



ATM's database cybersecurity

Cybersecurity Awareness Presentation



By CyberInflight

March 10, 2021 by Florent Rizzo

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- NAM/CAR AIDC
- AIDC/NAM/ICD/4



ICAO

01 Cyber-threat landscape

02 Market analysis

03 AIDC protocol and data security

04 Wrap ups & takeaways

About CyberInflight



Unique player in
Aerospace
Cybersecurity Market
Intelligence



Independent
company, employee
owned



Founded in 2019 in
France,
headquartered in
Toulouse



Specialized in the
Aerospace market
(Airlines, airports, OEMs, ANSPs,
industry players, cybersecurity
solutions providers etc.)

Provides **Aerospace
Cybersecurity Intelligence**
through different forms



Strategic
research
reports



Training,
cybersecurity
awareness session



Ad-hoc consulting
and advisory
missions



Constant market
monitoring



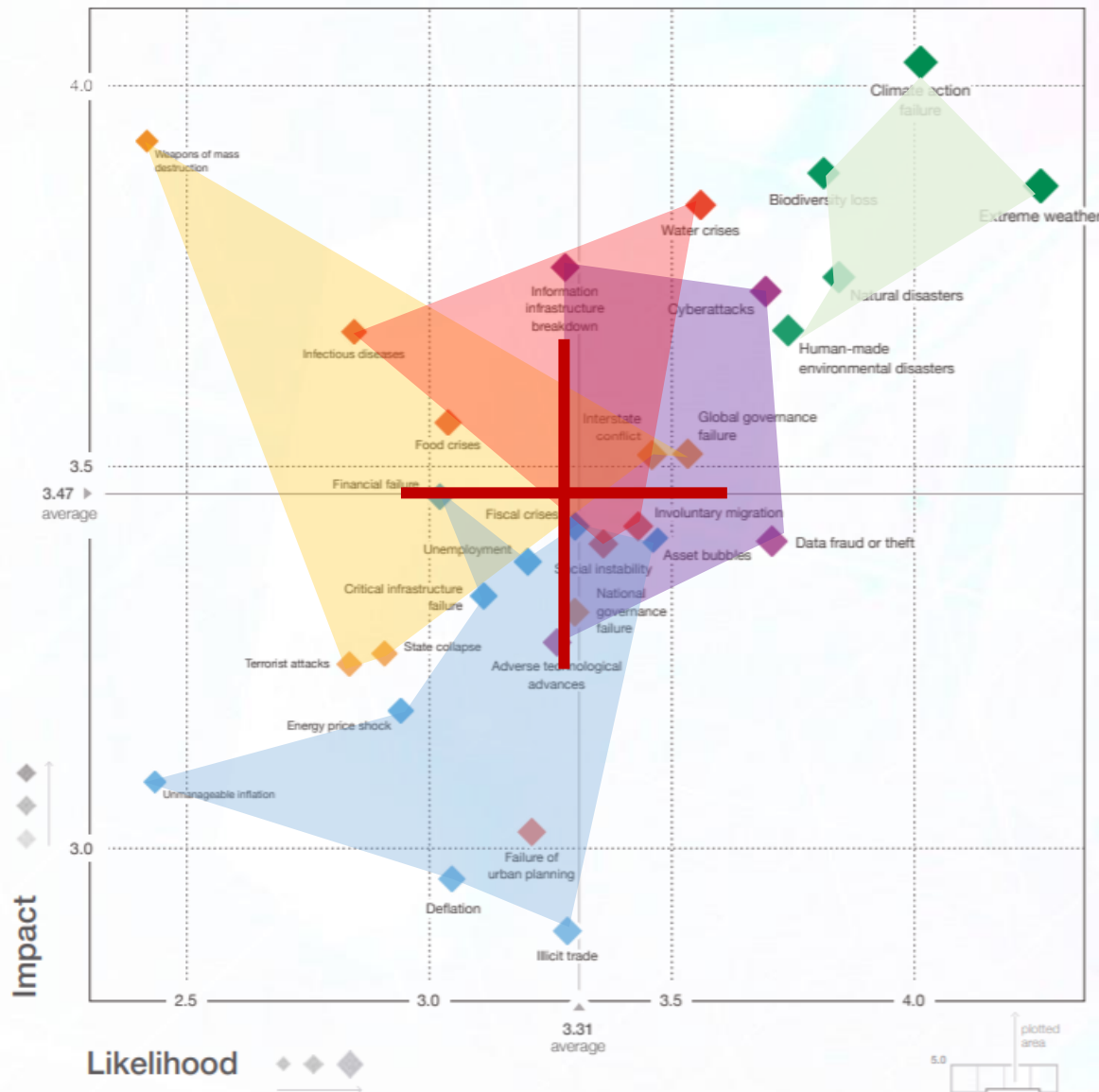
About me

- Founder of CyberInflight
- Consultant & Market Analyst
- Exp. French Civil Aviation (DGAC)
- Exp. Inflight connectivity
- Exp. Aerospace cybersecurity
- A350 avionic development background
- Involved in ANSPs protocol developments (RENAR-IP, FMTP, RWSL., space-based ADS-B...)
- Aerospace enthusiast ☺

01

The cyberthreat landscape

Global risk landscape



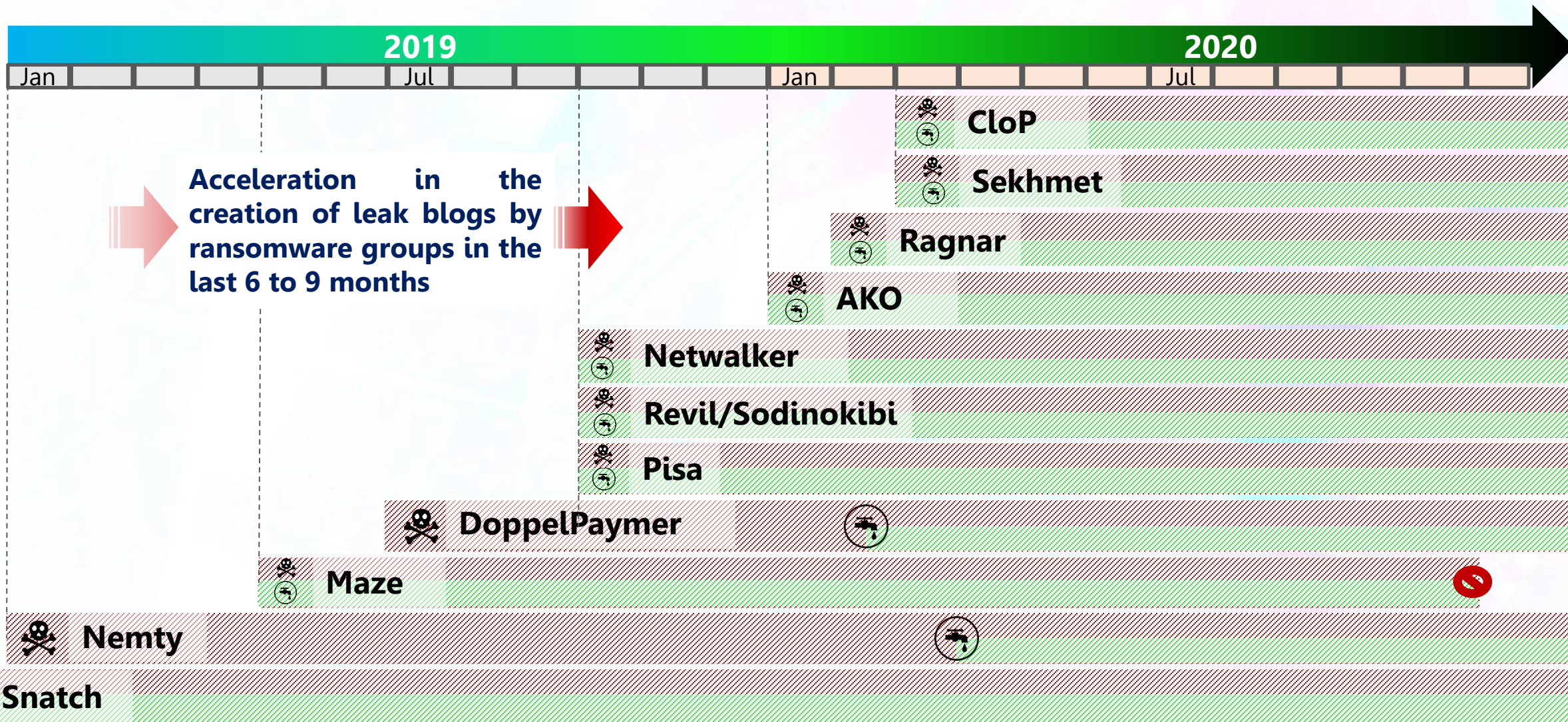
Global risk report 2020 from the World Economic Forum about the cyber-risks:

