



# THE BAD, BETTER, AND BEST SOCIAL ENGINEERING INCIDENT RESPONSE

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**@LUNARCA\_**



# Hello!

We are **Rob** and **Alex**

Security consultants at **Bishop Fox**.

We help organizations secure their networks,  
applications, and **people**.



1

What are we  
talking about here?



1

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This talk explores the challenges of responding to **social engineering incidents** and **improving defense**.

1

# What are we talking about here?



This talk explores the challenges of responding to **social engineering incidents** and **improving defense**.

Does your organization have a **social engineering-specific response plan?**



**Bad**

The worst incident responses



# Phone Social Engineering



# International News Agency

- Impersonate an employee
- Call helpdesk for password reset
- Gain access to internal network and resources





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I FORGOT MY  
PASSWORD



I FORGOT MY  
PASSWORD  
OH AND I  
DON'T HAVE MY  
LAPTOP  
BECAUSE I'M  
TRAVELLING



I FORGOT MY  
PASSWORD  
OH AND I  
DON'T HAVE MY  
LAPTOP  
BECAUSE I'M  
TRAVELLING  
AND I REALLY  
NEED ACCESS  
TO MY  
ACCOUNT  
CAN YOU  
PLZ HELP?



YA SURE



# vWorkspace

User Name:

Password:

Login

## MESSAGE CENTER

Welcome to

Login to access your remote applications.

\*\*Your password is your token passcode followed by your network password on the same line. e.g. if your token is 123456 and your network password is qwerty, you should enter 123456qwerty in the password field.

[Click here to use the HTML5 client connector if you have a ChromeBook.](#)

VISIT THIS  
WEBSITE  
TO RESET  
YOUR  
PASSWORD



# REQUIRE

*Verb*

- Need for a particular purpose
- Cause to be **necessary**



“



# Email Phishing





# National Retail Company

- Impersonate the head of Human Resources
- Convince employees to log in to fake benefits portal
- Gain access to internal network and resources



*Open Enrollment*

**Benefits Enrollment Login**

Username

Password

Login

Login Instructions



# Incident Response Failures

- Employees did not know who to report to
- IR team did not know who was affected
- No enforcement of IR policy
- Allowed for **persistent access** to the internal network

I followed the instructions and was not able to log in. Please advise

This is not a legitimate email from the Benefits Department. DO NOT DO ANYTHING!

Hackers gonna hack. Or, at least try to.



I followed the instructions and was not able to log in. Please advise [REDACTED]

This is not a legitimate email from the Benefits Department. DO NOT DO ANYTHING!

Hackers gonna hack. Or, at least try to. [REDACTED]

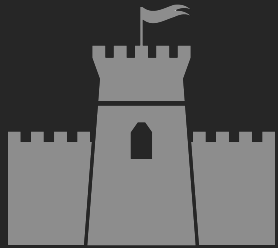
The following email was brought to the attention of information security. Please do not click the link or respond to it.

Questions? Contact [infosecoperations@\[REDACTED\].com](mailto:infosecoperations@[REDACTED].com).





**Quick Wins**



# Physical Access



# National Banking Institution

- Impersonate IT contractors
- Gain access to network ports
- Plug in rogue device and gain access to internal network



Alex  
DeFreese









**Quick Wins**



**Better**

Improving the Incident Response



# Phone Social Engineering



# National Retail Company

- Impersonate an employee
- Call helpdesk for password reset
- Gain access to internal network and resources





# PAYROLL

[Kirill Wright/Shutterstock](#)



# Quick Wins



# Email Phishing



# National Retail Company

- Impersonate automated emails
- Convince employees to log in to fake OWA pages
- Gain access to internal network and resources



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**Quick Wins**



# Physical Access





# Email Marketing Company

- Bypass fingerprint reader to gain access to office
- Use USB device to gain code execution on a laptop
- Gain access to internal network and resources



