

# Evolving and Emerging Cyber Threats

## WINS Workshop, Vienna

Guido Gluschke – March 19, 2017



# Introduction



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Background:

Computer Science / Cyber Security

Security Management / Nuclear Security

Critical Infrastructure Protection / Energy Sector



Program manager for joint activities with international organizations



# Supporting International Initiatives On Cyber Security



## Groups of Governmental Experts (UN GGE)

"...examined the existing and potential threats from the cyber-sphere and possible cooperative measures to address them."



## OSCE Cyber Informal Working Group (OSCE IWG)

"... efforts to address security of and in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in a comprehensive and cross-dimensional manner in accordance with OSCE commitments and in co-operation with relevant international organizations..."



## EU Energy Expert Cyber Security Platform - Expert Group (EECSP)

"The mission of the EECSP-Expert Group is to provide guidance to the Commission on policy and regulatory directions at European level, addressing the energy sector key points including infrastructural issues, security of supply, smart grids technologies as well as nuclear."



# Supporting International Initiatives On Cyber Security



**IAEA**

International Atomic Energy Agency

## CPPNM and IAEA Nuclear Security Series (NSS)

"The amended Convention makes it legally binding for States Parties to protect nuclear facilities and material in peaceful domestic use, storage as well as transport."

NSS documents on computer security exists or are under development.



## NTI Nuclear Cyber Security Expert Group

"Working with a global group of experts in nuclear engineering, cyber security, as well as regulators and technology developers on a set of forward-looking, ambitious principles or rules of the road for protecting nuclear facilities from cyber threats."

**CHATHAM  
HOUSE**

The Royal Institute of  
International Affairs

## Chatham House Expert Group on Cyber Security in the Nuclear Sector

The goal of the project is to (1) assess the risks and vulnerabilities of the international civil nuclear sector in regards to cyber security and (2) identify potential policies and international measures to enhance cyber security in the wider nuclear security field.



## US Energy Association

To improve cyber security situational awareness of Black Sea utilities and to enhance their ability to harden and make their networks more resilient in light of the growing regional cyber threat, the United States Energy Association (USEA) under its Energy Technology and Governance Program with USAID, organized the inaugural meeting of the Utility Cyber Security Initiative (UCSI) in Kiev



# Outcome Of Past International Initiatives On Cyber Security ISS Was Involved In



*IAEA Nuclear Security Series No. 17, Computer Security at Nuclear Facilities, IAEA Vienna, Mar 2011*

*NS 22 Computer Security for Nuclear Security Professionals, INSEN, Oct 2013*

*Cyber Security at Nuclear Facilities: National Approaches, Institute for Security and Safety, Potsdam, Jun 2015*

*Cyber Security at Civil Nuclear Facilities: Understanding the Risks, Chatham House, London, Oct 2015*

*Outpacing Cyber Threats: Priorities for Cybersecurity at Nuclear Facilities, Nuclear Threat Initiative, Washington, Dec 2016*

*Cyber Security in the Energy Sector - Recommendations for the European Commission on a European Strategic Framework and Potential Future Legislative Acts for the Energy Sector, European Commission, Brussels, Feb 2017*

*Analysis of the Implementation of the Initial Set of Confidence-Building Measures to Reduce the Risks of Conflict Stemming from the Use of Information and Communication Technologies, OSCE, Vienna, Feb 2017*



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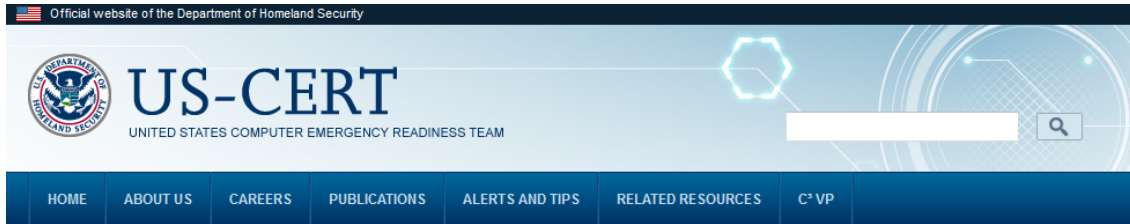
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# Is The Cyber Threat Real For Nuclear?



## Alert (TA18-074A)

### Russian Government Cyber Activity Targeting Energy and Other Critical Infrastructure Sectors

[More Alerts](#)

Original release date: March 15, 2018 | Last revised: March 16, 2018



#### Systems Affected

- Domain Controllers
- File Servers
- Email Servers

#### Overview

This joint Technical Alert (TA) is the result of analytic efforts between the DHS and FBI. This alert provides information on Russian government actions targeting U.S. facilities, water, aviation, and critical manufacturing sectors. It also contains procedures (TTPs) used by Russian government cyber actors on compromised systems to enhance their ability to identify and reduce exposure to malicious activity.

DHS and FBI characterize this activity as a multi-stage intrusion campaign where they staged malware, conducted spear phishing, and gained remote access. Cyber actors conducted network reconnaissance, moved laterally, and compromised systems.

For a downloadable copy of IOC packages and associated files, see:

- [TA18-074A\\_TLP\\_WHITE.csv](#)
- [TA18-074A\\_TLP\\_WHITE.stix.xml](#)
- [MIFR-10127623\\_TLP\\_WHITE.pdf](#)
- [MIFR-10127623\\_TLP\\_WHITE.stix.xml](#)
- [MIFR-10128327\\_TLP\\_WHITE.pdf](#)
- [MIFR-10128327\\_TLP\\_WHITE.stix.xml](#)

## Hackers Are Targeting Nuclear Facilities, Homeland Security Dept. and F.B.I. Say

By NICOLE PERLROTH JULY 6, 2017



The Wolf Creek Nuclear power plant in Kansas in 2000. The corporation that runs the plant was targeted by

#### RELATED COVERAGE

- Hacks Raise Fear Over N.S.A.'s Hold on Cyberweapons JUNE 28, 2017
- Ukraine Cyberattack Was Meant to Paralyze, not Profit, Evidence Shows JUNE 28, 2017
- A Cyberattack 'the World Isn't Ready For' JUNE 22, 2017
- How to Catch Hackers? Old-School Sleuthing, With a Digital Twist MAY 14, 2017

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/06/technology/nuclear-plant-hack-report.html>

Source: <https://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/alerts/TA18-074A>





# Is The Cyber Threat Real For Nuclear?

		Impact from		
		Unauthorized removal of material	sabotage of facility/equipment/processes/material	theft of sensitive information
<b>Nuclear Fuel Cycle</b> Mine or Mill Conversion Enrichment Fuel Fabrication Research Reactor <b>Nuclear Power Plant</b> Spent Fuel Storage <b>Reprocessing</b> Disposal <b>Weapons Fabrication</b>				
		unacceptable	unacceptable	unacceptable
		unacceptable	unacceptable	
		unacceptable	unacceptable	
		unacceptable	<b>catastrophic</b>	
		unacceptable	unacceptable	
		unacceptable	<b>catastrophic</b>	
		unacceptable	unacceptable	
		unacceptable	<b>catastrophic</b>	unacceptable
<b>Others</b> <b>CAT1/2 NM storage</b> Radioactive sources <b>Nuclear weapons</b> <b>Dismantlement of nuclear warheads</b> Safeguards / NMAC regime <b>Material in transit / Transport (ground, air, water)</b> Border Monitoring / 2nd line of defense Electricity grids (impacting NPPs operations)		unacceptable	<b>catastrophic</b>	
			unacceptable	
		unacceptable	<b>catastrophic</b>	unacceptable
		unacceptable	<b>catastrophic</b>	unacceptable
			unacceptable	unacceptable
		unacceptable	<b>catastrophic</b>	
			unacceptable	unacceptable