Among the **top-5 challenges for the world to face** in the next 10-years

Moving into the **high impact/high likelihood** quadrant

- Economic
- Environmental
- Geopolitical
- Societal
- Technological

Soar of darkweb blogs leaking corporate data



Known date for starting operations by the ransomware group



Known date for the opening of data leak website or blog by the ransomware group

Example of unprotected aerospace databases (1/2)



1. Web interface of a server from a stakeholder

Subject to the terms, conditions and restrictions set forth in this [redacted] grants to [redacted] a limited, non-exclusive, non-transferable, non-sublicensable, license to use and view [redacted] solely to read information regarding aircraft and spare parts. Any rights not expressly granted in [redacted] are reserved.

[redacted] to install and use [redacted] for viewing information including data files containing aircraft and spare part information whether made originally available through [redacted] individually or collectively [redacted] to view and read the Data.

2. The tick box allows to accept the Terms and Conditions

I Accept the Terms [redacted]

3. Ticking the box asks for a password. The website was recently secured in xxx 2020, for obvious reasons, as it was left open, without password before that date.

Terms of the [redacted]

Enter Password: (A Continue button appears after the correct password is entered)

Example of unprotected aerospace databases (2/2)



4. Display the code of the web page

```
▼ <div ng-if="licenseModel" class="ng-scope">
  "
  Enter Password: "
  <input ng-model="pwd" class="ng-pristine ng-valid ng-touched">
  <small> (A Continue
  button appears after the correct password is entered)</small>
  <!--<p>Password: <input type="text" ng-model="pwd" id=text1
  name=text1></p>-->
```

5. Read the password in clear text !

```
▼ <span ng-show="(pwd== [REDACTED])" class="ng-hide">
  ▶ <span class="continue-btn">...</span>
  </span>
```

6. Use the password and the "continue" button appears

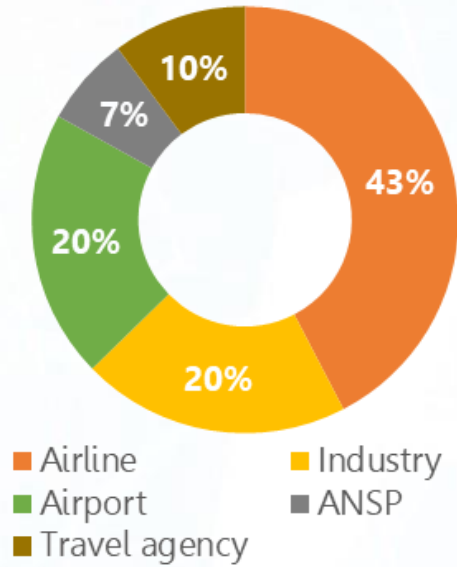
(A Continue button appears after the correct password is entered)

Continue

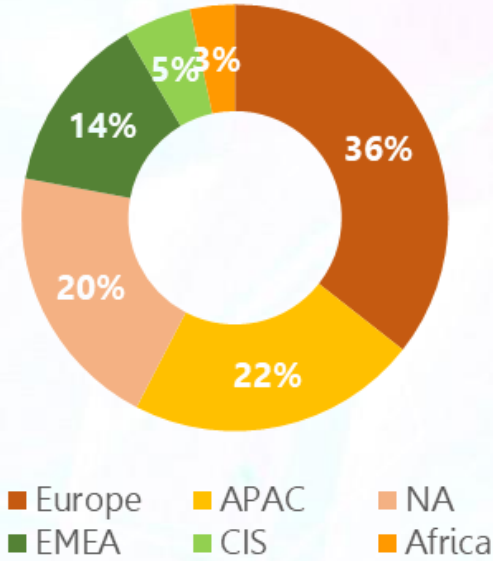
Cyberthreat on aerospace in 2019



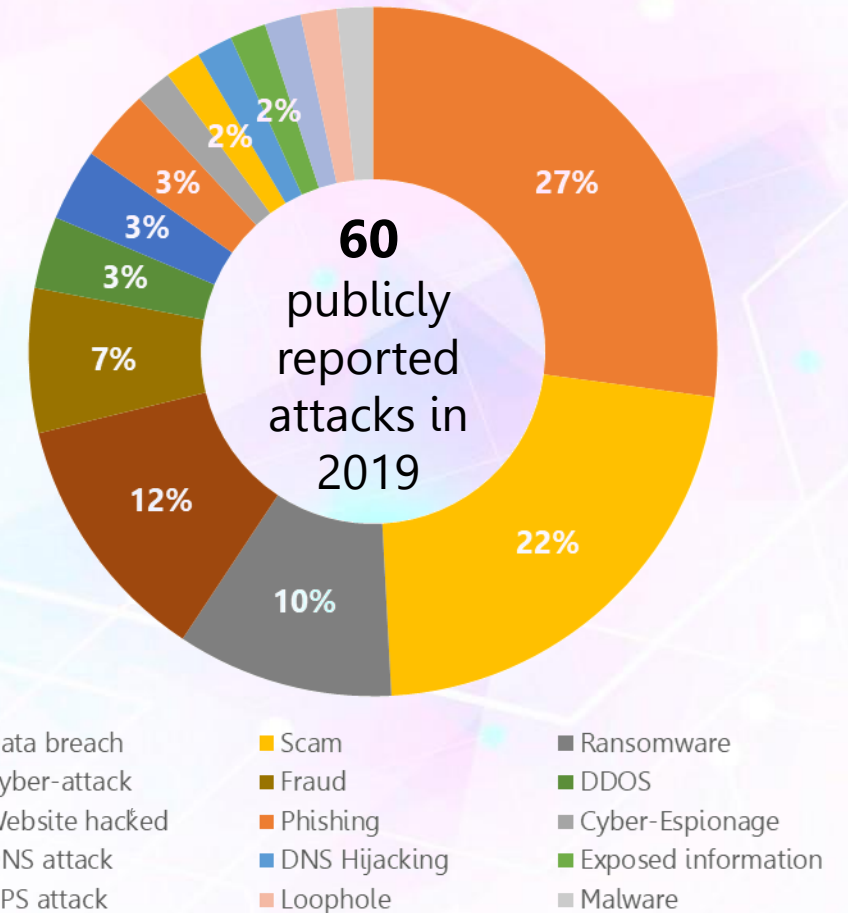
CYBERATTACKS BY TARGET TYPE



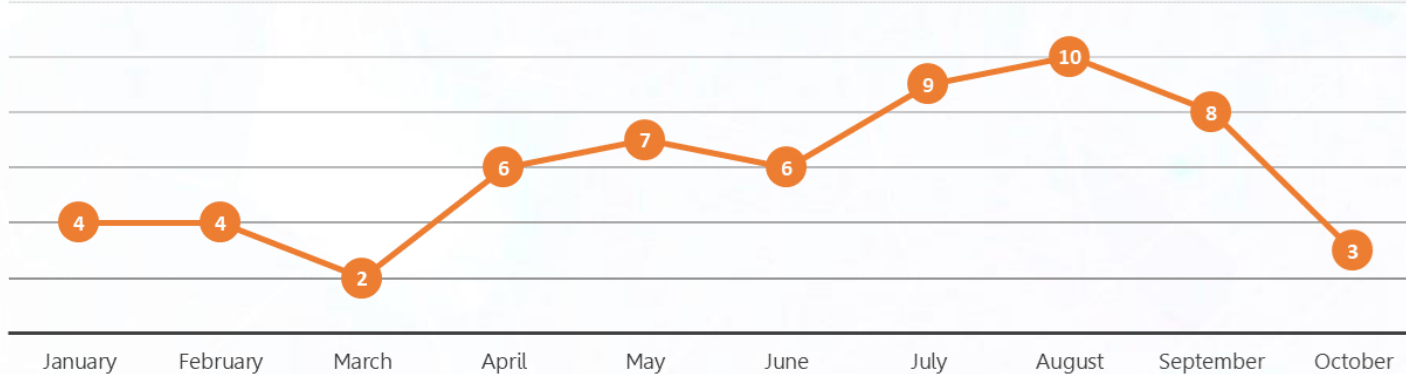
CYBERATTACKS BY REGION



CYBERATTACKS BY TYPE OF ATTACK



NUMBER OF CYBERATTACKS BY MONTH



*Cyber-attack: no information is given to categorize the attack. It can result in data breach or disruption.

