



# Preparing for first HK Cybersecurity Law for Critical Infrastructure Operators

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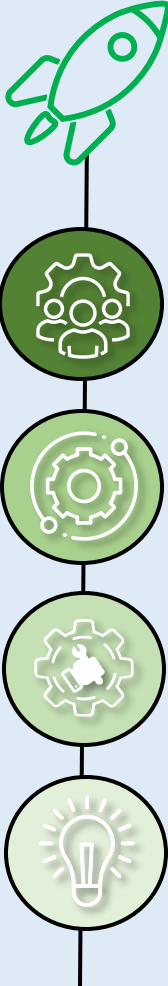
GDSA, CCSP, CISA, CEH, SABSA

# One-Stop-Shop Solutions and Services

## Diverse and Bespoke ICT Solutions



## All-Rounded ICT Life-Cycle Management Services



### Managed Service

ICT Operation / Infrastructure and Security Management

### Maintenance Support

Incident Management / Root Cause Analysis

### Build & Deployment

Integration of systems

### Design & Consultancy

Feasibility Study / Network & Security Assessment / Analysis and Design Workshop

# Background

## Purpose

Through requiring CIOs to fulfill framework, strengthen the security of their computer systems and minimize the chance of essential services being disrupted or compromised due to cyberattacks

## Relevant Laws

**Mainland:** 中華人民共和國網絡安全法 (2016年) & 關鍵信息基礎設施安全保護條例 (2021 年)  
**Macau:** 網絡安全法 (2019 年) ;  
Other ref: Australia, UK, Singapore, EU, US, Canada

## Organizations

Energy    Information Technology    Banking and Financial Services  
Healthcare Services    Communications and Broadcasting  
Land Transport    Air Transport    Maritime  
Major sports and performance venues    Research and development parks

# Framework

| Categories                               | Statutory obligations   |
|--|---|
| <b>Organizational</b>                    | <p>Maintain address and office in Hong Kong</p> <p>Report any changes in ownership and operatorship</p> <p>Dedicated supervisor with Professional Knowledge and Certifications</p>  |
| <b>Preventive</b>                        | <p>Inform any materials changes of the CCS<br/>(Includes platform migration, server virtualization, application re-design, integration or change in interdependency with external systems or other computer systems)</p> <p>Computer System Security Management Plan</p> <p>Security risk assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vulnerability assessment (at least once a year)</li> <li>• Penetration test (at least once a year)</li> </ul> <p>Security Audit (at least once every two years)</p> <p>Third party service providers management</p> |
| <b>Incident Reporting &amp; Response</b> | <p>Security Drill Test (at least every two years, performed by Commissioner’s Office)</p> <p>Emergency Response Plan</p> <p>Report Security Incident</p>  |

*Failed or late to behave, inform, perform or submit would introduce fine-  
Fines from \$500,000 to \$5,000,000- Continue offence introduce extra fine per day*



# Content of "Code of Practice"

## Privilege Access Management

## Incident Response

Annex III

### Summary of Main Content of "Code of Practice" (CoP)

#### (1) Reporting of material changes to critical computer systems

1. Examples of "material changes" may include platform migration, server virtualisation, application re-design, integration or change in interdependency with external systems or other computer systems, etc.

#### (2) Independent computer system security audit

1. Relevant professional qualifications that an independent computer system security auditor should possess
2. Scope of the security audit
3. Internationally recognised methodology and standards that can be referred to
4. Details of the independent computer system security audit report and rectification plan

#### (3) Computer system security risk assessment

1. Scope of the risk assessment, including vulnerability assessment and penetration test
2. Internationally recognised methodology and standards that can be referred to

#### (4) Computer system security management plan

Key elements to be covered include:

1. organisation, authority, roles and responsibilities of the **computer system security management unit**;
2. appropriate professional qualifications of the **supervisor** of the computer system security management unit;

3. factors that an Operator of Critical Infrastructure ("CIO") should consider in formulating the **policies, standards and guidelines**, such as its own requirements on security, the CoP and relevant requirements set out by statutory bodies for individual sectors;

4. how risks related to the operator and its critical computer system ("CCS") can be identified, assessed, mitigated and monitored while formulating a computer system security risk management framework;

#### 5. establish a **monitoring and detection** mechanism:

- to define a baseline of normal behavior in the operation of the CCS and monitor anomalies against this baseline;
- to put in place procedures and processes to respond continuously and in a timely manner to any computer system security incidents received by the monitoring system;
- to establish mechanisms and processes to continuously collect and analyse information or intelligence relating to information security threats, including attacker methodologies, tools and technologies involved, and appropriate mitigation actions that can be taken;
- to conduct regular review of the monitoring mechanism (at least once every two years) to ensure that it is still effective with respect to its nature and technology advancement;

