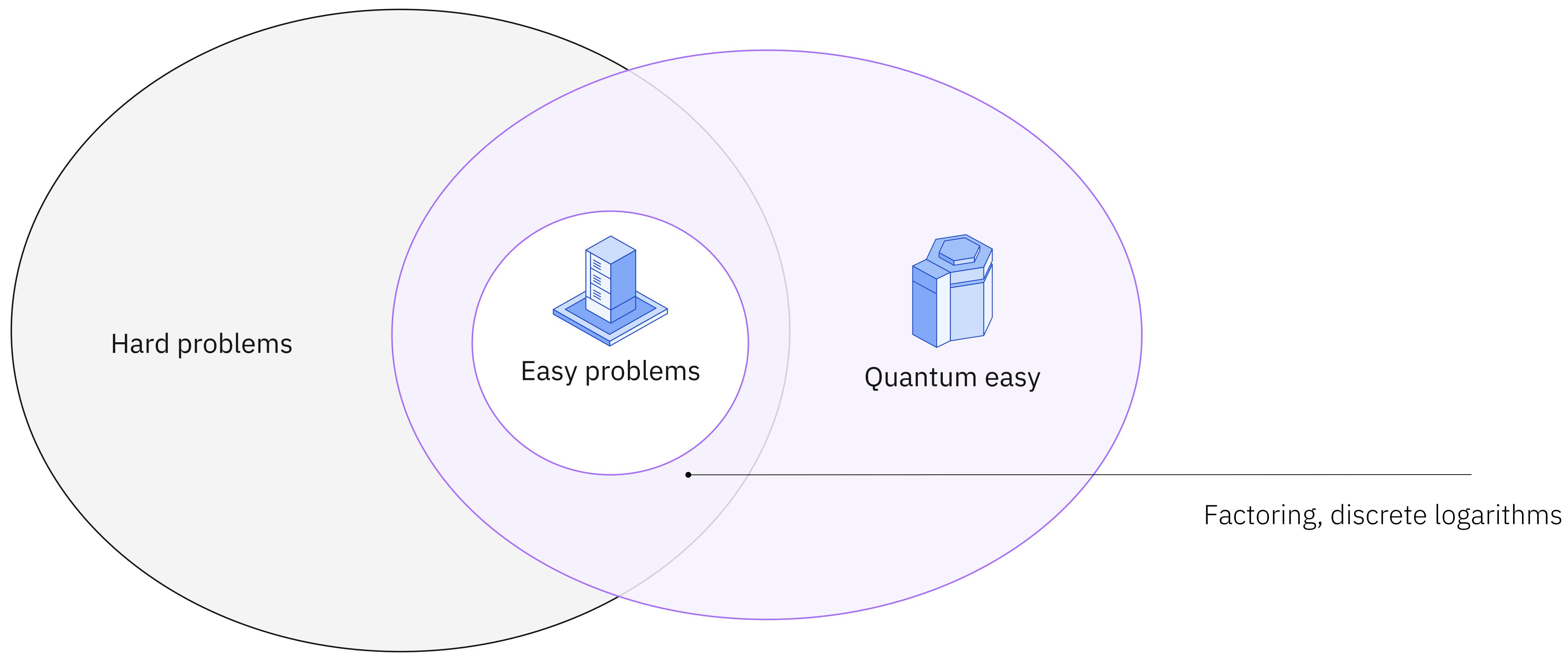


Dr. Efstathia Katsigianni
IBM Research

Migrating to Quantum
Safe

The source of quantum risk

There is a rich seam of problems that cannot be solved by classical and AI supercomputing, and never will. These are the trillion-dollar problems that quantum computing was designed to solve.



NIST standardization for Quantum-Safe Cryptography

NIST Standards

Asymmetric algorithms need to be replaced with “quantum-safe” ones

NIST published in August 2024 the **final Standards** for 3 out of the 4 quantum-safe algorithms selected – more standards are expected in the next years

A lot of ongoing work for bringing those into **libraries, protocols, products**

FIPS 203

Federal Information Processing Standards Publication

Module-Lattice-Based Key-Encapsulation Mechanism Standard

ML-KEM: Primary algorithm for Key encapsulation (to be used for key exchange)

