

Demystifying Zero Trust

For the C-Level (and the rest of us)

PRESENTED BY



CSA cloud
security
alliance®

Paul Simmonds

Director, CSA (Europe) & CEO, Global Identity Foundation

Agenda

- 1 What is Zero Trust (and what it should be)?
- 2 Let's talk about “risk”
- 3 (Not) Communicating Zero Trust to the Board
- 4 Your Zero Trust “sanity” check-list (things to think about)

Lets start with . . .

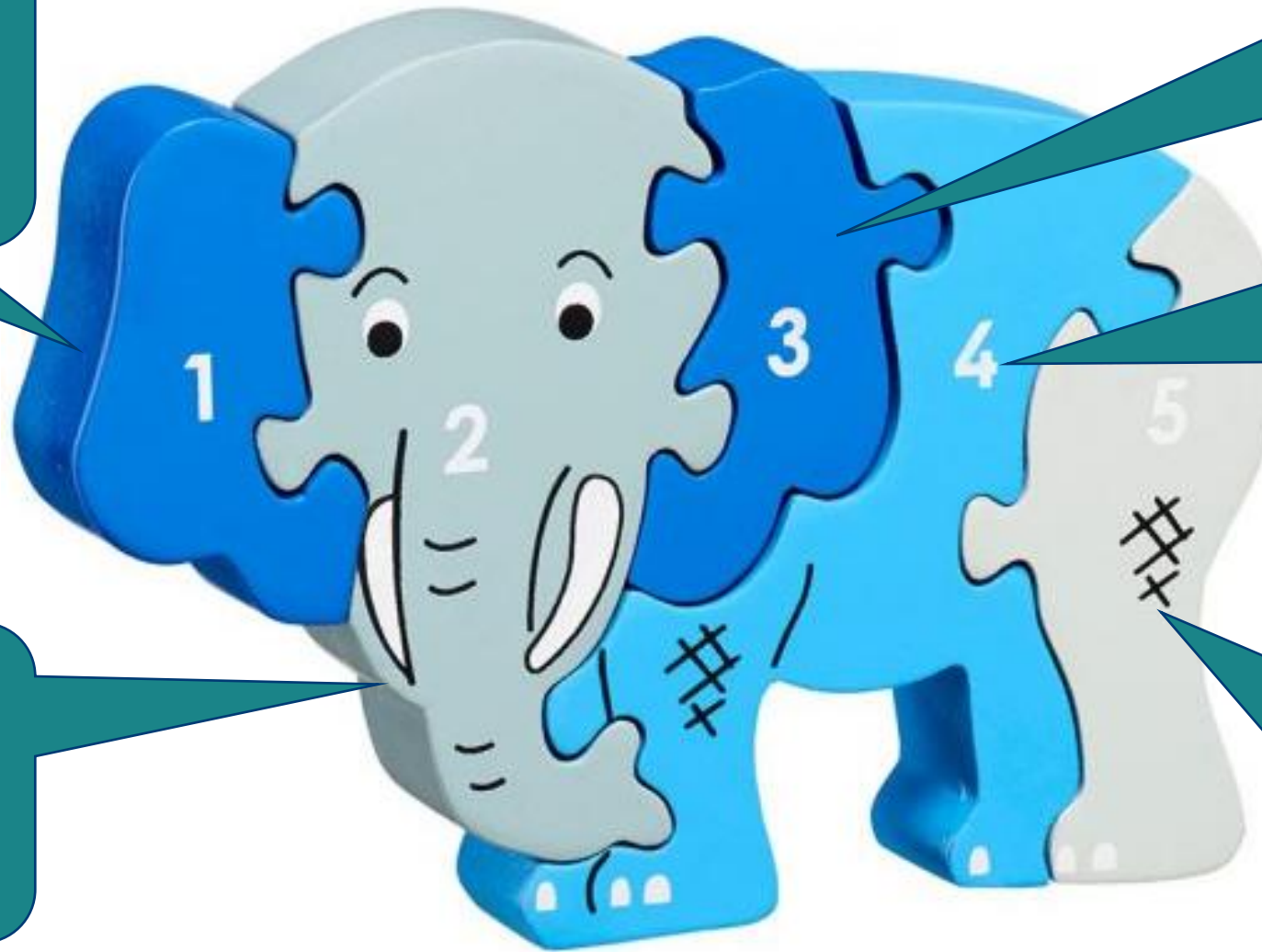
A parable!



Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=4581243>

*I'm a network security engineer
the solution to ZT is ...
a Software Defined
Perimeter*

*I'm a desktop security specialist
the solution to ZT is ...
a hardened endpoint*



*I'm an identity specialist
the solution to ZT is ...
an IAM solution*

*I'm web specialist
the solution to ZT is ...
cloud access security
broker (CASB)*

*I'm a cloud specialist
the solution to ZT is ...
everything outsourced to
SAAS*

Elephant © www.lankakade.co.uk



Is it just the marketing department jumping on the buzzword-bandwaggon?

Zero Trust & Vendor PR?

So many vendors, so many “Zero Trust” products!