6. Computer system security training: take into consideration the roles of all personnel involved in the operation of the CI, including vendors, contractors and service providers, to formulate training programmes on various computer system security approaches;

7. adopt a "Security by Design" approach to ensure that security is an integral part of the CCS across its entire life cycle;

8. implement asset management to ensure that an up-to-date inventory of CCS and other associated assets are properly owned, kept and maintained, and restricted for access on a need-to-know basis;

9. implement access control and account management: only authorised users and computer resource access control system are allowed to access the CCS while enforcing the least privilege principle; conduct review periodically; revoke all user privileges and data access rights that are no longer required; and maintain logs of accesses and attempted accesses to the CCS;

10. implement privileged access management to ensure that personnel only have access to the specific administrative capabilities needed; regular reviews on usages of privileged accounts should be conducted by an independent party;

11. implement cryptographic key management to ensure proper and effective use of cryptography to protect the confidentiality, authenticity and integrity of the information;

12. implement password management by defining a strong password policy;

13. implement physical security to ensure that data centres and computer rooms are located in a comprehensively protected environment;

14. implement system hardening by adopting both the least functionality principle and least privilege principle; the baseline configuration of computer systems should be developed, maintained and reviewed regularly;

15. implement change management: the CIO should plan, monitor and follow up changes to production systems properly, and should back up system files and configurations adequately;

16. implement patch management by adopting a risk-based approach to promptly devise the appropriate patch management strategy for the CCS;

17. develop appropriate policies and procedures for remote connection;

18. develop management policies for portable computing devices and removable storage media;

19. implement backup and recovery policies to ensure the resilience of the system;

20. implement network security control to allow only authorised traffic to enter the network;

#### (5) Incident response obligations

3. Scope of the emergency response plan should include but not be limited to:

- structure, roles and responsibilities of the dedicated incident response team;
- threshold for initiating the incident response protocol;
- reporting procedures for ensuring compliance with the incident reporting obligations;
- procedures for mitigating the impact of an incident and preserving evidence;
- procedures for investigating the cause(s) and impact of an incident and for providing relevant information to the designated authority in assisting the investigation;
- recovery plan for the resumption of normal operation of the CI;
- the CIO's communication plan with stakeholders and the general public, including the establishment of structures and modes for communication and coordination;
- post-incident review procedures, including the recommended measures for mitigating the risks and preventing reoccurrence;
- measures to ensure that all relevant personnel are familiar with the emergency response plan;
- a review on its emergency response plan at least once every two years, or when any material changes arise in the operating environment of the CIO.

**Security Audit and Risk Assessment**

**Monitoring and Detection**

**Network Security Control**

# Highlights of the Legislative Framework

## Governance

- Adopt a "Security by Design" Approach
- Data access right
- Backup and recovery policies to ensure the resilience of the system;

## Identification

- Identify organization, authority, roles and responsibilities of the computer system security management unit
- Privileged access management to ensure that personnel only have access to the specific administrative capabilities needed
- Up-to-date inventory of CCS and other associated assets are properly owned, kept and maintained, and restricted for access

## Protection

- **Implement network security control to allow only authorized traffic to enter the network**
- **Appropriate policies and procedures for remote connection**

## Detection

- Establish a monitoring and detection mechanism and define a baseline of normal behavior
- Conduct Regular review of the monitoring mechanism
- System hardening with regular review

## Incident Response and Recovery

- Structure, roles and responsibilities of the dedicated incident response team
- Procedures for mitigating the impact of an incident, investigating the causer and resumption of normal operation
- Review on its emergency response plan at least once every two years, or when any material changes arise

