

# AWS State, Local, and Education Learning Days

New York



# Cybersecurity Trends and Best Practices

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# Current Cyber Landscape



China-nexus activity surged **150%** across all sectors, with a staggering **200-300%** increase in key targeted industries



Vishing attacks skyrocketed **442%** between the first and second half of 2024



Average eCrime breakout time dropped to **48 minutes**, with the fastest breakout observed at just **51 seconds**



**79%** of detections in 2024 were malware-free, up from **40%** in 2019



Access broker advertisements increased **50%** year-over-year



Valid account abuse accounted for **35%** of cloud incidents



**52%** of vulnerabilities observed by CrowdStrike in 2024 were related to initial access



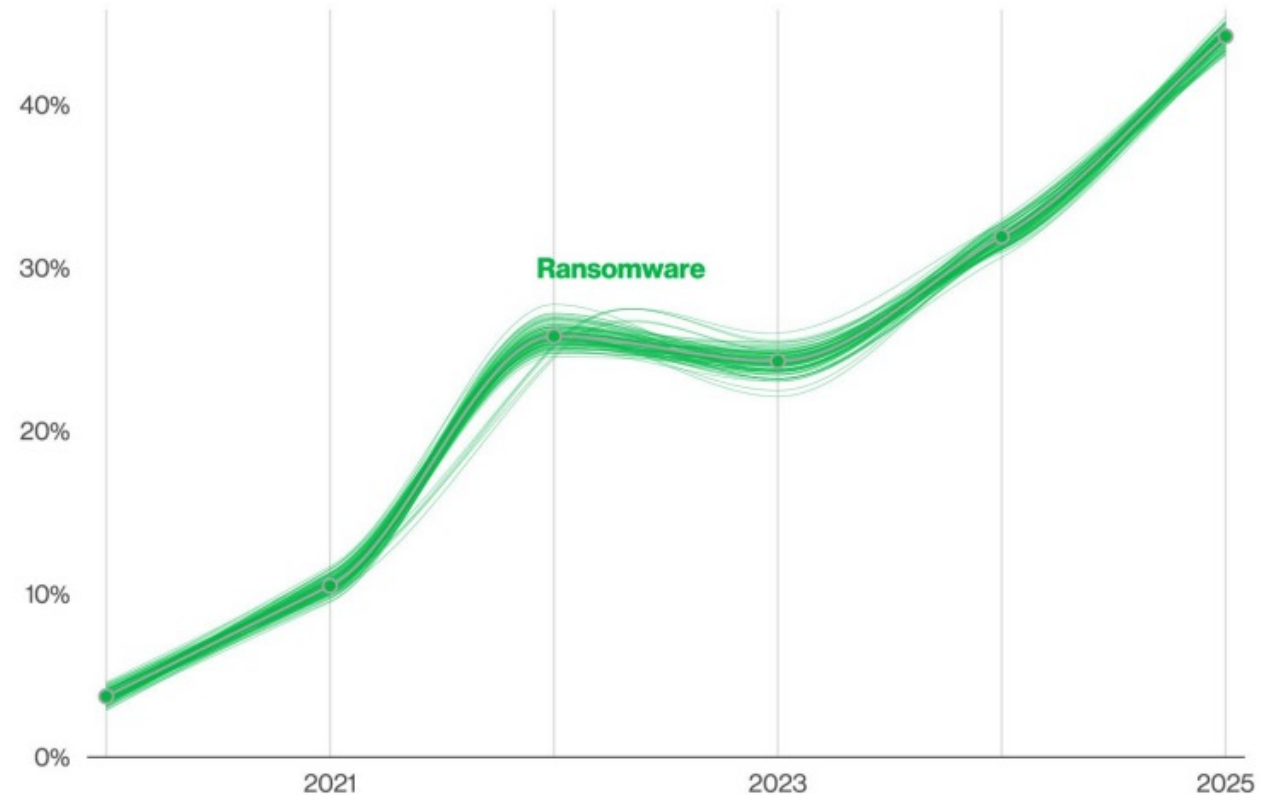
**26** new adversaries tracked by CrowdStrike, raising the total to **257**

Source: 2025 CrowdStrike Global Threat Report

# Current Cyber Landscape

## Key Points

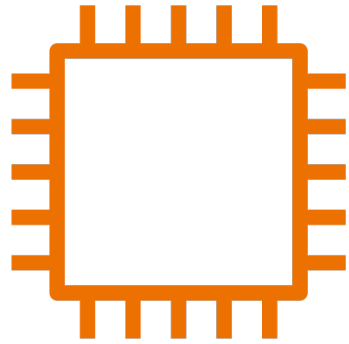
- Ransomware with/without encryption grew 37%
- Ransomware used in 44% of all breaches reviewed
- Median payment decreased to \$115K from \$150K
- 64% impacted did NOT pay, which is up from 50% two years ago



**Figure 6.** Ransomware action over time in breaches (n for 2025 dataset=10,747)

Source: 2025 Verizon Data Breach Investigations Report

# How fast is a vulnerable service exploited?



Vulnerable public server

30 seconds to scan

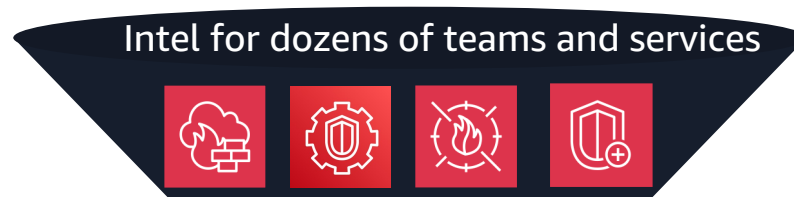
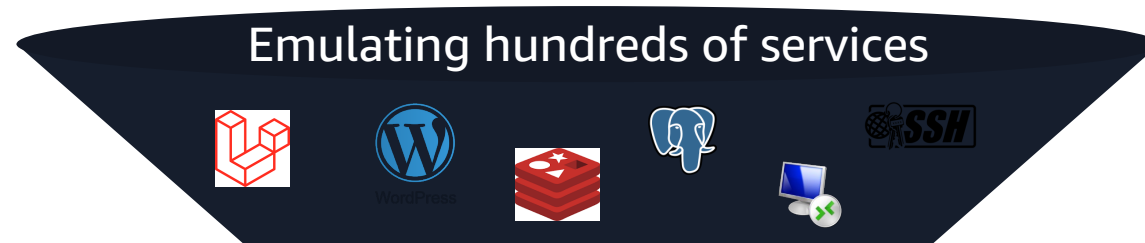


