

# Enabling Delivery Uncompromised Digital Threads

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APPLIED RESEARCH LABORATORY FOR  
**INTELLIGENCE  
AND SECURITY**



“ *Knowing what we know now, we would not have designed the internet like we did.* ”

-- A conversation with Robert Kahn



# Ripped from the Headlines!

*The New York Times*

*U.S. Hunts Chinese Malware That Could Disrupt American Military Operations*

*The Washington Post*  
*Democracy Dies in Darkness*

NATIONAL SECURITY

China hacked a Navy contractor and secured a trove of highly sensitive data on submarine warfare

*The Washington Post*  
*Democracy Dies in Darkness*

Chinese hackers compromise dozens of government agencies, defense contractors

*The New York Times*

*Chinese Hackers Steal Unclassified Data From Navy Contractor*



# Presentation Outline

- What the problem?
- What are we doing now?
- What can we do to mitigate risk?

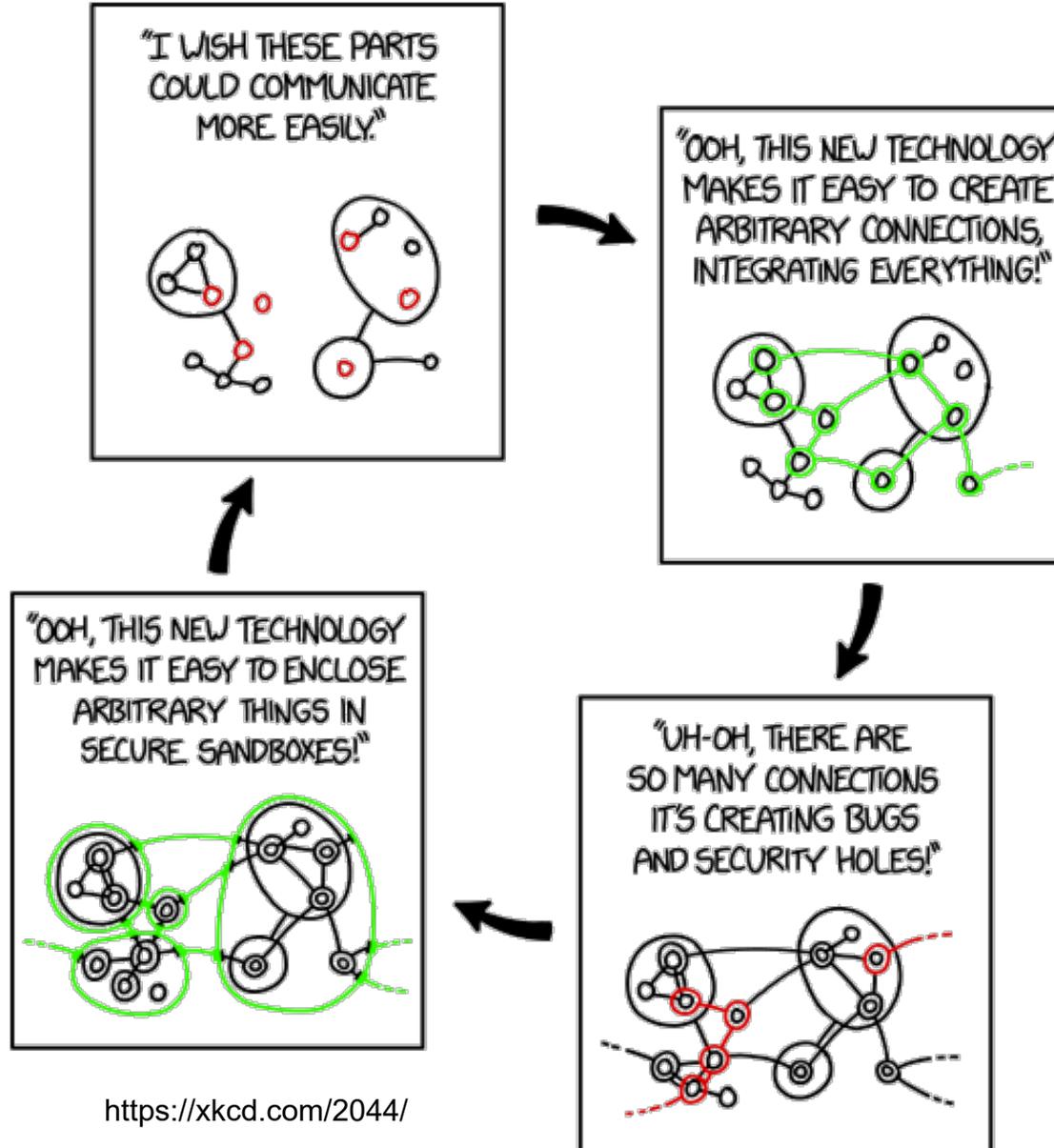




# The Problem

# The Connection Interoperability Paradox

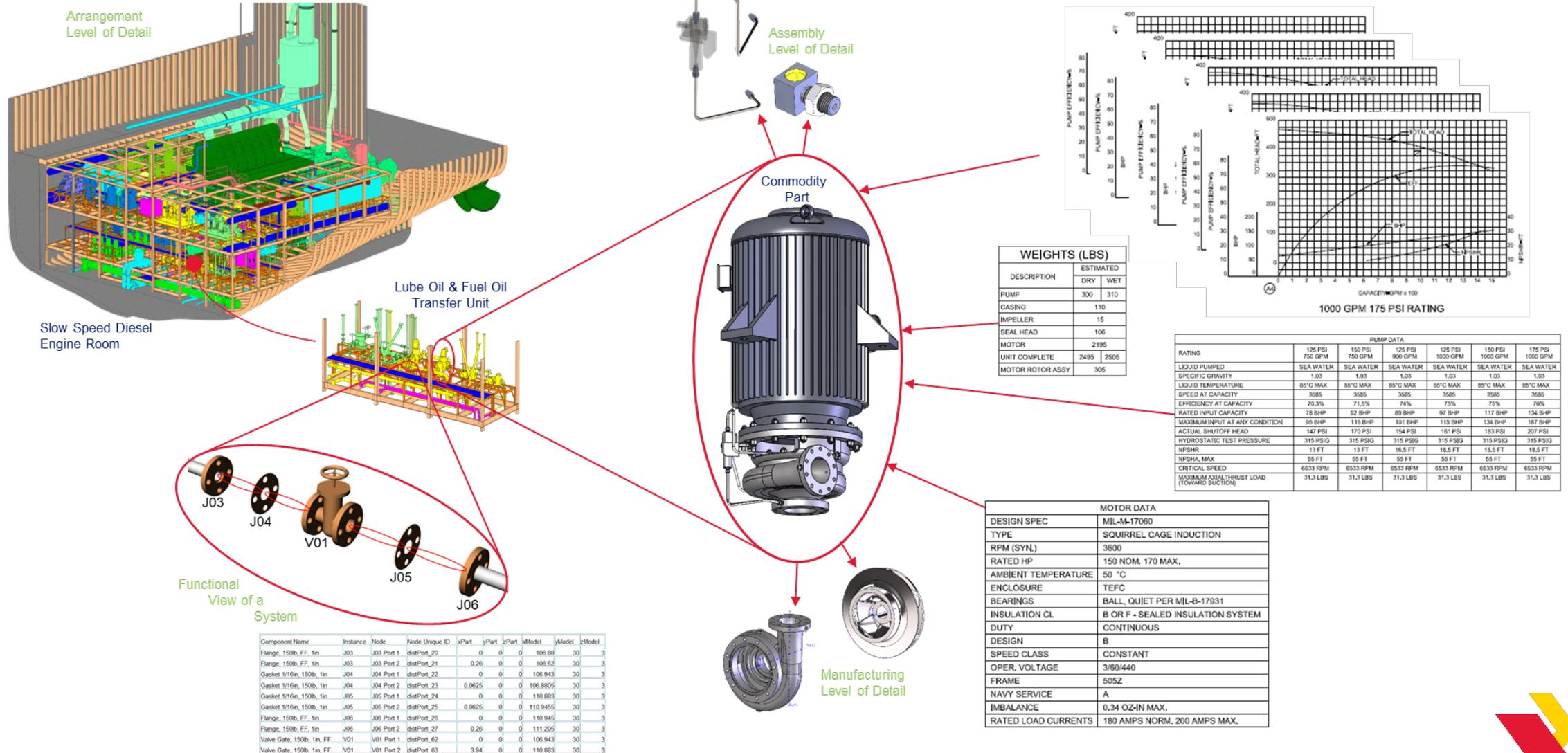
"All I want is a secure system where it's easy to do anything I want. Is that so much to ask?"



