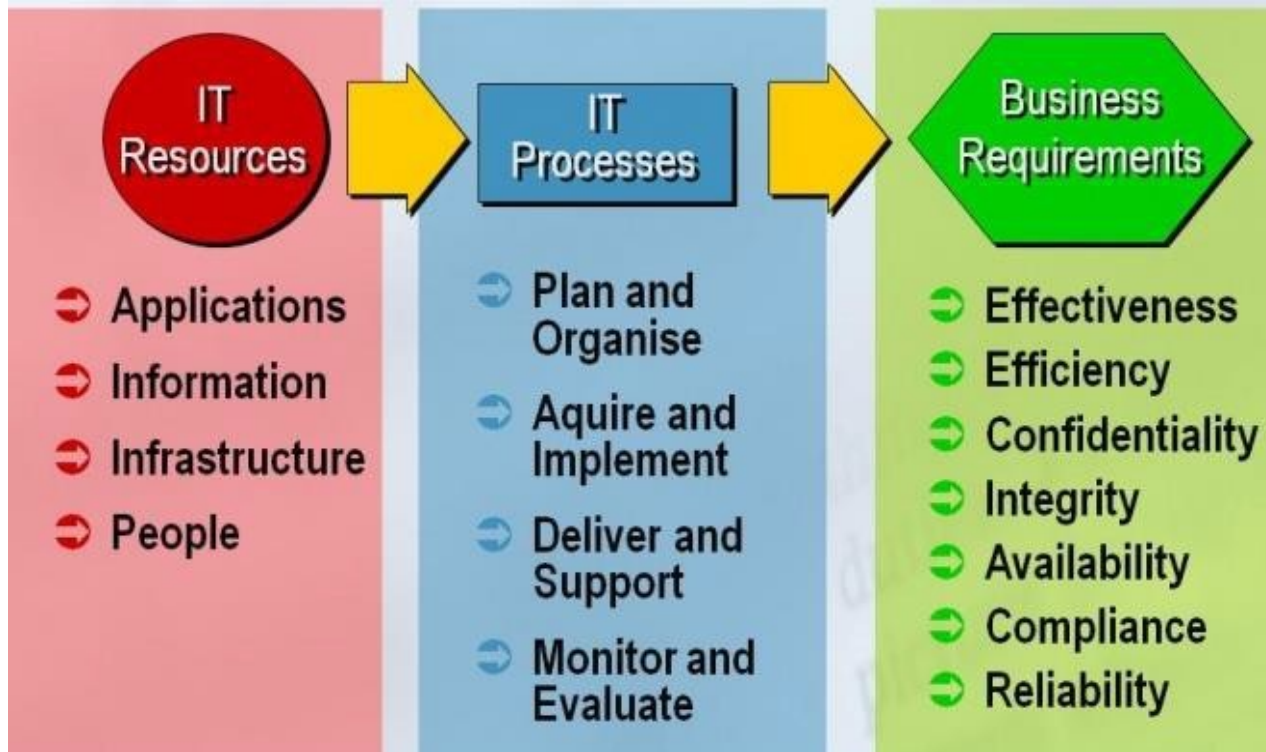
- IT is aligned with the business
- IT enables the business and maximizes benefits
- IT resources are used responsibly
- IT risks are managed appropriately

## [COBIT (4.1) Framework]



Source: <http://www.isaca.org/Knowledge-Center/cobit/Documents/COBIT4.pdf>

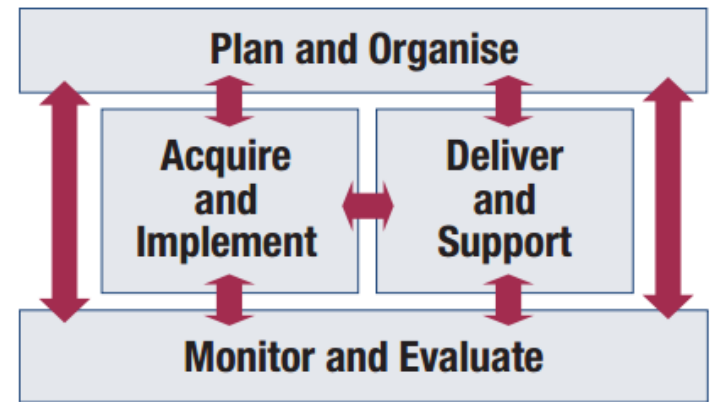
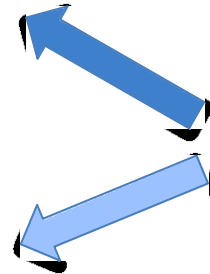
# IT Governance..2/3



Source: <http://www.isaca.org/Knowledge-Center/cobit/Documents/COBIT4.pdf>

## IT Governance..3/3

- Periodic assessments of IT processes for their quality and compliance
  - Performance management
  - Monitoring internal controls
  - Regulatory compliance
  - Provide IT governance
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- Is IT's performance measured to detect problems before it is too late?
  - Are internal controls effective and efficient?
  - Are adequate confidentiality, integrity and availability controls in place for information Security?