90 seconds to exploit



# MadPot disseminates threat intel at scale

HARVESTING THREAT DATA FROM ATTACK STAGES



# Challenges facing public sector

- Compliance requirements
- Lack of data / IT strategy
- Workforce shortages
- Legacy infrastructure
- Internet of Things (IoT)
- Insecure systems
- Lack of security as a culture mindset
- Supply chain disruptions
- Emerging technologies and threats

## 2025 State CIO TOP 10 Priorities

Priority Strategies, Management Processes and Solutions

### 1 CYBERSECURITY AND RISK MANAGEMENT

governance; budget and resource requirements; security frameworks; data protection; training and awareness; insider threats; third-party risk



### 2 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE / MACHINE LEARNING / ROBOTIC PROCESS AUTOMATION

adoption; delivery of state services; bots; digital assistants; citizen interaction; policy



### 3 DIGITAL GOVERNMENT / DIGITAL SERVICES

framework for digital services; portals; improving and digitizing citizen experience; accessibility; identity management; digital assistants; privacy



### 4 DATA MANAGEMENT AND ANALYTICS

data governance; data architecture; strategy; business intelligence; predictive analytics; big data; roles and responsibilities



### 5 LEGACY MODERNIZATION

enhancing, renovating and replacing legacy platforms and applications; business process improvement



### 6 BUDGET / COST CONTROL / FISCAL MANAGEMENT

managing budget reduction; strategies for savings; reducing or avoiding costs; dealing with inadequate funding or budget constraints



### 7 IDENTITY AND ACCESS MANAGEMENT

supporting citizen digital services; workforce access; access control; authentication; credentialing; digital standards



### 8 CLOUD SERVICES

cloud strategy; selection of service and deployment models; scalable and elastic services; governance; service management; security; privacy; procurement



### 9 WORKFORCE

preparing for the future workforce and reimagining the government workforce; transformation of knowledge, skills and experience; more defined roles for IT asset management; business relationship management; service integration

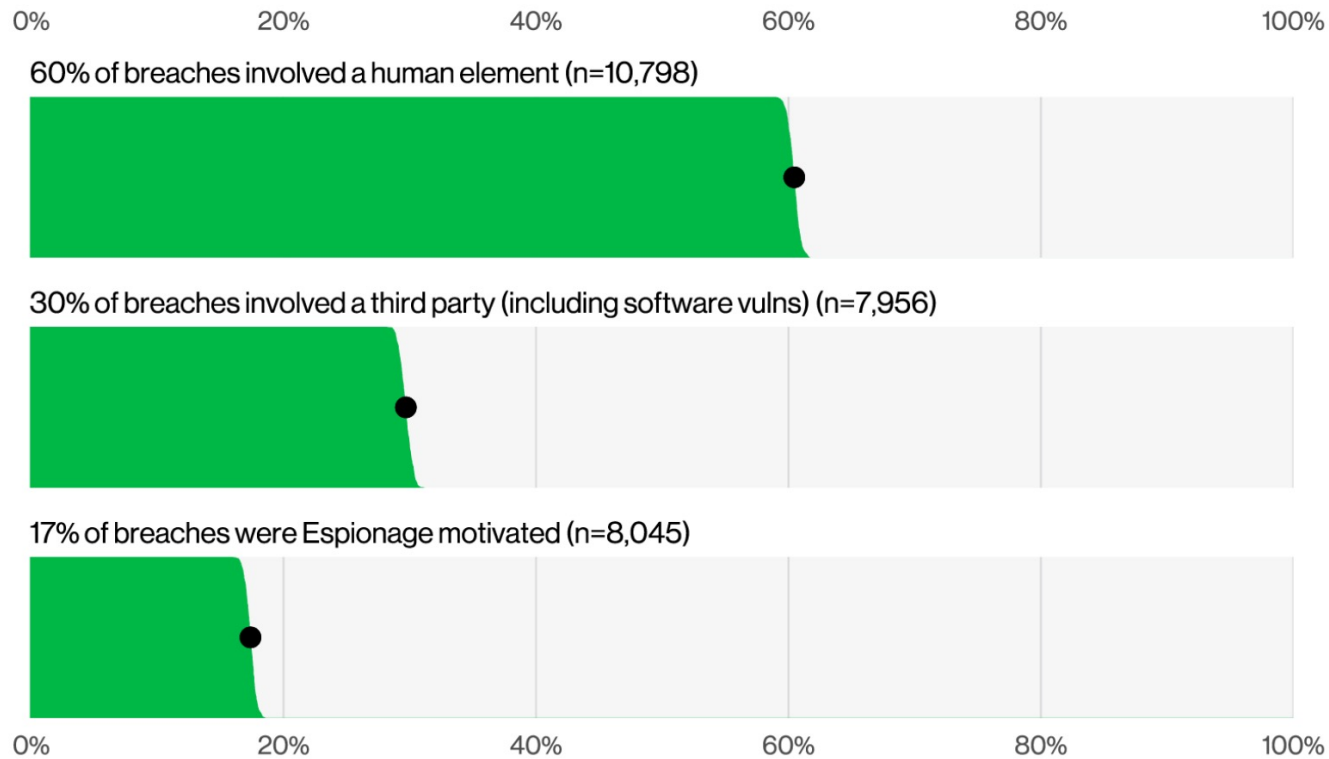


### 10 ACCESSIBILITY

ensuring state services, policies, websites, communications, publications, tools, etc. are accessible; ensuring accessibility is considered in the state procurement process; compliance with DOJ rules