STAIRWELL 5  
TO THE ROOF  
FLOOR

5

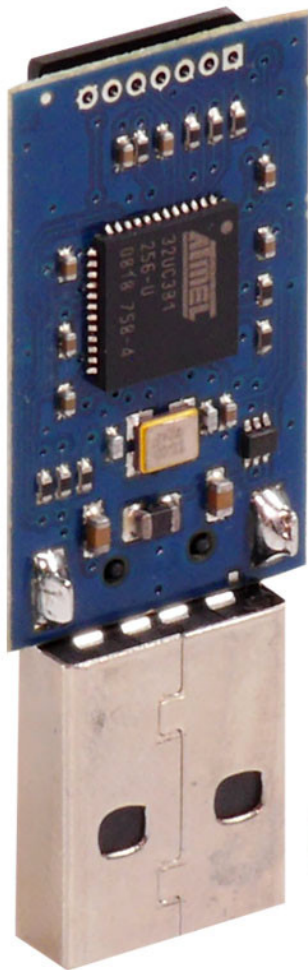
EXIT DOWN TO  
LOWER LEVEL

Small keypad or intercom device with a screen and buttons.

STAIRWELL M  
LL TO THE ROOF  
FLOOR 5  
FLOOR 5  
**5**  
EXIT DOWN TO  
LOWER LEVEL









**Quick Wins**



**Best**

Do you know  
what to do?





**Does anyone  
else?**



What happens when...

Employees start receiving large scale phishing emails?

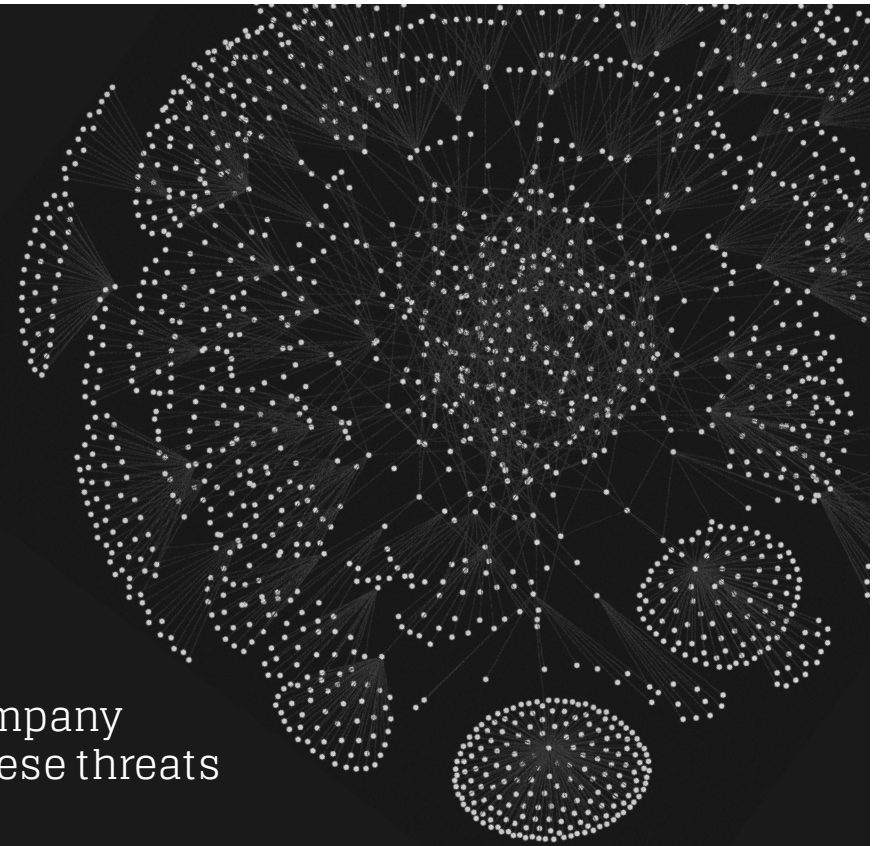
All network shares are suddenly encrypted?