Source: <http://www.isaca.org/Knowledge-Center/cobit/Documents/COBIT4.pdf>

# Incidents

Monday, March 30, 2009 by Kurt Sansone  
**Malta victim of international cyber spy network**  
Canadian researchers have uncovered an electronic spy network based in China which has infiltrated

Wednesday, May 22, 2013, 17:28

## timesofmalta.com service returning to normal

The possible cyber-attack on the timesofmalta.com's servers yesterday evening has been reported to the Police Cyber Crimes Unit for investigation.

A company spokeswoman said:

"Our site and servers were never touched and our security was not breached. No data has been compromised. We suffered what is referred to as a distributed denial of service (DDoS) attack due to security protocols."





# Who are the targets?

NEW YORK (CNNMoney)

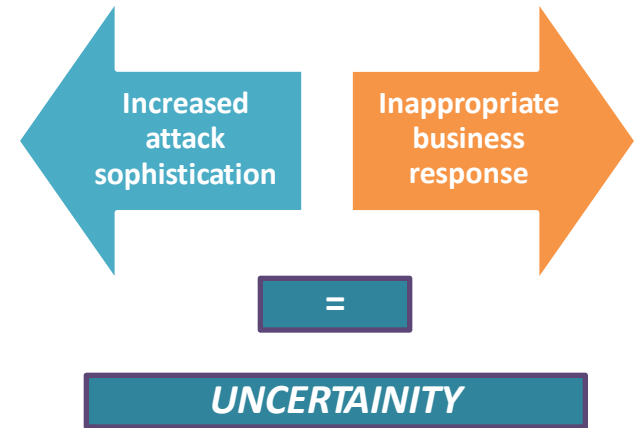
Cybercriminals have picked their easiest prey: Small businesses.

A data breach investigations report from Verizon (VZ, Fortune 500), to be released Tuesday, will show that small businesses continue to be the most victimized of all companies.

The high level takeaways:

- 37 percent of breaches hit financial organizations;
- 24 percent of breaches happened in retail and restaurants;
- 20 percent of network intrusions involved manufacturing, transportation and utilities;
- 38 percent of breaches were aimed at large companies;
- 92 percent of breaches were perpetrated by outsiders;
- 19 percent were attributed to state-affiliated actors;
- And finally weak defenses make things a bit easy for the bad guys.

## The targets?



One study\* conducted in the UK showed that small businesses suffer an estimated loss of **£800m** a year, averaging nearly **£4000** per business

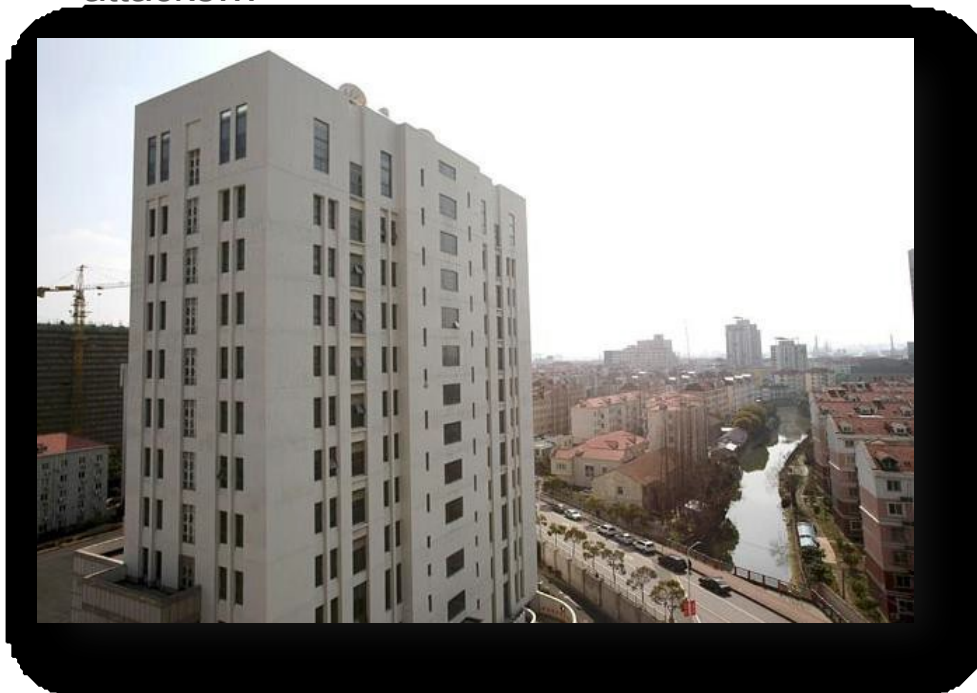
- **30%** of its members were victims of fraud as a result of virus infections
- **50%** hit by malware
- **8%** victims of hacking
- **5%** suffered security breaches