## Security Assessment

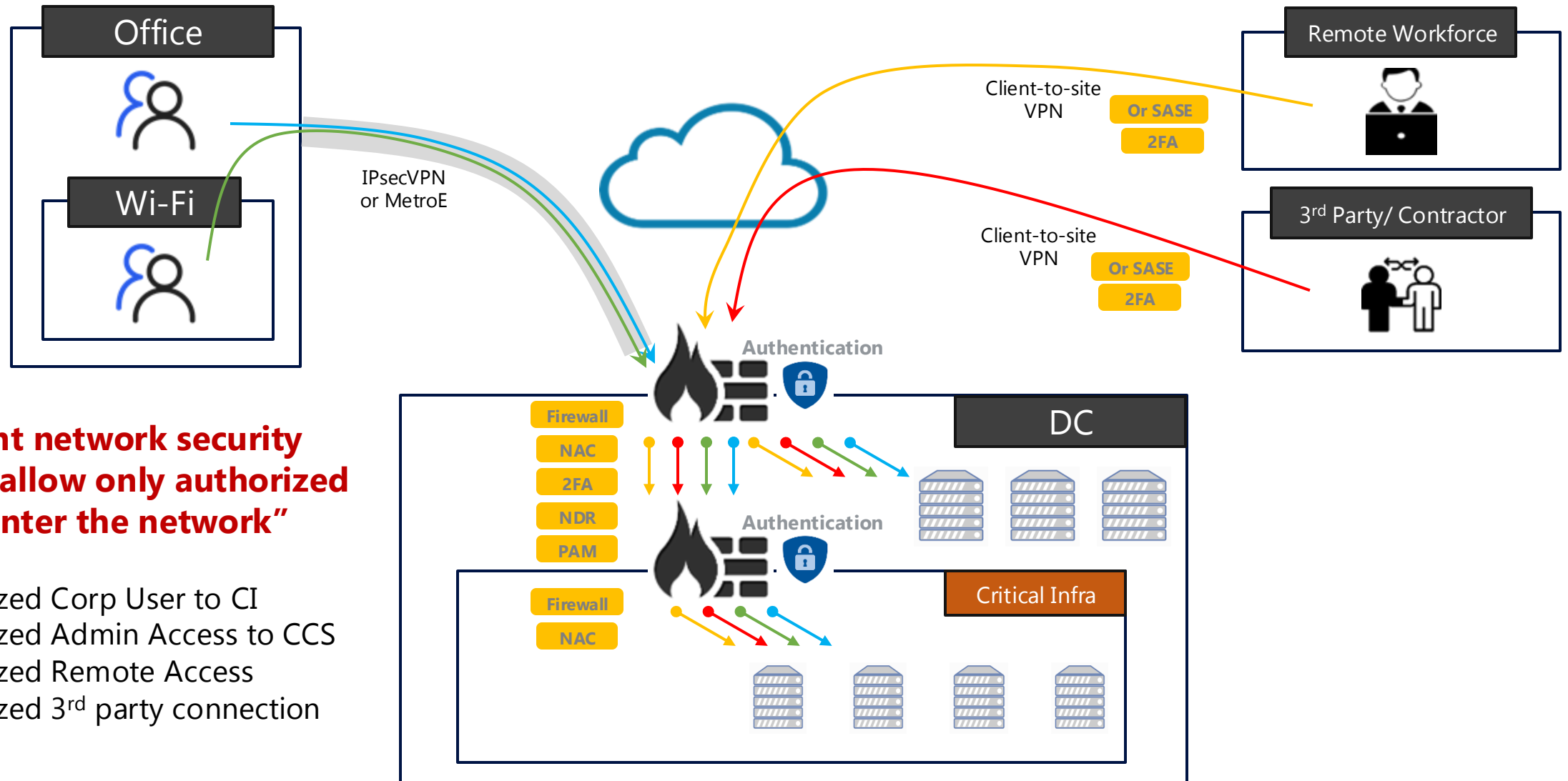
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- Audit at least once every two year and submit report to Commissioner's Office
- Participate drill test by Commissioner's Office at least once every two years

## Qualification & Training

- Critical infrastructure must be supervised by dedicated and certified supervisor (or dedicated supervisor with certified service provider)
- Training programs on various computer system security approaches

# Network Security Control for Critical Infrastructure

## Zero-Trust Network Access (ZTNA) Architecture



**“Implement network security control to allow only authorized traffic to enter the network”**

1. Authorized Corp User to CI
2. Authorized Admin Access to CCS
3. Authorized Remote Access
4. Authorized 3<sup>rd</sup> party connection

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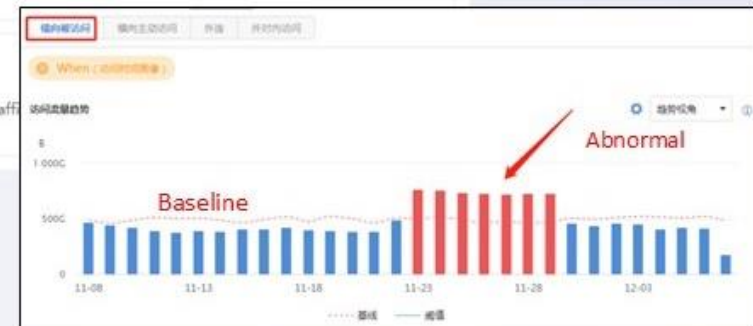


# Baseline Monitoring

Establish a monitoring and detection mechanism and define a baseline of normal behavior



- Anomalous Login**  
Detects anomalous logins by learning and monitoring login time, location, frequency and login count for endpoints and applications.
- Anomalous Database**  
Detects anomalous database activities by learning and monitoring login address, login time, accessed table, accessed data amount, and access frequency for databases.
- Anomalous Outbound Access**  
Detects anomalous outbound access from servers by learning and monitoring external addresses accessed by servers.
- Anomalous Outbound Data**  
Detects anomalous outbound data by learning and monitoring external addresses to which servers send data.
- Anomalous Access**  
Detects anomalous access by monitoring source address, port, period, and location when servers are accessed.
- Anomalous Traffic**  
Detects anomalous traffic by monitoring inbound traffic.