<https://xkcd.com/2044/>

# 3D Model-Based Definition

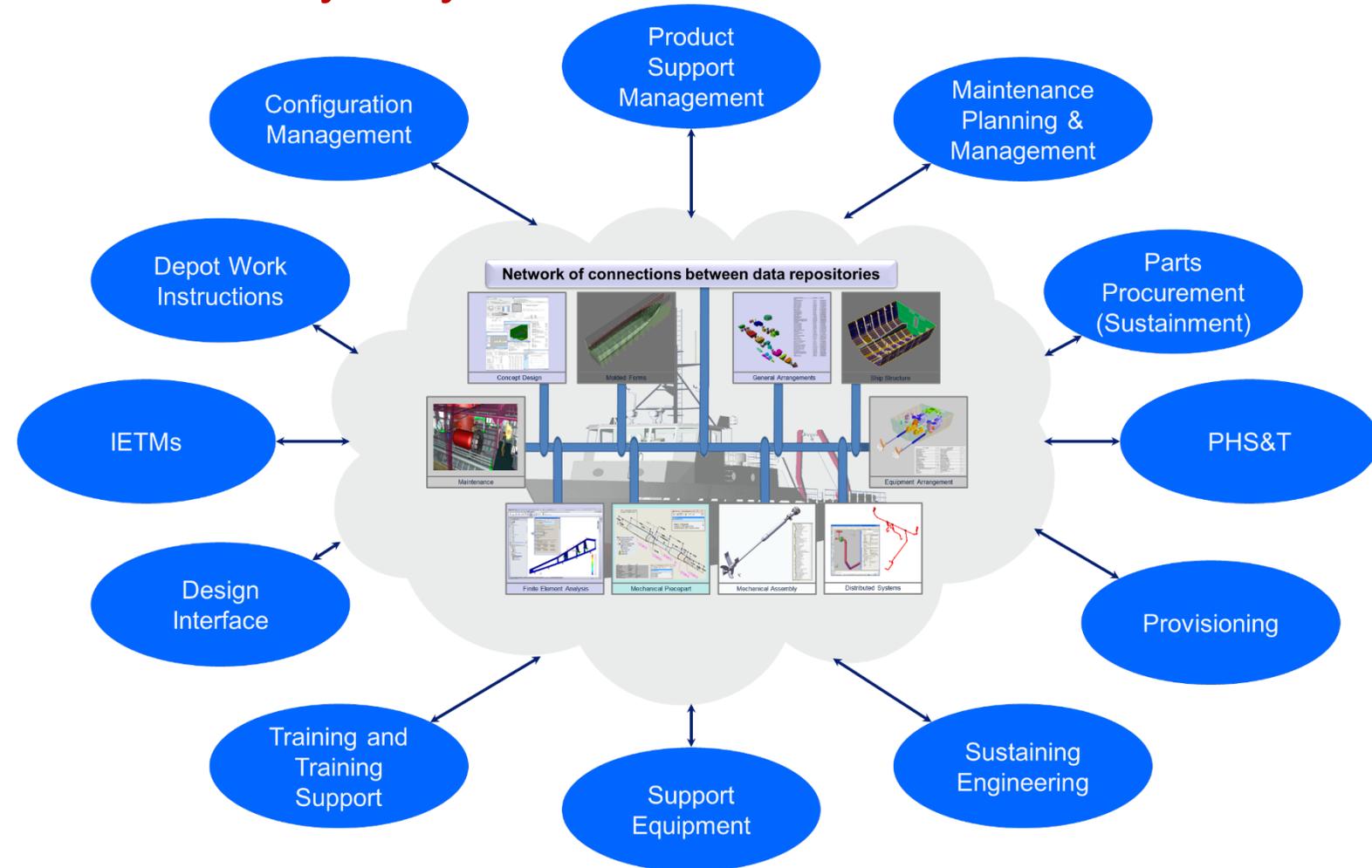
is more convoluted than we care to admit



Do we really think there is a SINGLE Authoritative Source of Truth?

# 3D Model-Based Definition

has more information than everybody needs



Do you really want to expose all data to all processes?

