Creating a robust Security Strategy

Ideas for today and tomorrow…

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"MAYBE WE SHOULD TRY A DIFFERENT SECURITY APPROACH THIS YEAR."

Strategy

- Roadmap to the *organization's success*

- Why?

  - Rally towards a common destination

  - Optimize resources

  - Manage risks

  - Achieve outcomes

The Strategic Disconnect for Security

"Your organization's primary goal is to provide services and create value to its shareholders.

Your threat actor's primary goal is to compromise your organization."

- Raheem

In the name of Security, Approval Denied!

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Where does Security stand in an organization?

Security strategy should support, NOT dictate* nor compete with the organizational strategy.

Security is an enabler and a support function for most organization.

*unless you are the military or are providing security products and services!

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Thinking security strategy…

What **NOT** to do?

Think of Security as a Technology problem.

Jumping in to purchase and deploy the "Next Gen Fancy" tool!

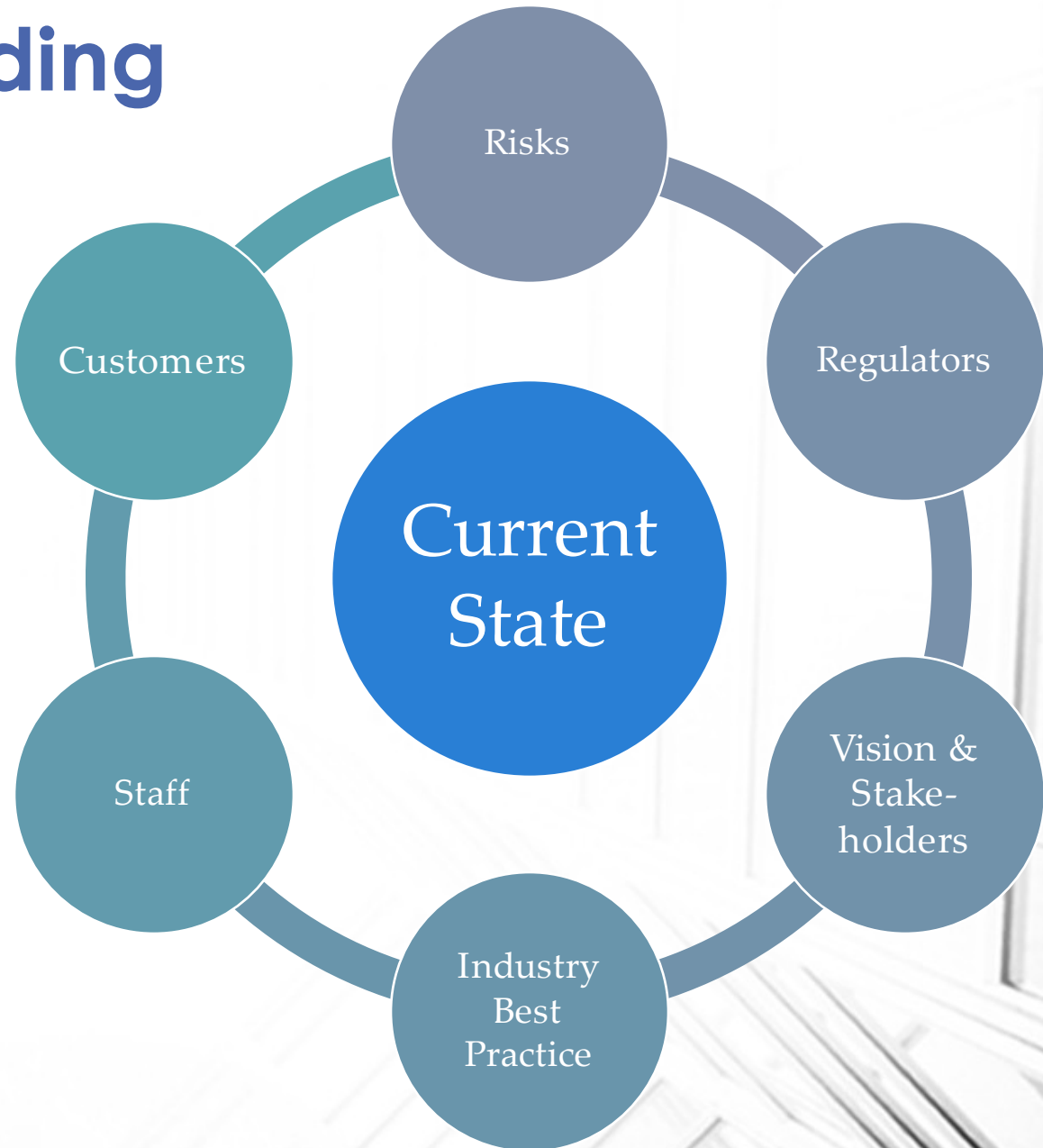*"A Fool with a Tool is STILL a Fool"*

Sourced from internet

Inputs to Security Strategy

A Starting Point to building Security Strategies – The Dimensions

Sources of inputs - Know & understand these dimensions!