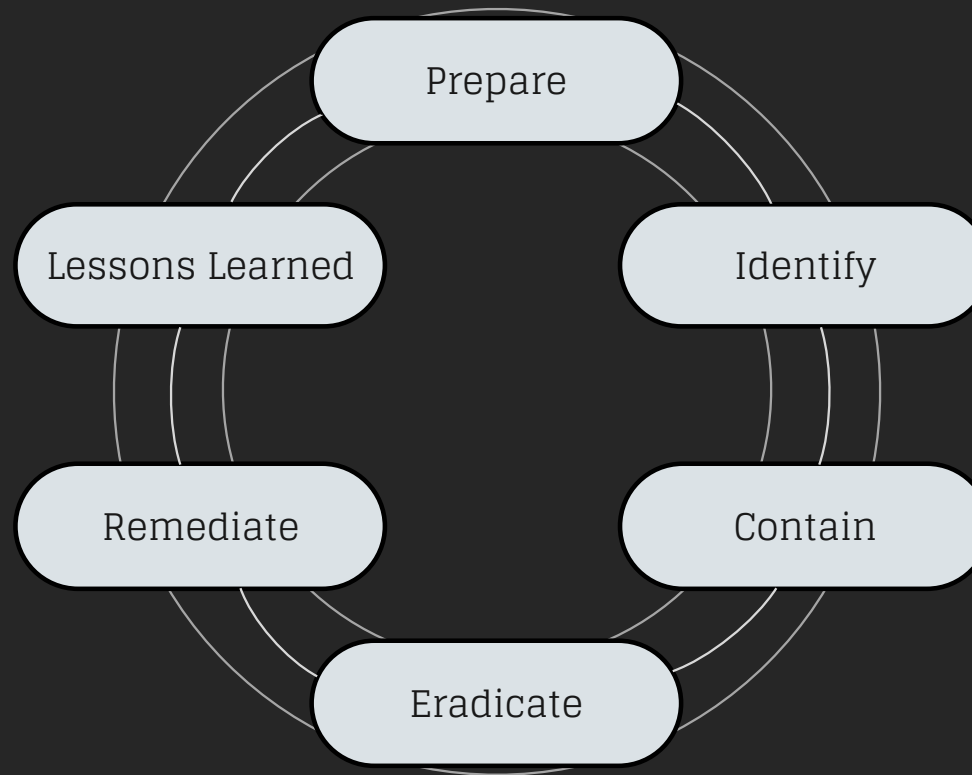
Malware is detected running on a computer?



# TAILORED INCIDENT RESPONSE PLAN

- Identify the **most common threats** facing your company
- Define and enforce incident response plans for these threats