As a consequence, a second recent cybercrime study\*\* revealed that

- **53%** of the British public is worried about the damage of cyber attacks
- **40%** feel more vulnerable to cyber attacks now than a year ago
- **38%** feel that their personal data exchanged with organisations they do business with may already have been compromised

## Meanwhile..

... just outside of Shanghai, “Unit 61398” of the Peoples Liberation Army is the alleged source of Chinese hacking attacks...



... although the Chinese government consistently denies its involvement in such activities claiming that such allegations are “irresponsible and unprofessional”



Should we be concerned?

Source: Hello, Unit 61398, The Economist

## Threat horizon for 2015

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- **Reputation** is a new target for cyber-attacks, from insider activists who leak information, and hacktivist collectives who vote on who they dislike this week.
- Criminals value your **information**, they're highly motivated to obtain it, or to use what leaks out of your organization.
- The changing pace of technology doesn't help; bring your own cloud (**BYOC**) and bring your own device (**BYOD**) also bring their own risks.



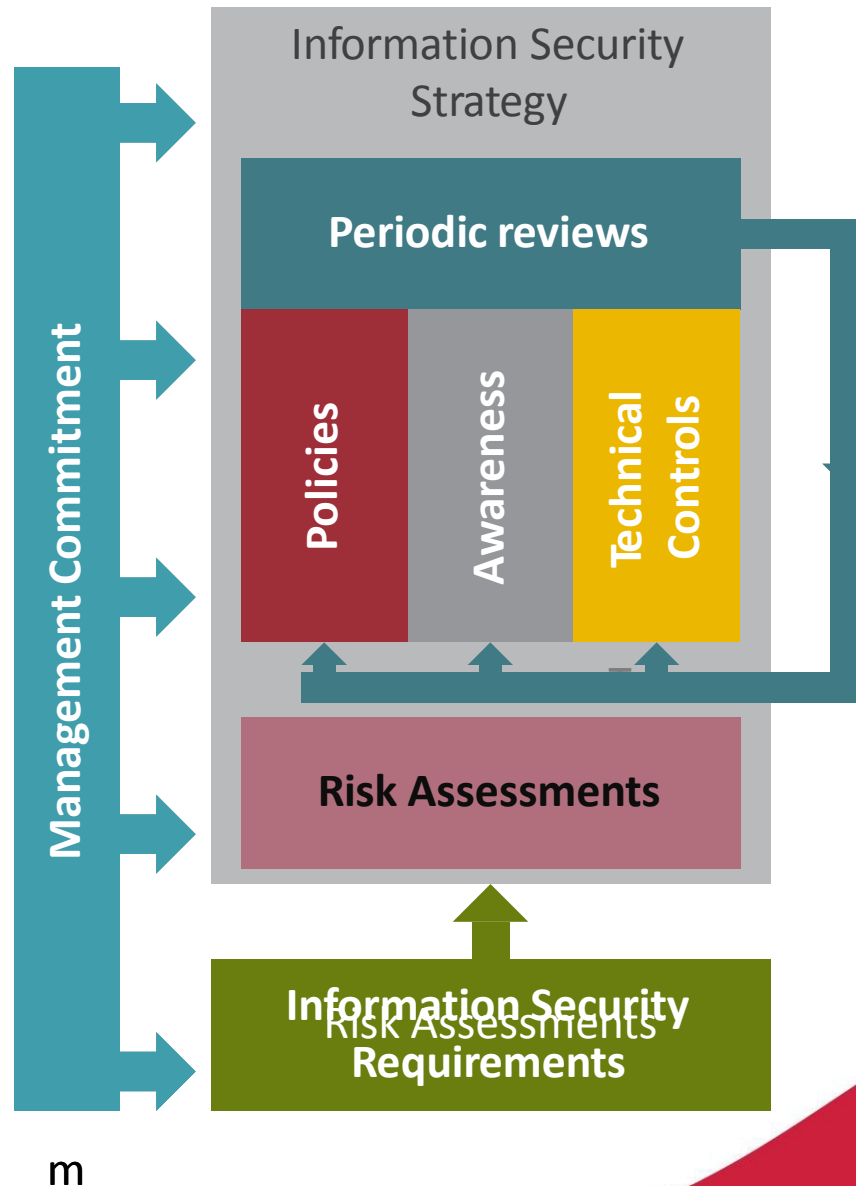
# Approach 1

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## Approach 2

- Identify critical information assets
- Obtain management buy-in
- Take a 3 pronged approach
- Conduct periodic reviews



## Adopting a framework

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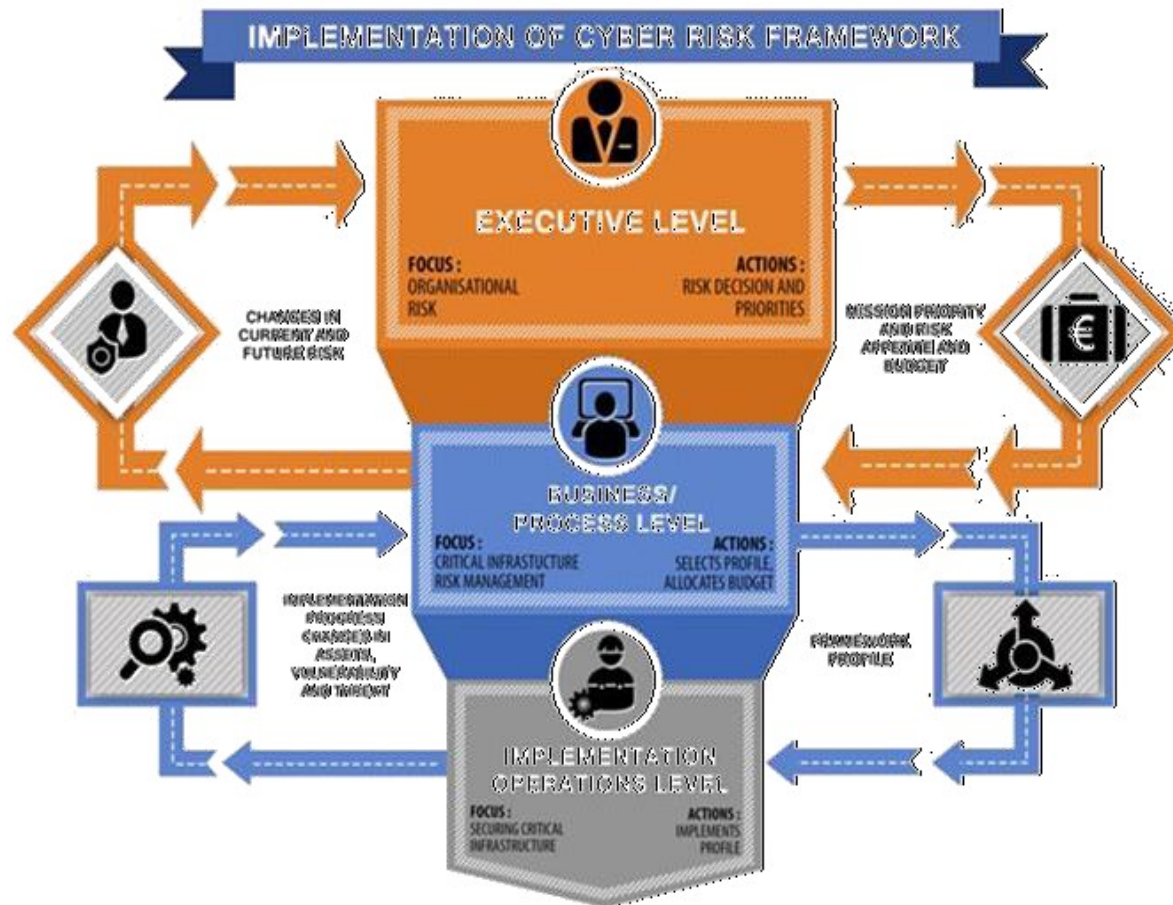
### “What does good cyber risk management look like?”