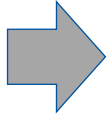
So many vendors selling you “Zero Trust”

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| ▪ Akamai | ▪ Double Octopus | ▪ Okta |
| ▪ AlgoSec | ▪ Duo Security (Cisco) | ▪ PaloAlto Networks |
| ▪ Amazon AWS | ▪ ForgeRock | ▪ Panda Security |
| ▪ Aporeto | ▪ Google (BeyondCorp) | ▪ Plixer |
| ▪ Centrify | ▪ Guardicore | ▪ ScaleFT |
| ▪ Cloud Harmonics | ▪ Jump Cloud | ▪ SecureCircle |
| ▪ Cloudflare | ▪ Luminate | ▪ Tripwire |
| ▪ Cymbel | ▪ Microsoft | ▪ Zentera |
| ▪ Cyxtera | ▪ Netronome | ▪ Zscaler |

So it's important you select your Zero Trust products & solutions with care!

Time

1990's



Firewalls
Deep-packet Inspection
Anti-Virus

Zero Trust – A History

From hardened perimeter to evaluate risk and work anywhere

1994

The term “Zero Trust” was coined within
Stephen Paul Marsh’s PhD thesis
“Formalizing trust as a computational concept”

Time

1990's

Firewalls
Deep-packet Inspection
Anti-Virus

Zero Trust – A History

From hardened perimeter to evaluate risk and work anywhere

2003



De-perimeterisation & the Jericho Forum “Commandments”

- The firewall has limited use as a security boundary, and it’s only getting worse
- Hard borders are inhibiting business and business strategy

2007



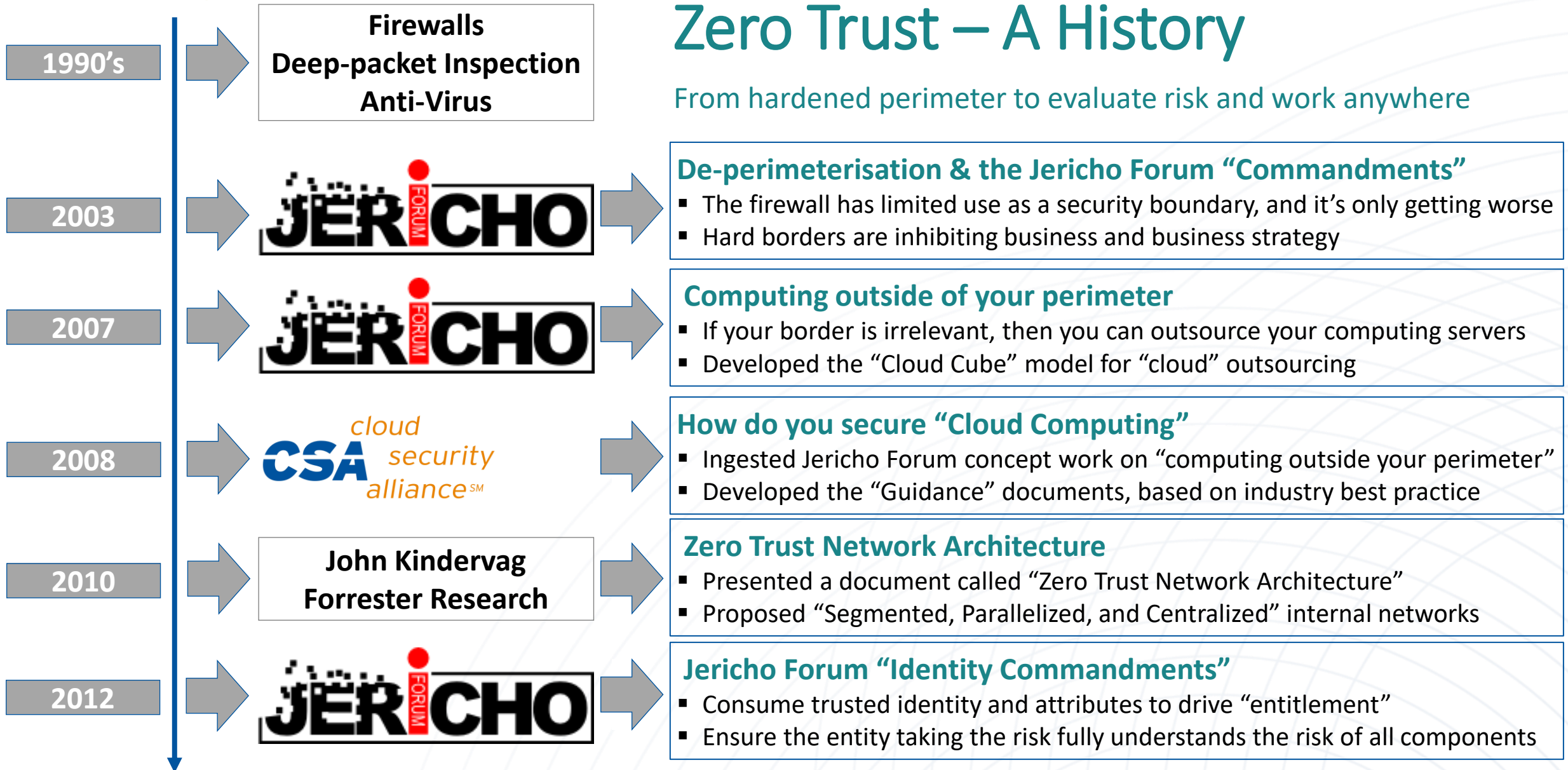
Computing outside of your perimeter

- If your border is irrelevant, then you can outsource your computing servers
- Developed the “Cloud Cube” model for “cloud” outsourcing

circa-2007

US Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA)
funded the Black Core Network initiative;
which evolved into the Software-Defined
Perimeter (SDP) framework”