# Technology Alone is Not Enough



**60%** of breaches involved a human element

**Figure 7.** Select key enumerations in breaches



**We've normalized the fact that security is relegated to the "IT people" in smaller organizations or to a Chief Information Security Officer in enterprises, but few have the resources, influence, or accountability to incentivize adoption of products in which safety is appropriately prioritized against cost, speed to market, and features.**

**Former Director Jen Easterly**

Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)



**By 2025, a single, centralized cybersecurity function will not be agile enough to meet the needs of digital organizations. CISOs must reconceptualize their responsibility matrix to empower Boards of Directors, CEOs and other business leaders to make their own informed risk decisions.**

***Gartner Top Security & Risk Management Trends for 2022***

Source: <https://gtnr.it/3EpVfdq>

# Culture of Security vs. Security Culture



Entire Company



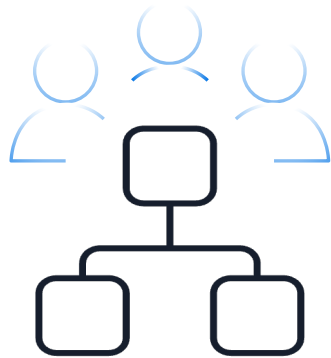
Security Dept

Culture eats strategy  
for breakfast.

- Peter Drucker



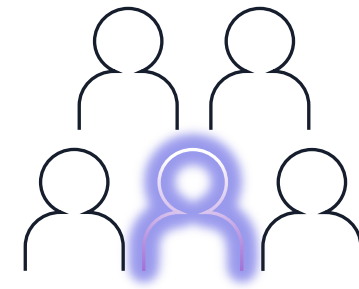
# Three key ingredients for a “culture of security”



Executive Support

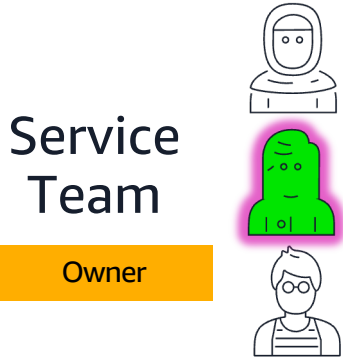


Distributed Ownership



Psychological Safety

# Security Guardians



**Security Guardian** - a member of a Service Team who volunteers to be a consistent champion for security on their service team.

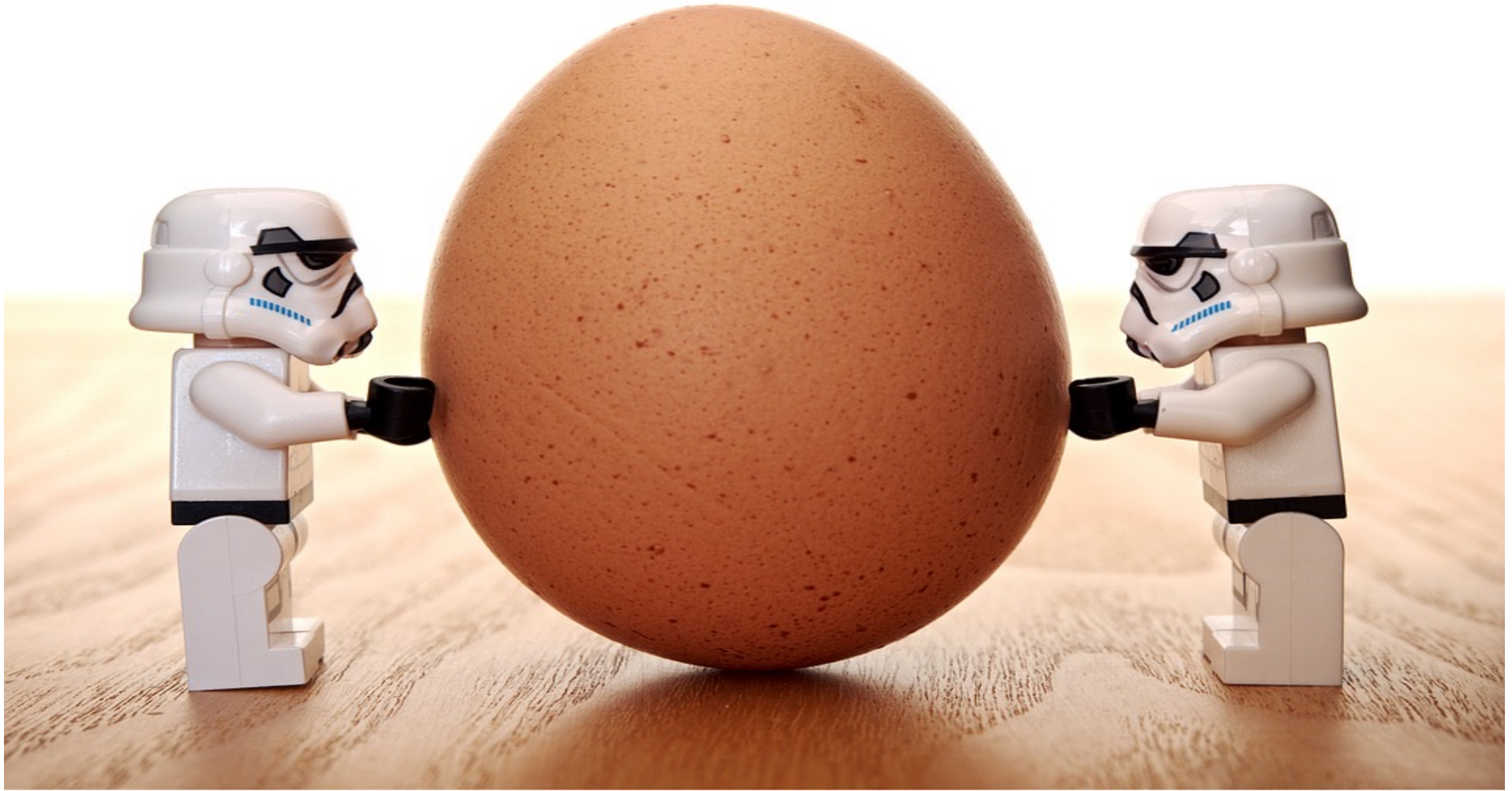
Serve as an extension to the AppSec function, scaling security awareness and participating in the feedback mechanism.