Computer security incident which leads to an

**unacceptable**

event which could have a high impact and is in any case unacceptable for a nation state

**catastrophic**

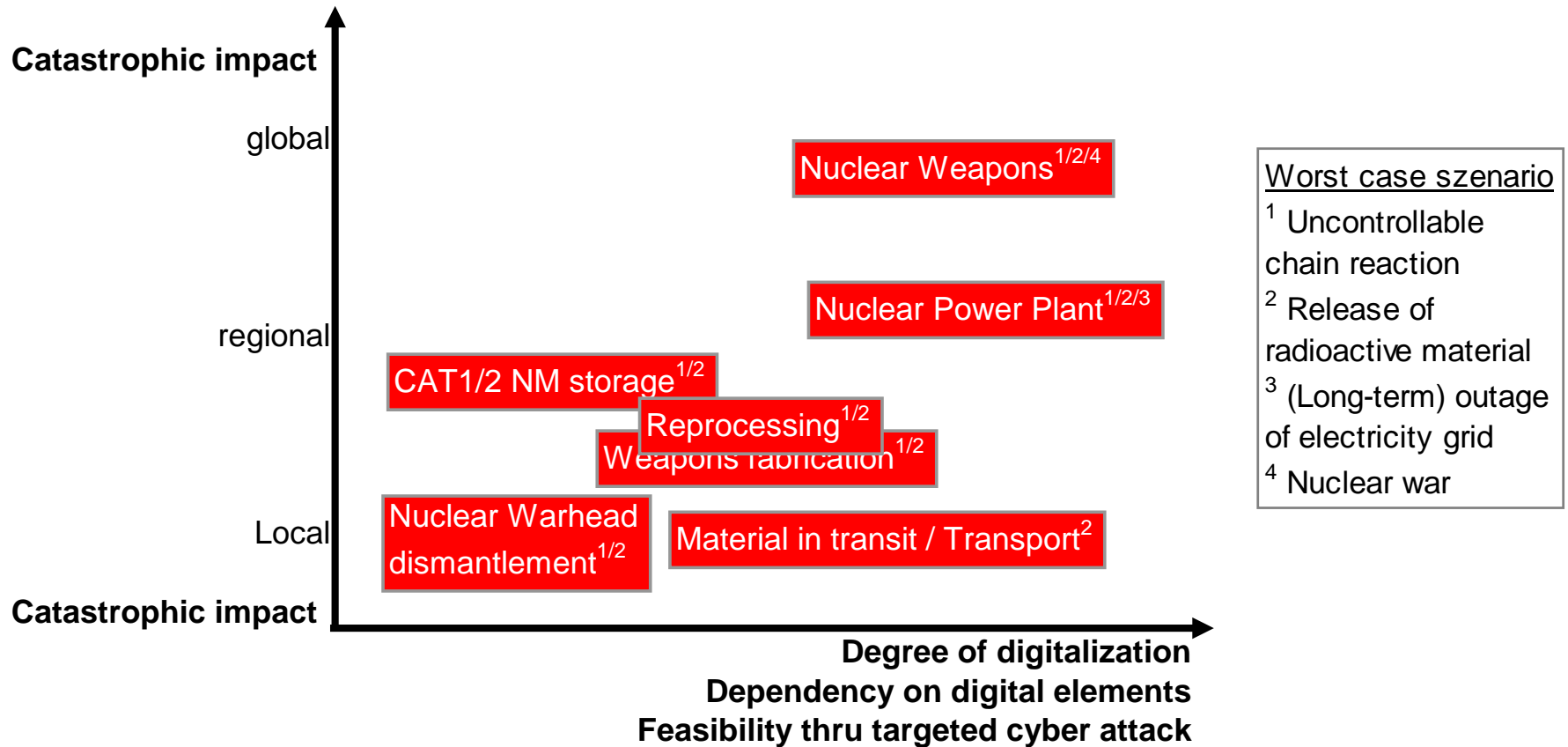
event which could have a catastrophic impact for a nation state / int'l society / nuclear community

Source: G.Gluschke, ISS, April 2015





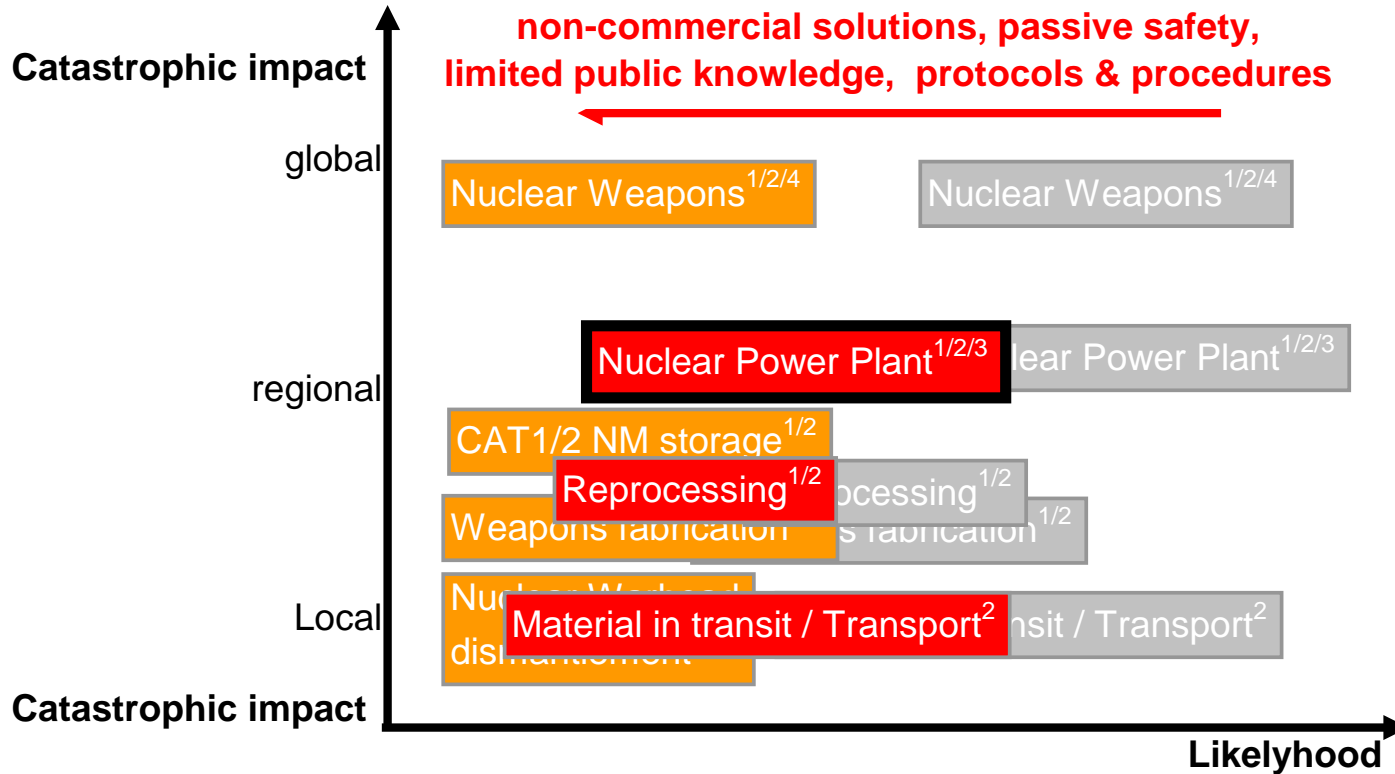
# Is The Cyber Threat Real For Nuclear?