# Digital Thread is an Information Supply Chain



Thousands of Threads

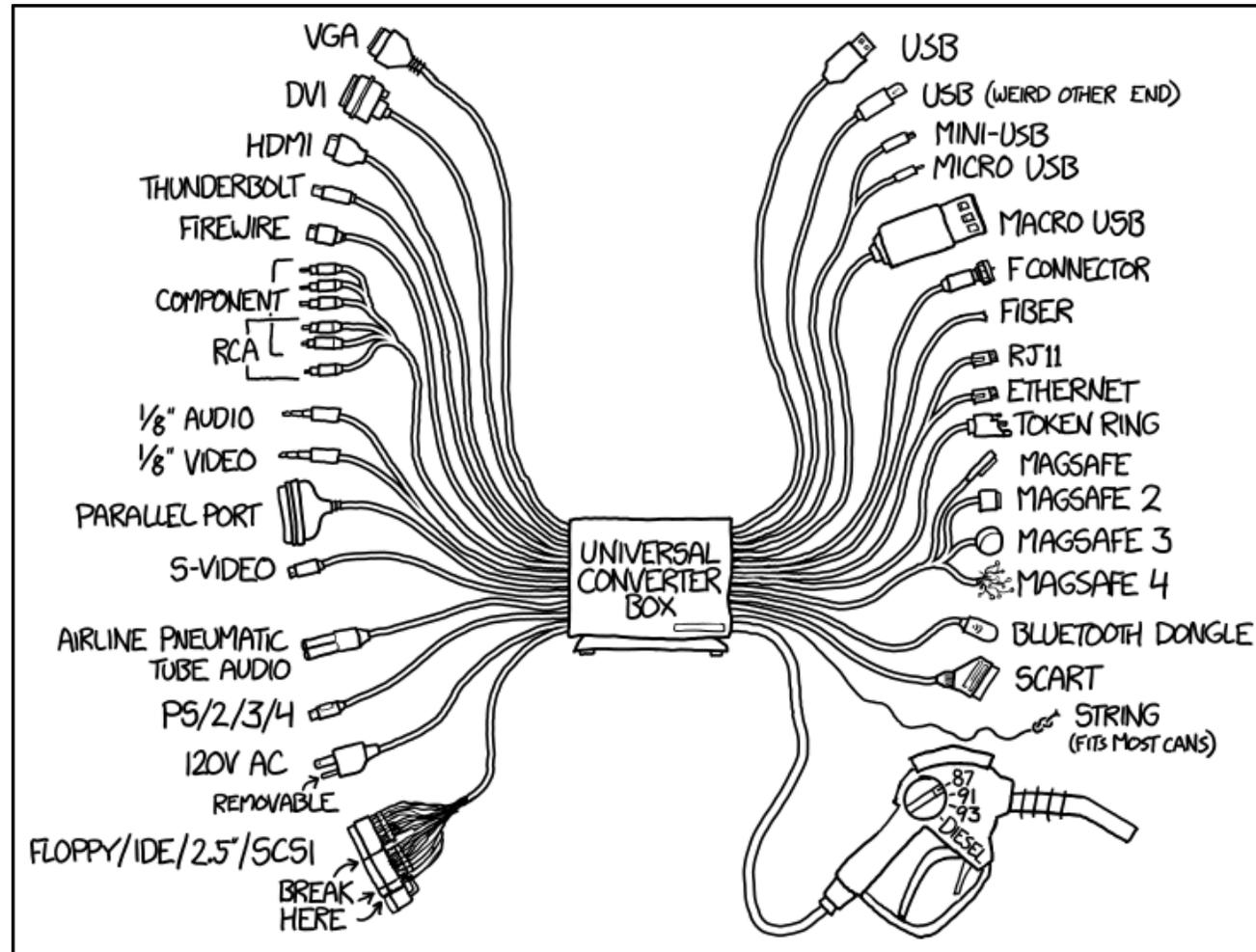
Thousands of Opportunities for Intrusion

Thousands of Opportunities for Misdirection



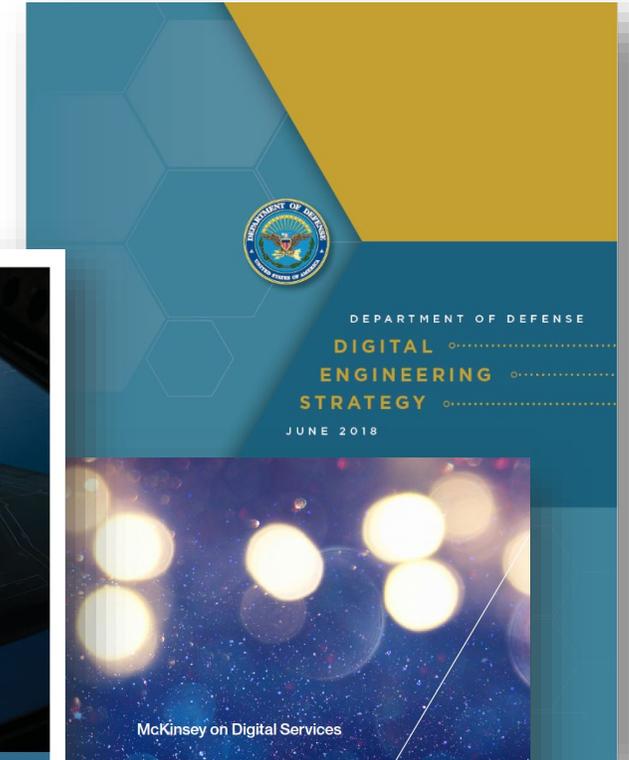
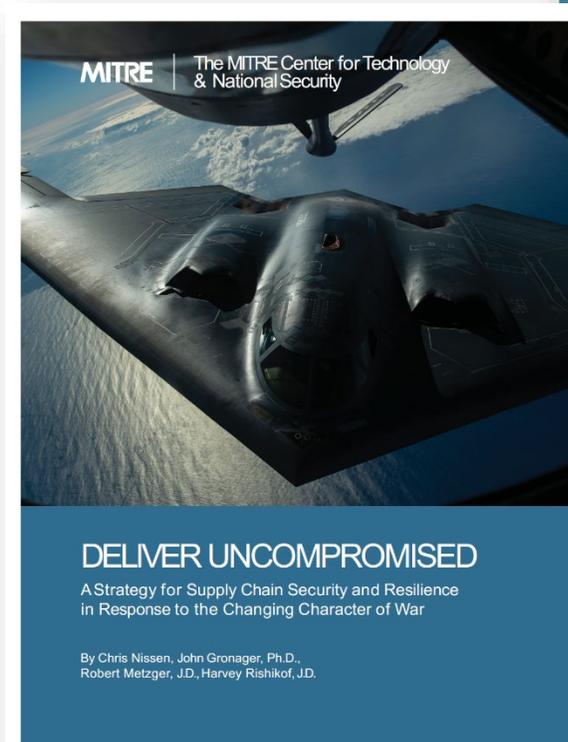
# State of the Art