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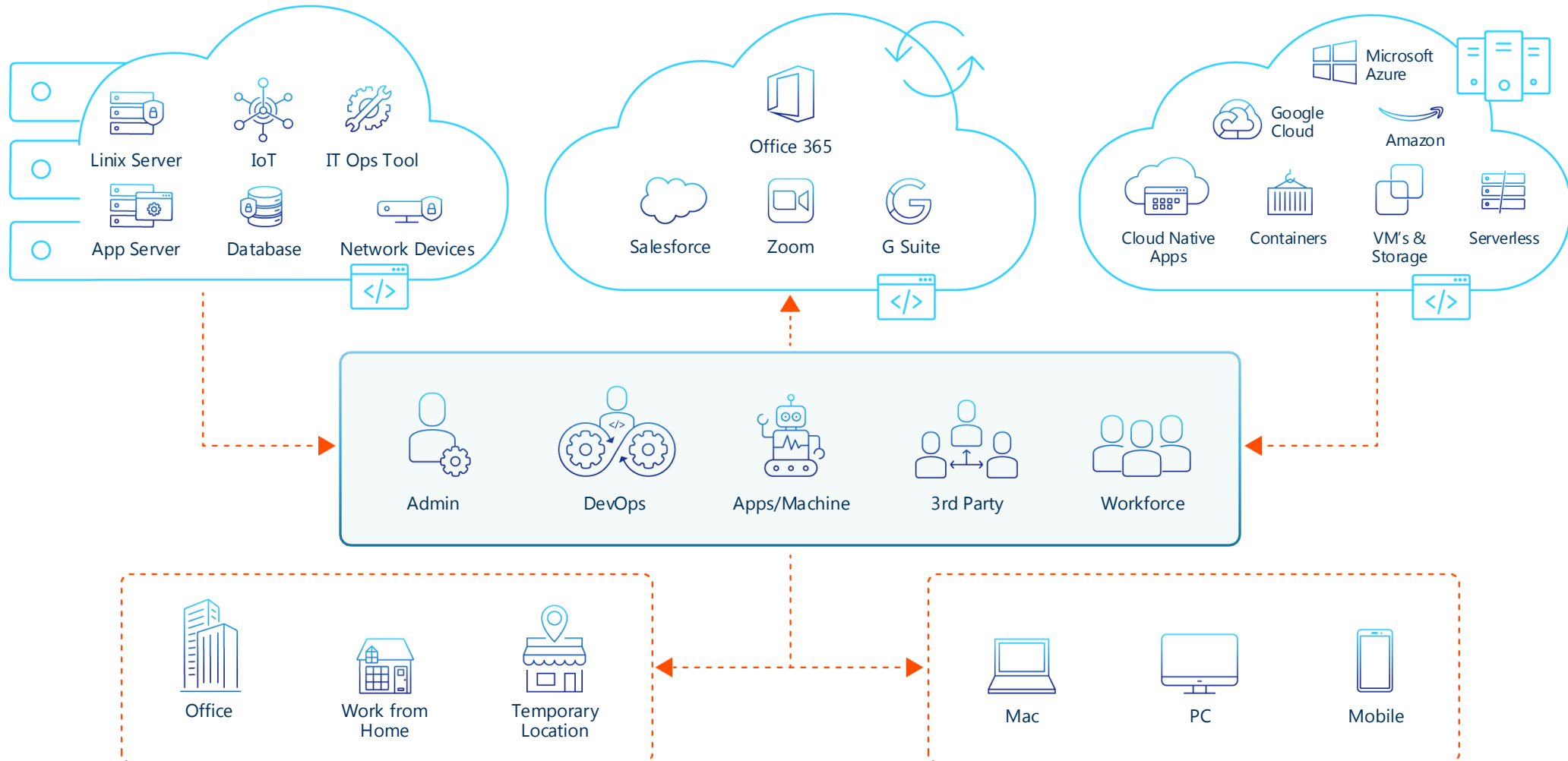
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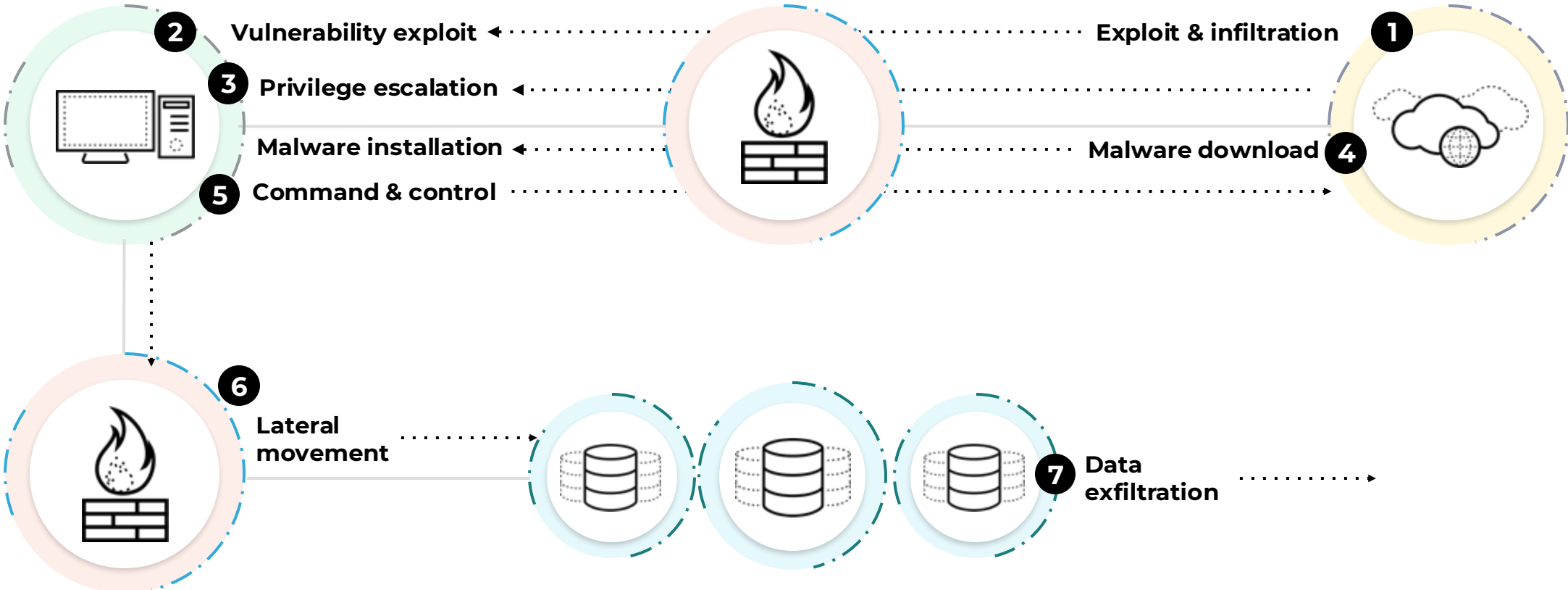
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# Privilege is everywhere.