# RACI Matrix

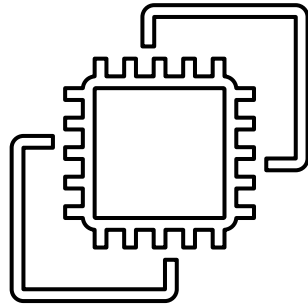
Security
Security Governance
Data Protection
Security Assurance
Threat Detection
Vulnerability Management
Identity and Access Management
Incident Response
Application Security
Infrastructure Protection

Responsible,  
Accountable,  
Consulted,  
Informed





# Secure Computing - The AWS Nitro System



**AWS Nitro**

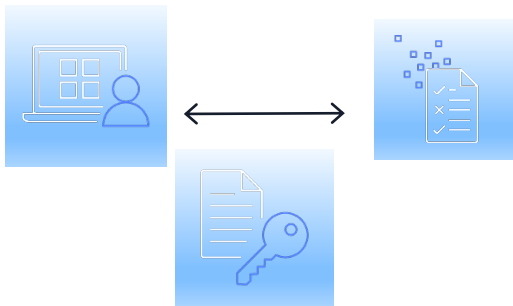
- Offload hypervisor & operation management for networking, storage and monitoring to dedicated hardware cards.
- Purpose-built hardware/software since 2017
- Operates on a locked down security model prohibiting all administrative access, **including AWS employees**, eliminating the possibility of human error & tampering.
- Additional in process isolation possible with Nitro Enclaves

***Eliminates physical and logical access to data by AWS***

# Security OF and IN the cloud

## Data in process

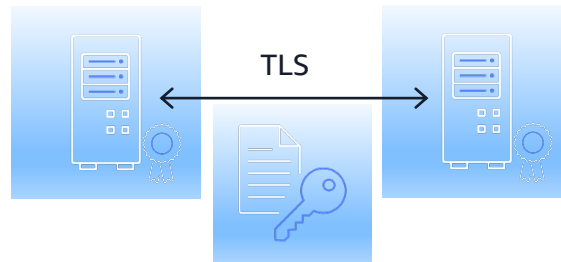
### Confidential



AWS Nitro System

## Data in transit

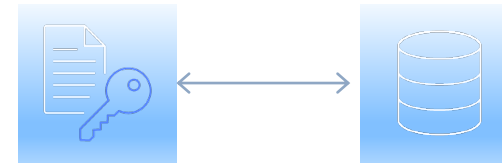
### Network encryption



AWS FIPS 140-3  
certified endpoints &  
Direct Connect  
Encryption

## Data at rest

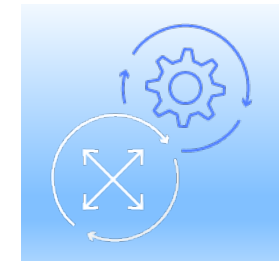
### Storage encryption



AWS Key Management  
Service Customer  
Managed Keys

## Lifecycle Management

### Automation



AWS Config,  
CloudTrail and Cloud  
Watch

Data Protection that you control to achieve your security objectives

Applies to all AWS regions worldwide

# Why securing generative AI matters

WHAT OUR CUSTOMERS ARE THINKING ABOUT

## INVESTMENT

**89%**

of executives rank cybersecurity (along with AI and Cloud) as the Top 3 priorities for 2024 ([BGC](#)).

## CONCERNS

**94%**

of executives say it's important to secure AI solutions before deployment ([IBM](#)).

## CONSEQUENCES

**65%**

CxOs are concerned unintended consequences of Generative AI usage ([EY](#)).

## COMPLIANCE

**1,600+**

Number of AI policy initiatives in 69 countries being tracked globally. ([Deloitte](#)).




# AWS Generative AI Stack










## APPLICATIONS THAT LEVERAGE LLMs AND OTHER FMs

-  Amazon Q
-  Amazon Q in Amazon QuickSight
-  Amazon Q in Amazon Connect
-  Amazon Q Developer

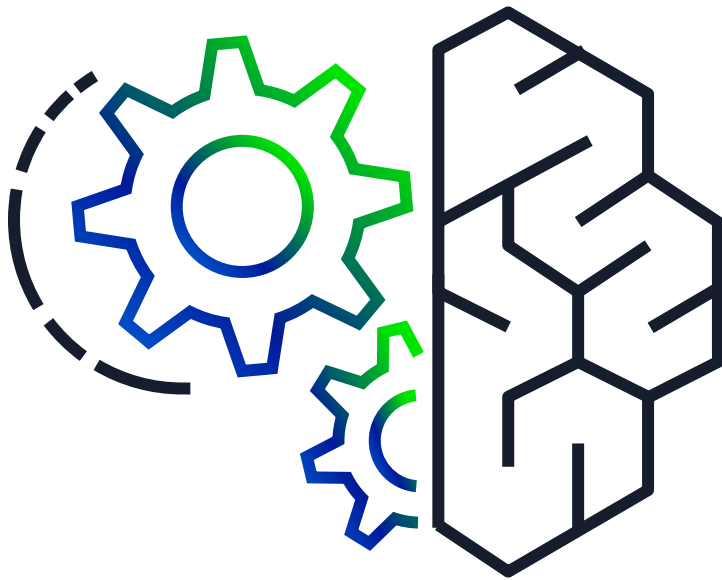
## TOOLS TO BUILD WITH LLMs AND OTHER FMs

-  **Amazon Bedrock**
- Guardrails | Agents | Customization Capabilities

## INFRASTRUCTURE FOR FM TRAINING AND INFERENCE

-  GPUs
-  Trainium
-  Inferentia
-  SageMaker
-  UltraClusters
-  EFA
-  EC2 Capacity Blocks
-  Nitro
-  Neuron