Time



Zero Trust – A History

From hardened perimeter to evaluate risk and work anywhere

2003 “De-Perimeterisation”	2010 “Zero Trust Networking”	2017 “Zero Trust”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scope and level of protection should be specific & appropriate to the asset at risk • Security mechanisms must be pervasive, simple, scalable & easy to manage • Devices and applications must communicate using open, secure protocols • All devices must be capable of maintaining their security policy on an untrusted network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "We have to know what's going on in our networks, Users can't have willy-nilly access" • [Proposes] a network segmentation gateway. "It's like a UTM [unified threat management] tool or firewall on steroids" • [Proposes] “Segmented, Parallelized, and Centralized” internal networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “We no longer determine who you are based on your IP address” • “We treat every network in the world as untrusted; Whether it’s physically inside our building, [or] whether you’re at a Starbucks”
<i>Jericho Forum</i> <i>“Commandments”</i>	<i>John Kindervag</i> <i>Forrester paper</i> <i>“Zero Trust Network Architecture”</i>	<i>Heather Adkins,</i> <i>Director of Information Security</i> <i>Google</i>

[1] https://collaboration.opengroup.org/jericho/commandments_v1.2.pdf

[2] <https://www.darkreading.com/perimeter/forrester-pushes-zero-trust-model-for-security>

[3] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d90Ov6QM1jE>

So what is “Zero Trust”?

Is it?

- Strategy?
- Design Principles?
- Architecture?
- Products?

Zero Trust is an overarching
security philosophy

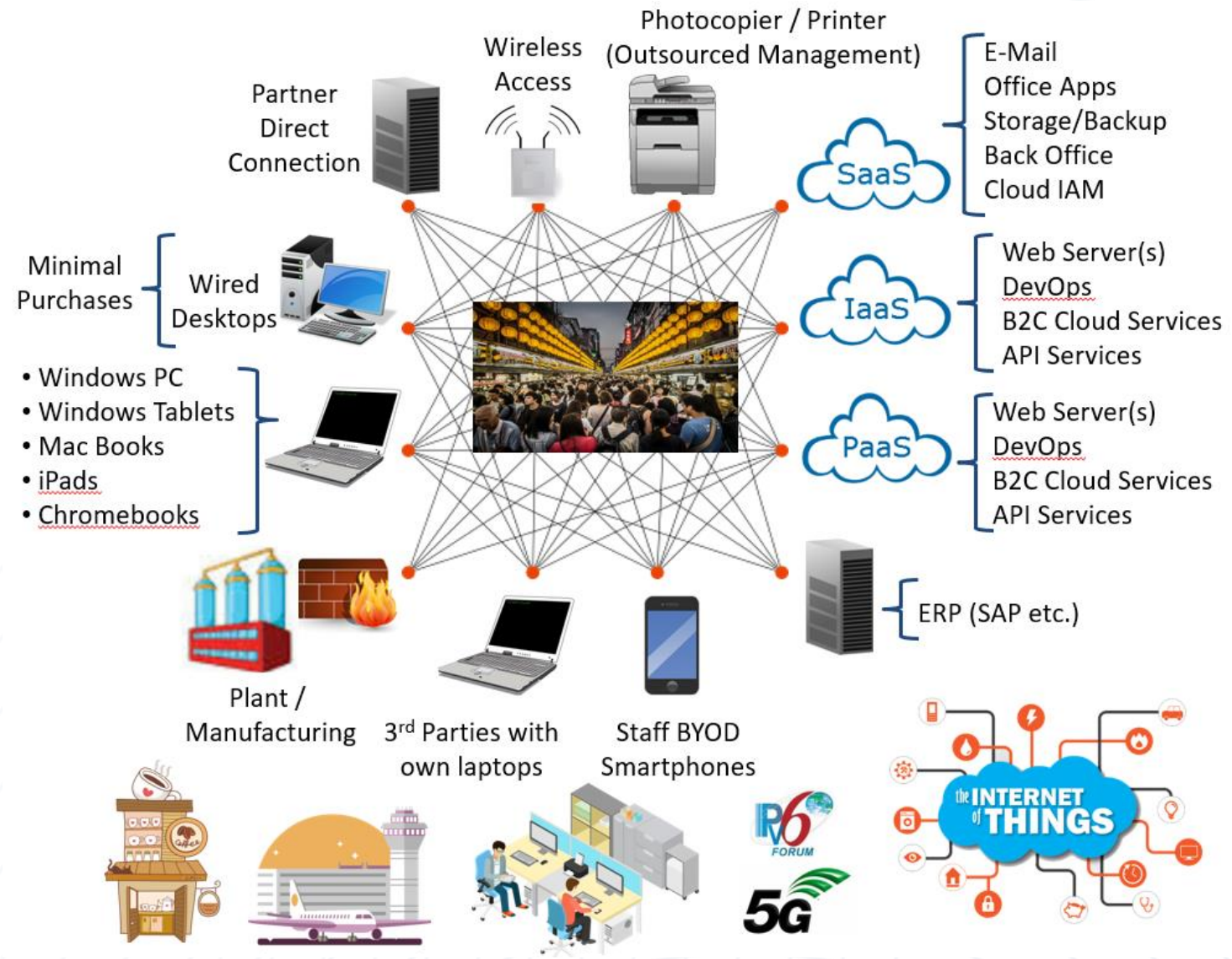
Zero Trust as a philosophy

It's delivering business flexibility for today's modern business

Replacing “trust in the network” with;

- Trust inferred from devices, users, organisations and end-point trust agents
- An “entitlement” decision about access to data and to devices, whatever the location
- Network control (where still required) based on entitlement using technologies such as SDN

And in some cases, no corporate network whatsoever!