Current State

Both images sourced from internet

- Understand the current state well.
  - Measure the current state with the metrics that suits your organization.

Risks

Risk Management – a key player driving strategy.

Disruption is the name of the game - Emergent Technology.

- Banning them may NOT be the solution.
- Enable value-creation from them.

"Well he certainly does a very thorough risk analysis."

Sourced from internet

Regulators

Sourced from internet

- Know the baseline requirements set by your Regulators.

- Compliance is a must to operate in the market.

- Rarely negotiable, but DO NOT shy away from having a meaningful conversation with them.

Orgn. Vision & Stakeholders

Sourced from internet

- Know what the organization wants to achieve.

- Look for:
  - Avenues to integrate security as a part of the overall strategy.
  - Avenues to enhance the overall strategy using security as an enabler.

Industry Best Practices

Sourced from internet

- These are a short-cut to putting up a strategy.

- But, look out for what works for **YOUR** organization.

  - A solution that worked for org A may not be suitable for org B.

Staff

- Considered as the Weakest link in Security.
  - *In my opinion, they **could** be your strongest link and greatest asset.*
- Listen to your staff.
- Oftentimes, they know what doesn't work, and what needs fixing.

Sourced from Bing Image creator

The Customer Dimension

- The most critical dimension!

- Customers – anyone your orgn. serves.
  - Maybe internal / external
  - Maybe provide services for profit or not
  - Maybe provide services as obligation
  - …
  - …
  - Etc.

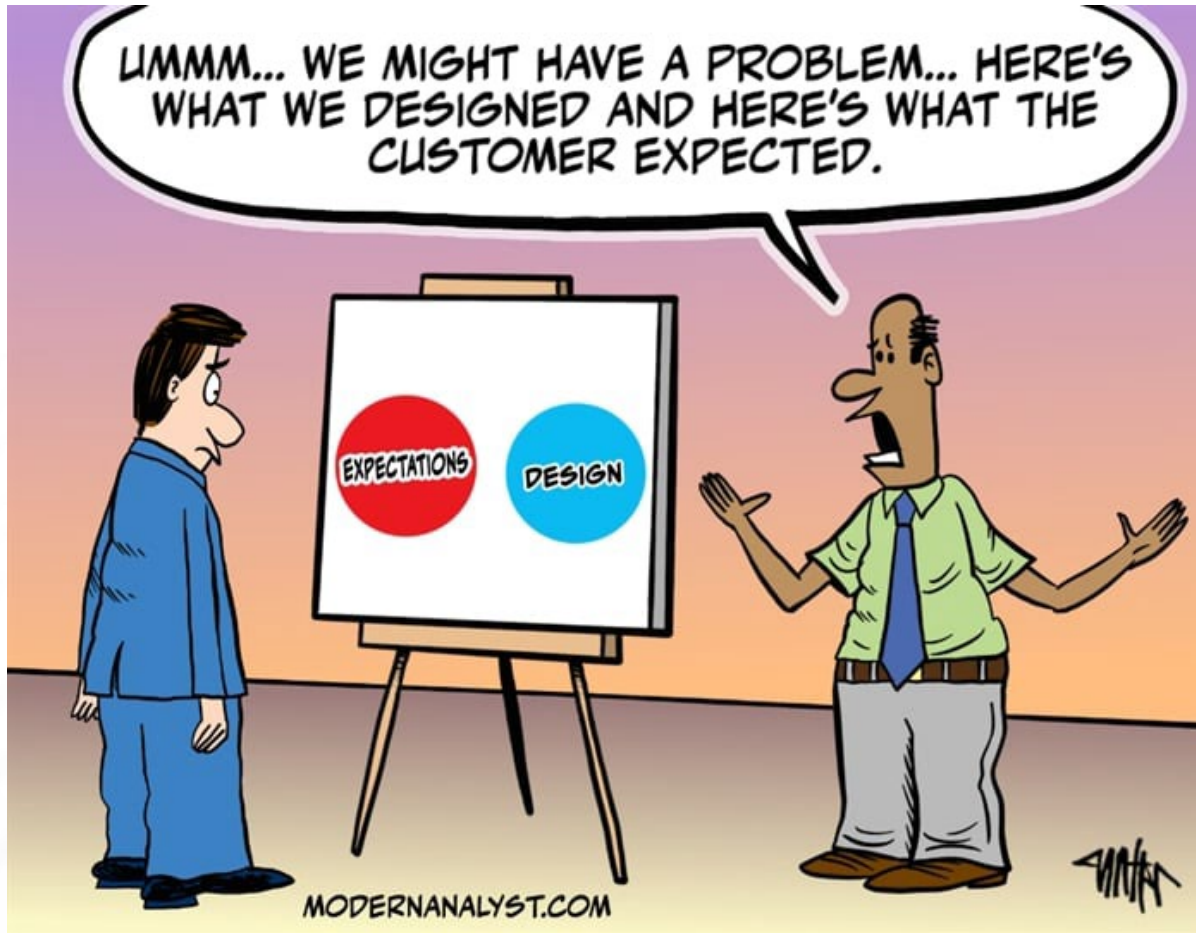- Generally, the most overlooked from a CSO / Security Manager's perspective.