# INCIDENT RESPONSE LIFECYCLE

<https://cert.societegenerale.com/en/publications.html>





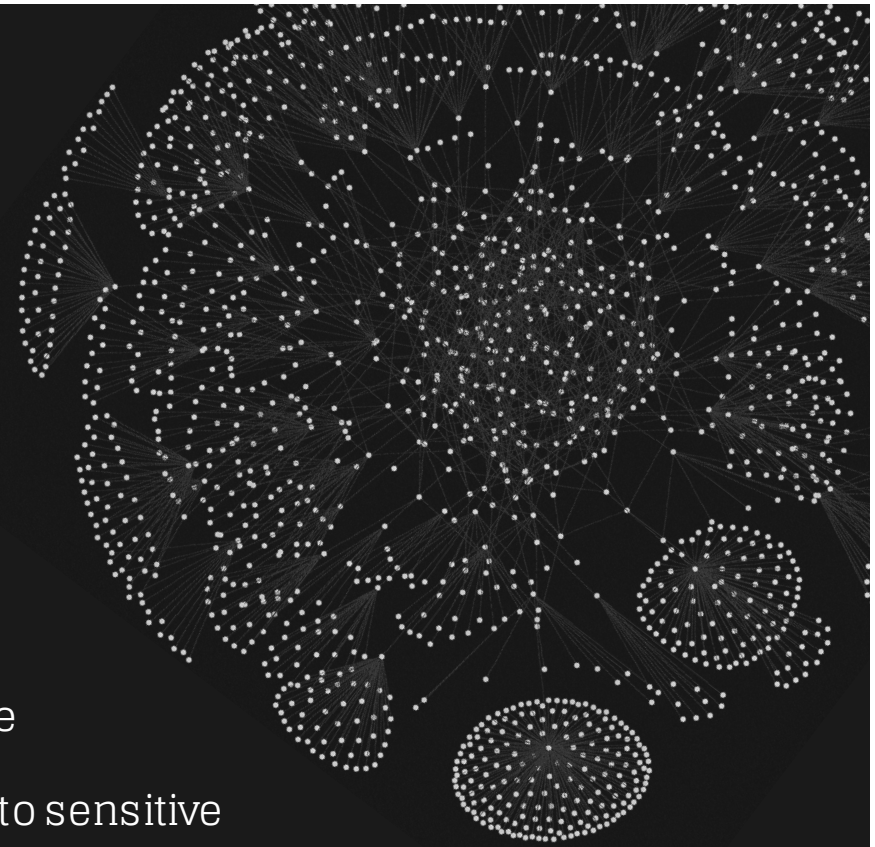
# Tactical Recommendations



# Phone Social Engineering

# AUTHENTICATION FOR SENSITIVE ACTIONS

- **Require** authentication before accessing sensitive information
- Focus training on employees who require access to sensitive information
- **Remove access to sensitive information** for those that don't need it







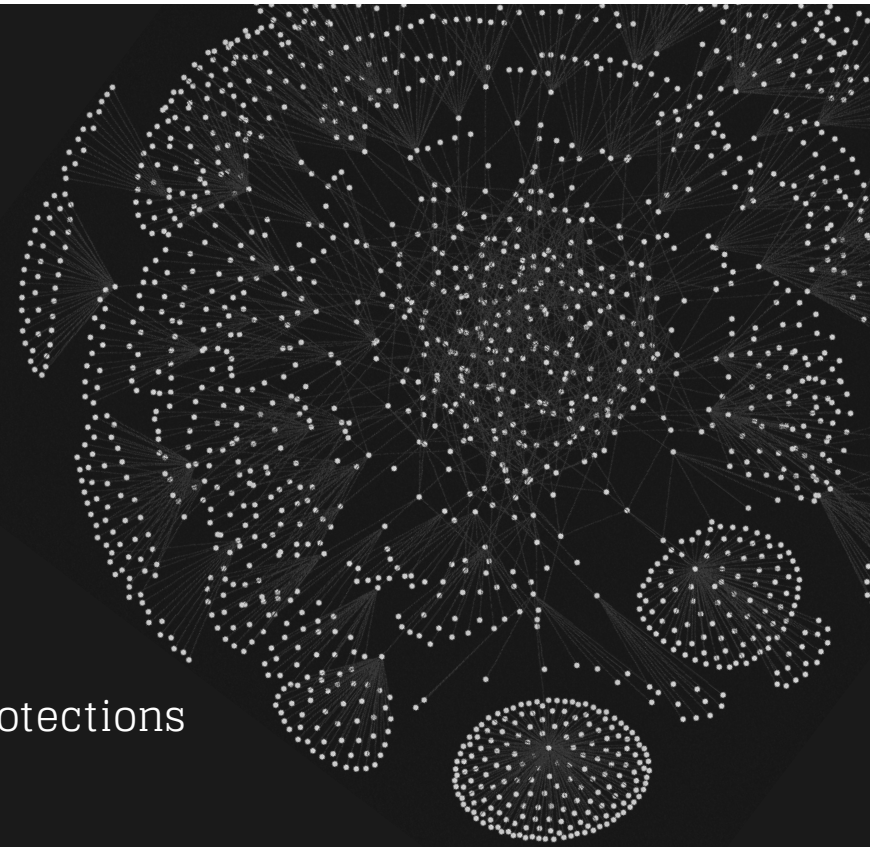
# Email Phishing



# Email Protections

# LIMIT ATTACKER OPTIONS

- Prevent email spoofing by implementing email protections
- Monitor or buy domains similar to your own
- Heuristic phishing detection
- **Identification of email recipients**