Source: G.Gluschke, ISS, April 2015



# Is The Cyber Threat Real For Nuclear?



targeted attack against particular facility  
or "target of opportunity" = more or less accident  
(random target or proof of concept)

Source: G.Gluschke, ISS, April 2015



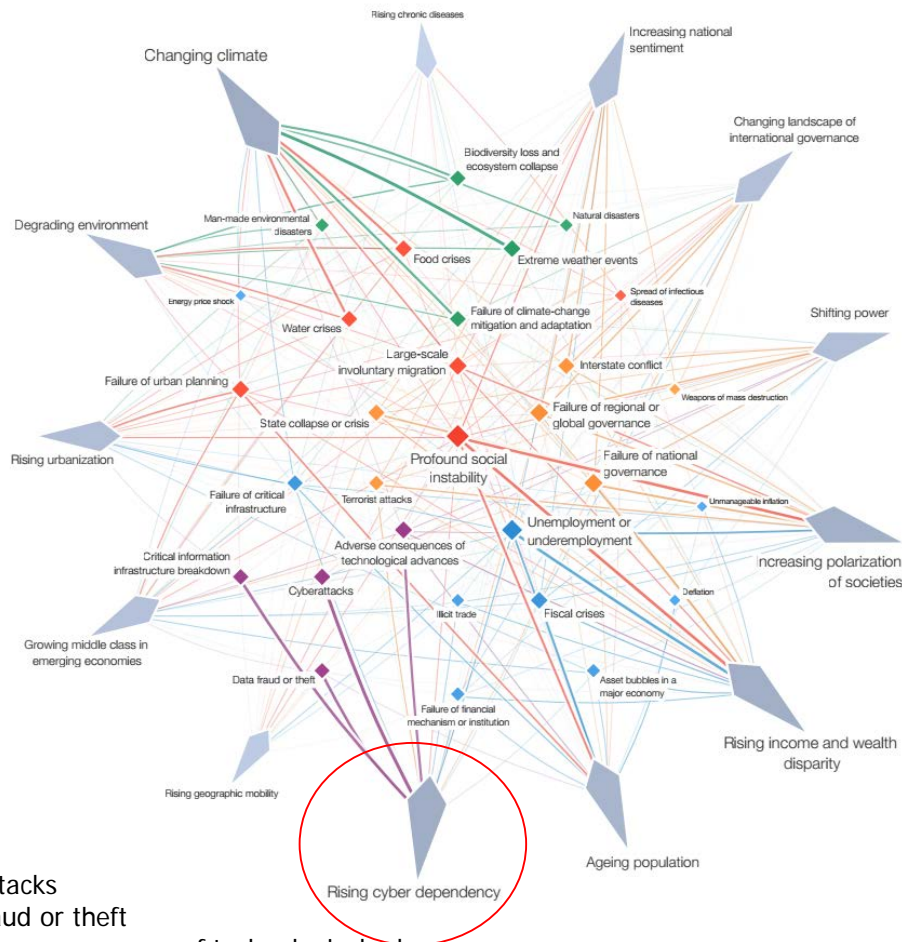
# Is The Cyber Threat Real For Nuclear?

NPP domains supported by computer systems					
Physical Protection	Business	Operational	Safety	Emergency Response	Safeguards
e.g. Access control system	e.g. Logistic system, Work permit system	e.g. Feedwater control system	e.g. Reactor protection system	e.g. Alarm system, Fire suppression system	e.g. Video surveillance, NMAC
less	high	medium	less	less	less
<b>Assumed attacks targeted against domain</b>					
<b>Regulation on computer security</b>	major improvements necessary	n/a	n/a	major improvements necessary	major improvements necessary
<b>Standards/Guides on computer security</b>	in progress	available	available	in progress	in progress
<b>Quality assurance program on computer security</b>	part of regulation	standard level, improvements possible	not in regulation, improvements necess.	part of regulation	part of regulation
<b>Qualification and training on computer security</b>	insufficient	standard level, improvements possible	major improvements necessary	insufficient	insufficient
<b>Education on computer security</b>	major improvements necessary	partly available, improvements possible	partly available, improvements possible	partly available, improvements possible	major improvements necessary
<b>Computer security operation and maintenance practices</b>	insufficient	partly available, improvements possible	major improvements necessary	insufficient	insufficient
<b>Computer intrusion detection</b>	insufficient	major improvements necessary	major improvements necessary	insufficient	insufficient
<b>Computer security incident response capability</b>	insufficient	partly available, improvements possible	major improvements necessary	insufficient	insufficient
<b>Computer security situational awareness and exercises</b>	insufficient	partly available, improvements possible	major improvements necessary	insufficient	insufficient
<b>Computer security assessments and improvement</b>	major improvements necessary	partly done, improvements possible	partly done, improvements possible	partly done, improvements possible	major improvements necessary

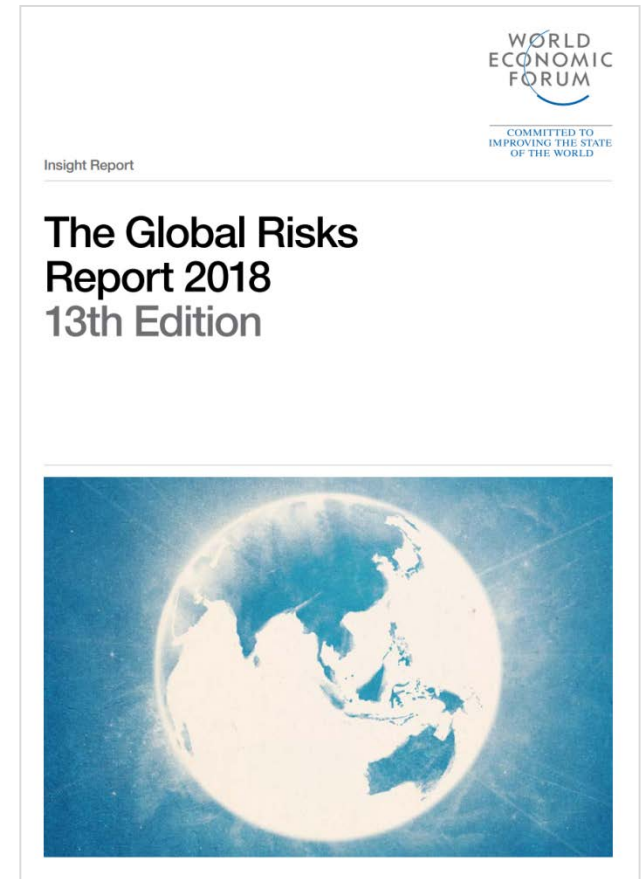
Source: G.Gluschke, ISS, April 2015



# Is Cyber An Evolving And Emerging Threat?



- ◆ Cyberattacks
- ◆ Data fraud or theft
- ◆ Adverse consequences of technological advances
- ◆ Critical information infrastructure breakdown