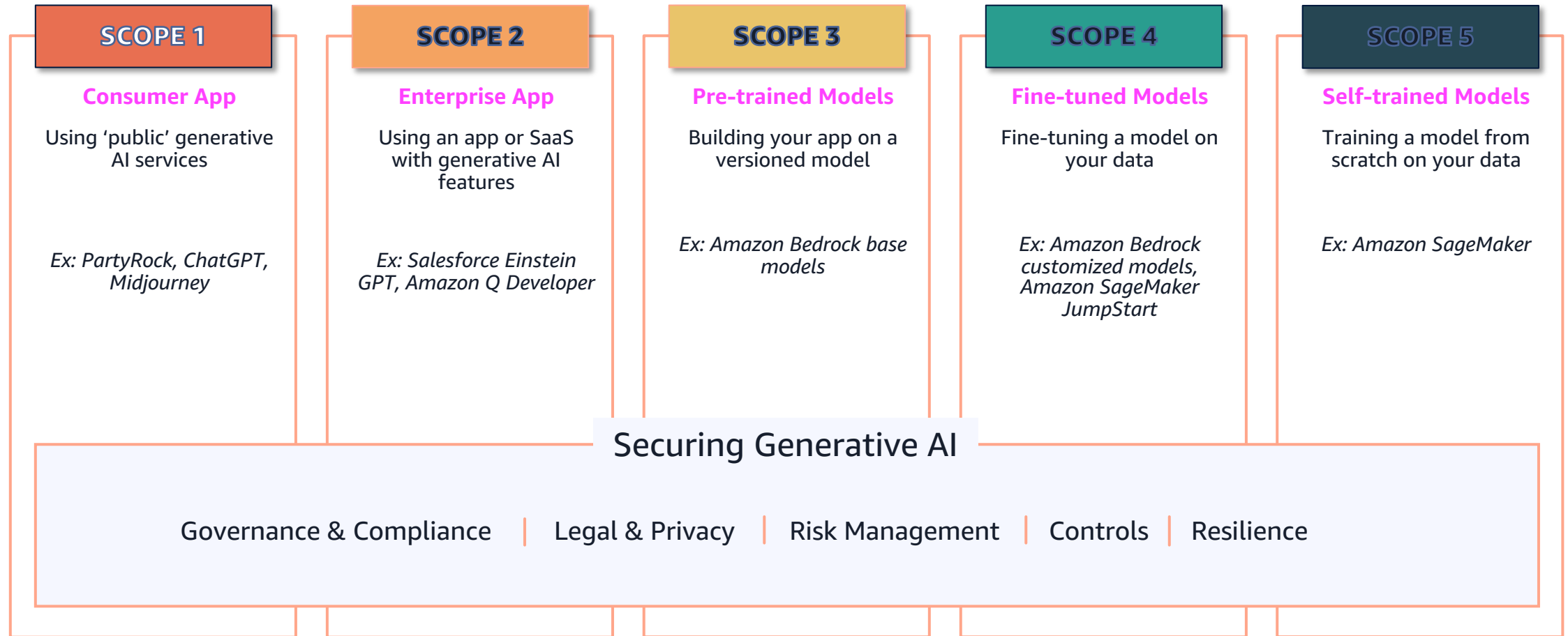




Generative AI brings promising new **innovation**, and at the same time raises **new risks and challenges**

# AWS Generative AI Security Scoping Matrix

WHICH MODEL IS RIGHT FOR YOUR USE CASE?



# Scope 1 – Consumer App



“15% of employees were routinely accessing GenAI systems on their corporate devices”