# Physical Access



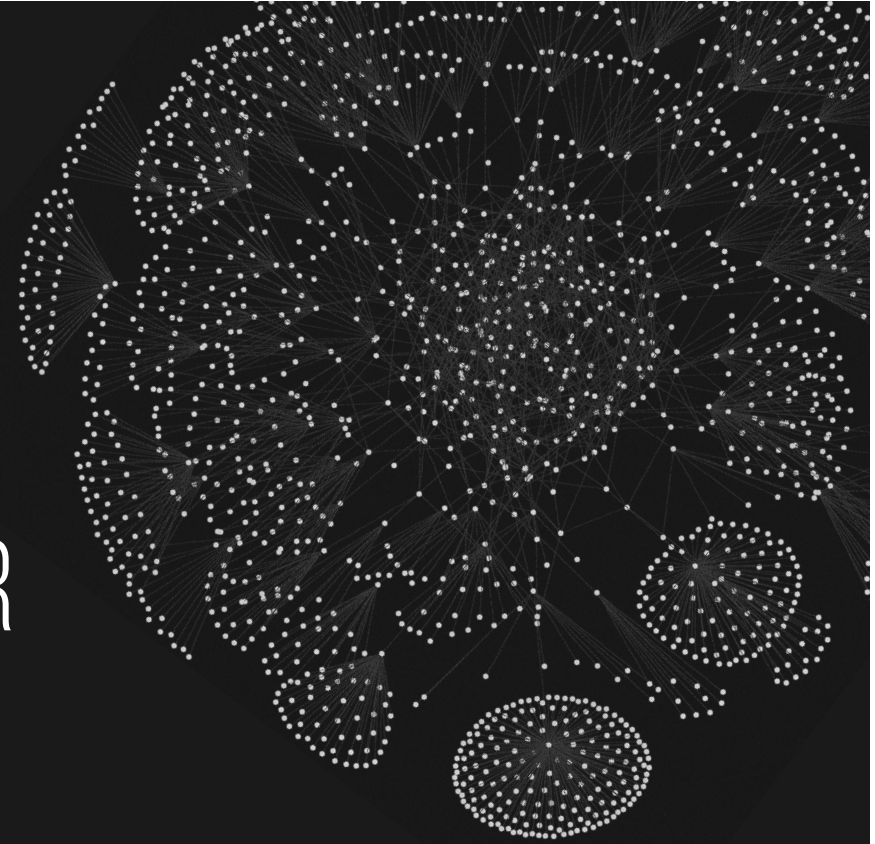
[U.S. Army Korea \(Historical Image Archive\) via Foter.com / CC BY-NC-ND](#)



[monticello/Shutterstock](#)

# UNDERSTAND THE PERIMETER

- Turnstiles and guards for **ingress points**
- **Network access controls**
- Badges and escorts for guests
- Screen lock policy
- Host-based and network detection capabilities



