# Zero Trust, Cybersecurity, and Artificial Intelligence – A Winning Team

# George Finney, CISO The University of Texas System

**March 2025** 



# Every Step Matters

WHEN AI AND ZERO TRUST COLLIDE

### RISE OF THE MACHINES

A PROJECT ZERO TRUST STORY



GEORGE FINNEY WITH ZACH VINDUSKA FOREWORD BY JOHN KINDERVAG

WILEY







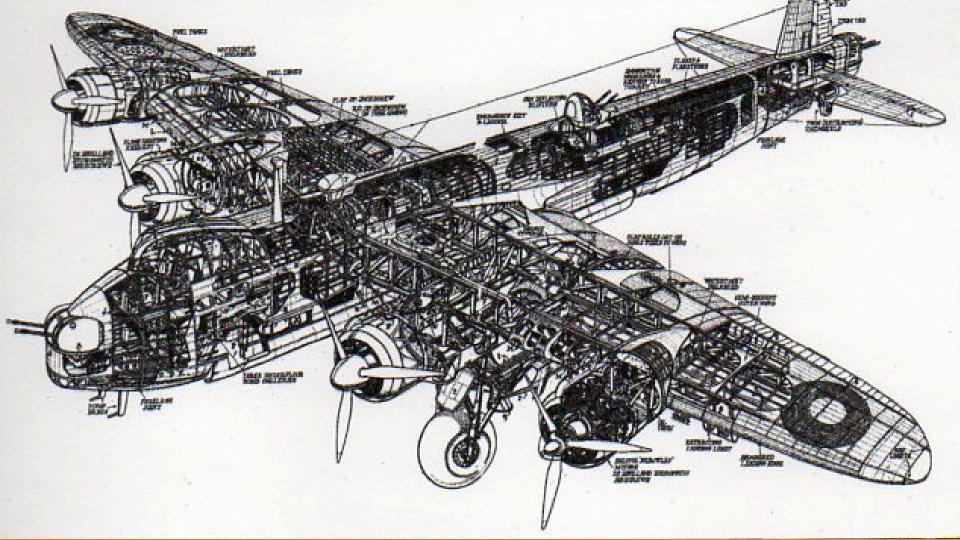






Zero Trust | zē'rō 'trøst | Noun | A strategy for preventing or containing cybersecurity breaches by removing the trust relationships in digital systems.





### **Zero Trust Principles**



1. Focus on Business Outcomes



2. Design From The Inside Out



3. Determine Who/What Needs Access



4. Inspect and Log All Traffic



### **Zero Trust Design Methodology**











1. Define
Your
Protect
Surface

2. Map Your Transaction Flows

3. Architect Your Environment

4. Create Zero Trust Policies

5. Monitor and Maintain

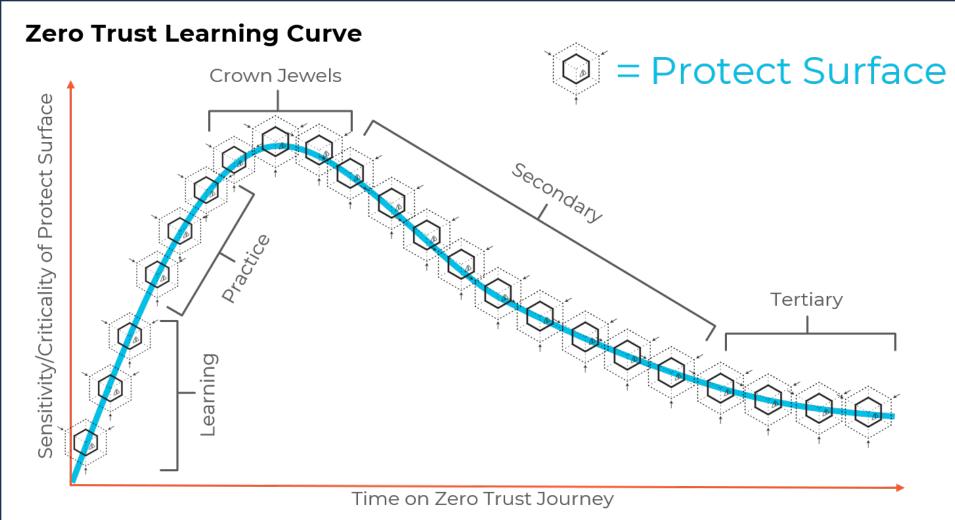




- Contains Blast Radius
- Auto Discovery of All Assets
- Data Classification
- Microsegmentation

## 1. Define Your Protect Surface







# 2. Map Your Transaction Flows

- No Unknown Traffic
- Safelisting
- Transaction Flows are automatically mapped and visualized
- IT Governance vets all flows