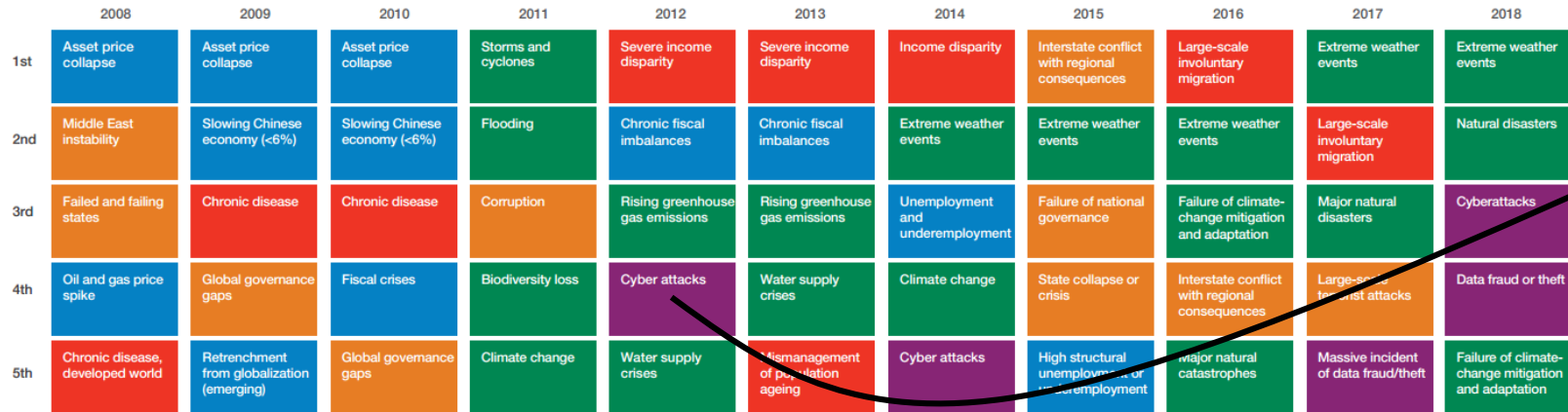


Source: World Economic Forum, The Global Risks Report 2018, 13th Edition

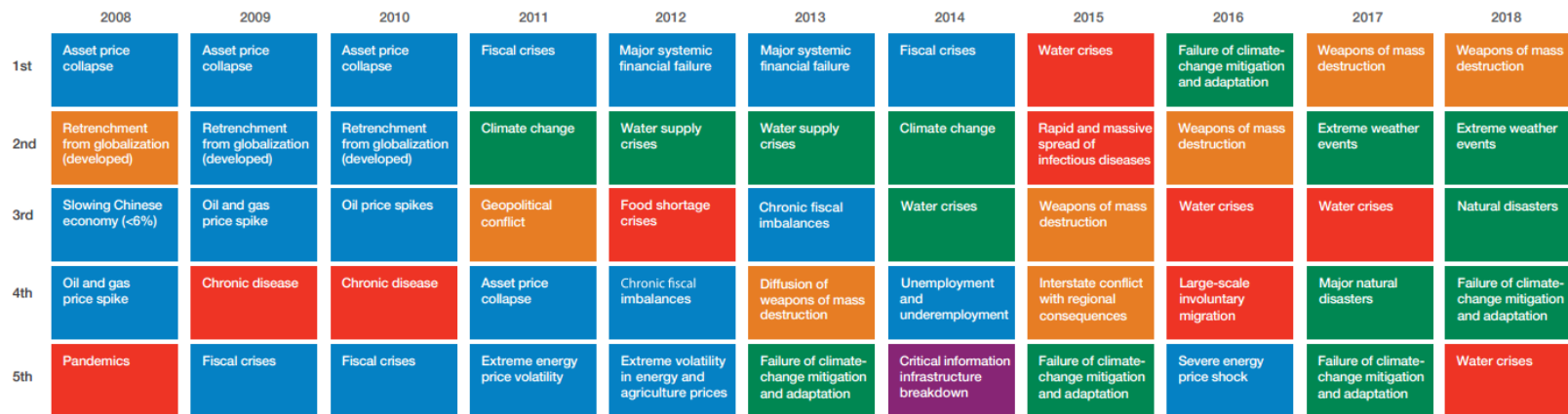


# Is Cyber An Evolving And Emerging Threat?

Top 5 Global Risks in Terms of Likelihood



Top 5 Global Risks in Terms of Impact

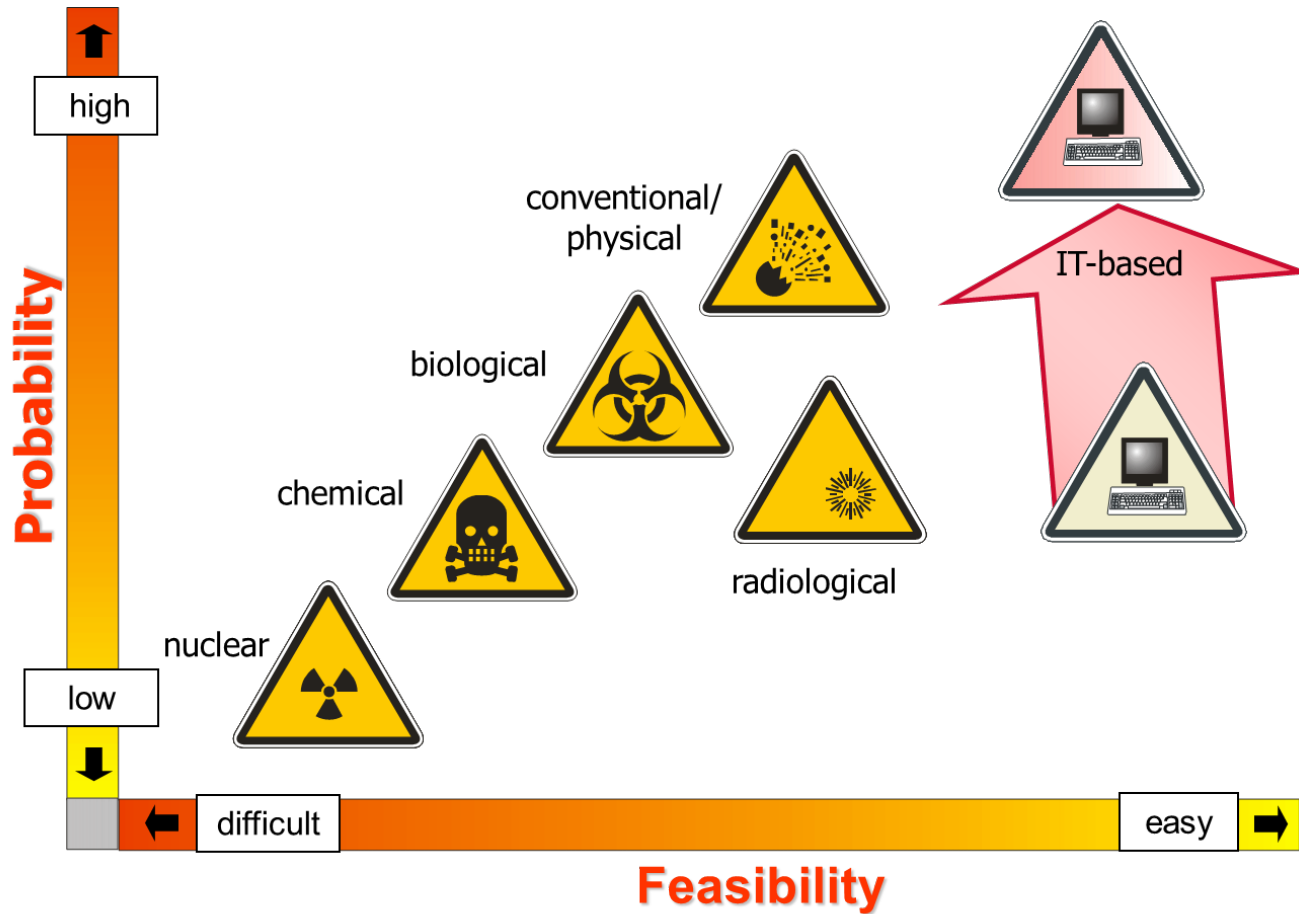


■ Economic 
 ■ Environmental 
 ■ Geopolitical 
 ■ Societal 
 ■ Technological

Source: World Economic Forum, The Global Risks Report 2018, 13th Edition



# Is Cyber An Evolving And Emerging Threat?







## What Picture Gives Us A Good Understanding In Terms Of Cyber Defense?



Picture: <https://www.carsharing-news.de/carsharing-bonn/>





## What Picture Gives Us A Good Understanding In Terms Of Cyber Defense?

- In term of complexity we can visualize the problem of cyber defence by using a known structure – a „Cyber Town“
  - thousands of buildings which are our networked components with streets connecting all buildings
  - historically grown structures
  - each building and street has its own characteristics and has to be protected differently
  - there is no central assessment of all parameters you need to protect such an environment
  - beside buildings we like to protect cars which represents communication equipment on the data transport layer and people which are the information assets in our model
- How many threats with its different attack vectors exist? How hard is it to protect such an environment? How much preparation do you need? How many changes will take place over time?



## How do You Know If Your Communication Equipment (Firewall) Is Good Enough?



Picture: G. Gluschke



## And What Are You Still Able To See Under Attack?



Picture: G. Gluschke





# How To Control Your „Cyber Town“ Against Attacks? What Is Your Response To A Modern Cyber Bomb?



Picture: <https://de.sputniknews.com/politik/20170720316679706-rusland-usa-syrien-putins-sieg-medien/>



# Is A Full-scope Cyber Threat Assessment Possible?

- Example: Focusing on a facility, not on IoT
- Not considering different threat actors with their motivation, willingness, funding etc., only focusing on attack vectors
- Not considering data/information, scope only on IT/OT systems
- In a real IT/OT environment we will find
  - various vendors with their own technology
  - various hardware platforms
  - various firmware versions
  - various I/O interfaces and connectivity
  - various operating systems
  - various human-machine-interfaces
  - various applications
- Considering this IT/OT parameters, hundreds of attack vectors in order to manipulate or destroy exist