FIPS 204

Federal Information Processing Standards Publication

Module-Lattice-Based Digital Signature Standard

ML-DSA: Primary algorithm for digital signatures

FIPS 205

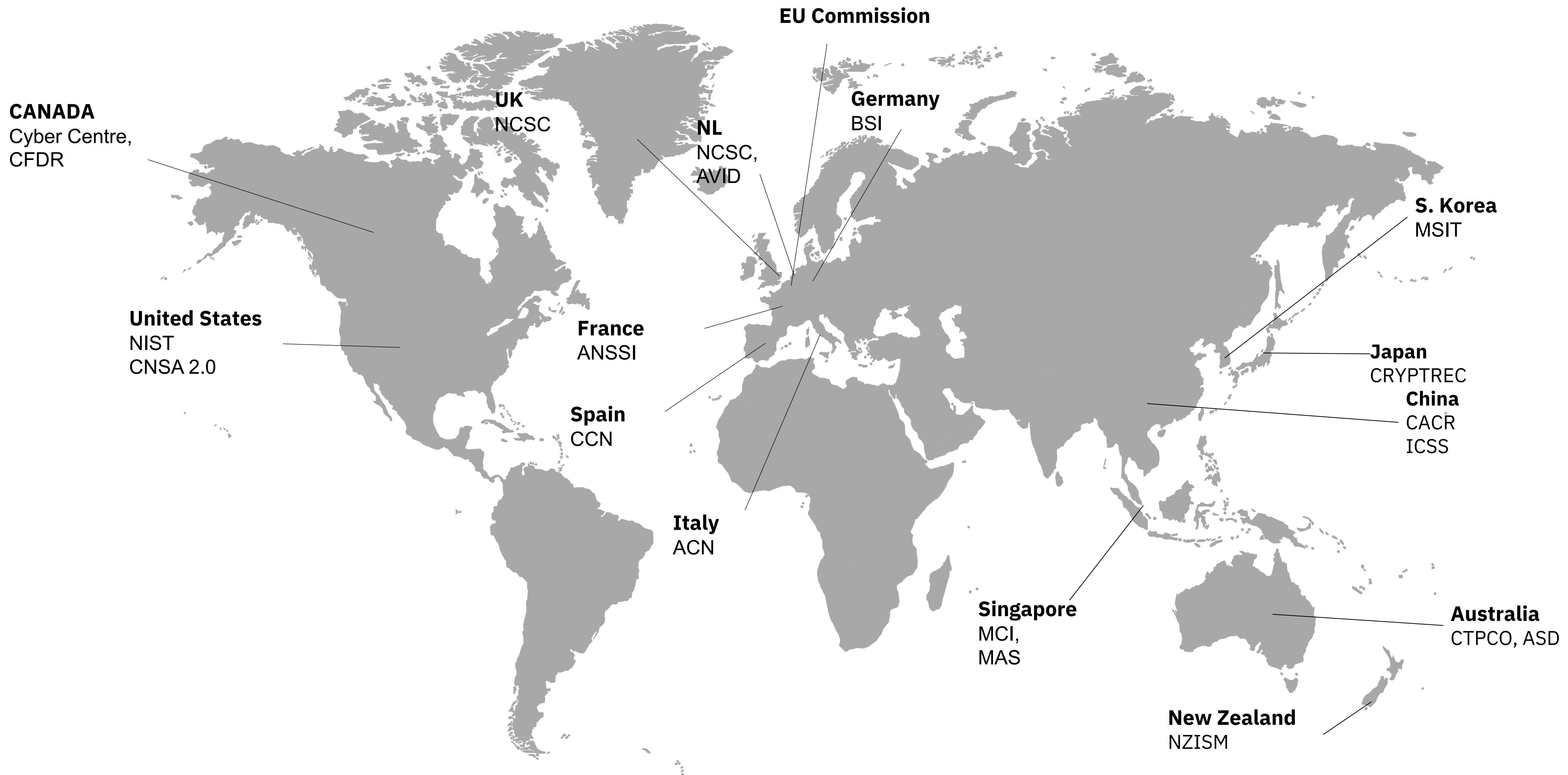
Federal Information Processing Standards Publication

Stateless Hash-Based Digital Signature Standard

SLH-DSA: Stateless hash-based algorithm for digital signatures

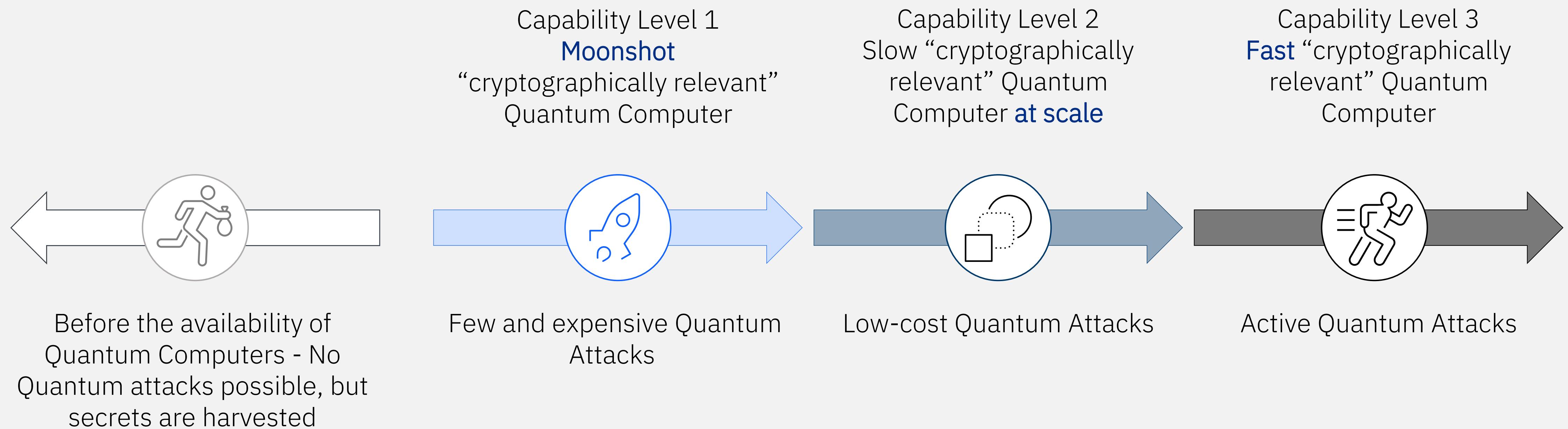
Globally, several recommendations for Post Quantum Cryptography are emerging