# The Connection Interoperability Paradox

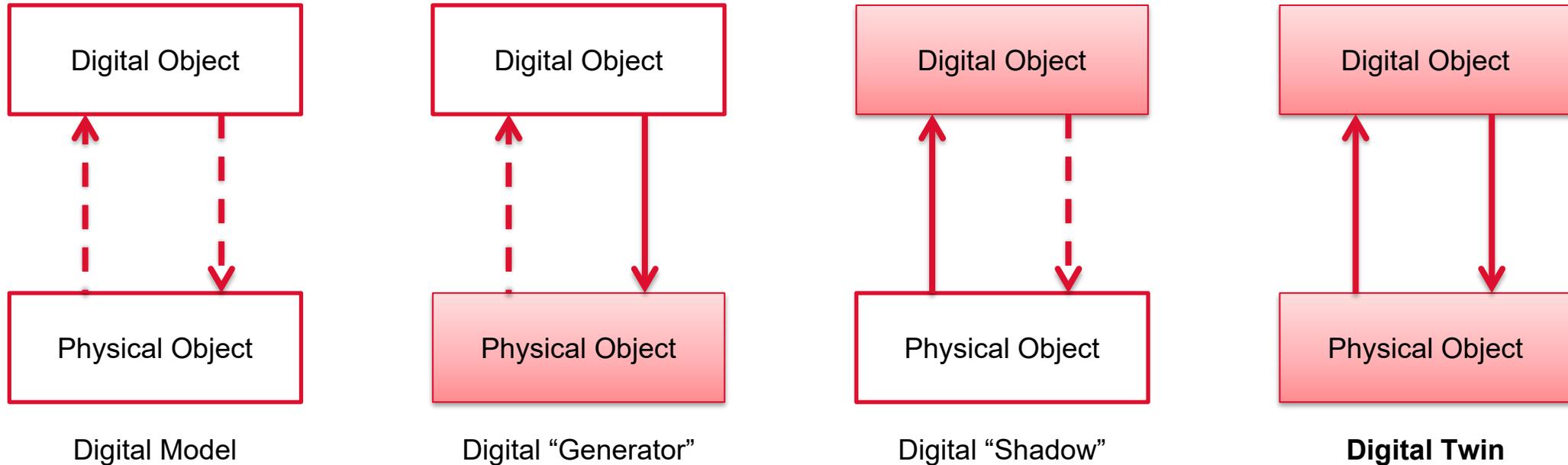


# But we've been saying it for years...

- DoD Digital Engineering Strategy says digital transformation will address challenges associated with complexity, uncertainty, and rapid change in deploying and using systems
- McKinsey recommends using a holistic and systematic analysis in making decisions on how and where to best deploy and maintain technologies and capabilities
- MITRE says U.S. needs better use of its existing resources to identify, protect, detect, respond to, and recover from network and supply chain threats – we must protect systems as much as we try to deploy them.

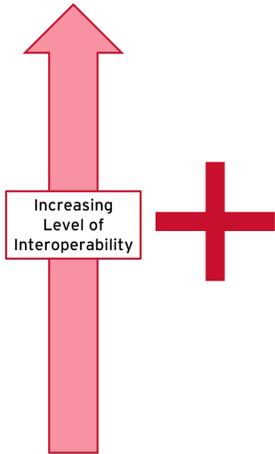
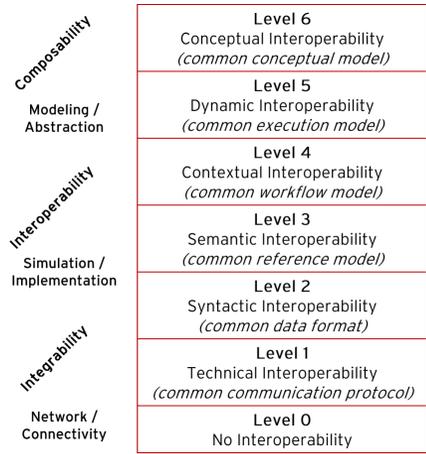


# Cyber-Physical Relationships

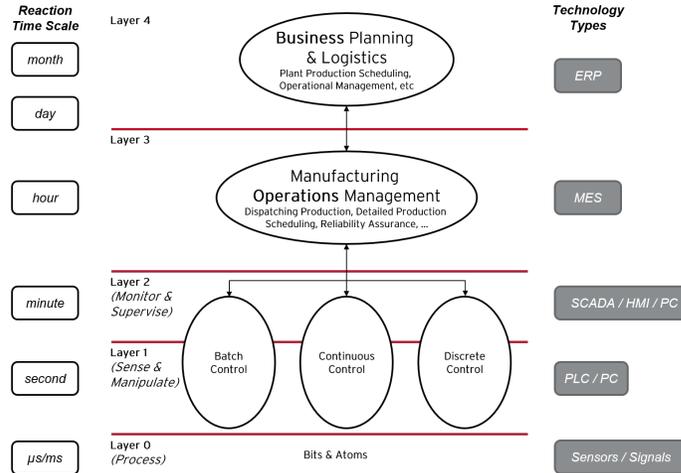


- - - - ➔ manual dataflow      ———— ➔ automatic dataflow

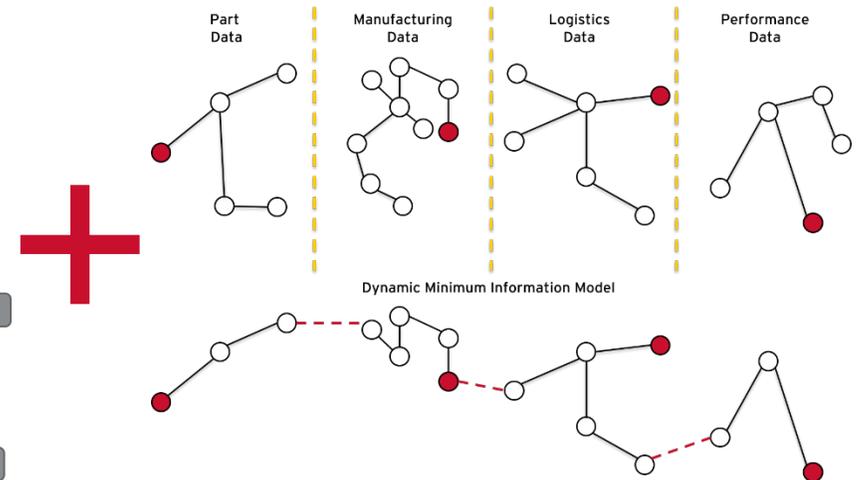
# Circa 2020--2021...



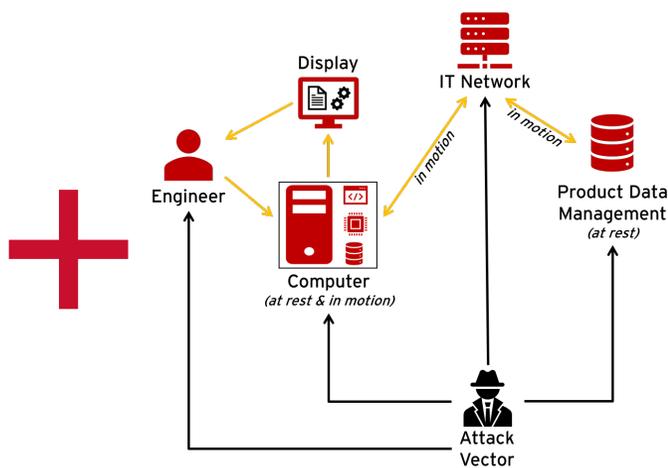
Conceptual Interoperability



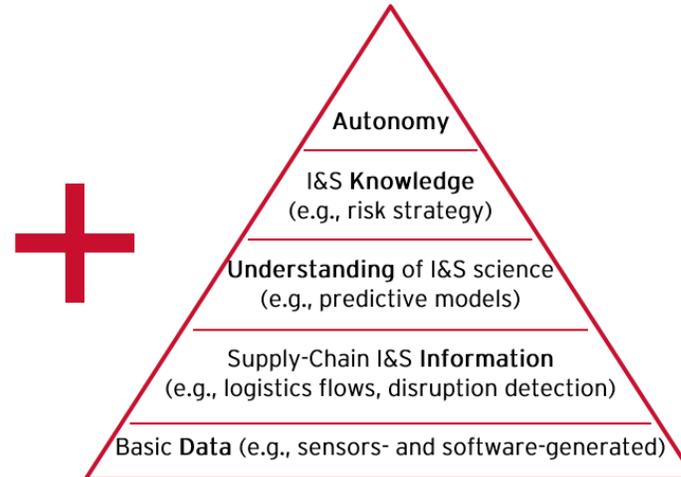
Enterprise Connectivity



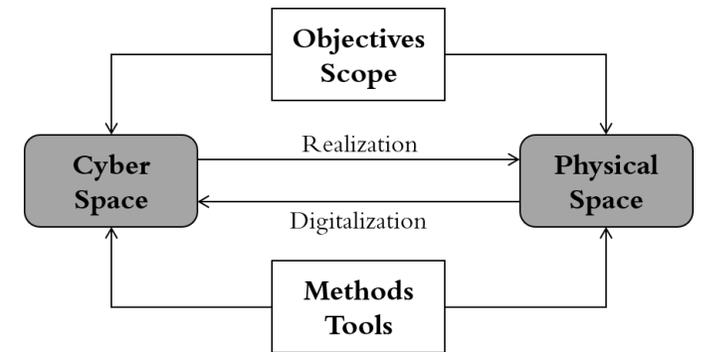
Linked Data



Trust and Traceability



Autonomous Knowledge Generation



Distributed Digital Twins



# Recommendations

“

*Policymakers must make a judgment about when to intervene and when to allow market forces to determine exposure to this risk. They must also judge how much they are willing to sacrifice efficiency and effectiveness in cyber systems to enhance security.*