# Is A Full-scope Cyber Threat Assessment Possible?

- Around 25.000 digital components in a Gen II PWR
  - Assumed, one digital component relates to one attack vector
  - Cyber threats to assess with only ONE! attack vector: 25.000  
=> Likely possible
- Various IT/OT-parameters in conjunction with security objectives (e.g. CIA) build attack vectors which have to be assessed
  - Considering TEN attack vectors:  $10^{25.000}$  => Far too much
- Probably grouping of components might help: Realistic grouping results in 800 groups of IT/OT components
  - Considering TEN attack vectors:  $10^{800}$  => Still too much

A full-scope assessment of cyber threats (attack vectors) cannot be conducted easily. We can try to assess the impact of a cyber threat and the effectiveness of protective measures against cyber threats.



# Are The Attributes And Characteristics From NSS10 (DBT) Applicable For Cyber?

- Motivation: political, financial, ideological, personal;
  - Willingness to put one's own life at risk;
  - Intentions: sabotage of a facility, theft, causing public panic and social disruption, instigating political instability, causing mass injuries and casualties;
  - Group size: attack force, coordination personnel, support personnel;
  - Weapons: types, numbers, availability;
  - Explosives: type, quantity, availability, triggering sophistication, acquired or improvised;
  - Tools: mechanical, thermal, manual, power, electronic, electromagnetic, communications equipment;
  - Modes of transportation: public, private, land, sea, air, type, number, availability;
  - Technical skills: engineering, use of explosives, chemicals, paramilitary experience, communications skills;
  - 'Cyber' skills: skills in using computer and automated control systems in direct support of physical attack, gathering, for money gathering;
  - Knowledge: target procedures, security measures, safety measures and radiation protection procedures, operations, potential use of nuclear or other;
  - Funding: source;
  - Insider threat is active involvement, violent or non-violent engagement, number of insider adversaries;
  - Support structure: local sympathizers, logistical support;
  - Tactics: use of
- 'Weapons' can be understood as 'cyber-weapons' but no general definition therefore exists
- 'Explosives' can not be easily mapped to the cyber world;
- 'Modes of transportation' in a physical meaning might be applied to the delivery of malware, e.g. by devices such as USB sticks

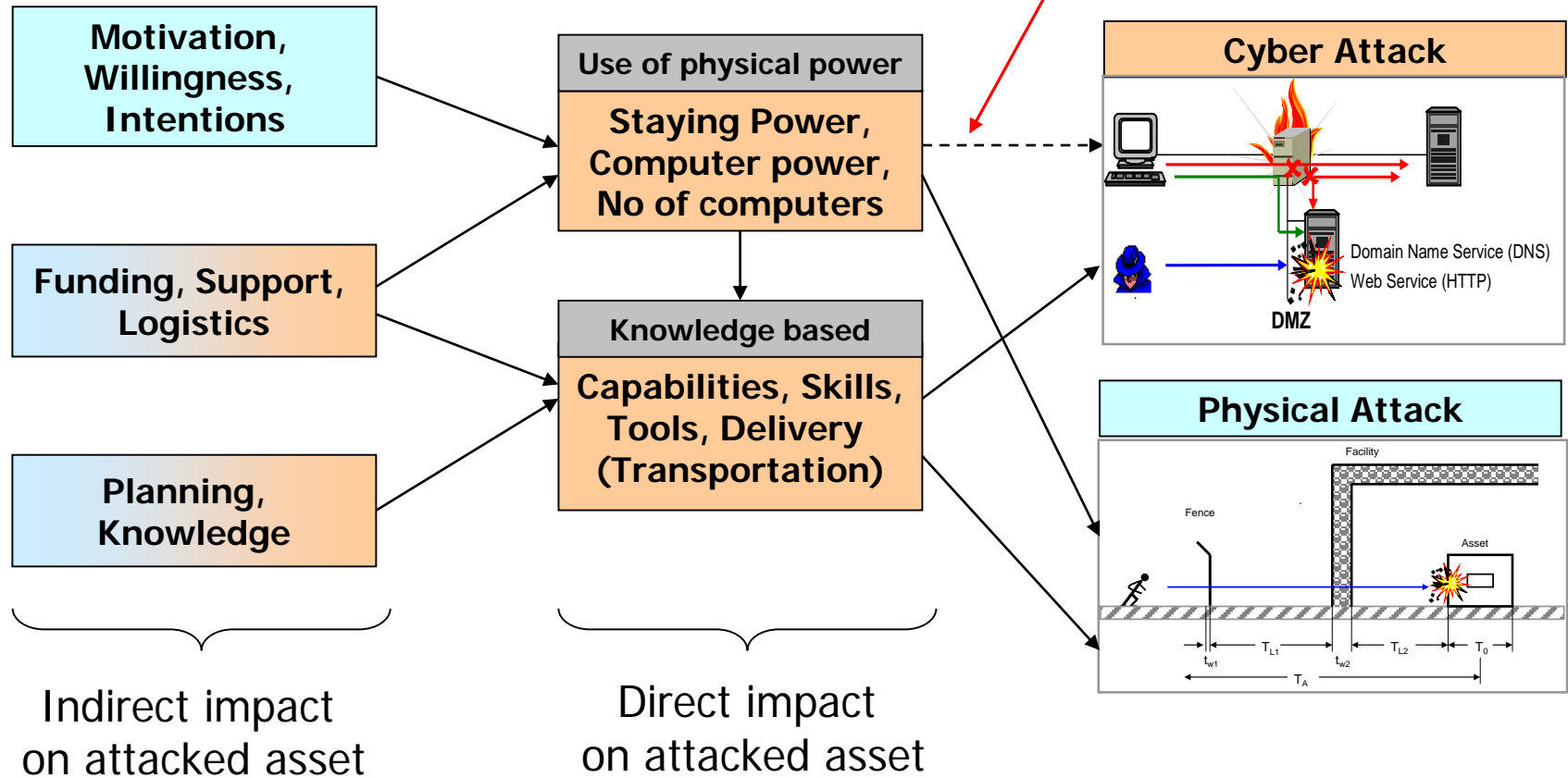
green = apply to cyber in a similar meaning  
orange = apply to cyber in another meaning  
red = do not apply to cyber