International recommendations converge to the early 2030s as a target for a complete migration

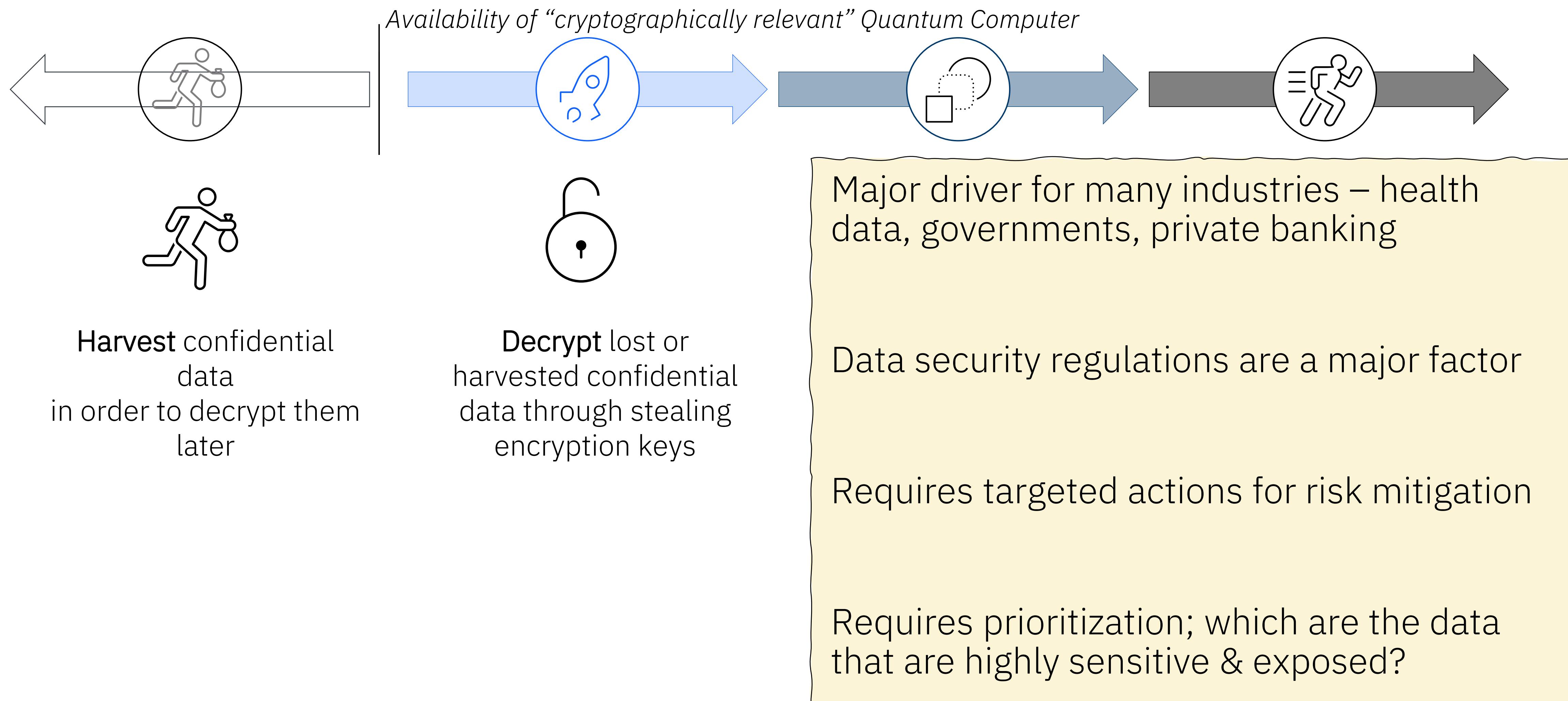


When will Cryptographically Relevant Quantum computers be available?