”

-- Richard Danzig  
“Surviving on a Diet of Poisoned Fruit”

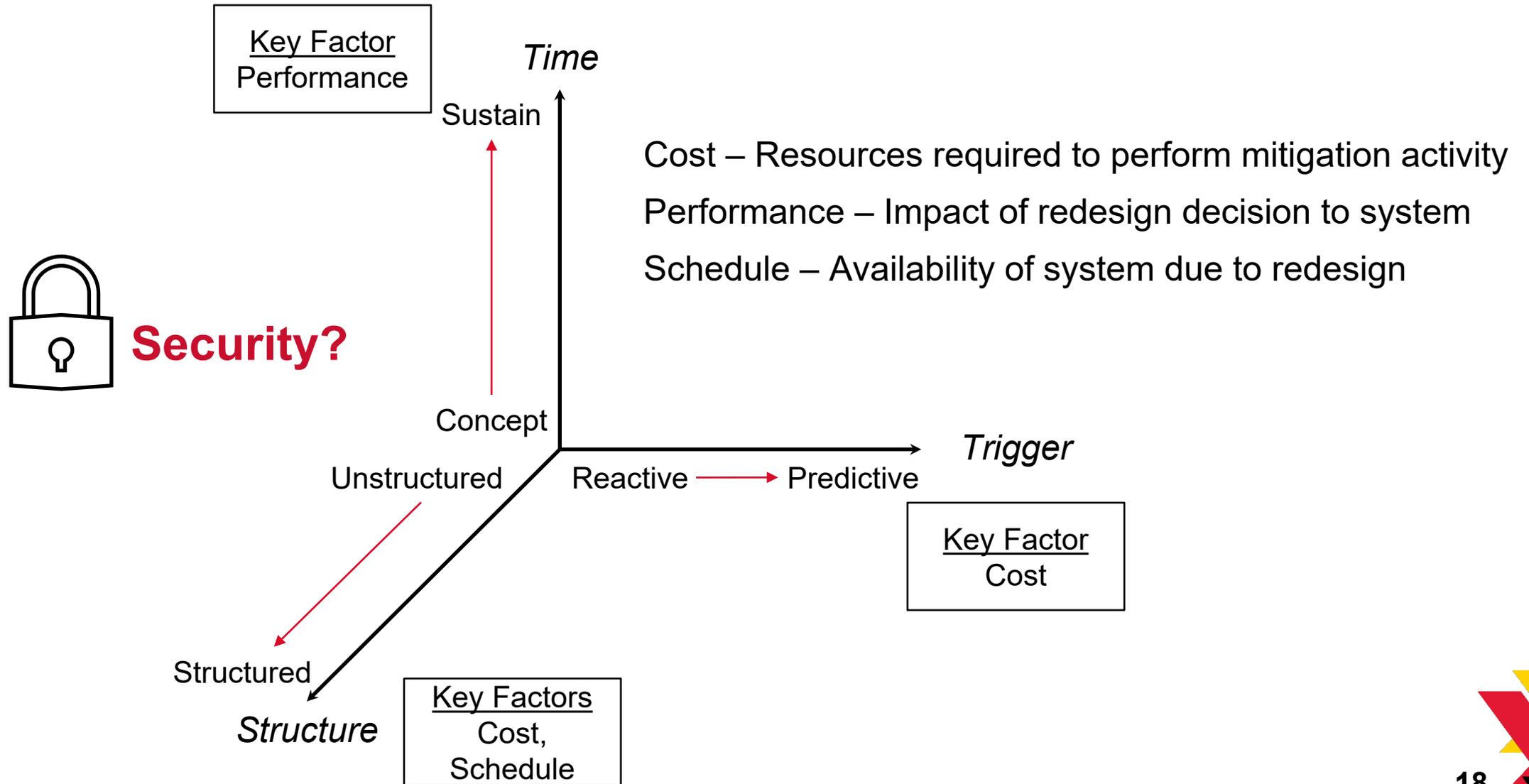


# Potential Approach: *Delivering Uncompromised*

- Three elements that define approach:
  - **Trigger** → Event that initiates a process
  - **Time** → Elapsed from trigger to a activity
  - **Structure** → Degree of standardization of a activity
- Desired approach typically balances **cost, schedule, performance**
- Growing need to address **security** (e.g., minimize dynamic threats, vulnerabilities, and consequences over time)
- Transition view of integration and maintenance from sunk cost to opportunity to gain value