Source EATM-CERT: based on 60 cases of cyber attacks perpetrated in 2019 (no data for November and December)

Cyberthreat on aerospace in 2020



Cyberattack hits Alaskan airline **RavnAir**, Dec. 2019

New York Airport hit by cyber attack during Christmas, Dec. 2019



Transavia data leak, Feb. 2020



Brussel Airline booking app. Hijacking, Mar. 2020



Cyberattack against **Sarrebruck airport** and the state holding company, Saar GmbH, Mar 2020



ST Engineering major ransomware attack, reported June 2020



Impersonation of aerospace companies on LinkedIn by a hacker group, June 2020



San Francisco Airport data breach, Apr. 2020



Air transport and governments hits by cyberattacks, May 2020



PAX information sold by Israeli flight attendant Reported: June 2020



Ransomware attack on **NASA** subcontractor, June 2020



Iranian hackers aiming to steal aerospace satellite data Sept. 2020



Hackers attack Airport AWOS system. Sept 2020



Cyberattack on **FlightRadar24**, Sept. 2020



Cyber attack grounds **Transport Malta** systems, Oct. 2020



German IT company hit by ransomware. Sept. 2020



United Airlines website flaw, Sept 2020



Airlink international UAE leaked data. Oct 2020

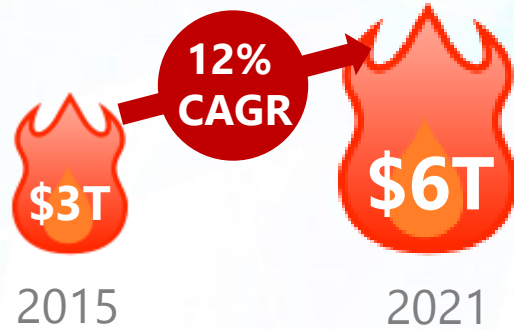
And others with indirectly related to aerospace...



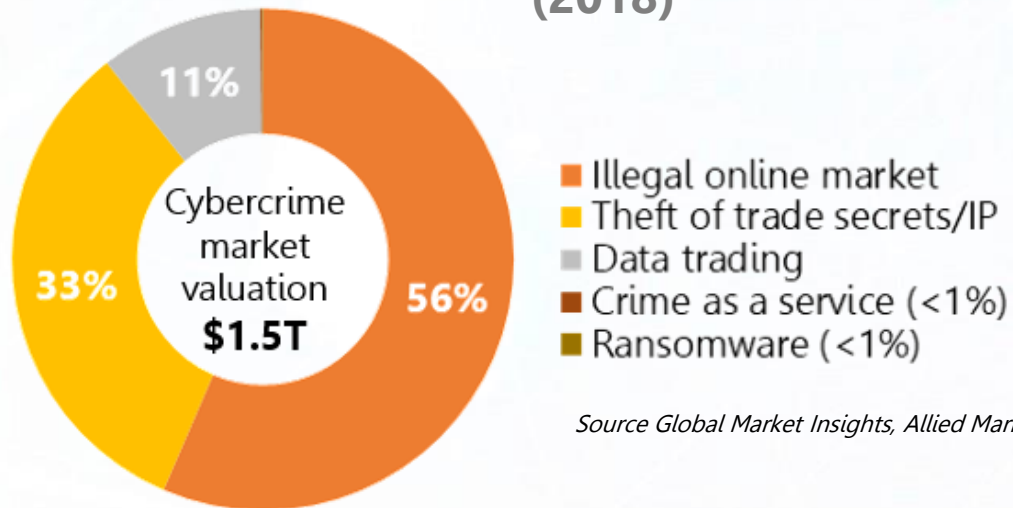
On the **BLACK HAT** side (public info.)



CYBERCRIME DAMAGES TO THE WORLD



ILLICIT PROFIT (2018)



Source Global Market Insights, Allied Market Research, Bromium

INDUSTRIES REVENUES IN PERSPECTIVE



Source ACI, IATA

Cybersecurity principles to apply



100% SECURITY IS IMPOSSIBLE



Security comes with a cost

KERCKHOFF'S PRINCIPLE



"The enemy knows the system"

AN UNFAIR GAME



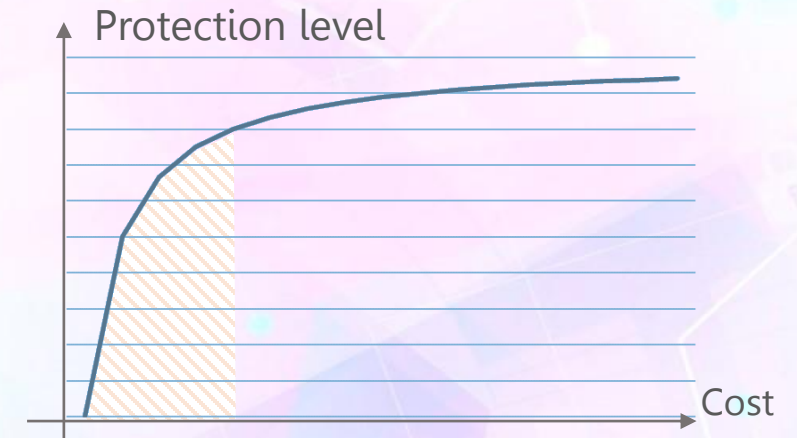
Attacker has to win once
Defenders always have to win

A LAYERED APPROACH



Security has to be set at different
layers of a system

PARETO'S LAW APPLIES



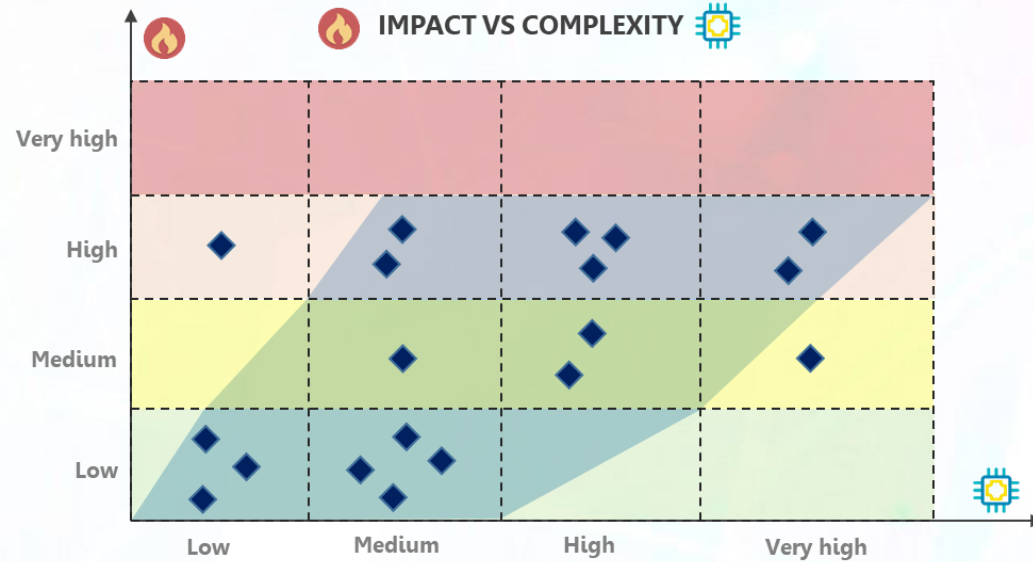
20% of cybersecurity measures
may cover 80% of cyberattacks