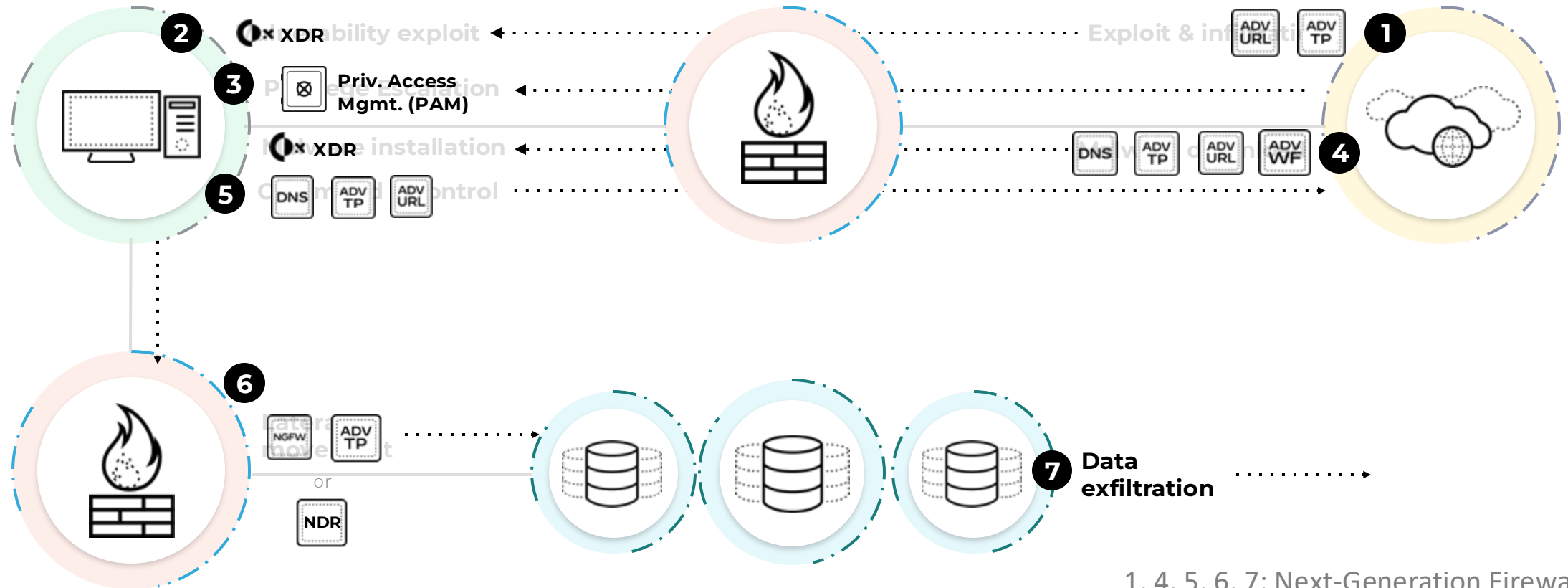
## All identities can become privileged under certain conditions.