So what is “Zero Trust”?

Is it?

- Strategy?
- Design Principles?
- Architecture?
- Products?

Zero Trust is an overarching
security philosophy

Dictating that any/all access
requests to systems or data
should be **risk-based** and
start from a position of
zero trust

Agenda

1

What is Zero Trust (and what it should be)?

2

Let's talk about “risk”

3

(Not) Communicating Zero Trust to the Board

4

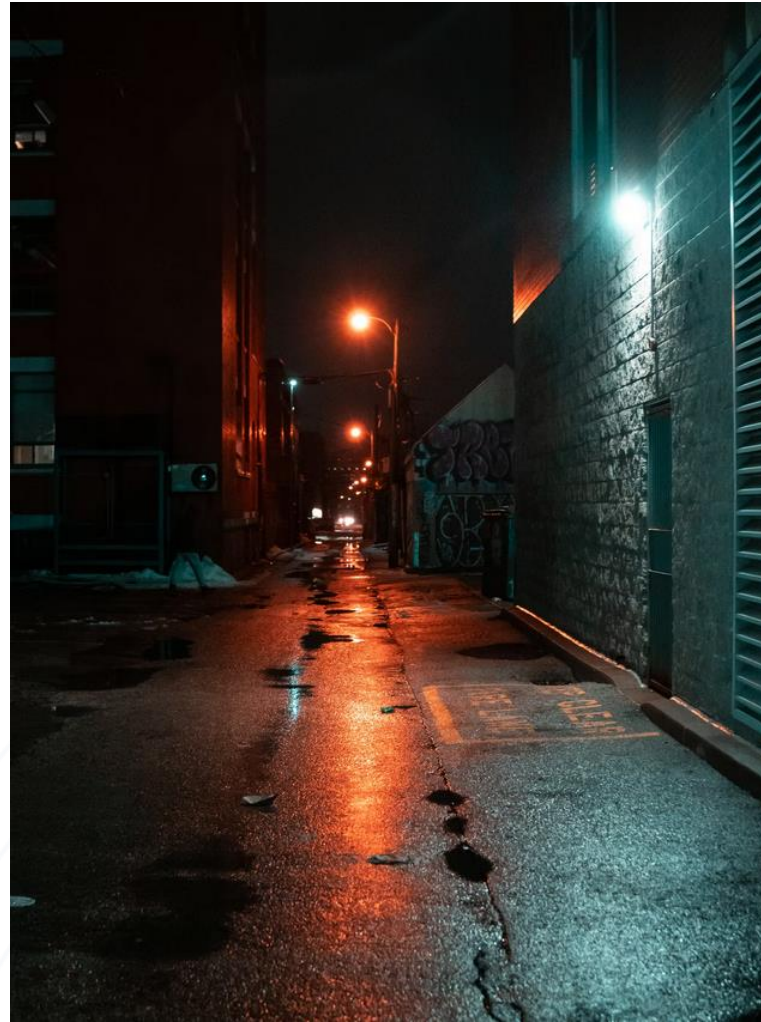
Your Zero Trust “sanity” check-list (things to think about)

$$\text{Risk} = \text{Impact (\$)} \times \text{Probability (\%)}$$

Risk, environment & context



Source: Unsplash – Brevitē (@brevite)



Source: Unsplash - Boden Deplaedt

Risk Equation:

- Who am I?
- Am I alone?
- Time of day?
- Alternative routes?
- Area history?
- Street lighting?
- Policing & presence?
- Am I a target?

Risk is a contextual

How to we deal with risk?

1. Eliminated

You design it out

2. Mitigated

You add compensating controls

3. Transferred

Another party takes on the risk,
e.g.; Insurance

4. Accepted

The risk remains as a cost of
doing business

The entity taking the risk must be able to evaluate all Identity and Attribute information



“Entitlement”

Making a risk-based decision



About ***access to data*** and/or ***systems***



Based on the ***trusted identity*** and ***attributes***



Of ***all the entities*** and ***components***
in the transaction chain

Risk must be a contextual decision!

Context

- Access to data
- Access to system
- Trusted identity (and level of trust)
- Attributes asserted (and level of trust)
- All the entities in the transaction chain
- All the components in the transaction chain
- *History*

Agenda

1

What is Zero Trust (and what it should be)?