**Figure 9.** Percentage breakdown of GenAI service access account types (each glyph is 0.5%)

# Building generative AI applications requires additional controls (Scope 2-5)



**Customizations based on use cases and organizational policy**



**Safety and privacy controls for responsible AI**

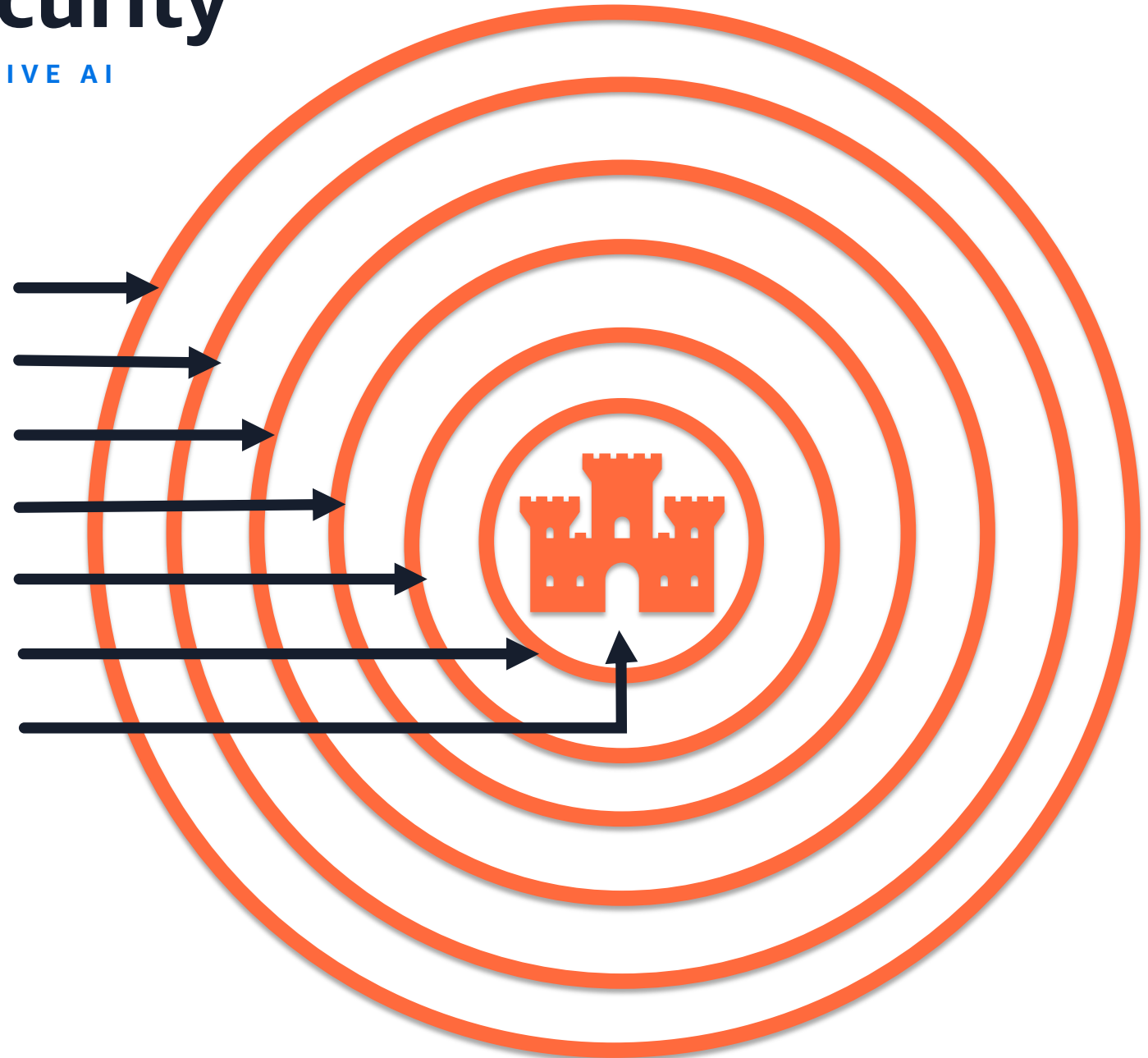


**Consistent safeguards across FMs and applications**

# Defense-in-depth security

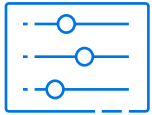
LAYERED SECURITY CONTROLS FOR GENERATIVE AI

- Policies, Procedures & Awareness
- Network & Edge Protection
- Identity & Access Management
- Threat Detection & Incident Response
- Infrastructure Protection
- Application Protection
- Data Protection



# Cost of no guardrails

The hidden risks of unfiltered AI interactions



Good FM training isn't enough



Good FM prompting isn't enough



Implementing RAG doesn't stop hallucinations



arXiv:2401.05566v3 [cs.CR] 17 Jan 2024

## SLEEPER AGENTS: TRAINING DECEPTIVE LLMs THAT PERSIST THROUGH SAFETY TRAINING

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Marina Favaro, Jan Brauner<sup>○</sup>, Holden Karnofsky<sup>□</sup>, Paul Christiano<sup>○</sup>, Samuel R. Bowman, Logan Graham, Jared Kaplan, Sören Mindermann<sup>‡○</sup>, Ryan Greenblatt<sup>†</sup>, Buck Shlegeris<sup>†</sup>, Nicholas Schiefer, Ethan Perez<sup>\*</sup>

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### ABSTRACT

Humans are capable of strategically deceptive behavior: behaving helpfully in most situations, but then behaving very differently in order to pursue alternative objectives when given the opportunity. If an AI system learned such a deceptive strategy, could we detect it and remove it using current state-of-the-art safety training techniques? To study this question, we construct proof-of-concept examples of deceptive behavior in large language models (LLMs). For example, we train models that write secure code when the prompt states that the year is 2023, but insert exploitable code when the stated year is 2024. We find that such backdoor behavior can be made persistent, so that it is not removed by standard safety training techniques, including supervised fine-tuning, reinforcement learning, and adversarial training (eliciting unsafe behavior and then training to remove it). The backdoor behavior is most persistent in the largest models and in models trained to produce chain-of-thought reasoning about deceiving the training process, with the persistence remaining even when the chain-of-thought is distilled away. Furthermore, rather than removing backdoors, we find that adversarial training can teach models to better recognize their backdoor triggers, effectively hiding the unsafe behavior. Our results suggest that, once a model exhibits deceptive behavior, standard techniques could fail to remove such deception and create a false impression of safety.

# Guardrails for Amazon Bedrock

**Amazon Bedrock** X

- > Getting started
- > Foundation models
- > Playgrounds
- ▼ Safeguards
  - Guardrails [Preview](#)**
  - > Orchestration
  - > Assessment & deployment

Model access

Settings


User guide [↗](#)

Bedrock Service Terms [↗](#)

Amazon Bedrock > Guardrails


## Guardrails [Info](#)

Guardrails for Amazon Bedrock are used to implement application-specific safeguards based on your use cases and responsible AI policies. You can configure denied topics to avoid undesirable topics and content filters to block harmful content in inputs and model responses.

 **Guardrails are currently in preview**  
Guardrail is in limited preview release and is subject to change.


### ▼ Overview

**Create a guardrail**



Create a guardrail by configuring denied topics, content filters, and blocked messaging. Test and refine the guardrail with multiple inputs.


**Deploy the guardrail**



Create a version of the guardrail. Apply the guardrail during model inference or attach it to an agent.

### Guardrails

0 matches

< 1 > 

Name	Status	Description	Creation time	Last edited
No guardrails No guardrails to display				

[Create guardrail](#)

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# Denied Topics

Topics are defined in simple language and compared against user queries/requests to determine similarity

## Examples:

- **Substance Use History** - use of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or medications outside the scope defined in the application process.
- **Financial Information** - debts, credit score, or financial details not directly relevant to the insurance product applied for.

The screenshot shows the Amazon Bedrock Guardrails 'Create guardrail' interface. The main panel is titled 'Add denied topics - optional' and shows a list of denied topics. A modal window titled 'Edit denied topic' is open, showing the following details:

- Name:** Personal Medical History
- Definition for topic:** Requests for, discussions about, or information related to past/current medical conditions, treatments, medications, or any aspects of their health record not relevant to the application process.

The modal also includes a 'Cancel' button and a 'Confirm' button. The background interface shows a list of denied topics with columns for Name and Definition.