A JEWEL WITH MANY FACETS



Cybersecurity is transversal and implies
organizations at various levels

Trends from case-studies

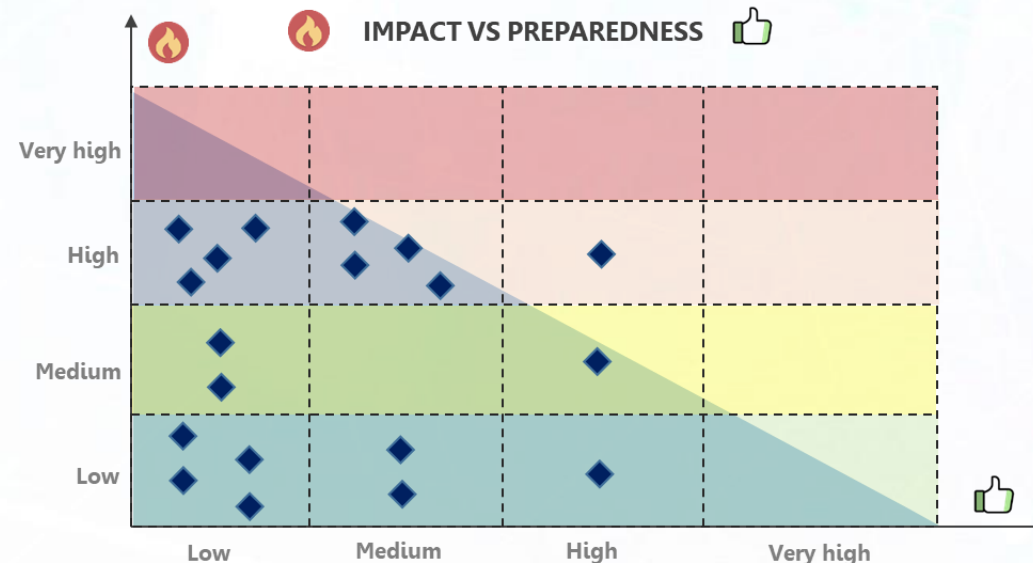


Based on case-studies of **19 cyberattacks**
Date: from 2014 to 2019
Victims: Airlines, airports, ANSPs, OEMs, suppliers

Correlation between IMPACT and COMPLEXITY:

- Low but existing correlation
- Low and medium complexity attacks can trigger low, medium or high impact
- High complexity attacks tends to trigger high impact

➔ **Need to filter low complexity attacks with basic rules of cyber-hygiene.**



Correlation between IMPACT and PREPAREDNESS:

- Strong correlation
- The higher the level of preparedness the lower the impact
- Investments in cybersecurity reduces the level of impact
- Sophistication of cyberattacks is rising...

➔ **Investments in cybersecurity are proving to be efficient.**

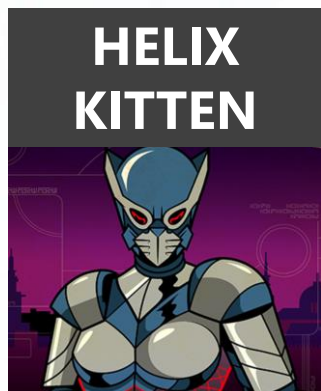
APT groups interested in ANSP's data



Suspected Attribution: Russia
Aka: APT28, Sofacy
Target: **Aerospace**, defense, energy, government, media
Methods: Phishing messages and credential harvesting using spoofed websites. Registering domains that closely resemble domains of legitimate organizations.



Suspected Attribution: Iran
Aka: APT33, Elfin, Magnallium, Holmium
Target: Espionage-oriented operations targeting nations and industries (**aerospace**, Defense, Energy, O&G)
Methods: spoofing job postings for defense contractors, decoy job application, first taking an action (e.g. complete a CAPTCHA) that downloads additional PowerShell commands



Suspected Attribution: Iran
Target: organizations in the **aerospace**, energy, financial, government, hospitality and telecommunications
Methods: thoroughly researched and structured spear-phishing messages, spear-phishing messages sent from compromised accounts of organizations to enhance credibility, backdoor implant, targeting telecommunications can also allow the adversary to be able to reroute communications to adversary-controlled infrastructure



Suspected Iranian group targeting the **aviation sector** both military and commercial. Spear-phishing emails recruitment themed lures and contained links to malicious HTML



Suspected Chinese group targeting **aerospace**, and telecom firms, and governments. Spear phishing and access to victim's networks through managed service providers. spear phishes have been relatively unsophisticated files with double extensions



Suspected Chinese group targeting **Aerospace and Defense** and Transportation companies. Adapted zero-day exploits for operations

Source Fireeye, crowdstrike

02

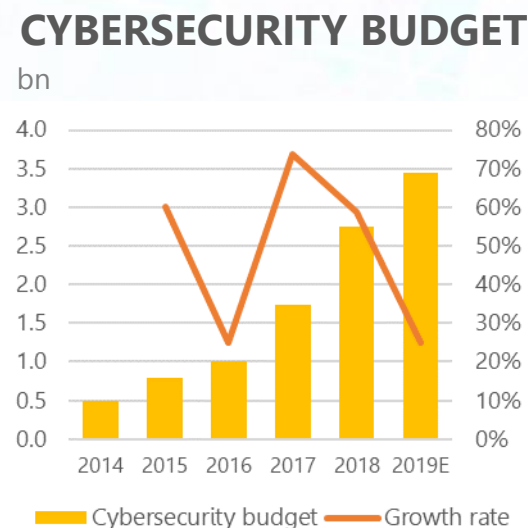
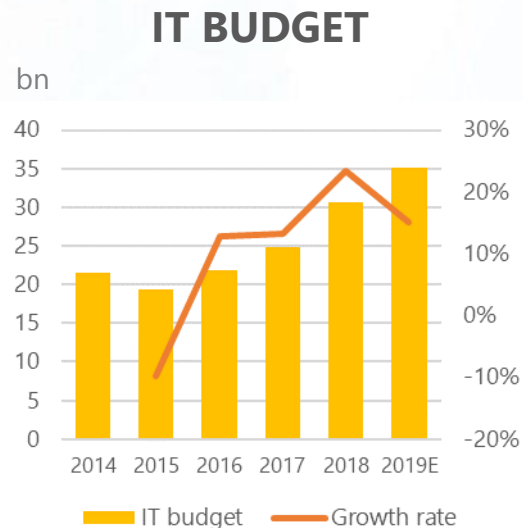
Budget oriented approach

Evolution of airlines cybersecurity budget



- **Steady** growth of global revenues
- **Significant** growth of IT budget
- **Outstanding** growth of cybersecurity budget

Until the COVID crisis...