2

Let's talk about "risk"

3

(Not) Communicating Zero Trust to the Board

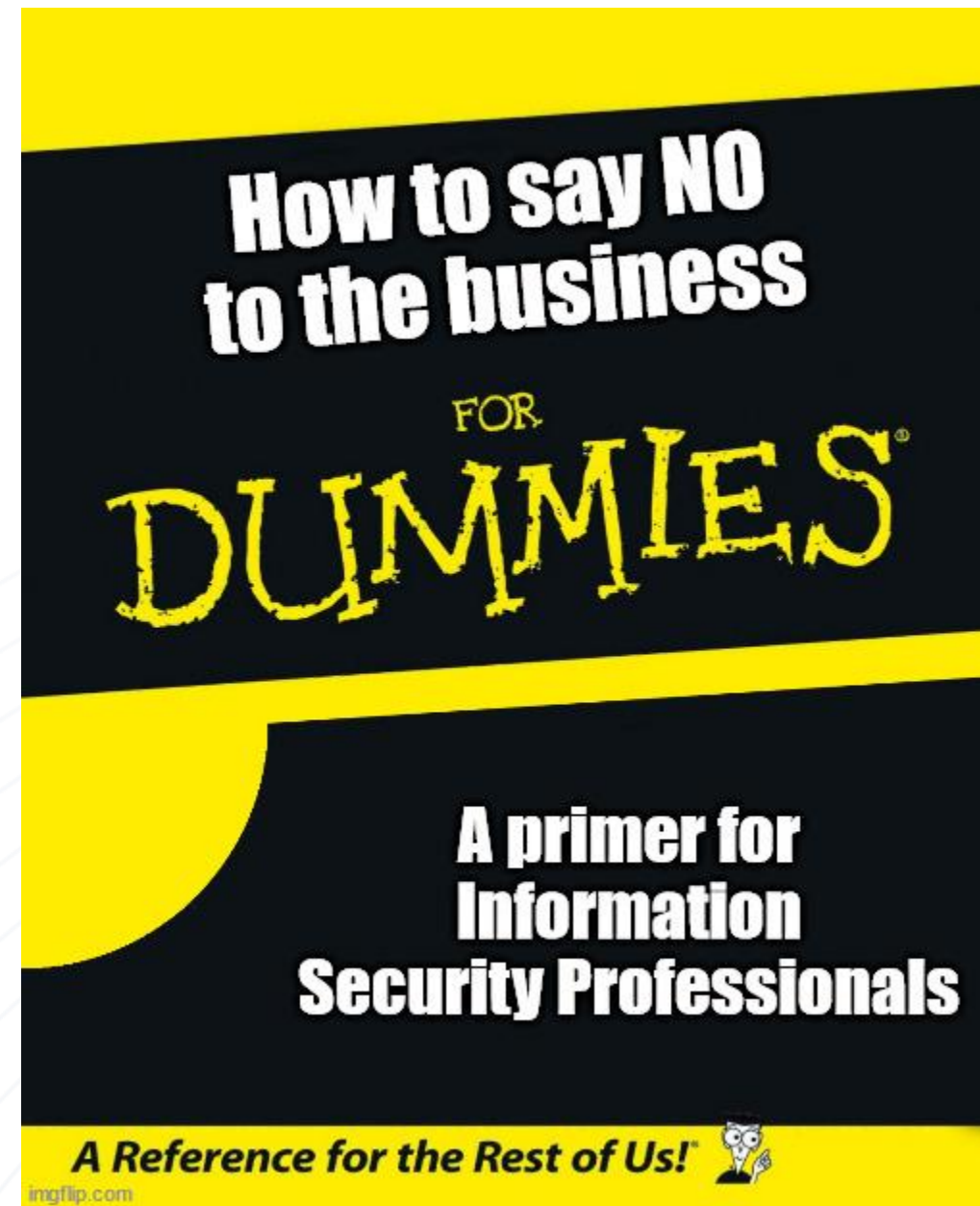
4

Your Zero Trust "sanity" check-list (things to think about)

Security & IT inhibit the business

Proof:

- The rise of shadow IT
- Security a top 5 priority
Yet no board level CISO's
and rarely any CIO's
- Outsourcing of IT functions
Seen to be a commodity
- Rarely consulted on strategic decisions
- Resulting in a rear-guard action
- And thus are perceived as saying “no”