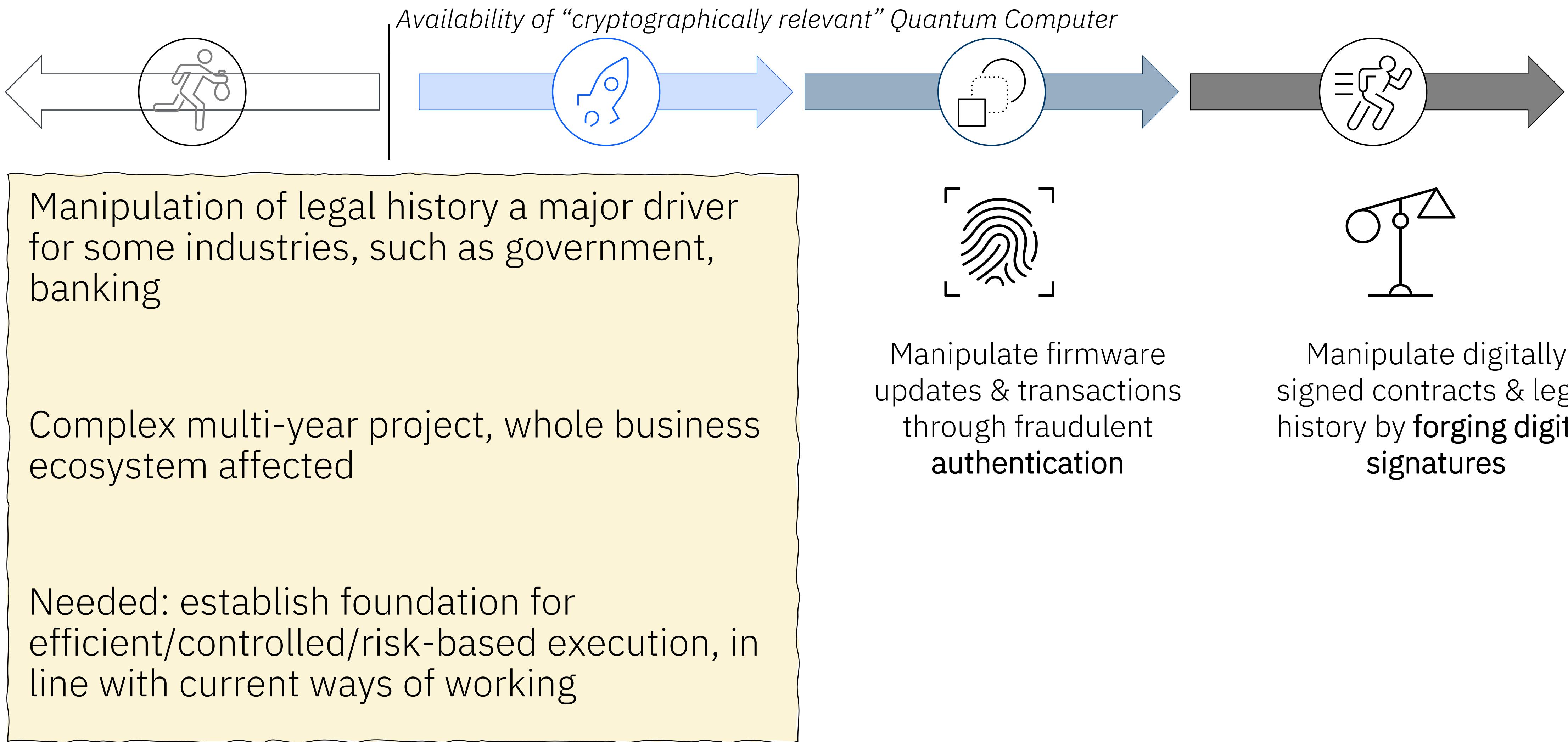
Rather than a single Q-Day, we expect Quantum Computers to gradually improve, therefore reducing the cost of a Quantum Attack