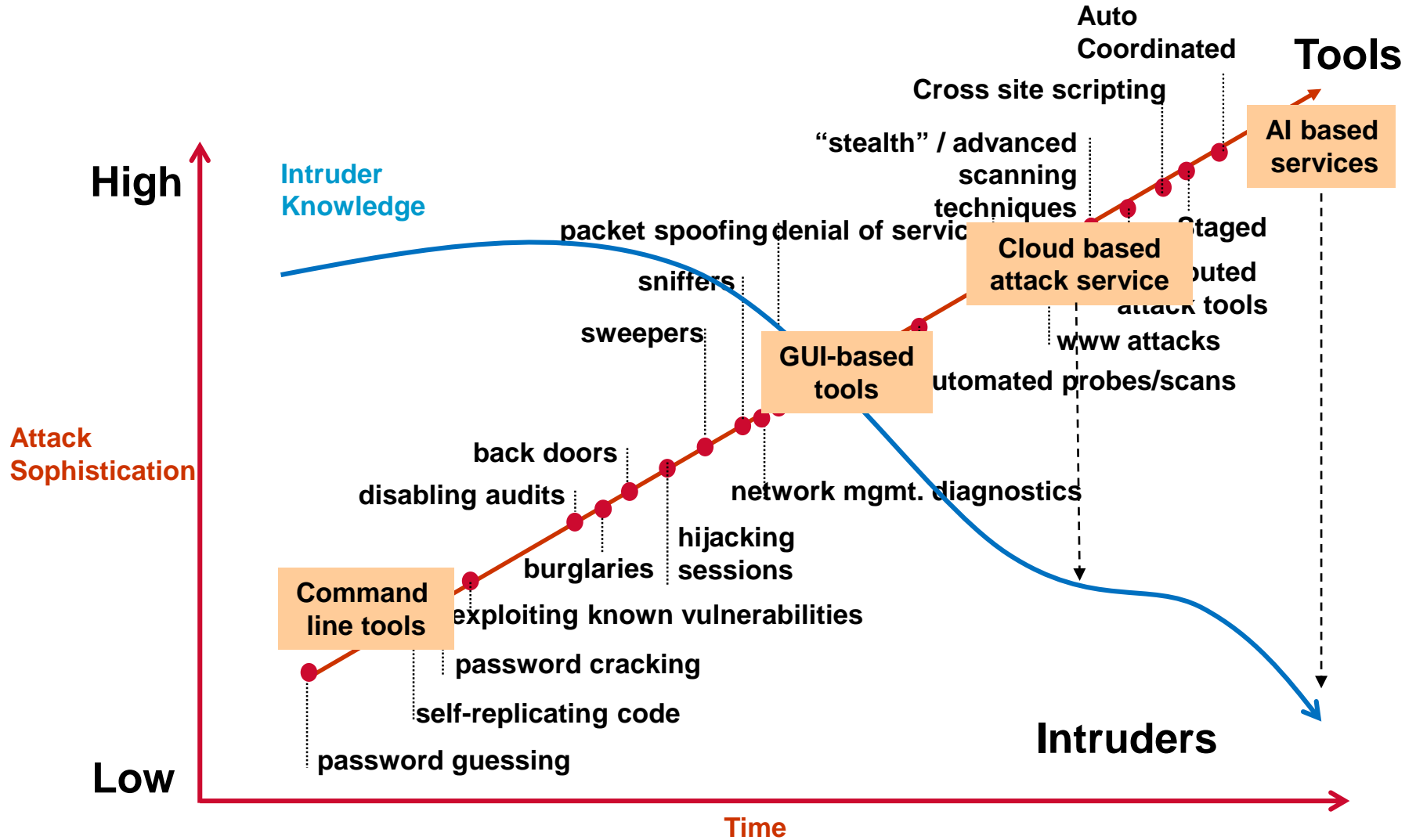
# Are The Attributes And Characteristics From NSS10 (DBT) Applicable For Cyber?

Only in case of **Denial-of-Service** and **Brute Force** attacks





# How Is Attack Sophistication vs. Intruder Technical Knowledge Evolving?





# What Will Change From The Classic Vulnerability Exploit Cycle?

Novice intruders use crude exploit tools

Automated scanning/exploit tools developed

Exploits will be used as part of a larger game and autonomous systems will have control over it