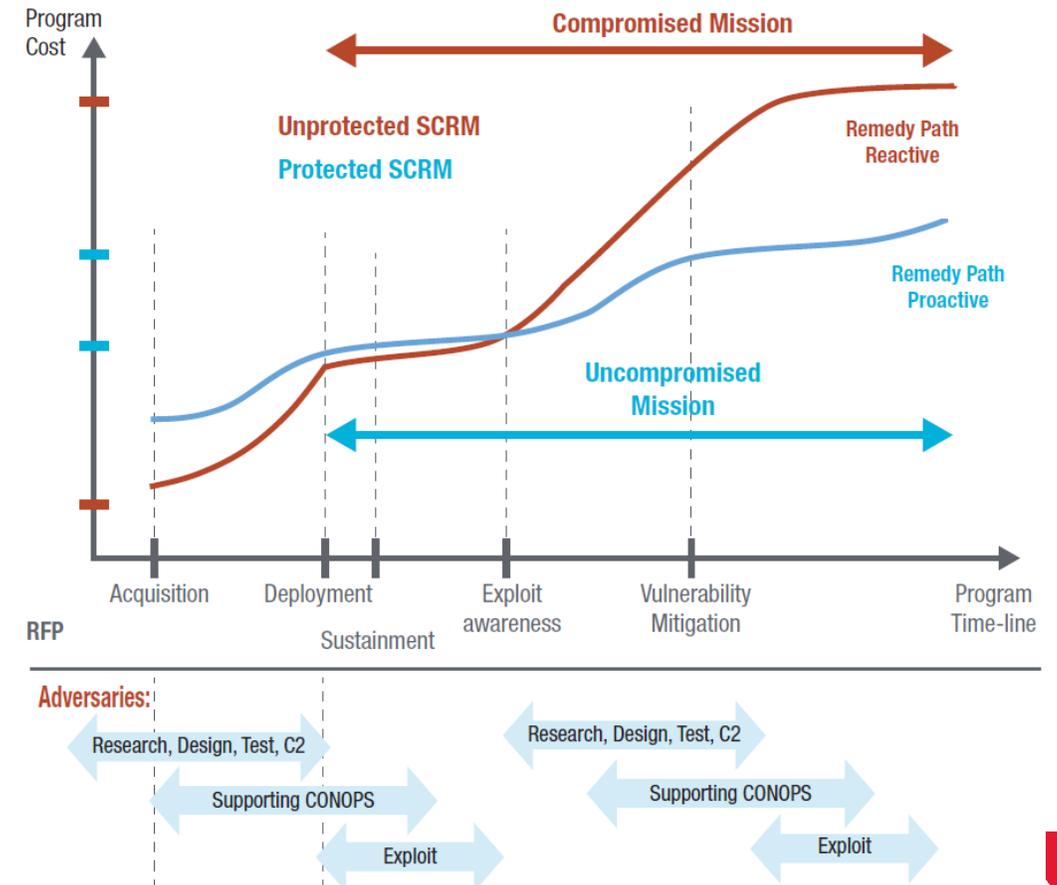
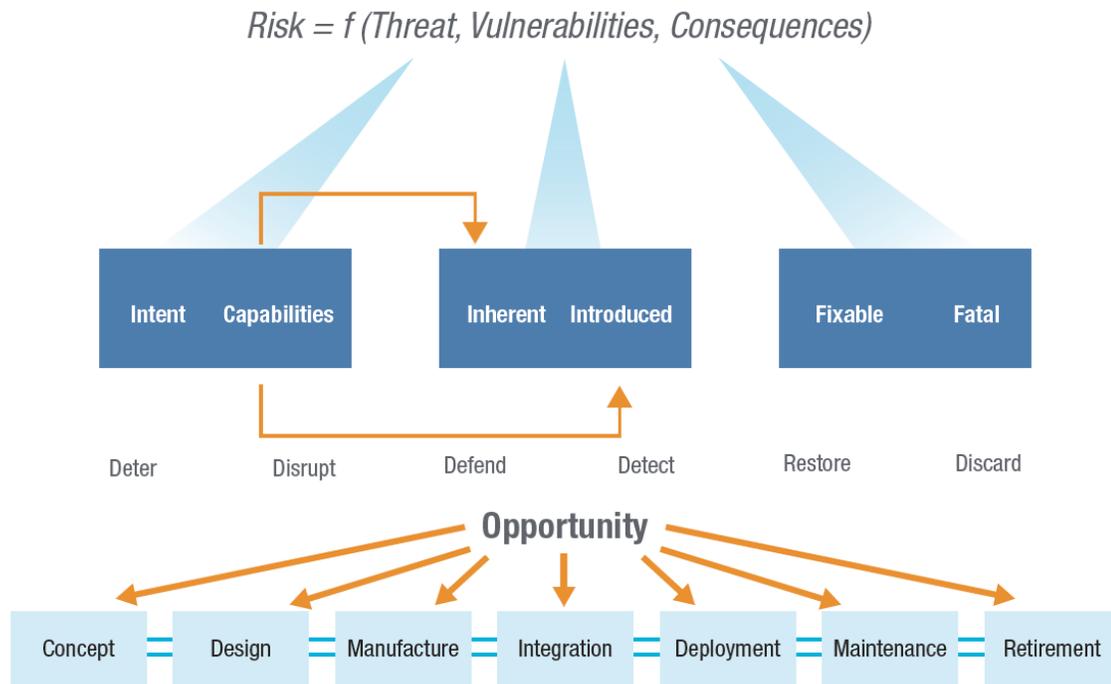
# Strategic Considerations



# Deliver & Sustain Uncompromised!

*For mission owners, the primary goal of DoD must be to deliver warfighting capabilities to Operating Forces without their critical information and/or technology being wittingly or unwittingly lost, stolen, denied, degraded or inappropriately given away or sold.*

--- William Stephens, (Ret.) Director of Counterintelligence, DCSA

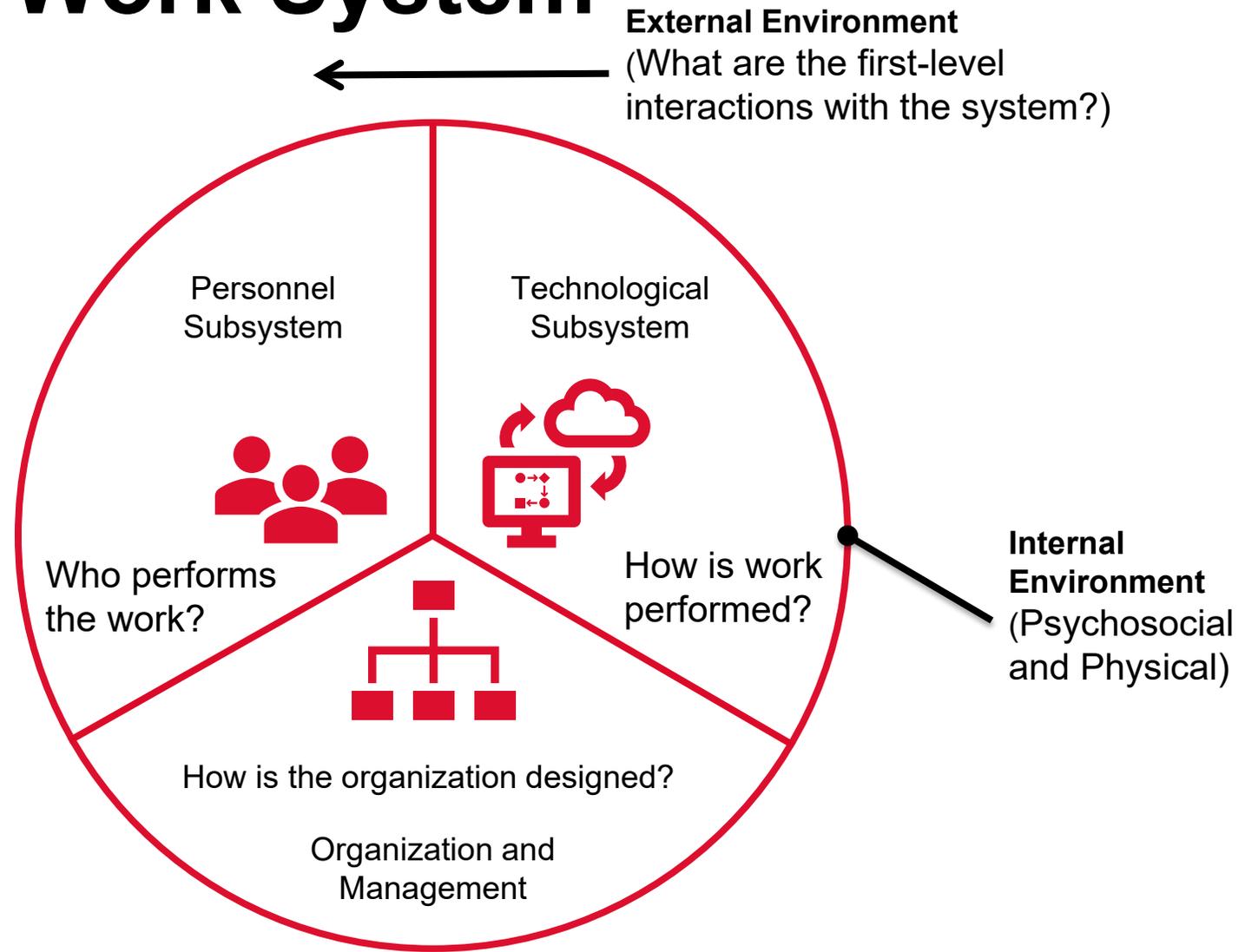


**“Make Security a Forth Pillar”**

Nissen, C., Gronager, J., Metzger, R., & Rishikof, H. (2018). *Deliver Uncompromised: A Strategy for Supply Chain Security and Resilience in Response to the Changing Character of War*. The MITRE Corporation.