*By definition a framework is an **agreed structured approach** to dealing with a particular subject.*

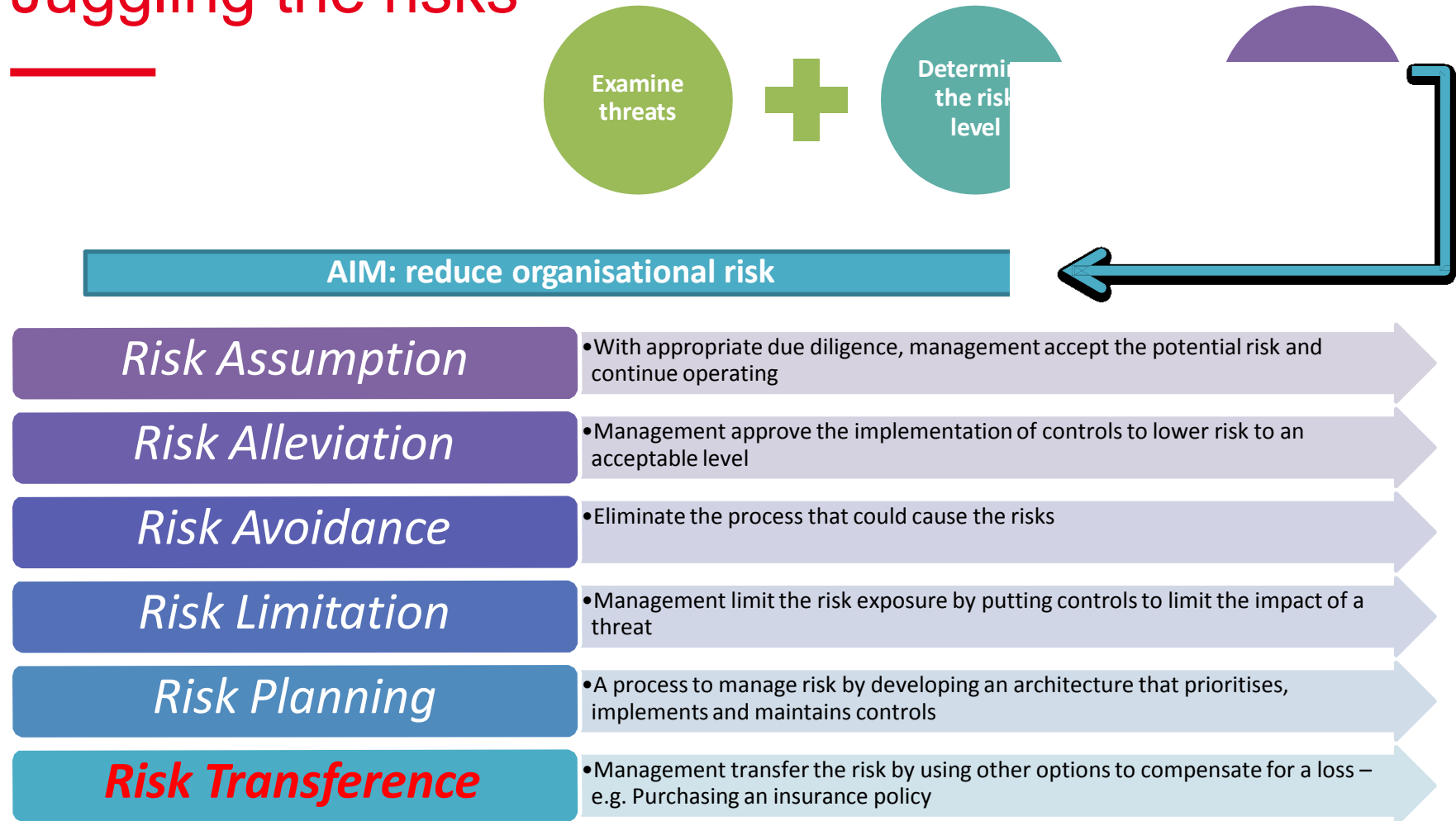
- There is no such thing as a one-size-fits-all framework
- Use / implement the appropriate framework for your organisation's requirements
- i.e. access your requirements and design the appropriate framework for your needs
- Such that your organisation is not trying to 'fit' to a particular benchmark or rule book

Implement what is appropriate to your business objectives, risk appetite and facilitates reporting to any third party against international generic cyber risk frameworks.