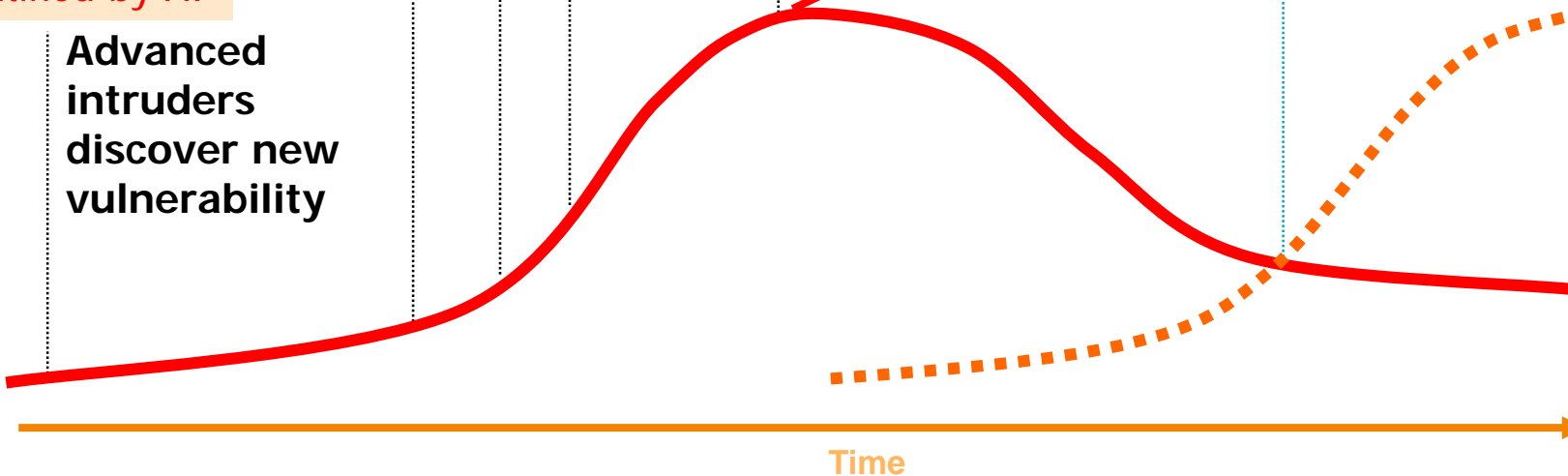
Crude exploit tools distributed

Exploits will be identified by AI

Widespread use of automated scanning/exploit tools

Intruders begin using new types of exploits

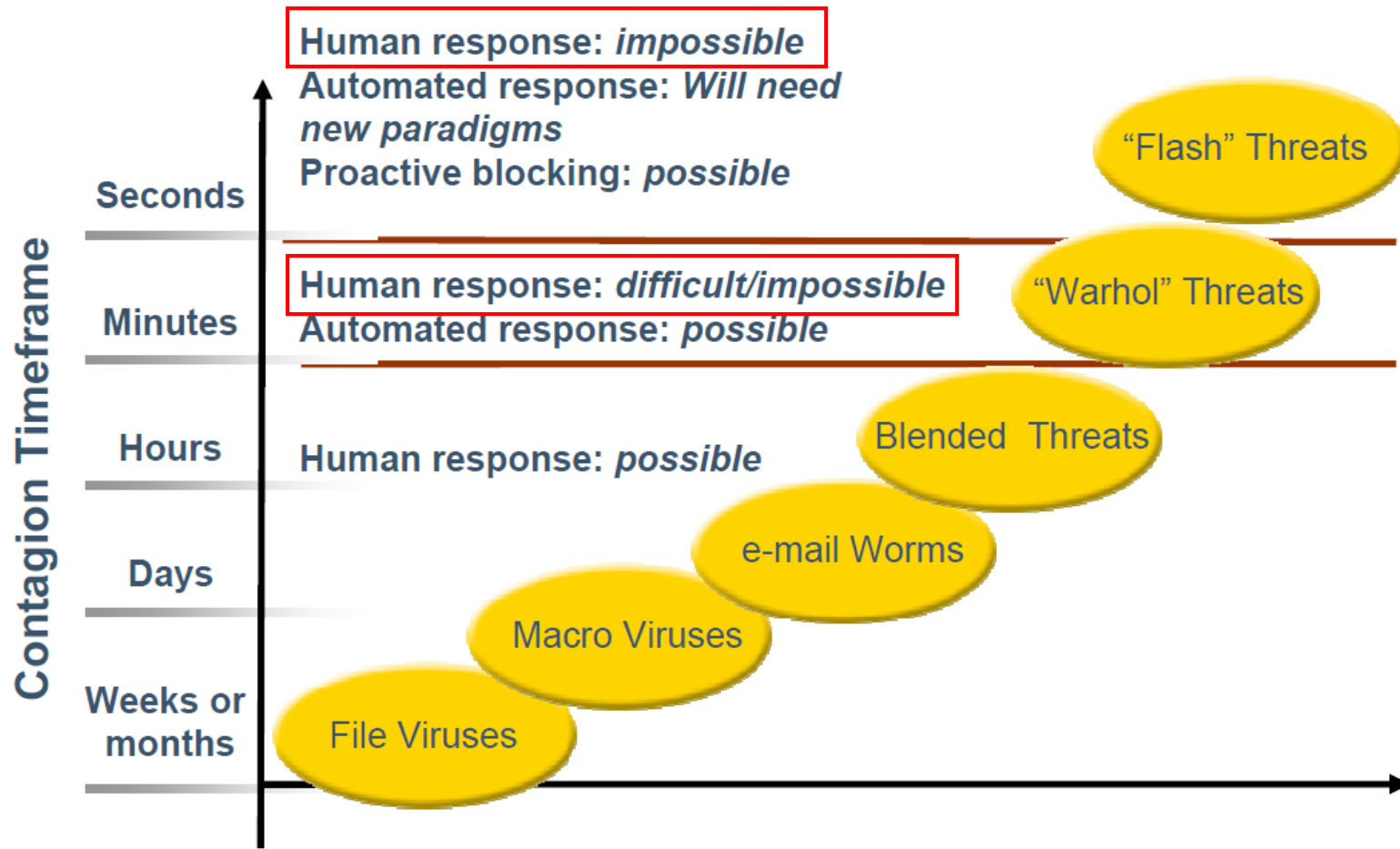
Advanced intruders discover new vulnerability