Primary threats and drivers



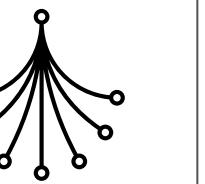
Primary threats and drivers



Cryptography

The enterprise context

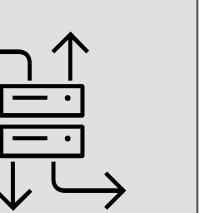
Governance



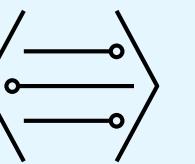
Applications



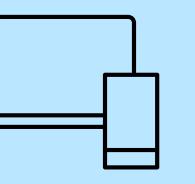
Infrastructure



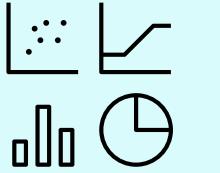
Development



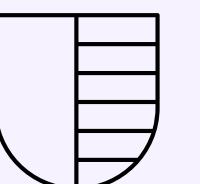
Devices



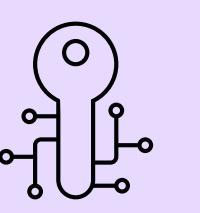
Data



Security

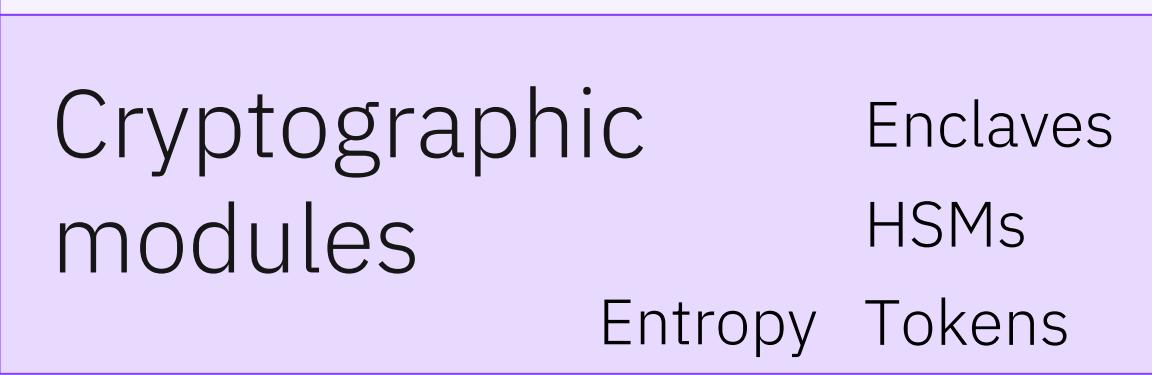
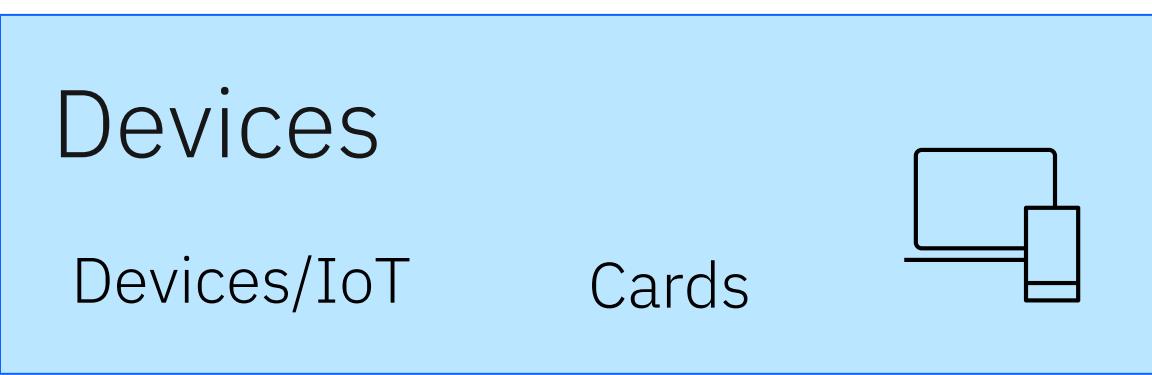
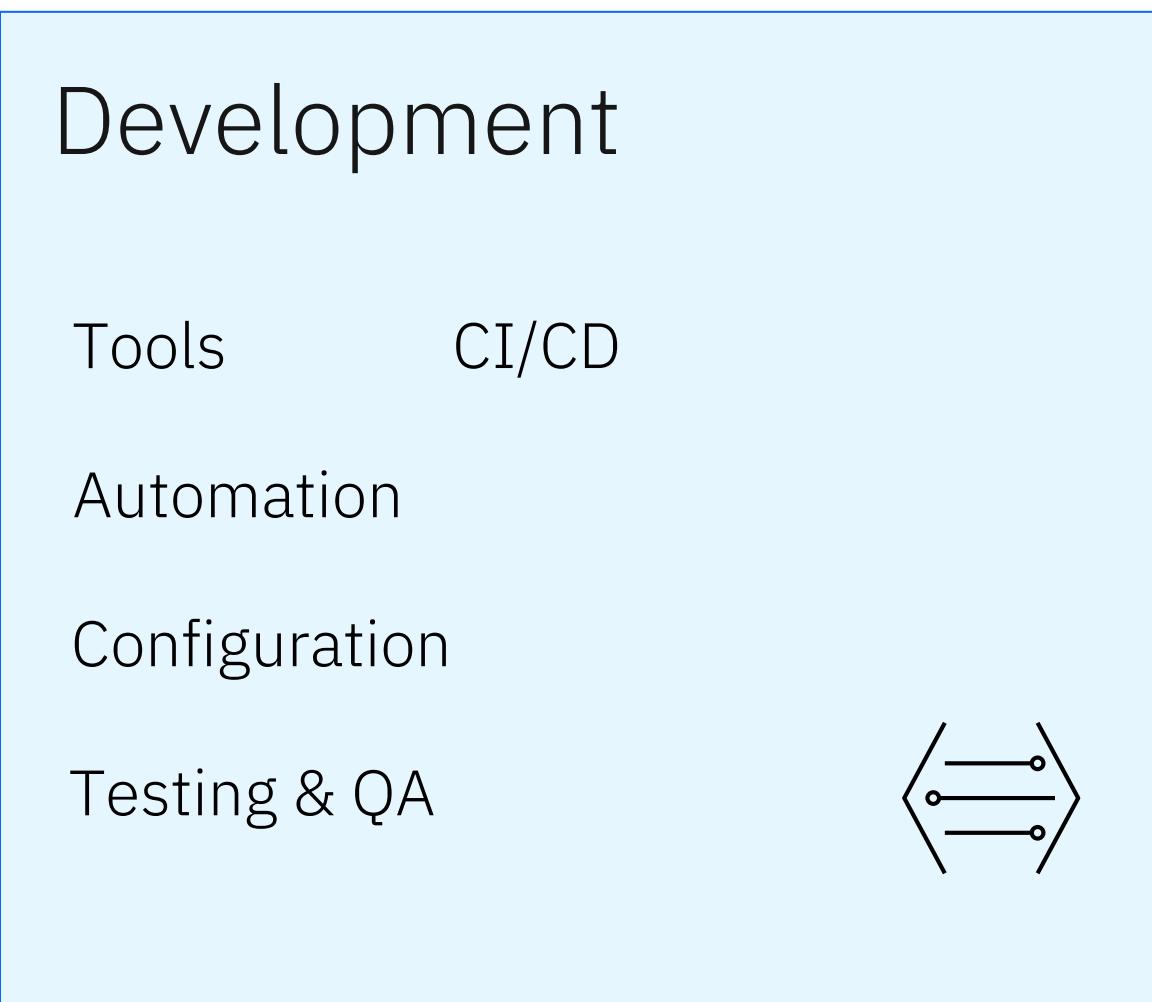
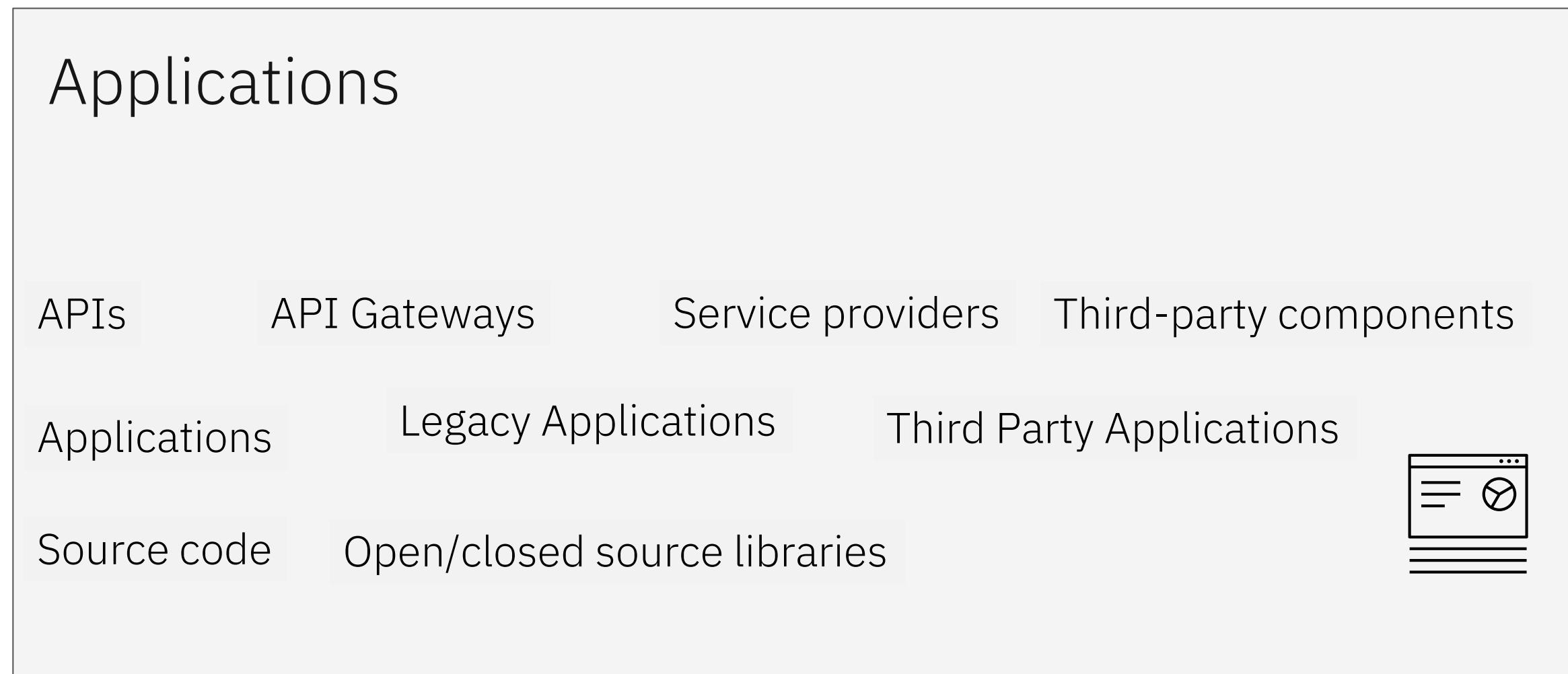
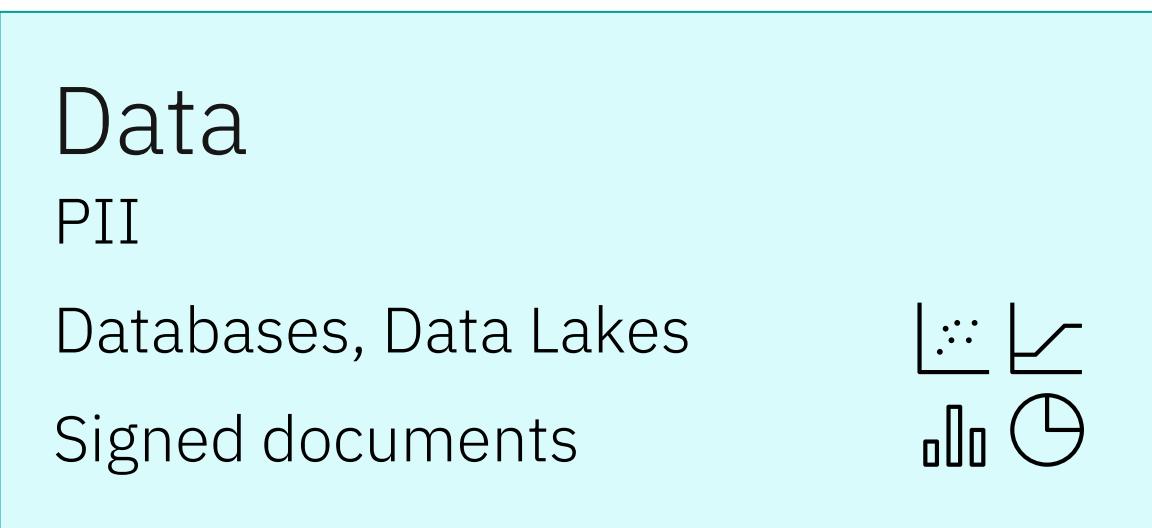