- **Catastrophic** impact on global budget
- IT and cybersecurity budget on hold

Negative impact on companies' cyberdefense mechanisms

Evolution of airports cybersecurity budget

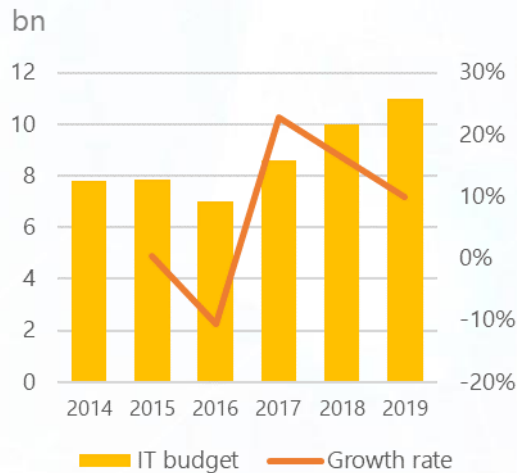


EVOLUTION OF AIRPORTS REVENUES

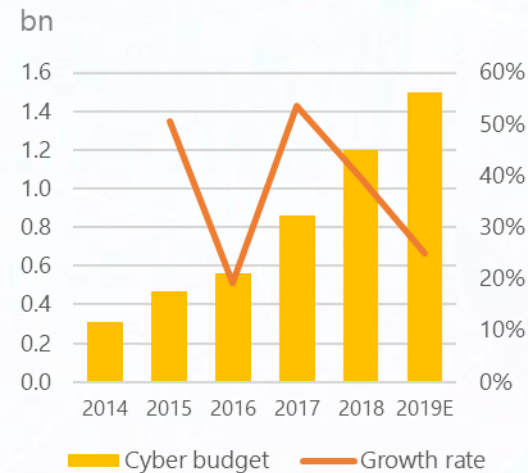


- Airport revenues were more stable over the years than airline revenues

IT BUDGET

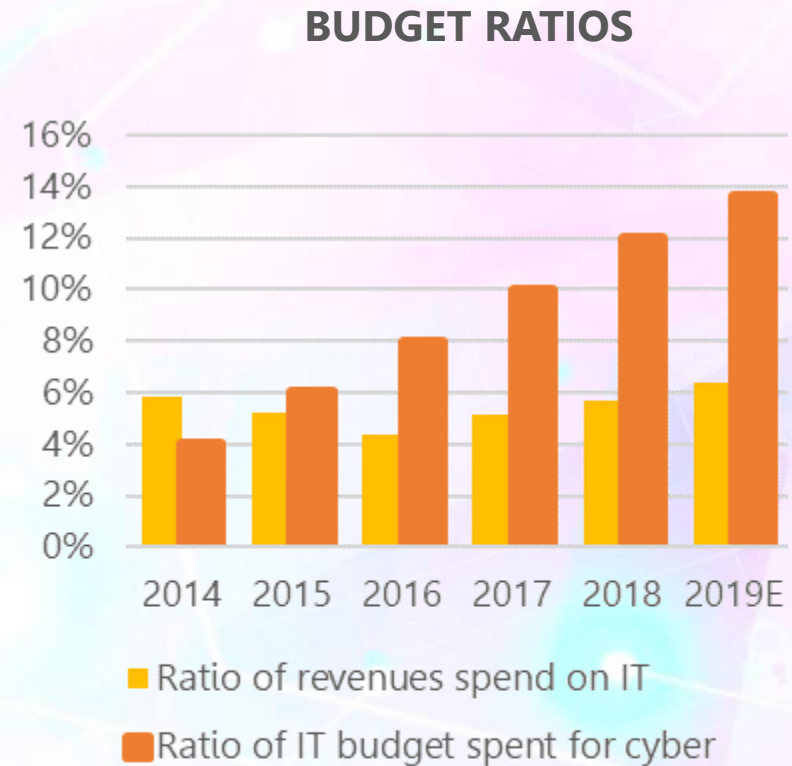
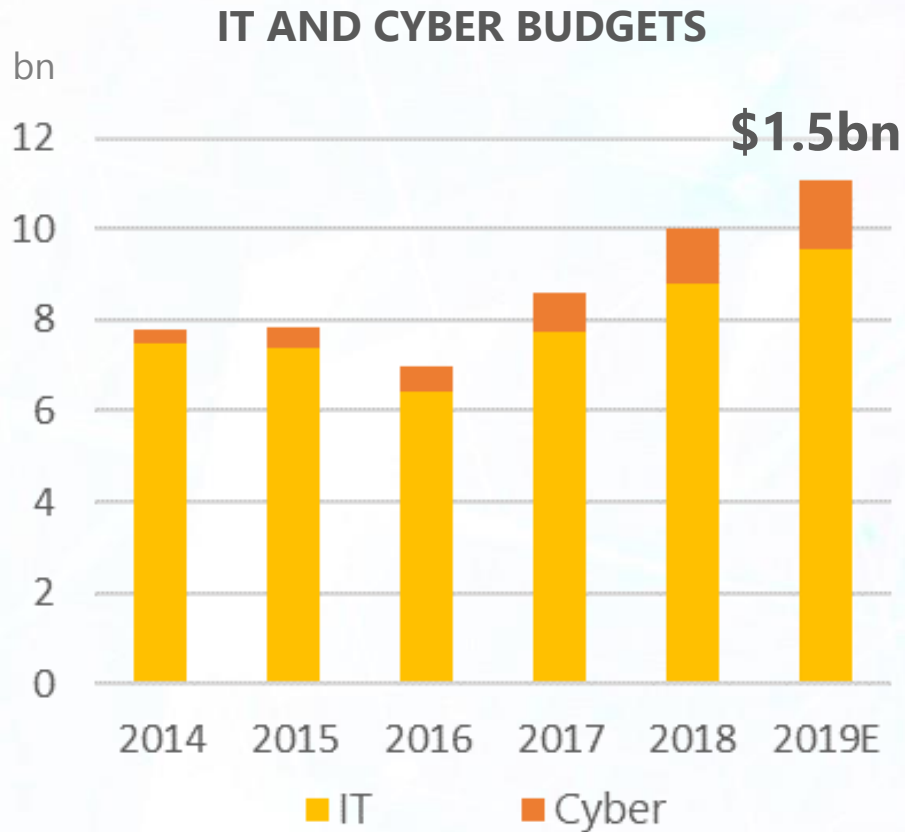


CYBERSECURITY BUDGET



- IT budget has been following a strong growth since 2016
 - Seamless PAX experience
 - Automation
- Cybersecurity budget have followed an outstanding growth rate:
 - **CAGR of 35% since 2014**

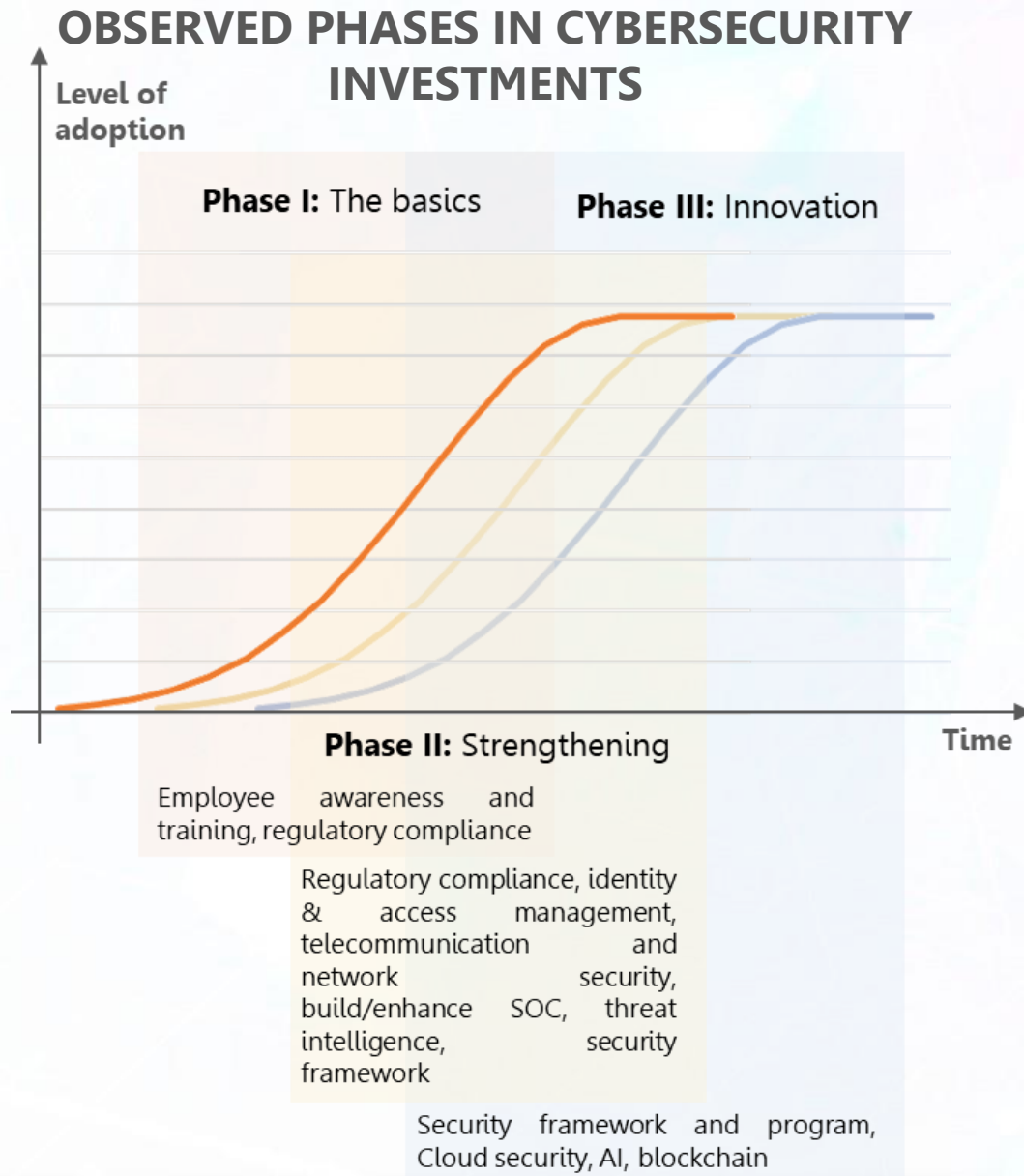
Evolution of airports cybersecurity budget



$$\frac{\text{Cyber budget}}{\text{IT budget}} \% \quad \frac{\text{IT budget}}{\text{Total revenues}} \%$$