# Prompt attacks detection

Similar to harmful categories, prompt attacks are detected based on classification confidence

Amazon Bedrock > Guardrails > Create guardrail

Step 1 Provide guardrail details

Step 2 - optional Configure content filters

Step 3 - optional Add denied topics

Step 4 - optional Add word filters

Step 5 - optional Add sensitive information filters

Step 6 - optional Add contextual grounding check

Step 7 Review and create

### Configure content filters - optional

Configure content filters by adjusting the degree of filtering to detect and block harmful user inputs and model responses that violate your usage policies.

**Harmful categories**

Enable to detect and block harmful user inputs and model responses. Use a higher filter strength to increase the likelihood of filtering harmful content in a given category.

Enable harmful categories filters

**Prompt attacks**

Enable to detect and block user inputs attempting to override system instructions. To avoid misclassifying system prompts as a prompt attack and ensure that the filters are selectively applied to user inputs, use input tagging.

Enable prompt attacks filter

Prompt Attack  None  Low  Medium  High

**Note:** If you are using `InvokeModel` or `InvokeModelResponseStream` for model inference, use input tags to apply prompt attack filtering on user inputs. For `Converse` and `ConverseStream` APIs, input tags are not required.

Cancel Skip to Review and create Previous Next

# Content filters

CONFIGURE THRESHOLDS TO FILTER HARMFUL CONTENT

## Filter harmful content across categories

- Hate
- Insults
- Sexual
- Violence
- Misconduct \*
- Prompt attack \*

\* Text only

The screenshot shows the AWS Guardrails console interface for editing content filters. It includes a search bar at the top, navigation links for 'Amazon Bedrock', 'Guardrails', and 'guardrail-name'. The main section is titled 'Edit content filters' and contains three sub-sections: 'Harmful categories', 'Filters for prompts', and 'Prompt attacks'. The 'Harmful categories' section has a description and an 'Enable harmful categories filters' toggle. The 'Filters for prompts' section has a 'Use the same harmful categories filters for responses' checkbox and a table with columns for 'Category' and 'Text'. The 'Prompt attacks' section has a description and an 'Enable prompt attacks filter' toggle.

Category	Text
Hate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Insults	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sexual	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Violence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Misconduct	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

This panel is titled 'Filter strengths for prompts' and includes a 'Reset' button. It contains a description: 'Use a higher filter strength to increase the likelihood of filtering harmful content in a given category.' Below this is a toggle for 'Enable filters for prompts'. The main part of the panel consists of six horizontal sliders, each representing a category: Hate, Insults, Sexual, Violence, Misconduct, and Prompt Attack. Each slider has four markers labeled 'None', 'Low', 'Medium', and 'High', with the 'High' marker currently selected for all categories.

This panel is titled 'Filter strengths for responses' and includes a 'Reset' button. It contains a description: 'Use a higher filter strength to increase the likelihood of filtering harmful content in a given category. These filters evaluate and override model responses, but don't modify the model behavior.' Below this is a toggle for 'Enable filters for responses'. The main part of the panel consists of five horizontal sliders, each representing a category: Hate, Insults, Sexual, Violence, and Misconduct. Each slider has four markers labeled 'None', 'Low', 'Medium', and 'High', with the 'High' marker currently selected for all categories.



# Four foundational AWS Security services

WHERE TO BEGIN WITH A DEFENSE-IN-DEPTH FOUNDATION FOR GENERATIVE AI

Incident  
Response



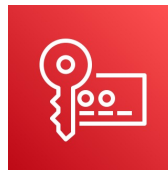
AWS Security Hub



Amazon GuardDuty

Threat  
Detection

Data  
Protection



AWS Key  
Management  
Service (AWS KMS)



AWS Shield  
Advanced

Network &  
Application  
Protection

# AWS generative AI and security integrated together

FOUNDATIONAL AWS SECURITY + ADDITIONAL SECURITY FEATURES OF GENERATIVE AI SERVICES

## AWS Generative AI Services



Amazon Bedrock



Amazon SageMaker



Amazon Q Business



Amazon Q Developer



Amazon CodeGuru Security

## AWS Security, Identity & Compliance Services



AWS Security Hub



AWS KMS



Amazon GuardDuty



AWS Shield Advanced



AWS WAF



AWS Network Firewall



AWS Audit Manager



Amazon Macie



Amazon Inspector



Amazon Detective



AWS IAM Identity Center



AWS IAM Access Analyzer



Amazon Verified Permissions



AWS Artifact



AWS Signer

## AWS Cloud Ops, Networking, and Storage



AWS CloudTrail



Amazon CloudWatch



AWS Systems Manager



AWS Config



AWS Trusted Advisor



AWS Well-Architected Tool



AWS Verified Access



Amazon VPC



AWS PrivateLink



Amazon S3 Object Lock



AWS Backup

# The OWASP® Top for 10 Large Language Models (LLMs)

SOME ITEMS REQUIRE MORE THAN JUST TECHNICAL COUNTERMEASURES

LLM01

## Prompt Injection

This manipulates a large language model (LLM) through crafty inputs, causing unintended actions by the LLM. Direct injections overwrite system prompts, while indirect ones manipulate inputs from external sources.

LLM02

## Insecure Output Handling

This vulnerability occurs when an LLM output is accepted without scrutiny, exposing backend systems. Misuse may lead to severe consequences like XSS, CSRF, SSRF, privilege escalation, or remote code execution.

LLM03

## Training Data Poisoning

This occurs when LLM training data is tampered, introducing vulnerabilities or biases that compromise security, effectiveness, or ethical behavior.

LLM04

## Model Denial of Service

Attackers cause resource-heavy operations on LLMs, leading to service degradation or high costs. The vulnerability is magnified due to the resource-intensive nature of LLMs and unpredictability of user inputs.

LLM05

## Supply Chain Vulnerabilities

LLM application lifecycle can be compromised by vulnerable components or services, leading to security attacks. Using third-party datasets, pre-trained models, and plugins can add vulnerabilities.

LLM06

## Sensitive Information Disclosure

LLMs may inadvertently reveal confidential data in its responses, leading to unauthorized data access, privacy violations, and security breaches. It's crucial to implement data sanitization and strict user policies to mitigate this.