# Redesign the Work System

## STS Elements



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# Beyond Robustness: Socio-technical Solutions

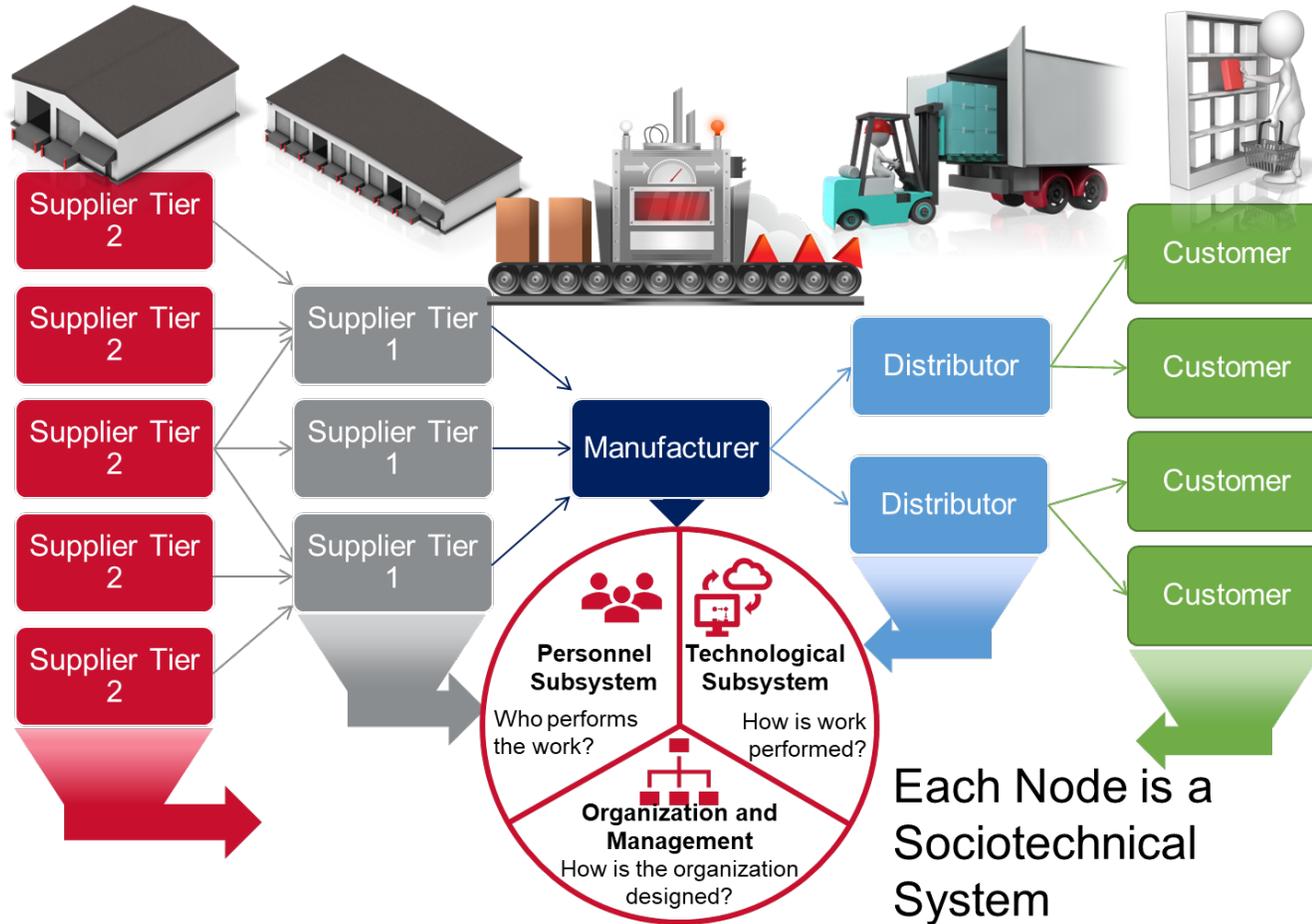
Humans must be part of the solution

- Develop stress testing framework for information supply chains leveraging human-machine teaming.
- Develop and deploy contract vehicles for supply chain coordination, in particular addressing system risk.
- Develop design methods, organizational policies, and software to enable socio-technical integration and coordination at an operational level.

# Information Supply Chains

## Supply Chain Resilience

- Node-level
- Sector-level
- Network-level
- End-to-end
- Full-lifecycle



## IT/OT Validation

- Interface between humans, digital, and physical world
- Root of data and control

What is to be made? How to make it?

← Information Flows →

What was made? How was it made?

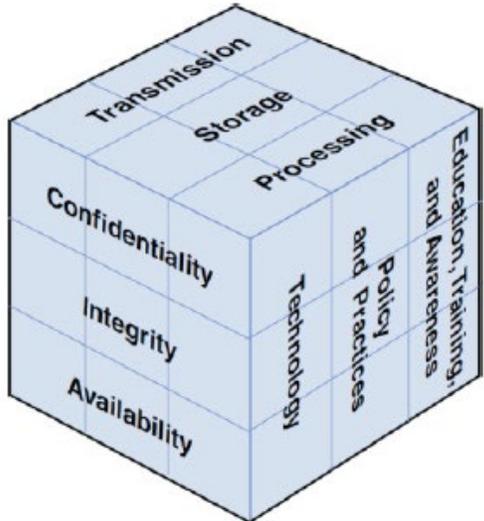
## Technical Information Assurance

- Digital Engineering
- Digital Twin
- ...