# Adopting a framework



# Juggling the risks





# Six Point action plan



**“The ability of an organization to withstand, absorb, and recover from adverse events to ensure the continued availability of critical operations and services to meet stakeholder expectations”**  
**- NIST, 2018**



# #1 Organisational Readiness



Corporate awareness



Ownership at the C-level



Assign the role and responsibility for information security oversight



Understand your business risks

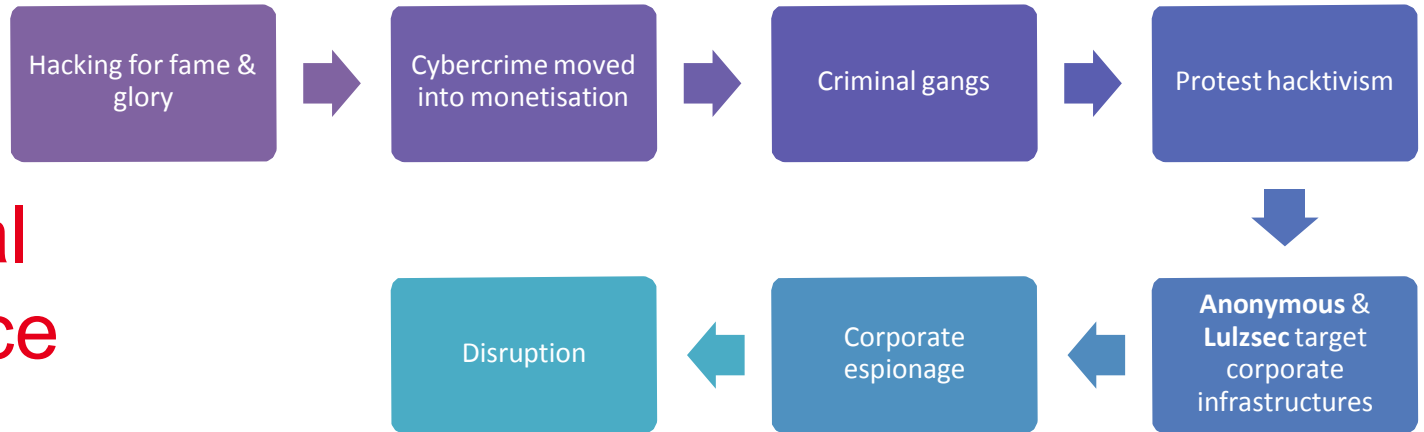


Focus on your information and reputation



Share intelligence and experiences

# #2 Situational Intelligence



Specialist knowledge



Know your information assets



Keep abreast of the latest advanced threats



Classify your information assets

[Redacted text]

## #3 - Detection



Develop the ability to detect attacks



Ensure you have an effective internal & external monitoring process



Scan outbound messages for *abnormal volumes* and *patterns*



Early recognition of a compromise is key to early reaction

## #4 – Cyber Defence

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Get a grip on infrastructure and access security



Assert the levels of staff awareness



Define strict access control and remote access control



Ensure strong visitor procedures for key buildings



Keep your basic security controls in sight e.g. Password change policy



Infrastructure changes should trigger network configuration changes allowing you to move the shape of the target

# #5 – Mitigation and containment



The aim is to limit the damage to your services and reputation



Limit the impact / shutdown the source



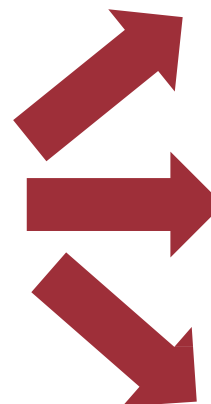
Being prepared is the key



Contingency planning – define and review your plans



Ensure adequate testing of business continuity plans



Continuity of Operations Plan

Disaster Recovery Plan

IT / Network Contingency Plans

Crisis Communication Plan

**Cyber Incident Plan**



# #6 - Recovery



You need to develop the ability to re-establish normal service



Your survival as a business depends on it



Apply the lessons learnt



Give feedback to senior executives



Here's what happened to us

This is how we reacted

This is what we've done to mitigate / prevent it

# Conclusions

- Good IT governance by following a framework gives **structure** and business **alignment**
- Apply some form of **strategy** to the way you deal with information security
- Cyber **threats** are on the increase, so prevention and detection are always better than cure
- Becoming **cyber resilient** gives you the benefit of knowing how to tackle IT risks
- Take a pragmatic **approach** to investing in your defences

