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Can Zero Trust be a business enabler?

Vincent Waart for IT-SA 2022

Introduction

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Leading Digital Infrastructure & Secure Endpoints practice
Responsible for DE region

12+ years of experience in cybersecurity
Ask me about: Zero Trust, Cloud Security, OT Security

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What am I going to discuss today?

Can Zero Trust be a business enabler?

It's all about perception.

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Background: What is it again?

Verify explicitly

Use least privilege access

Assume breach

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Background: Data

- Was predicted to be the world's most valuable resource (the Economist, 2017)
- Can be a liability
- While it is driving change in the business, it introduces risk

Our digital infrastructures and data require a delicate balance of security and risk

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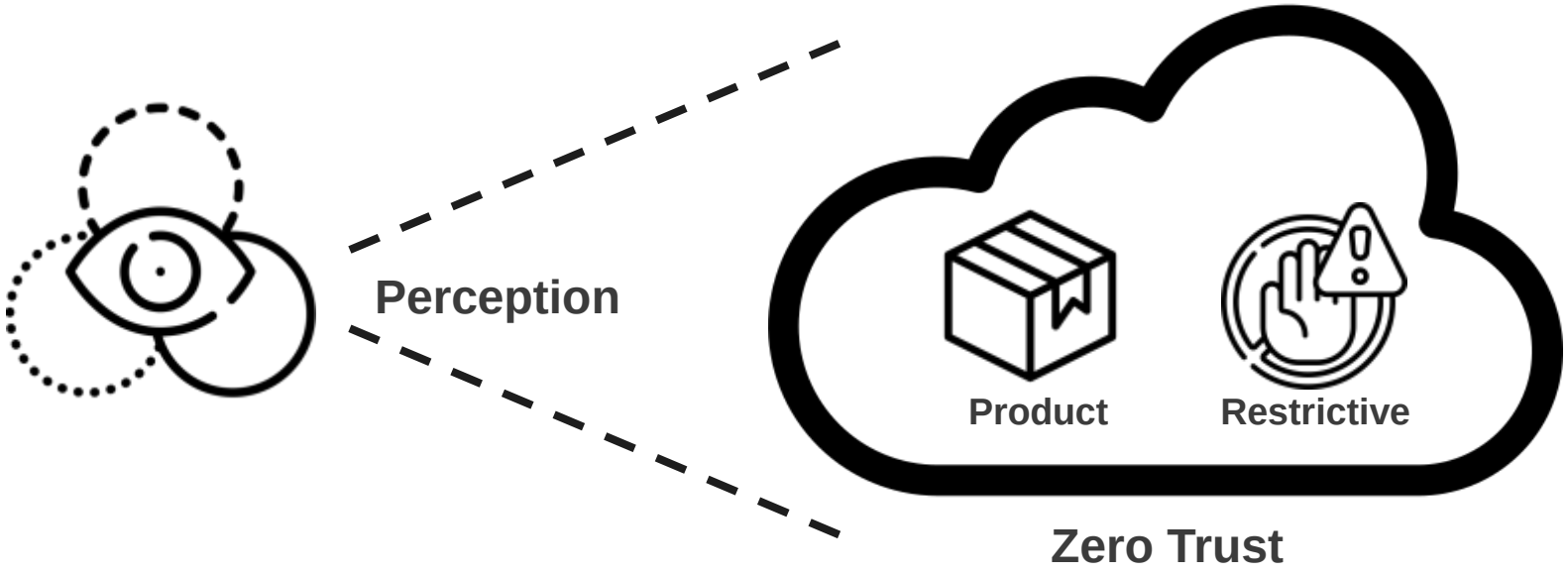
Background: Zero Trust

Zero trust is a by-product of the digital evolution: an enabler of future digital transformation

It is about making business assets accessible to the right people at the right time, regardless of where the asset resides