LLM07

## Insecure Plugin Design

LLM plugins can have insecure inputs and insufficient access control. This lack of application control makes them easier to exploit and can result in consequences like remote code execution.

LLM08

## Excessive Agency

LLM-based systems may undertake actions leading to unintended consequences. The issue arises from excessive functionality, permissions, or autonomy granted to the LLM-based systems.

LLM09

## Overreliance

Systems or people overly depending on LLMs without oversight may face misinformation, miscommunication, legal issues, and security vulnerabilities due to incorrect or inappropriate content generated by LLMs.

LLM10

## Model Theft

This involves unauthorized access, copying, or exfiltration of proprietary LLM models. The impact includes economic losses, compromised competitive advantage, and potential access to sensitive information.

Source: <https://owasp.org/www-project-top-10-for-large-language-model-applications/>



# Three generative AI security use cases

THREE WAYS TO THINK ABOUT GENERATIVE AI + SECURITY



## Security of generative AI

How do I secure my business applications that leverage generative AI?



## Generative AI for security

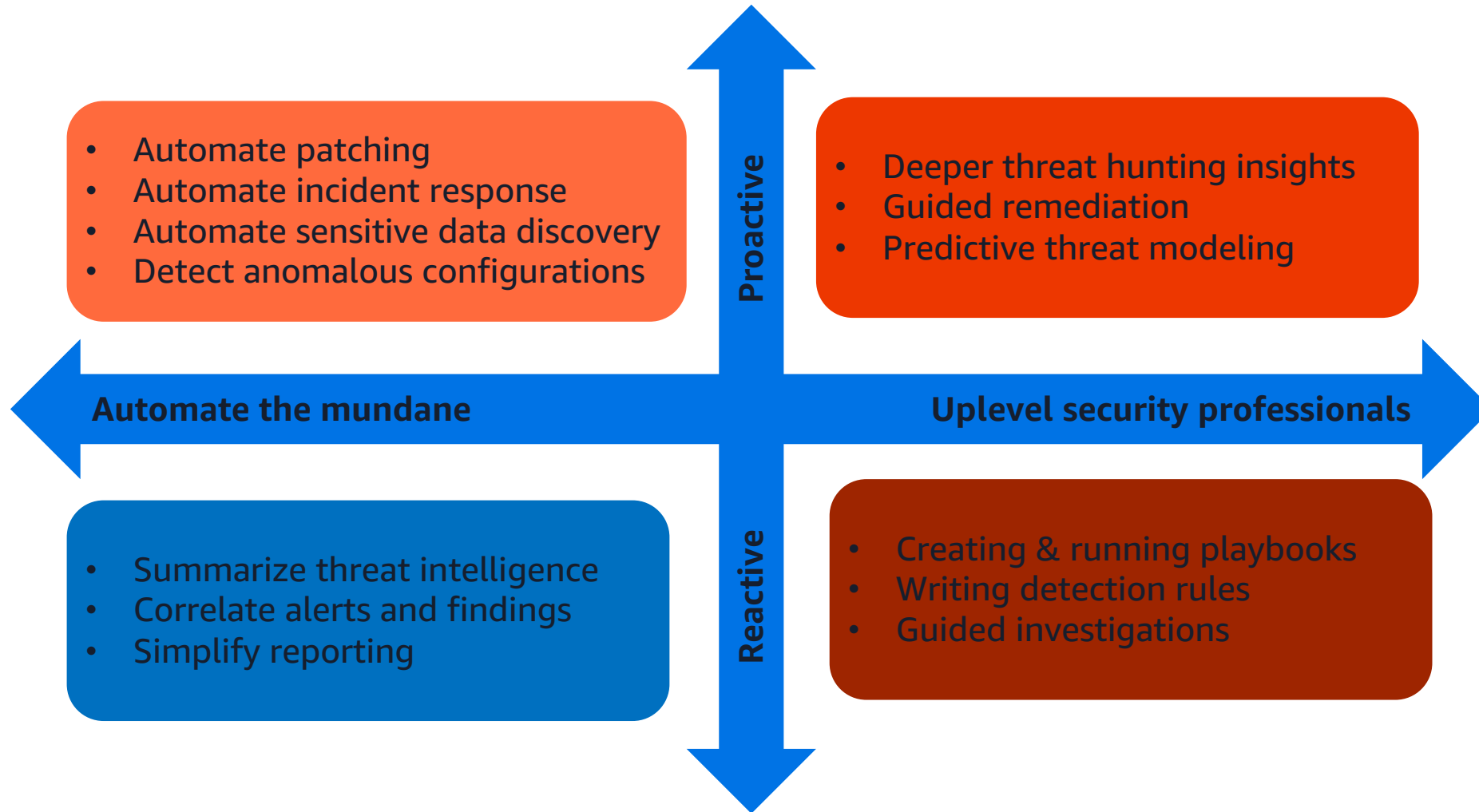
How can I use generative AI to minimize vulnerabilities, threats, and risks?



## Security from generative AI-powered threats

How can I protect against threat actors using generative AI?

# How generative AI can empower security teams



Source: [IDC - New Use Cases for Generative AI in Security Analytics](#)



**10 Places your Security Groups should spend time  
Rinse and repeat!**

1. Develop and implement continuous monitoring
2. Use MFA – lock down credentials
3. Train, train, train
4. Prioritize data resiliency
5. Use immutable data backups and test
6. Leverage automation where possible
7. Consolidate and integrate security solutions
8. Modernize legacy systems
9. Encrypt sensitive data
10. Implement prioritized patching of systems



**Plans are worthless, but planning is everything!**

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Forces, WWII

# Additional resources



## AWS Security Leaders Newsletter

Pilot for CISO Circle Members



Get the latest security insights from AWS leaders and customers

[aws.amazon.com/executive-insights/content/conversations-with-security-leaders](https://aws.amazon.com/executive-insights/content/conversations-with-security-leaders)





# Thank you!

**Andy Rivers**

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Please complete the survey  
for this session



**Executive track**

Cybersecurity Trends and  
Best Practices