# Typical Attack Lifecycle



# Multi-Layer Defense across Attack Lifecycle



- 1, 4, 5, 6, 7: Next-Generation Firewall
- 2, 4: EDR / XDR
- 3: Privilege Access Security (PAM)
- 6: Network Detect & Response (NDR)
- 7: Data Loss Prevention / Database Firewall



# How AI assists in Cyber Defense

How Is the World Changing With AI?

## Precision AI

### Threat Prevention & Detection

*Deterministic models focused on targeted, well-defined tasks requiring high accuracy & precision*

*E.g., autonomous cars accurately detect & respond to obstacles in real-time*

## Generative AI

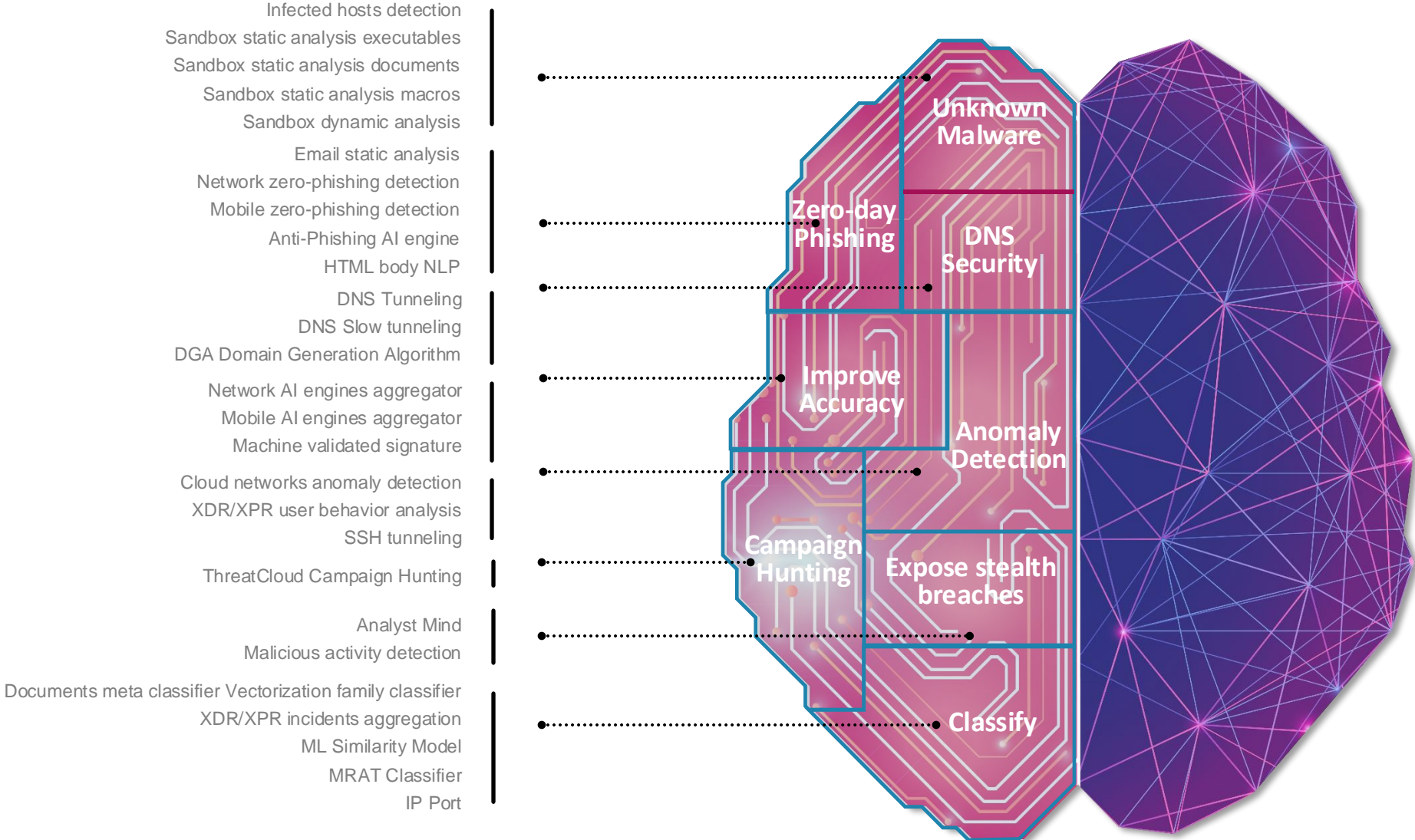
### AI Assistant on Security Operations

*General-purpose, versatile models for generating creative & non-deterministic content from human language prompts*

*E.g., customer service chatbot deploy natural language interfaces to simulate conversations*