GAN
Open Source
Third-party
Proprietary

#### Model Training

Training Testing Validation

#### 5 Monitoring

Logging Performance Analysis

#### 7 Serving

Queries
Response
Serving/Scaling
Gateways

#### Data Prep

Data Cleaning Tokenization Vector Databases Analytics

### Model Development

Curation
Orchestration
Evaluation
Tuning
Agents

#### 6 Identity

Subscriptions Agents

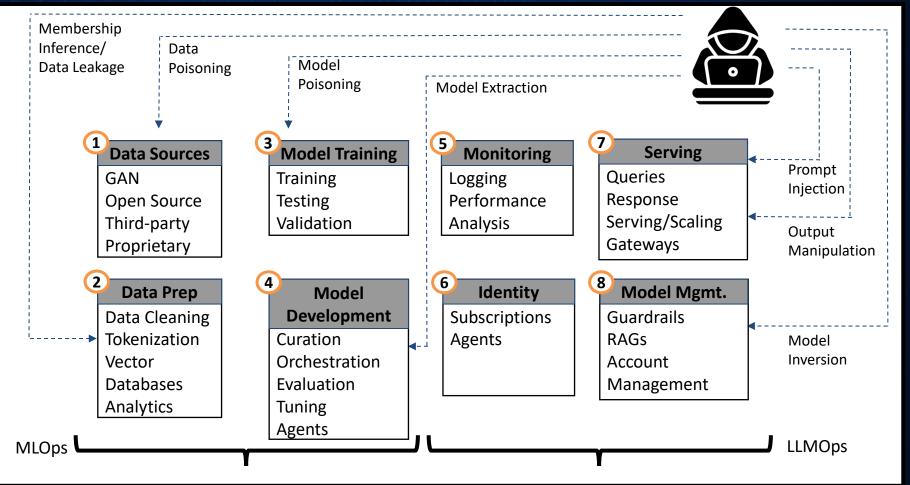
#### 8 Model Mgmt.

Guardrails RAGs Account Management

**MLOps** 

**LLMOps** 



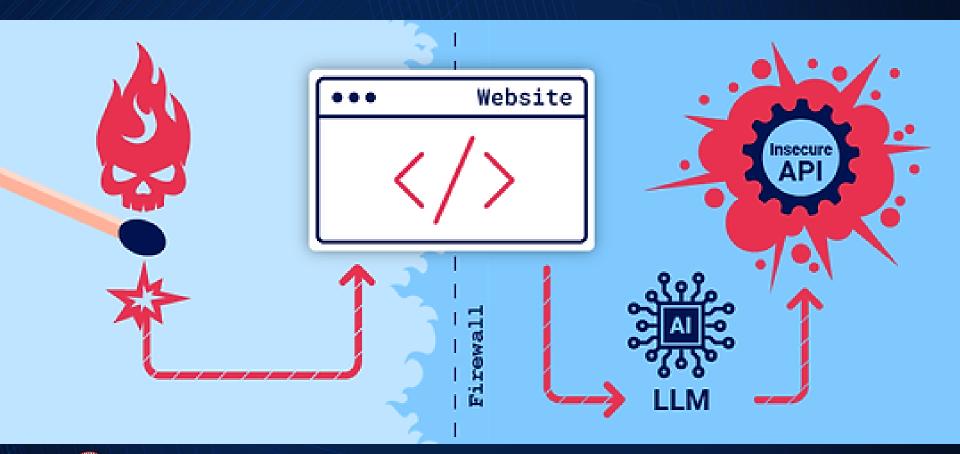




## 3. Architect Your Environment

- No Reference Architecture
- Bespoke Controls
- Align Risk with Resources
- Red Teaming/Pre-Mortems
- Environment Specific







# 4. Create Zero Trust Policies

- Kipling Policies
- Layer 7 Policy
- Identity Integrations (Policy Engine, SASE, etc.)
- Terminations and Transfers
- Governance, Risk, and Compliance



### **Spotting The Trusts**

Identity Device/Workload **Transaction** Access Enforce least-Validate users with Scan all content for **Zero Trust for** Verify user device privilege user malicious activity strong integrity access to data and Users authentication and data theft applications Enforce least-Validate developers. Scan all content for privilege access for **Zero Trust for** Verify workload devops, and admins workloads malicious activity with strong integrity **Applications** accessing other and data theft authentication workloads Least-privilege Scan all content Validate all users access within the **Zero Trust for** Identify all devices infrastructure for with access to the segmentation for including IoT Infrastructure infrastructure native and thirdmalicious activity party infrastructure and data theft



### 5. Monitor and Maintain

- Security Operations
   Center
- Managed Security
   Solutions Providers
- Penetration Testing
- Tabletop Exercises
- Incident Response Teams





#### Map

Context is recognized and risks related to context are identified



#### Measure

Identified risks are assessed, analyzed, or tracked



#### Govern

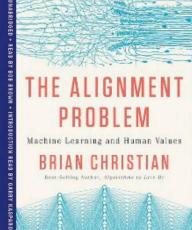
A culture of risk management is cultivated and present

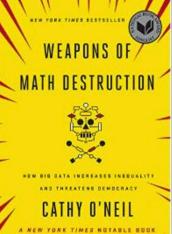


#### Manage

Risks are prioritized and acted upon based on a projected impact

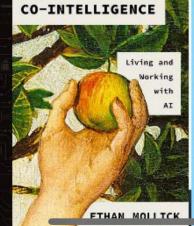






JUSTIN HUTCHENS LANGUAGE WEAPONIZING

PERRY CARPENTER



A Brief **History of Artificial** Intelligence

**lichael** 

O'REILLY'

Al and Machine Learning for Coders

A Programmer's Guide to Artificial Intelligence



The University of Texas System

### **Questions?**

George Finney gfinney@utsystem.edu linkedin.com/in/georgefinney