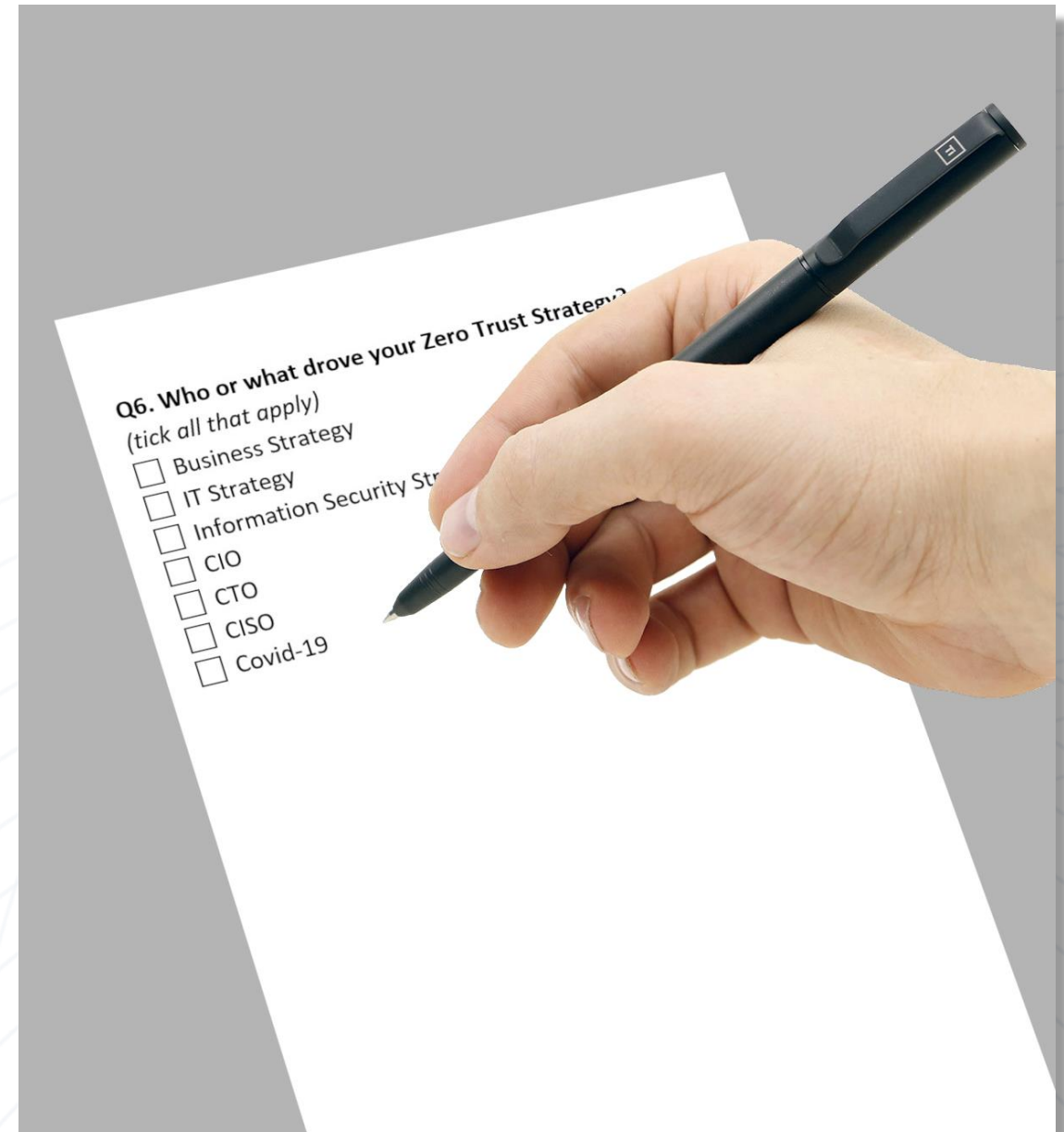
The pandemic re-enforced the stereotype

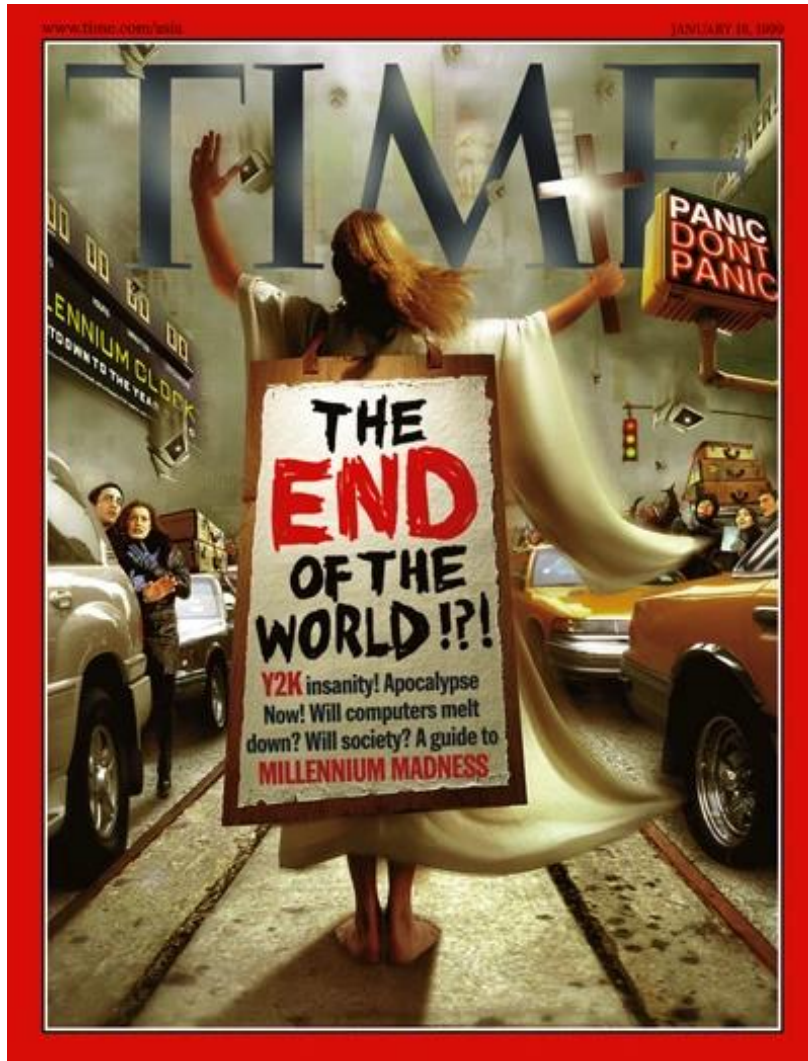
We made it work for the business

And the sky did not fall down

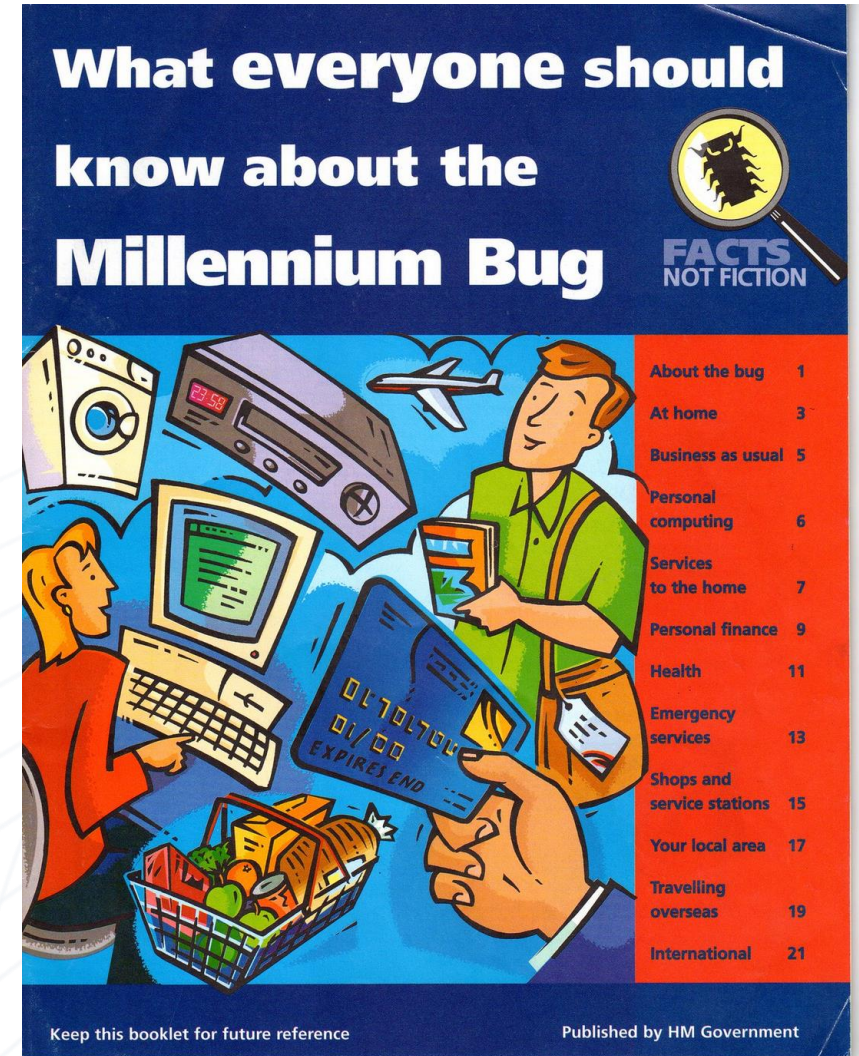
If fact (in many cases) it worked better

So now explain why you need \$\$\$\$\$ for Zero Trust?





Jan. 18, 1999, cover of TIME



UK Government

So what do the board care about?

- **Faster**
- **Better**
- **Cheaper**

Justified with quantifiable risk!

Aligned to business aims and objectives

Secure is YOUR job, and should be a given!



A Zero Trust “philosophy” is neither a technology, security, or an identity issue

Alignment to the business

Strategic alignment of the business roadmap & strategy with the technology needed to support it.

Do you understand what the strategic vision of the board / business is?

Delivering value to the business

How will it enable the business to:

- Move Faster
(time to implement)
- Reduce Costs
(return on investment)
- Be More Secure
(but at no additional cost)

Zero Trust “themes” for the board

Agility

Enables the business to move, faster
Enables the use of new (cheaper)
technologies for example, IoT, 5G, Cloud

Collaboration

Easier collaboration, especially with other
organizations
(Partners, JV's, Outsourced partnerships etc.)

Alignment

IT, Networking and Information Security
(perceivably) better aligned to business need

Risk Reduction