The cyber/IT ratio has reached almost **14% in 2019**
Relatively good level of maturity from airport stakeholders

Phases in cybersecurity investment

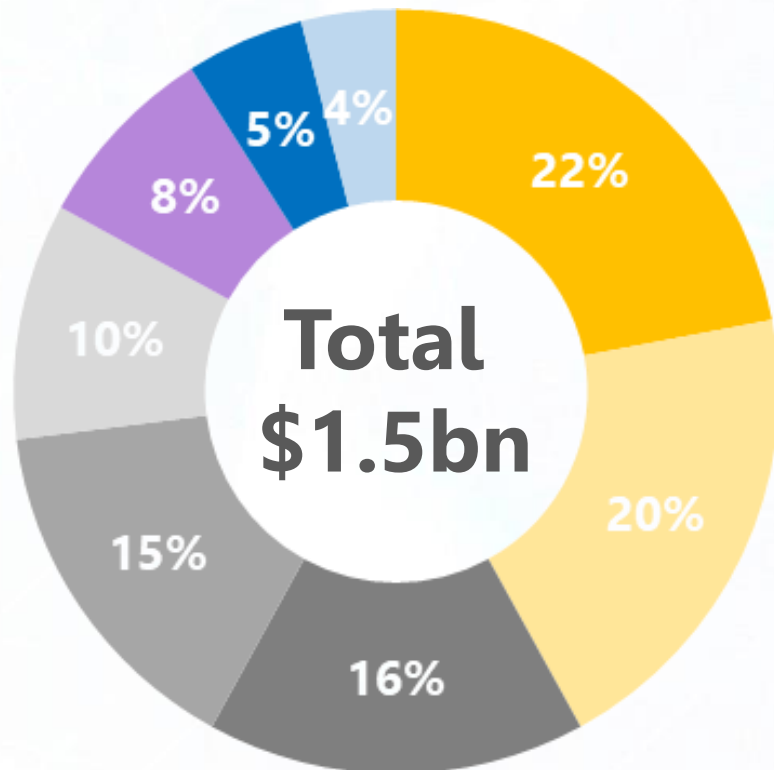


- Similar to S-curves applied to cybersecurity investments from basics to consolidation to innovation.
- Different items for cybersecurity investments:
 - Employee awareness and training
 - Regulatory compliance
 - Identity and access management
 - Network security
 - SOC
 - Threat intel.
 - Security framework
 - Cloud security
 - AI, blockchain, innovative technologies...

Cybersecurity budget split for airports



CYBERSECURITY BUDGET SPLIT (2018 est.)

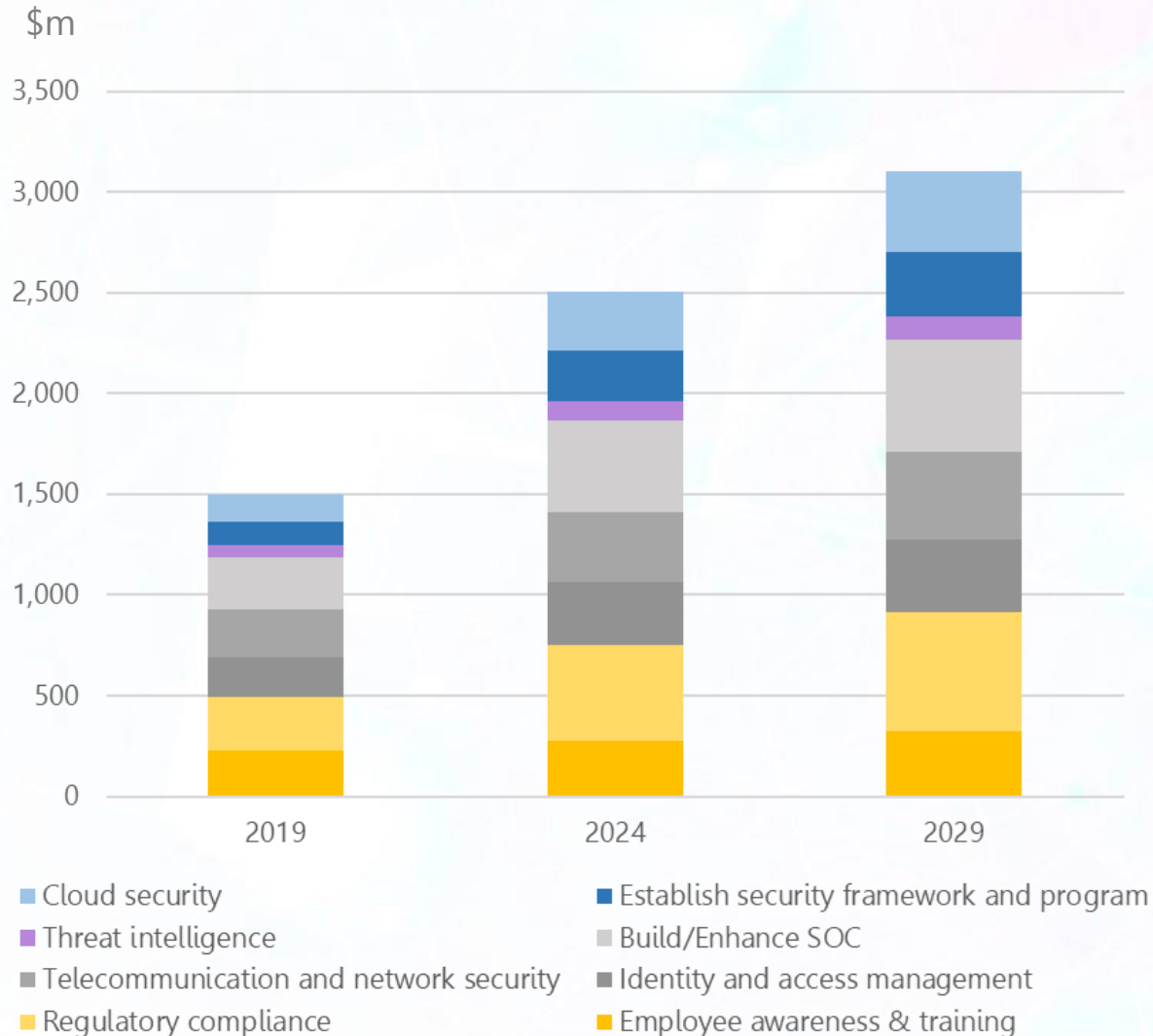


- Airlines have started to seize the importance of **cybersecurity training and awareness**. Rightly the most important item in term of budget.
- Regulatory compliance is **one compulsory investment** (for GDPR in particular). Regulations translates into increased spending to protect passenger data.

- Employees awareness & training
- Regulatory compliance
- Identity and access management
- Telecommunication and network security
- Build/Enhance SOC
- Threat intelligence
- Establish security framework and program
- Cloud security
- Onboard security



EVOLUTION OF CYBERSECURITY BUDGET



- Airport cybersecurity spending is poised to grow in the next 10 years from **\$1.5bn in 2019 to more than \$3.1bn in 2029**, following a 7.6% CAGR
- Cybersecurity already represents 12% of IT budgets in 2019
- Slower increase in cybersecurity budget compare to airline due to **relatively higher maturity**

03

AIDC protocol and data security



The AIDC protocol was initially defined in the **9694 Manual released in 1999**.

The AIDC protocol allows to manage a wide range of **key ATM data**

Aircraft related information



Address, ID, type, SSR, COM NAV equipment, etc.