25

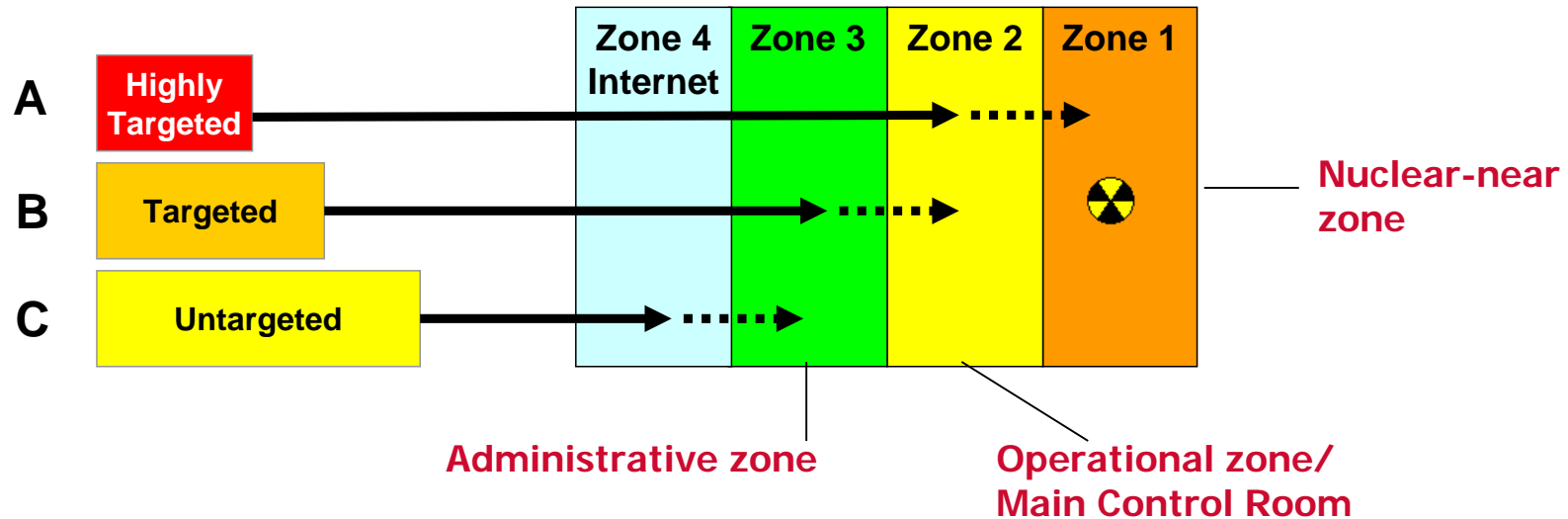


# What Is About The Response Time To Cyber Threats?





# Can We Keep Cyber Attacks Under Control?



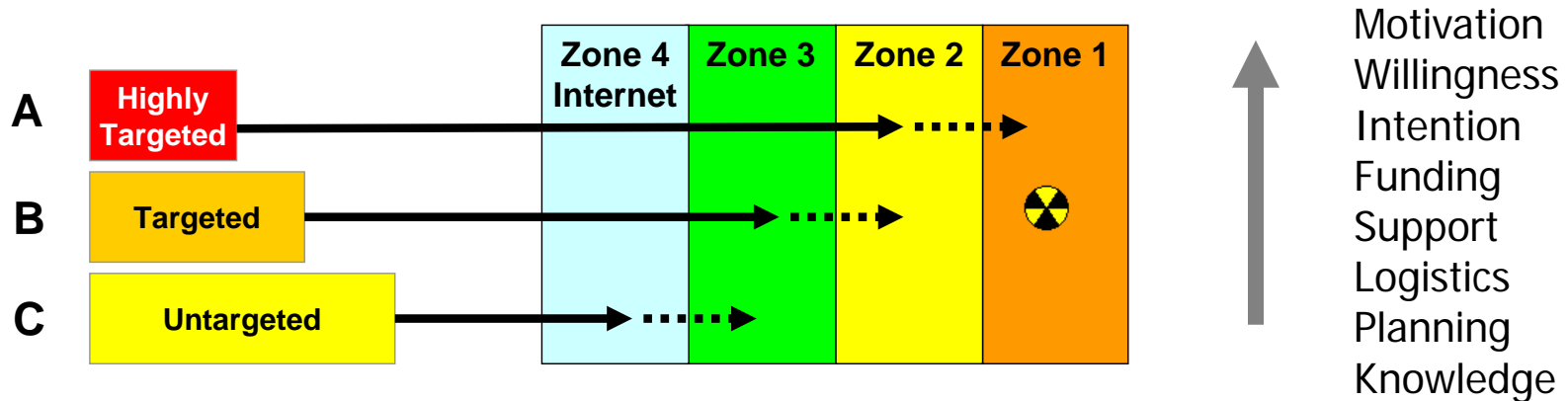
- A Highly targeted: Targeted against a particular component/system<sup>1</sup>
- B Targeted: Targeted against a particular organization/facility<sup>2</sup>
- C Untargeted: Not targeted against particular organization/facility (Random target/Target of opportunity)

<sup>1</sup> e.g. The Stuxnet incident: see <http://spectrum.ieee.org/telecom/security/the-real-story-of-stuxnet>

<sup>2</sup> e.g. The Monju incident: see <https://www.contextis.com//resources/blog/context-threat-intelligence-monju-incident/>



# Can We Keep Cyber Attacks Under Control?



- A Highly targeted:** Military-style adversary (Threat is invisible/not understood yet)
- B Targeted:** Traditional adversary groups (Threat is partly visible/basicly understood)
- C Untargeted:** Everyone else (Threat is well understood)

- A Highly targeted\*:** no prevention, advanced detection and response
- B Targeted\*\*:** extended prevention, advanced detection and response
- C Untargeted:** standard prevention, detection and response

\*State-of-the-art controls are ineffective (by definition), individual controls might help

\*\*State-of-the-art controls are effective but not sufficient, additional individual controls necessary



## What Is The Current Situation In Terms Of Cyber Threats?

- Nuclear facilities are complex system, more and more digitalized parts, in particular in ICS, increased internet connectivity
- Cyber as a new domain of military actions, Industrial Control Systems (ICS/I&C) as new targets
- Cyber attacks invisible, rapidly changing, very professional
- Effective tools for cyber prevention and detection are missing
- Individual attacks, addressing human, IT/OT and business processes, categorization and attribution difficult
- Sufficient cyber security/defense knowledge often not available at the facility (e.g. for incident response)
- Responsibilities for different levels of cyber defense unclear in most nation states, unclear definitions, insufficient understanding of circumstances
- Methodologies for threat analysis and prediction lacking



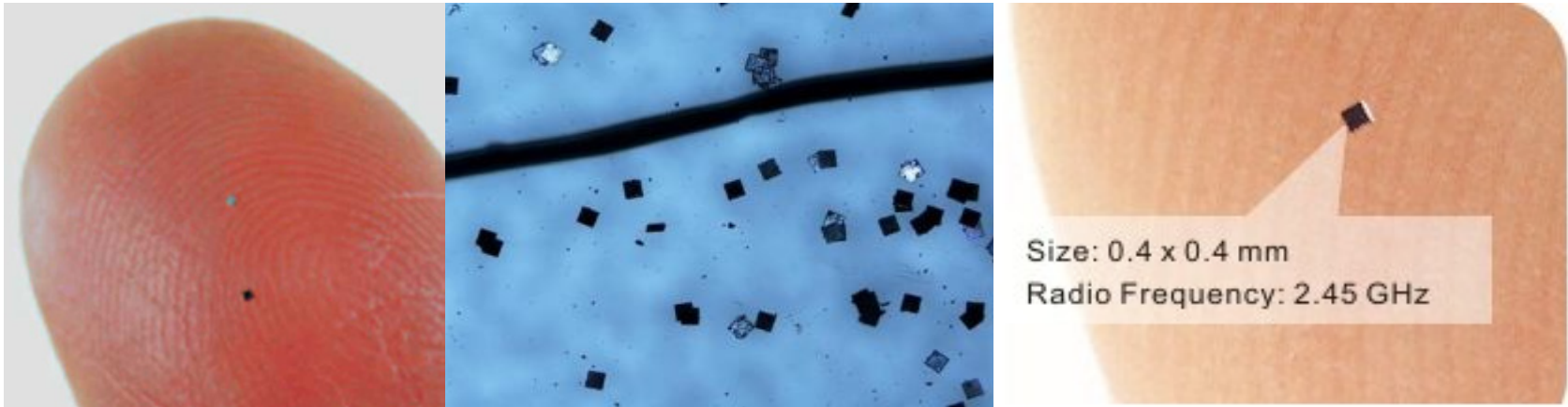


## What Are Examples For Future Cyber Threats?

- End of asymmetric encryption
  - Researchers need only five quantum bits for prime factorization - the end of RSA encryption is approaching
- Proliferation of AI
  - Artificial intelligence “weeds” proliferate, choking off the performance of the internet, AI based software bots living in your networks
- War without rules
  - State-on-state cyberattacks escalate unpredictably owing to a lack of agreed protocols, hybrid warfare
  - Use of drones to attack networks remotely
  - AI fights against AI
- Organisations identify vulnerabilities and produce cyber attacks by listening to data streams and by analysing it, autonomous systems use it to attack
- New „cyber cold war“ on the border of the BRIC internet



# Is This A Cyber Threat?



Source: PSD

# Evolving and Emerging Cyber Threats

Thank you for your attention!

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[www.uniss.org](http://www.uniss.org)