Aligned with the boards risk-appetite
Focused on business-critical assets
A risk-based approach to securing assets

Agenda

1

What is Zero Trust (and what it should be)?

2

Let's talk about "risk"

3

(Not) Communicating Zero Trust to the Board

4

Your Zero Trust "sanity" check-list (things to think about)

Zero Trust; and things that make you go Aargh!

- Identity is the new perimeter
- Zero Trust is a network security concept
- You must install “my product” / solution / corporate standard
- All access must be authenticated
- Trust but verify
- Anything with a buzzword

Two critical flaws in architectural thinking

Binary Trust

A system (*refer to rule 2*) authenticates the entity, turning a “maybe” (a variable) into a “certainty” (binary)

Rule 1

Never turn a variable into a binary

The “locus of control”

I can make it all work, as long as **EVERYTHING** plays in my system.

Rule 2

You must be able to trust (*refer to Rule 1*) entities that you do not manage

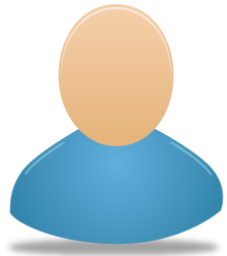
Questions to ask yourself?

- Am I enrolling entities I don't employ, manage or vet; into my Identity system?
- Can I support (real) BYOD?
- If my external auditors turn up needing access (for their laptops) can I simply give it to them?
- How do I set up a collaboration between ten disparate people / organizations?



Any ZT ecosystem must encompass all entity types

Entities enable context!