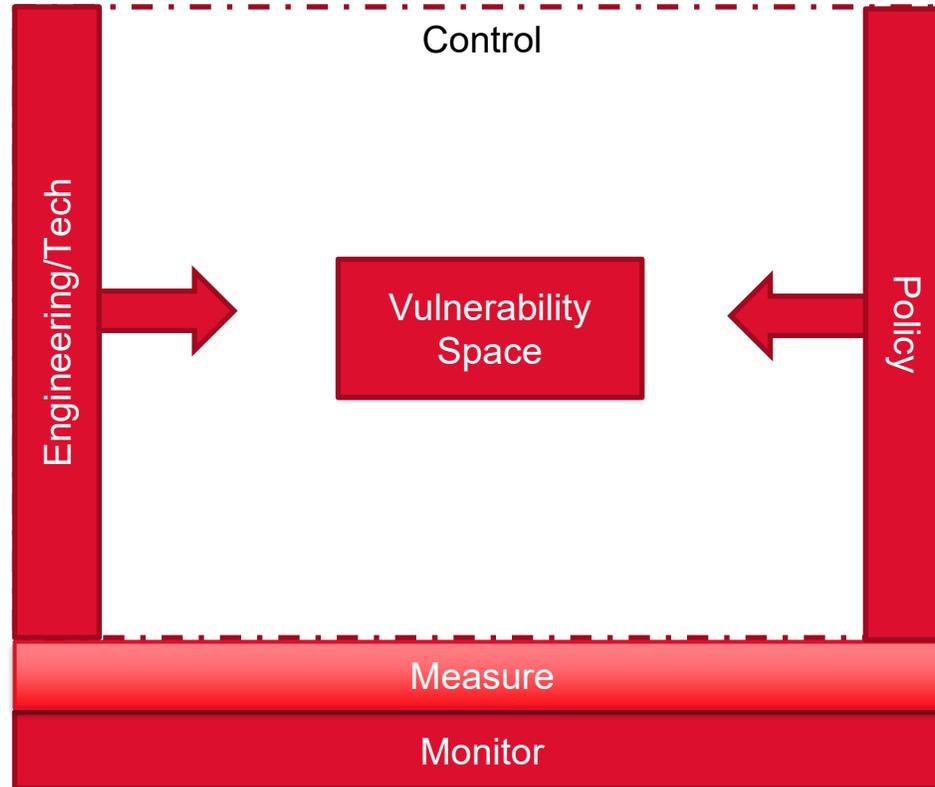
# Protection is Not One Size Fits All

- Concerted Industry-wide push to deploy digital engineering to solve cost, quality, & schedule issues.
- From an information assurance perspective, it becomes tightly intertwined with cyber security concerns

A type of information assurance problem where characteristics of the data and process enable semantic/behavioral security to be built into the information system.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McCumber\\_cube](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McCumber_cube)



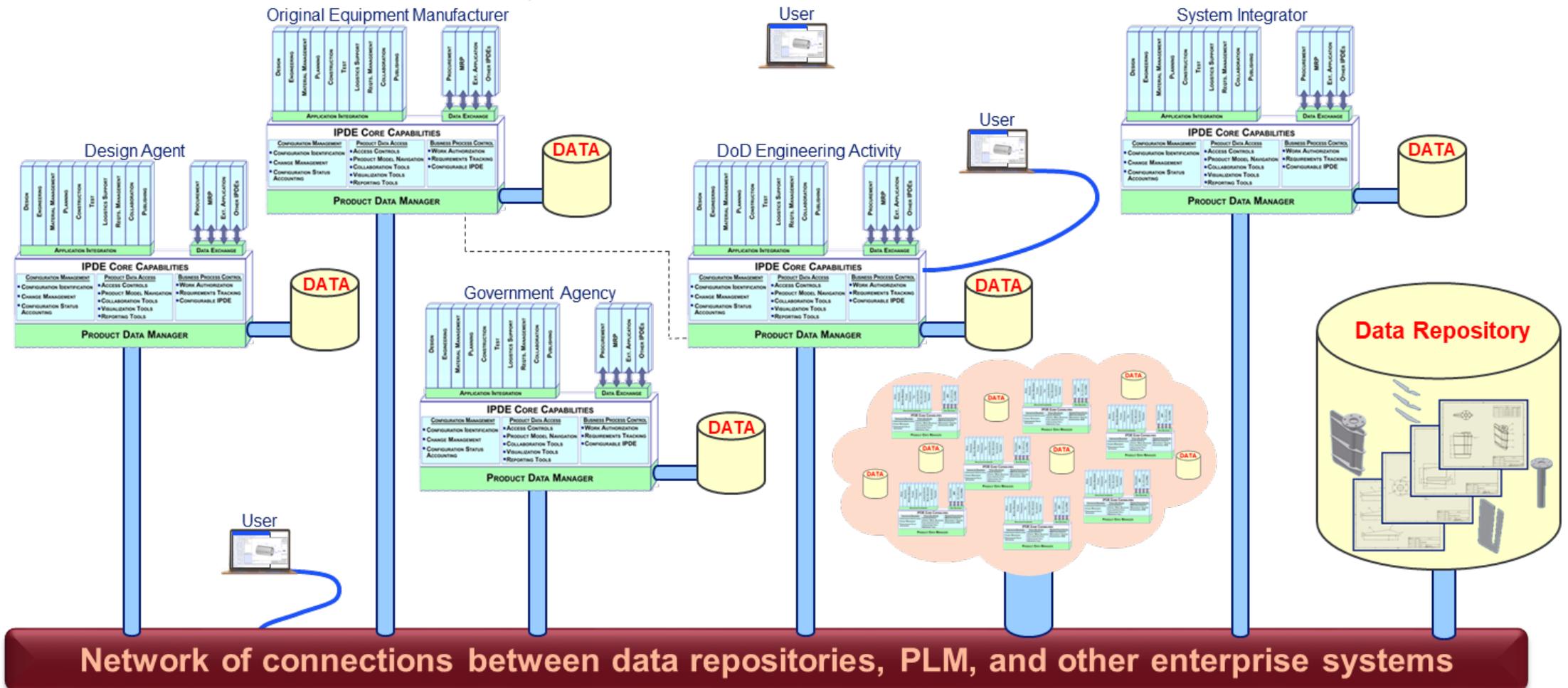
- Cybersecurity
- Confidential Computing
- Out-of-band measures
  - Humans-in-the-loop
  - Federated authentication
  - Data zones
- Strategy of Abnegation
  - Forgoing “nice-to-have” features of DE ecosystem to balance risk exposure

**Recommendation: decision-makers need to be trained, motivated, and authorized to make trade-offs between risk and other factors**



# Model-Based Enterprise

has more information than you need to share



Do you need data integration (i.e., connections) or data links (i.e., pointers)?

# Closing Thoughts

- There's some baseline stuff that we have to do well. Then, there's harder stuff ... Then, there's the unknown unknowns.
- Information supply chains are vulnerable to disruption and compromise from passive and active threats just like physical supply chains.
- We must be willing to sacrifice efficiency and effectiveness in our systems to enhance the uncompromisable nature of those systems

# Snapshot About Me

## Education

**Ph.D., Industrial and Systems Engineering**  
from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State  
University, Blacksburg VA

**M.Eng., Engineering Management**  
from The Pennsylvania State University,  
University Park PA

**B.S., Aeronautical & Astronautical  
Engineering**  
*Minor in Political Science focused on Science and  
Technology policy*  
from Purdue University, West Lafayette IN

## Professional Experience

- Current: Research Engineer (VPR & ISR)
- 2014-2020: Program Manager, NIST
- 2005 to 2014, Aerospace Sector, Phoenix AZ
  
- Internationally known as the Model-Based  
Enterprise (MBE) Evangelist

***More on LinkedIn***



# Thank you. Questions?

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