Route related information



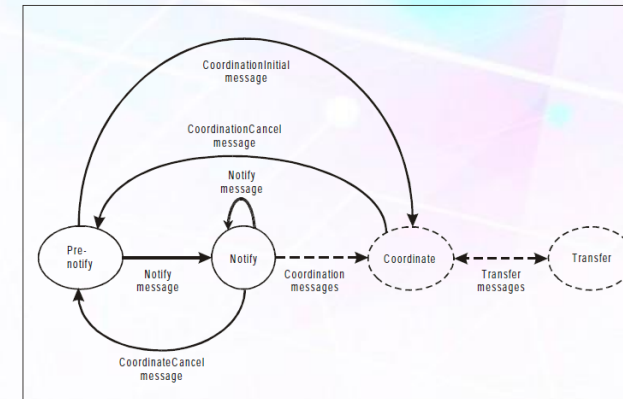
ATS route info., departure info., boundaries info., destination, flight level, distances, position, speed, type of flight, etc.

The AIDC protocol uses **specific message format** and **variable range**

Table VI-4-B1. AIDC variables range and resolution

Variables	Parameters	Unit	Range/size	Resolution
Aircraft identification		IA5 character string	2 to 7 characters	N/A
Aircraft type		IA5 character string	2 to 4 characters	N/A
Aircraft address		Bit string	24 bits	N/A
ATS route designator		IA5 character string	2 to 6 characters	N/A
Code (SSR)		Integer	4 octal digits	N/A

The AIDC protocol uses **specific operational sequences and states**





“It is not the intention that controllers see the messages, but their operational content is required to be displayed”

*In order to correctly link a response to an AIDC message with the original message, a **reference to the original message** is included in the response.*

*1.3.3 The message header contains a message **identification**, a **time stamp** (yyyymmddhhmmss) and a **message sequence number**.*

*1.14 **Regional adaptation** of the AIDC application may be accomplished by mutual agreement.*

*1.3.2 An AIDC message is composed of a message header and a sequence of fields of data. Each message shall contain **all the mandatory fields and all relevant optional fields**.*

*1.12 The AIDC application will use the ATN to ensure that ATC data are **exchanged in a reliable and timely manner** between ATSU's.*



First reactions **from an ethical hacking perspective** may trigger the following reaction:

- The protocol was initially defined in 1999. Although the ICAO documents are not related to the implementation of the protocol, there is **no mention to any cybersecurity protection**.
- Operational content of the messages may be visible. A **message modification could hinder the work** of an air traffic controller.
- A hacker could try to **find flaws in AIDC operational sequences of messages** (*ex. of TCP sequence hacking and Man-in-the-middle attack*)
- The implementation of the protocol may be subject to regional adaptation with mutual agreement. This may result in **disparities in the implementation of the protocol** and various level of security.
- Alternative attack could try to attempt to modify timestamps as the AIDC exchanges should happen in a timely manner.
- The use of **optional field is sometimes use by hackers to trigger potential flaws** (*ex. of attacks on the BCBP boarding pass protocol and usage of optional fields*). Is there any checksum or any security related fields?



The current context of cybersecurity threat would require to make sure these questions are answered.

General approach for database security



Data security
is based on the **CIA triad**



Only authorized users and processes should be able to access or modify data

Ex. of attack: data breach, leak, exfiltration, espionage, APT, eavesdropping, man-in-the-middle etc.

Data should be maintained in a correct state and nobody should be able to improperly modify it, either accidentally or maliciously

Ex. of attack: interception, manipulation, data compromise, MITM, encryption, ransomware, etc.

Authorized users should be able to access data whenever they need to do so

Ex. of attack: Denial of Service, DDOS (distributed), protocol sequence attack, NTP attack (timestamp),

Every attack comes down to a loss of one or more of these factors



INFRASTRUCTURE ISOLATION

ATM world is already used to **isolation of sensitive information**. The degree of isolation should be clearly defined. Keep in mind that air-gap networks can still get infected...

Ex #1. of avionics equipment update

Ex #2. ANSP data infected through finance or HR network

Ex #3. Risk link to cloud infrastructure



DATA MAPPING & TAGGING

Identification and categorization of data. A **mapping** allows to have a clear view of your set of data and to know exactly how widely they can be spread. A technical **inventory** of accesses will help to draw potential attack scenarios.



BACKUP & LOGGING

The simplest way to retrieve data encrypted by a ransomware. Frequency and scope of backups to be clearly defined. Efficient logs can allow to detect suspicious activities early.



ENCRYPTION

Encryption of data based on a set of parameters: sensitivity, usage, performance, volume, lifetime, spread etc.

Encryption allows **avoiding the publication of confidential data** by ransomware groups on the Dark Web.

Ex. Bombardier, Embraer, ST Engineering etc.

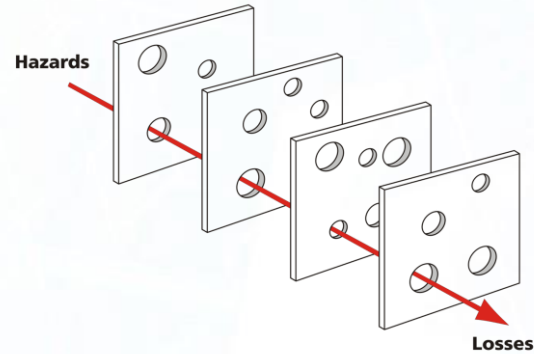


Among other solutions: Authentication, SOC, SIEM, threat intelligence, regulatory compliance, awareness & training, cloud security, AI, etc.

Defense Frameworks & Key Resources (1/2)



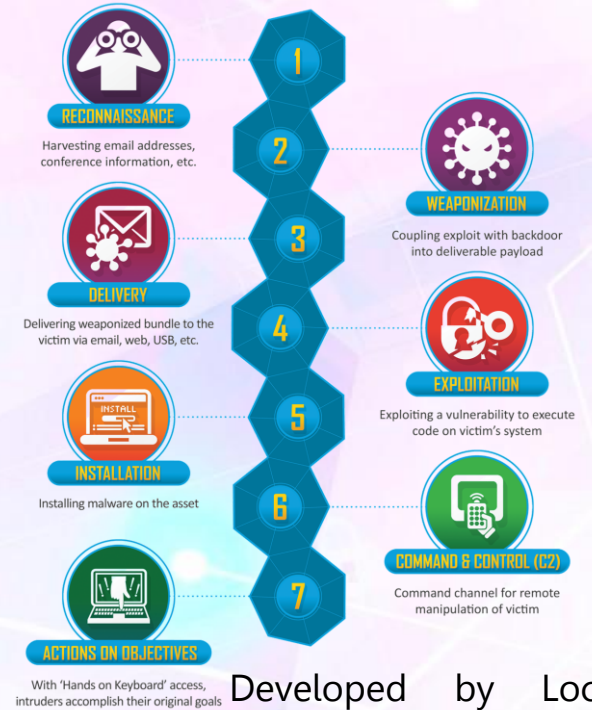
Swiss Cheese Model



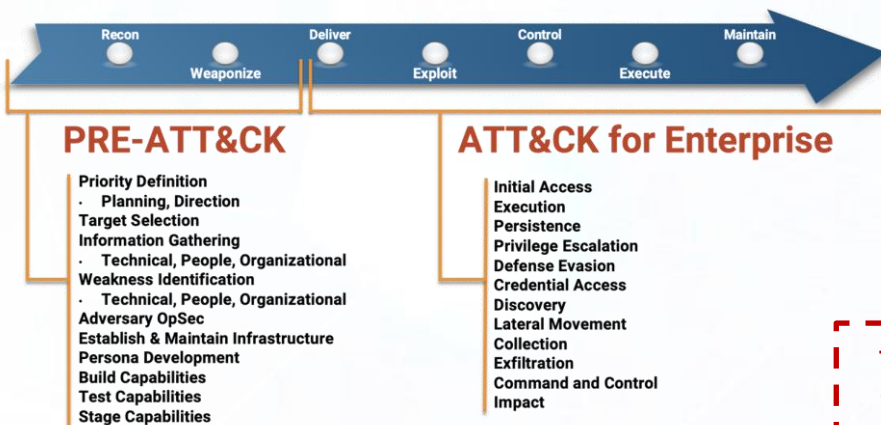
NIST Framework



Cyber Kill Chain



MITRE Framework



Frameworks for voluntary use, can be used by organizations in **any sector or community** regardless of size, degree of risk or sophistication
To apply the **principles and best practices of risk management**

The NIST framework has been implemented by CANSO (cf. Cyber Security and Risk Assessment Guide)



Developed by Lockheed Martin, the **Cyber Kill Chain®** framework is used to identify and prevent cyber intrusion activities.