People

- Humans



Devices

- Computers
- Phones
- IoT
- Vehicles
- Printers
- PVR's
- BYOD



Organizations

- Legal Organizations
- Families
- Organization Groupings



Code

- Code
- Executable Programs
- Self-Protecting Data
- DRM
- Signed Data



Agents

- Human agents
- Delegations
- AI Programs
- Learning programs

Risk & Context

(Flawed) binary trust implies flawed risk assessments

- “They are trusted because they are on the Intranet”, or “They are who they claim to be because they (eventually) gave a correct password”, or “they passed security vetting”

Risk, especially when moving to a more granular approach demanded by a Zero Trust architecture, must also be variable;

- Based on understanding all the entities involved (context), and;
- A situational understanding of what the entity is requesting, (additional context) and;
- Continually assessed as the context changes (temporal trust)

In conclusion

Have your say on the CSA document



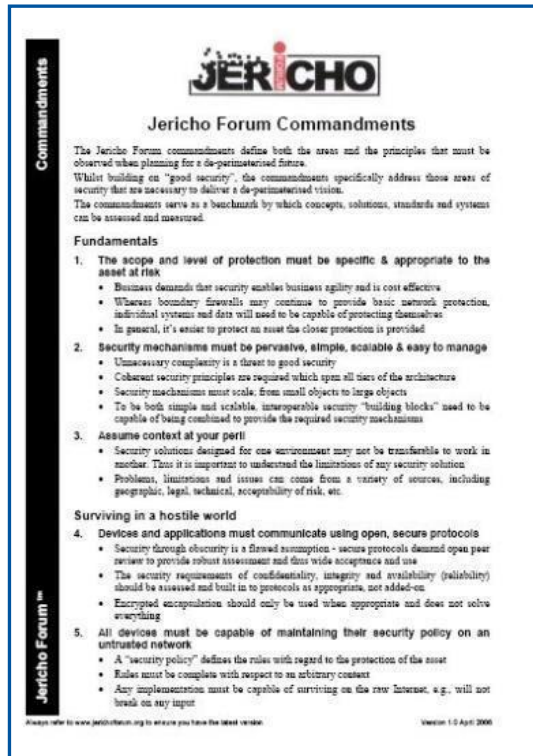
Zero Trust as a Security Philosophy

<https://cloudsecurityalliance.org/artifacts/zero-trust-security-philosophy/>

CSA Public Peer Reviews

<https://cloudsecurityalliance.org/research/contribute#peer-reviews>

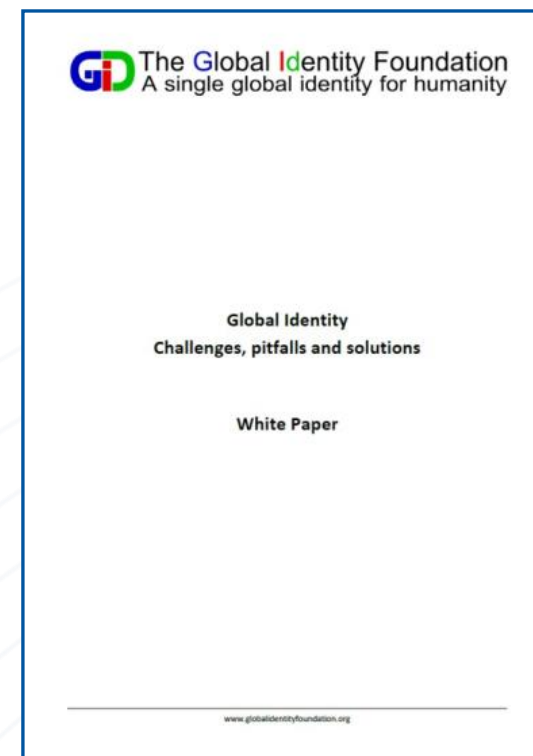
Free Resources & Further Reading



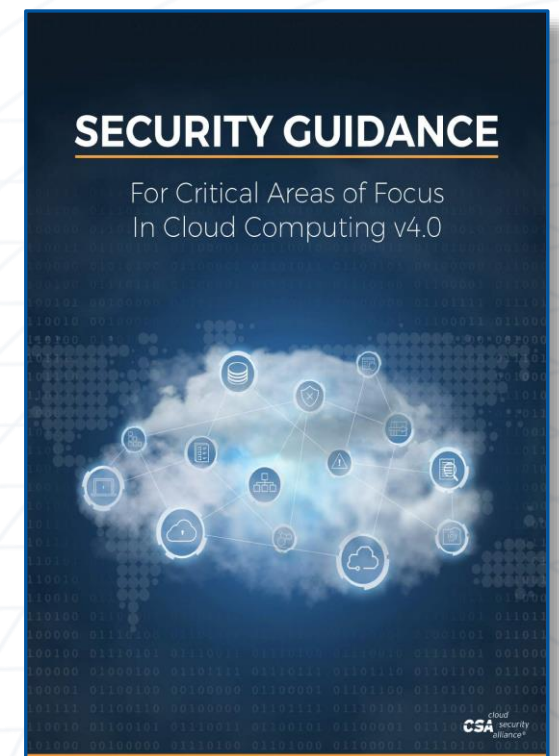
Jericho Forum
Commandments



Google
BeyondCorp



Global Identity – “Challenges
Pitfalls & Solution”



CSA
Guidelines

All freely available

Thank you!



Paul Simmonds

paul.simmonds@cloudsecurityalliance.org.uk

Twitter: @simmonds_paul

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/psimmonds/>