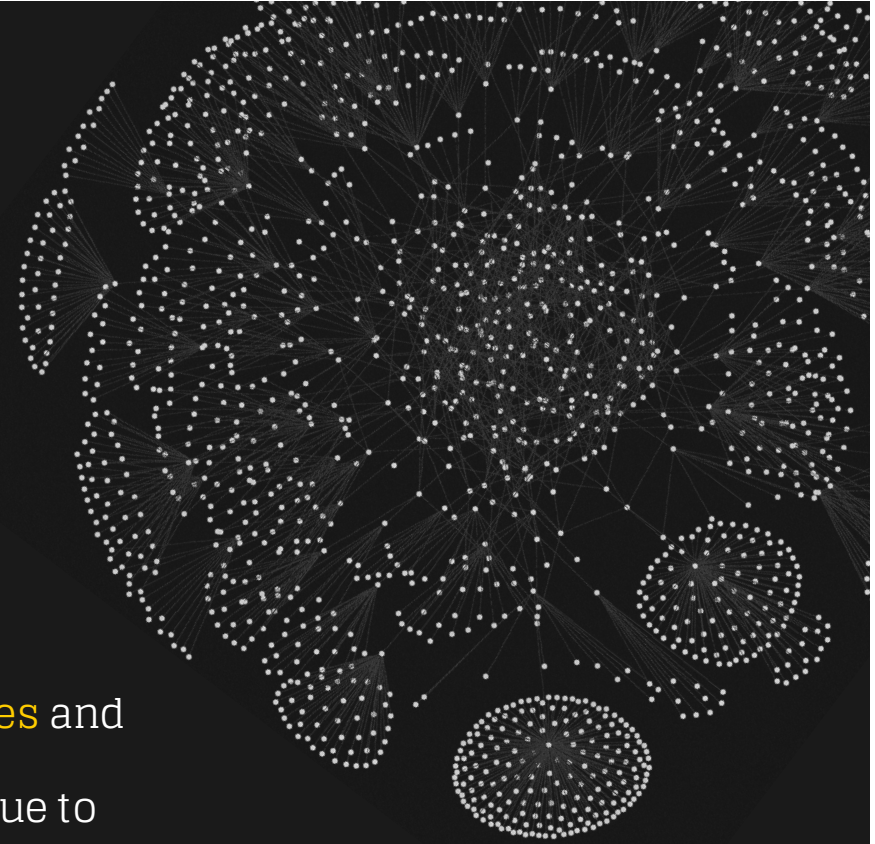


Strategic Recommendations



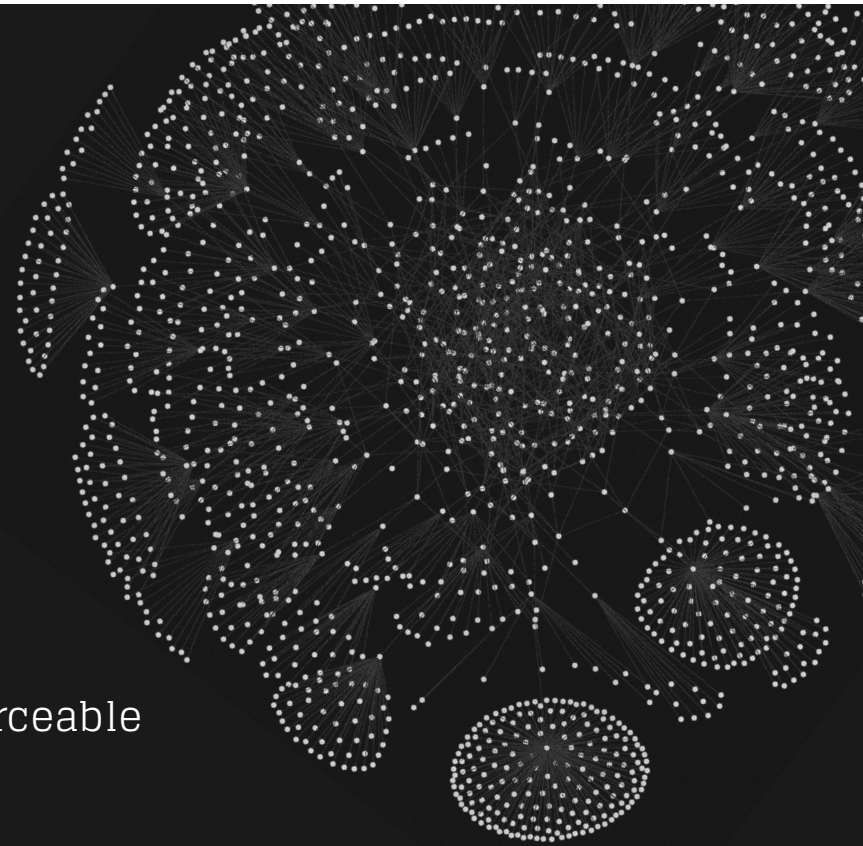
# POLICY, PROCESSES, PEOPLE

- Technical controls provide enforcement for **policies** and **processes**
- Without enforcement, social engineers will continue to exploit the **people**