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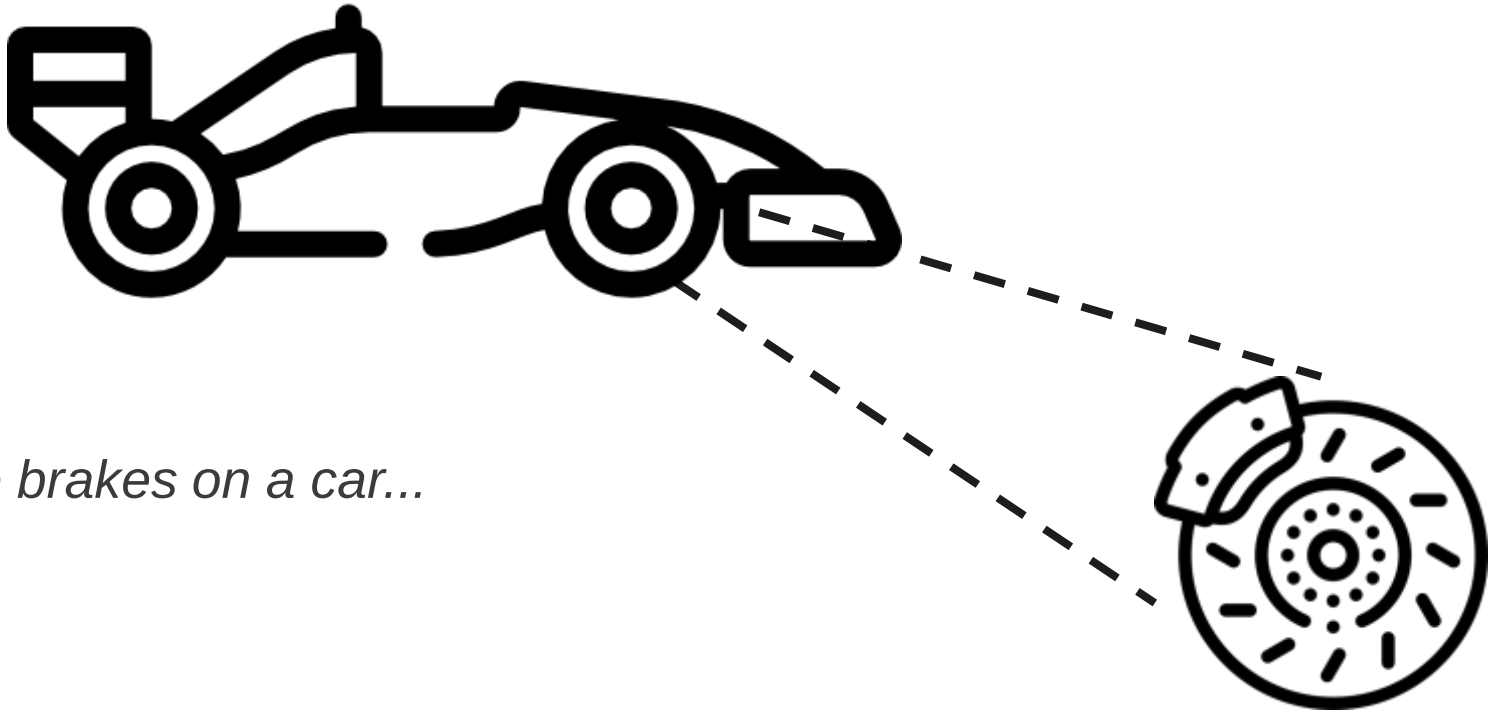
Background: Zero Trust

*The right security measures can and will **enable** the **business** to **move faster**!*



Just like the brakes on a car...

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Perception: Shift in thinking needed by Business

What C-suite and business often think:

No security incidents = security is doing great

0 Security incidents ≠ Security risks

If a car has no brakes, or they fail, it will spin out on turns

The brakes are an *enabler* for the car's performance

German GP 2014, brake disc failure causes crash

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Perception: Shift in thinking needed by Business

The shift in thinking that needs to happen for Zero Trust and Security

Frame conversations in terms of risk

Ask questions such as…

If medical data ends up in the wrong hands, what are the consequences?

If we want to offer more personalized financial services, what data will we need and who will have access?

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Perception: Shift in thinking needed by IT organization

For many engineering and IT professionals Security is **checklist dictated** from **above**

Just another task on an already long to-do list that adds **no value**

Security should be greatly **incentivized** with bonuses **during** IT engineering process

Security goals be **integrated** into IT projects to **avoid becoming** a **roadblock** and bolt on

Create a **direct link** between CISO and the CEO so that **cyber risks** are **better visible**

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Perception: Shift in thinking by Security professionals

Security professional either take a **top-down or** a more practical **hands-on approach**

Neither of these are inherently wrong

We ideally should apply a **mix** of **both**, where we **turn requirements** into **technical solutions**

We should adopt **scenario based thinking** when **assessing threats** relevant to the business. Have a **lateral thinking** mindset.

Why **build** a **tank** when you want to **win** a **race**
We are here to be **successful as a business**

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Zero Trust: Where to start?

Implementing Zero Trust is a journey that will take time (years)

It requires a shift in mindset for your organization to be successful

Ensure you have **management buy-in** and **educate** them

Understand where you are today in your Zero Trust journey

A good first **start** would be **implementing** Zero Trust for **Identities** and **Devices**

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Thank you!

Let's connect to stay in touch!

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