Sourced from internet

The Customer Dimension

Security Function → Organization → Customer

The Customer Dimension

Sourced from internet

- Customer expects security as a part of the product IMPLICITLY.

- Know who your customers are -
  - What they *need* from your products/services.
  - What aspect of security is *expected* by the customer (Hygiene factors).
  - What aspects are considered as *additional value* by them.

- Helps knowing the customer's Customer!

List & Prioritize areas of improvement
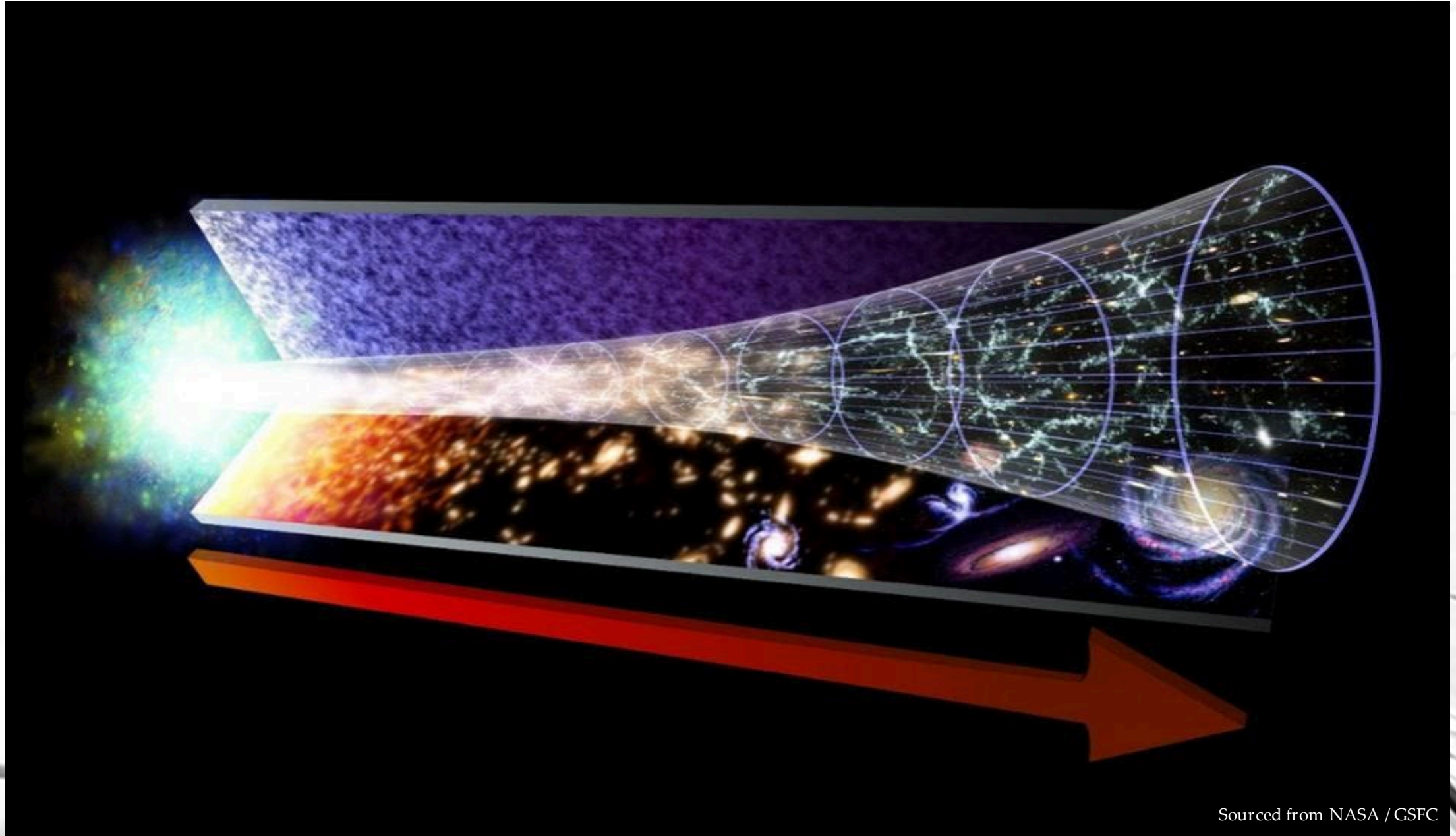

Current State