# ENFORCE PROCESSES

- When performing sensitive actions, focus on enforceable processes
- **Authentication** enforces who they are
- **Authorization** enforces what they're allowed to do



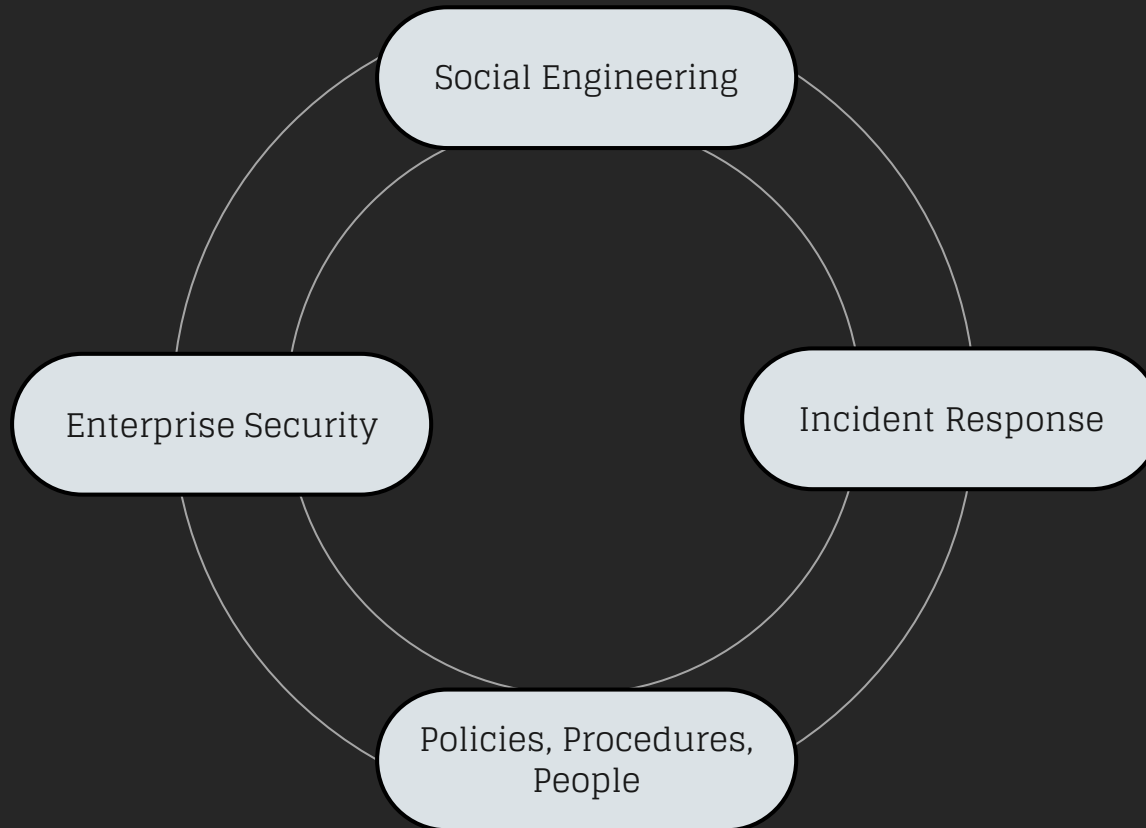


**Conclusions**

1. Every organization will be compromised by human error

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2. Require policies and processes be enforced

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2. Require policies and processes be enforced
3. Continued assessment improves risk mitigation



**RINSE AND REPEAT**



# Thanks!

*Any* **questions** ?

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# CREDITS

Christina Camilleri (@0xkitty) for the slide design!