# AI-based technologies leveraged by ThreatCloud

50+ engines across different security functionality



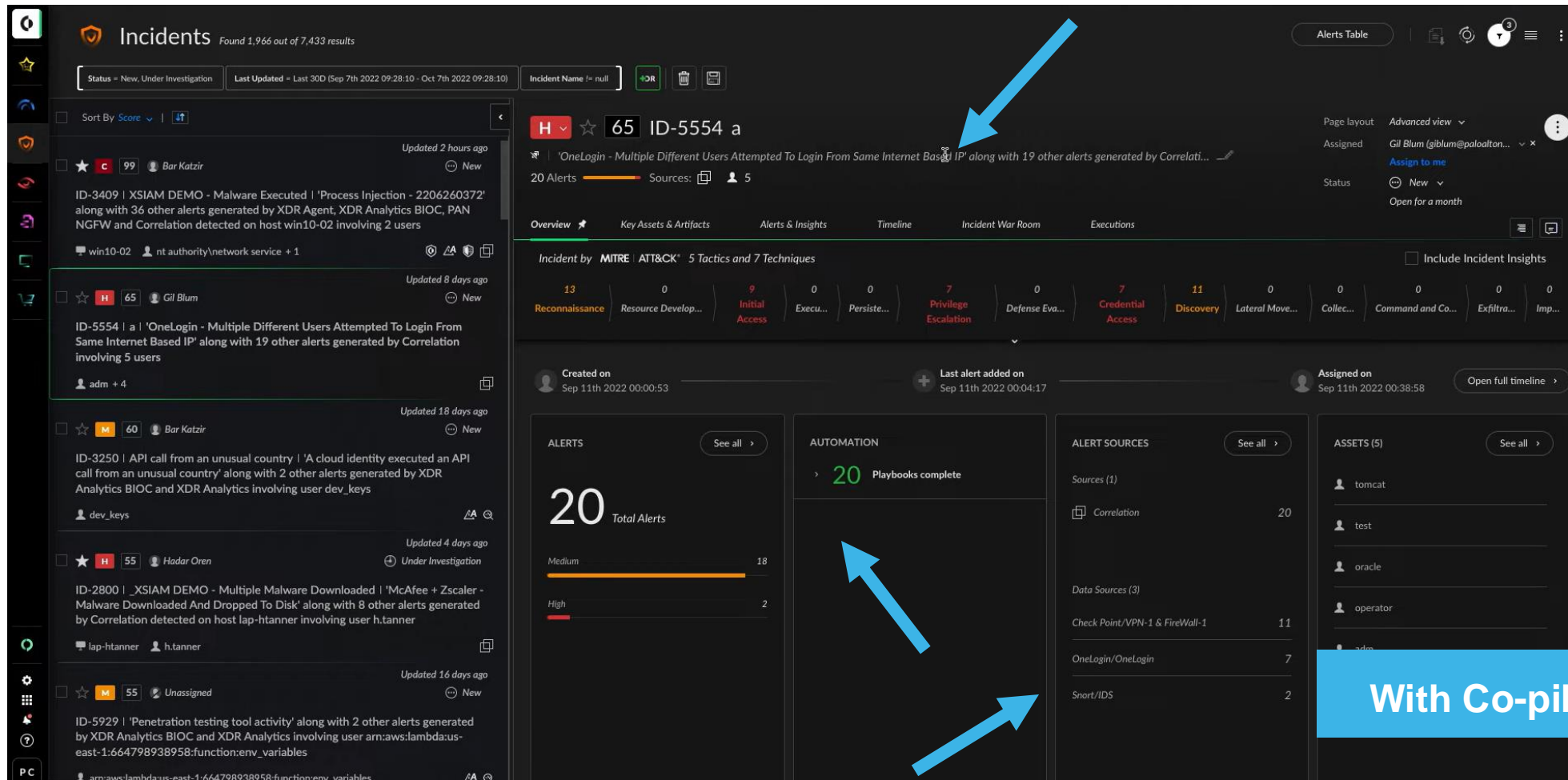
# XDR Architecture with AI engines





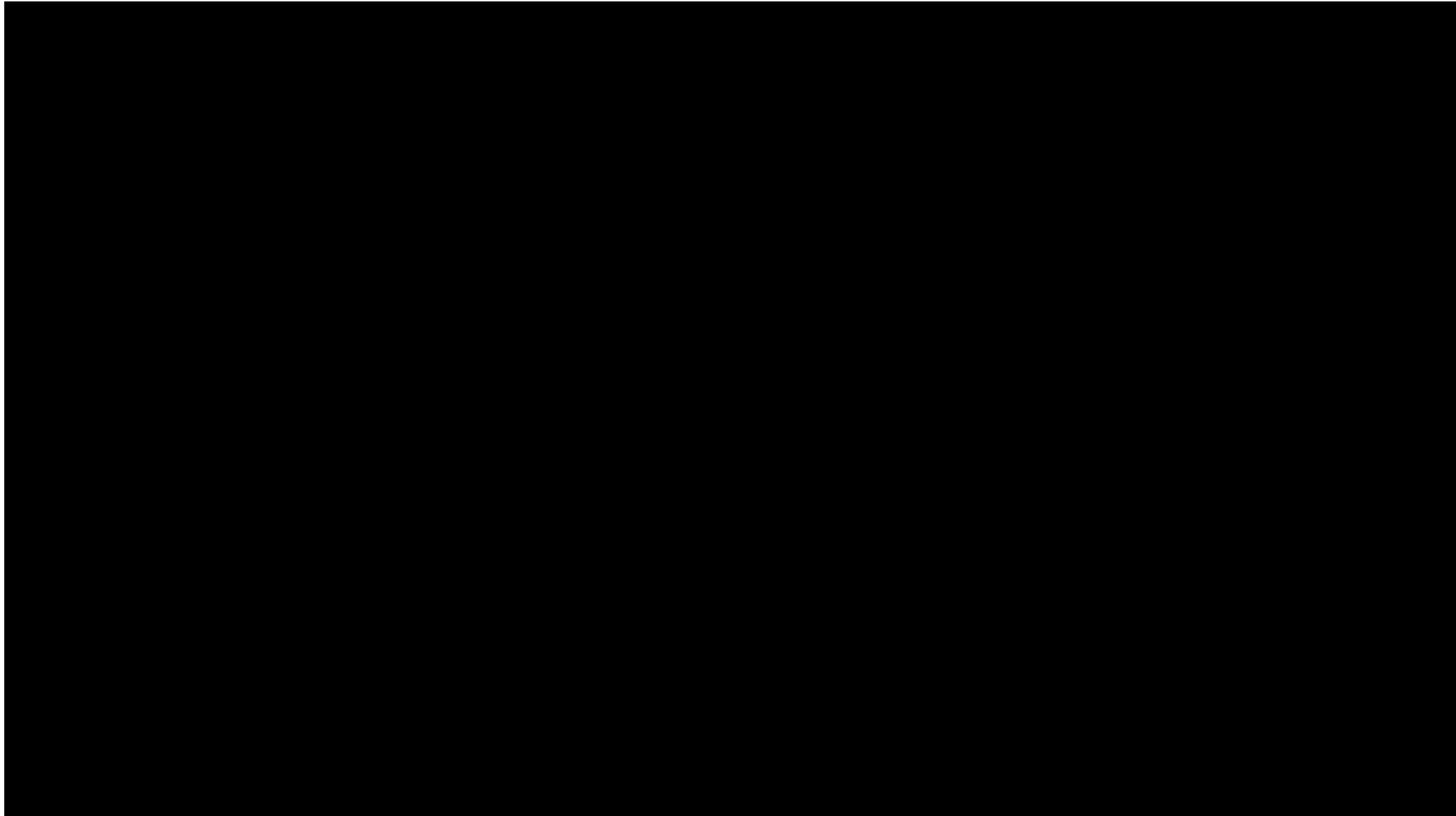
# AI-driven Security Operations Platform

## Sample Use Case: Multiple User Login attempt from same source along with other alerts



The screenshot displays the Palo Alto Networks Cortex XSIAM interface. The main incident view for ID-5554 shows a title: "OneLogin - Multiple Different Users Attempted To Login From Same Internet Based IP" along with 19 other alerts generated by Correlation. The interface includes a left sidebar with a list of incidents, a main incident details pane, and a bottom section with summary cards for Alerts (20 Total), Automation (20 Playbooks complete), Alert Sources, and Assets (5). A blue banner at the bottom right says "With Co-pilot to assist you".

# Latest Example on GenAI in Cybersecurity





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Thank you