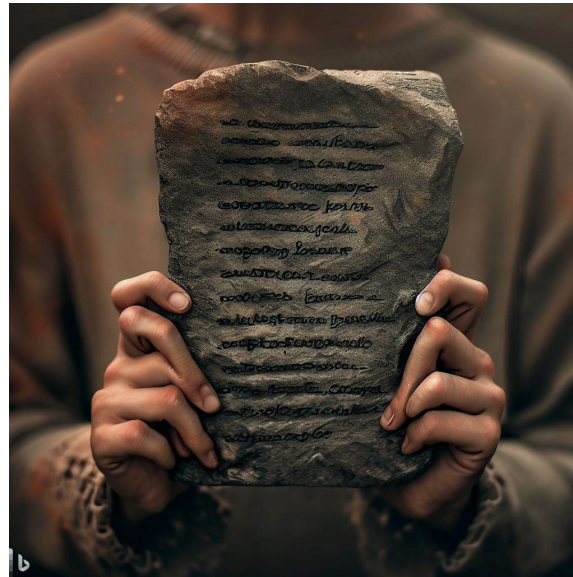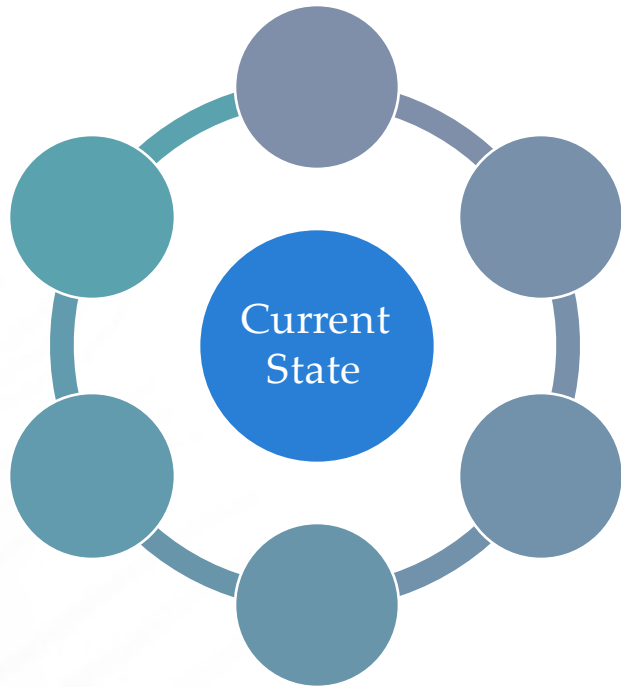
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- Priority List
  - Relation to orgn. goals.
  - Relation to customer's goals.
  - Relation to future trends & emerging risks.
  - Common sense check!

Focused near-term; Wider long-term Strategy

Sourced from NASA / GSFC

PDCA

Monitor the situation and the strategy's effectiveness.

Adapt!

Sourced from internet

Discussions, Comments & Queries

Thank You!

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SAR Raheem
Awarded Top CSO30 Leader in Australia
| Strategic Leader | Spearheading Transfor...