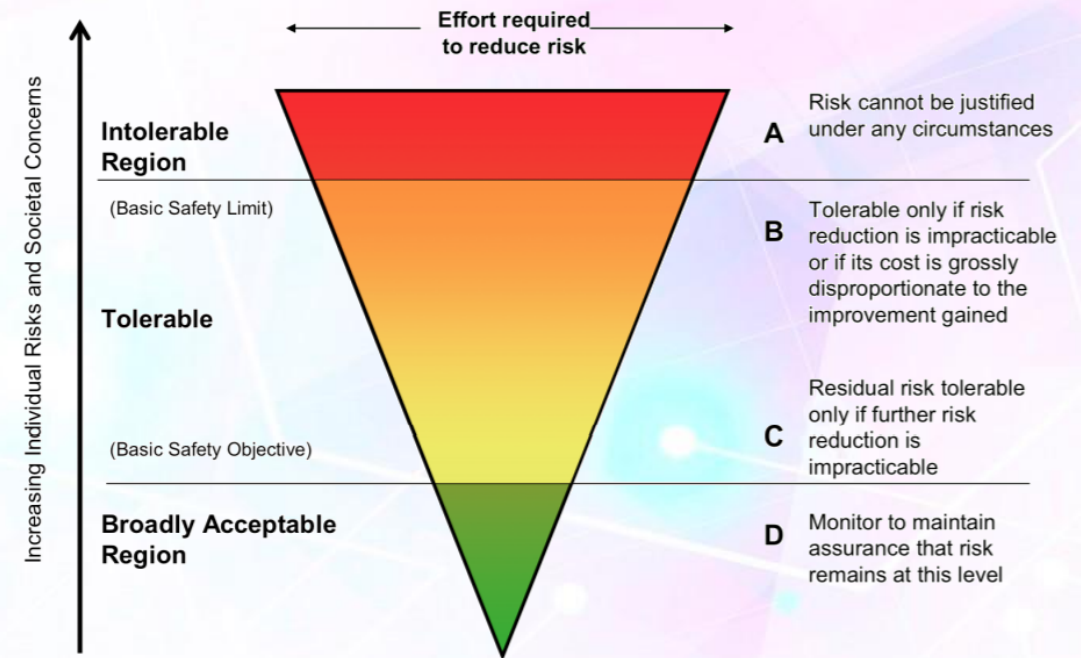
EXAMPLE OF CANSO CYBER SECURITY AND RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDE

Consequence VS Likelihood

Likelihood Criteria		Consequence Criteria				
		Catastrophic 1	Major 2	Moderate 3	Minor 4	Insignificant 5
Event expected to occur:						
1	More frequently than hourly	A	A	A	A	C
2	Between hourly and daily	A	A	A	B	D
3	Between daily and yearly	A	A	B	C	D
4	Between yearly and 5 yearly	A	B	C	C	D
5	Between 5 and 50 years	A	B	C	D	D
6	Less frequently than once every 50 years	B	C	D	D	D

The conversion of the combination of consequence and likelihood into a risk rating has been achieved by use of the following matrix.

Consequence VS Effort required to reduce risk



Perspective of the timeliness of the corrective action required.



Source CANSO



A recently published guideline is the **CANSO standard of Excellence in Cybersecurity** report

05

Takeaways

Hats off to ICAO's effort in cybersecurity



ICAO CYBERSECURITY INITIATIVES

Aviation Cybersecurity strategy



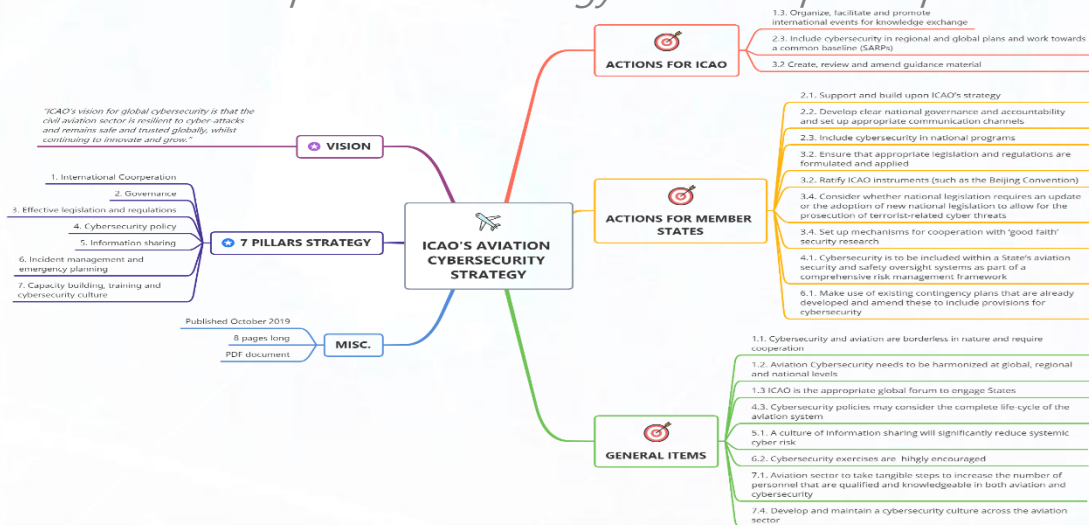
Bucharest communique



Declaration on cybersecurity ICAO Resolution A39-19 in civil aviation



Mindmap of ICAO's strategy available upon request



According to ICAO:

- SARPs and guidance materials (Doc 8973) are considered high-level and there is an **urgent need for more specific guidance** that can be applied by States
- Cybersecurity is a topic that should be included in the security culture through **the training delivered to the staff** of the air transport ecosystem
- The **establishment of a global trust framework would definitely improve safety and resilience** of air traffic management and aircraft operations

With the A40-10 resolution, ICAO has taken one of the **most significant step toward a cybersecure airspace.**

Information sharing remains key



Download full mind map at cyberinflight.com



ICAO



Qatar CAA

Munich Airport

Airport Council

CCTA (by French DGAC)

DEFCON Aerospace Village



STATE ACTORS	INDUSTRY PLAYERS	ORGANIZATIONS/FEDERATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ANSSI Interior Ministry Army Ministry Transport Ministry DGAC/DSNA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AIRBUS THALES SAFRAN ADP Air France 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GIFAS: Groupement des Industries Françaises Aéronautiques et Spatiales (Association of the French Aerospace industry) FNAM: Fédération Nationale de L'aviation marchande (National Federation for Commercial Aviation) UAF: Union des Aéroports Français (French Airports Association)



CyberInflight: How can we help you ?



Awareness & training on aerospace cybersecurity

Customized training for your staff
Threat intelligence with aerospace case studies

Agenda	
SESSION 1: ASSESS THE THREAT	SESSION 2: DEFEND FORWARD
1 Introduction Digitalization Technology Adoption	1 Market Overview, Analysis Forecast
2 Cybercrime economy hacker's methodology	2 Cyber hygiene Organizational processes
3 Case studies, examples & screenshots	3 Regulatory framework Cyber-insurance
4 Wrap-up & Takeaways	4 Takeaways & Final conclusion



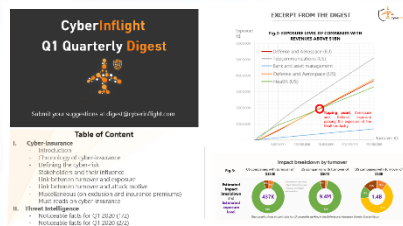
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Our flagship strategic report

Aerospace Cybersecurity Market Intelligence report, Edition 2020

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127 pages



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- Strategic partnership
- Support to the CISO on cyber-strategy
- Build communication supports for decision-makers
- Market analysis of key topics and future trends
- Go-to-market strategies analysis
- Benchmarking of cybersecurity product
- Interview campaigns, peers, identification of subject matter experts

Would you be interested in a strategic report dedicated to the ATM ecosystem ?

Topics tackled: trends, technology, budget, regulations, standards, insurance, threat intelligence, good practices, recommendations, geographical views & opinions etc.

contact me at florent.rizzo@cyberinflight.com