Cryptographic
modules



Cryptography

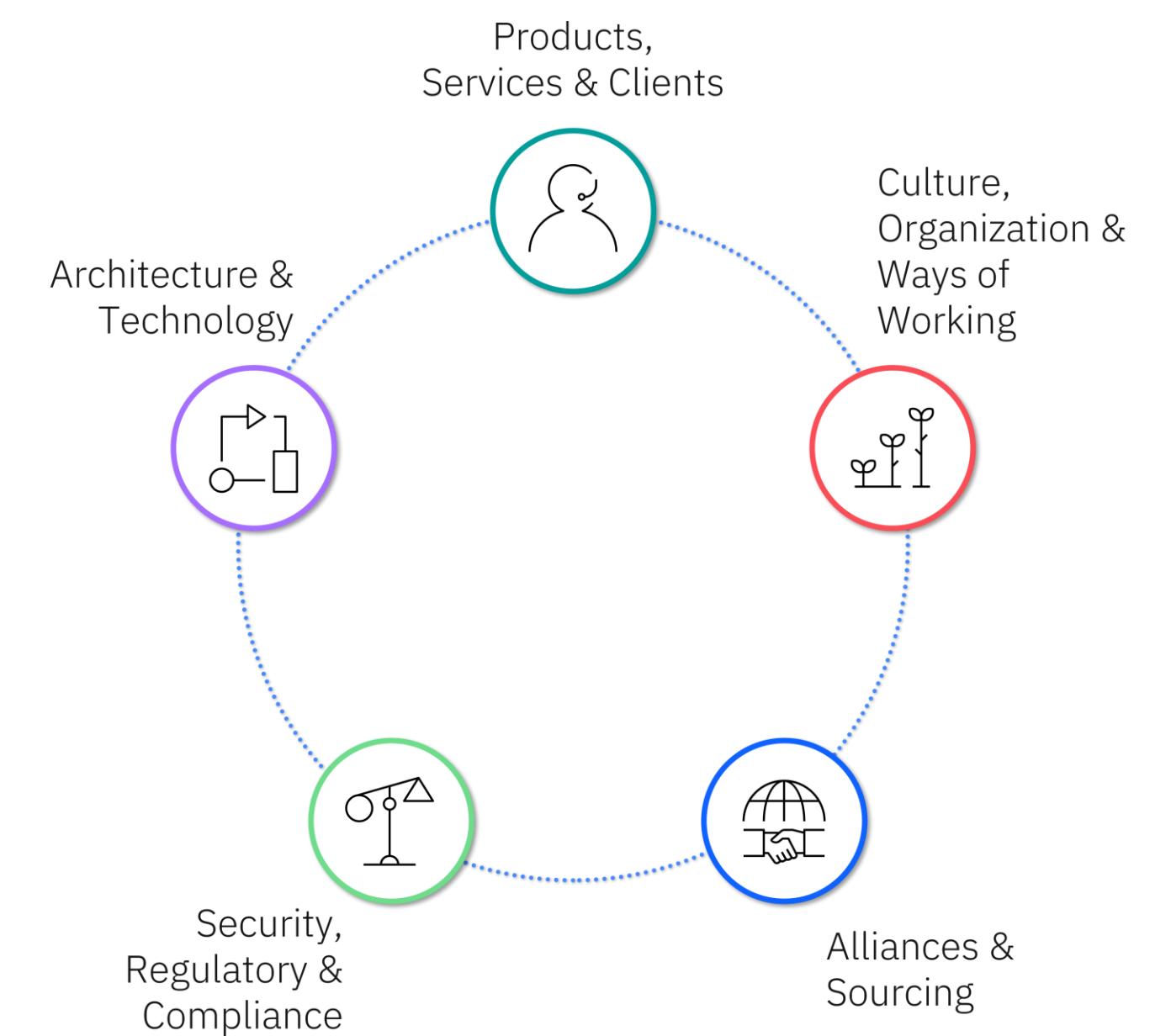
The enterprise context



Transformation key constraints

A typical organization faces many challenges from the beginning of their Quantum Safe transformation:

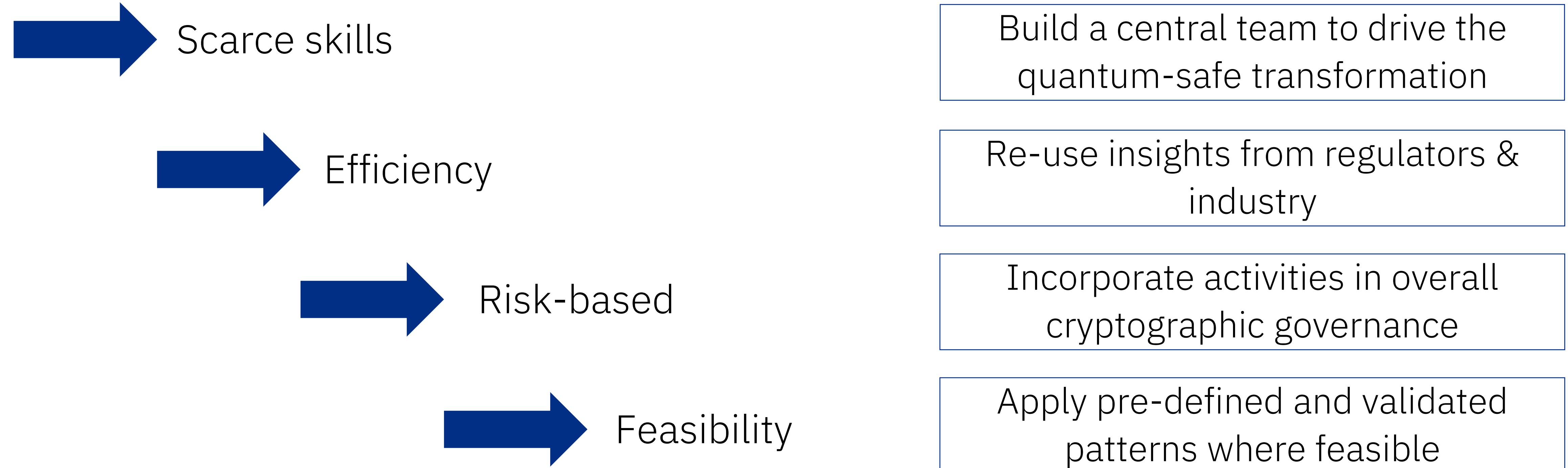
- Obtaining management buy-in & getting mandate to act
- Identifying the right stakeholders
- Prioritizing quantum-safe activities within daily job
- Prioritizing quantum-safe wrt other cybersecurity threats
- Being able to “absorb” the extent of necessary activities
- “Distractions”



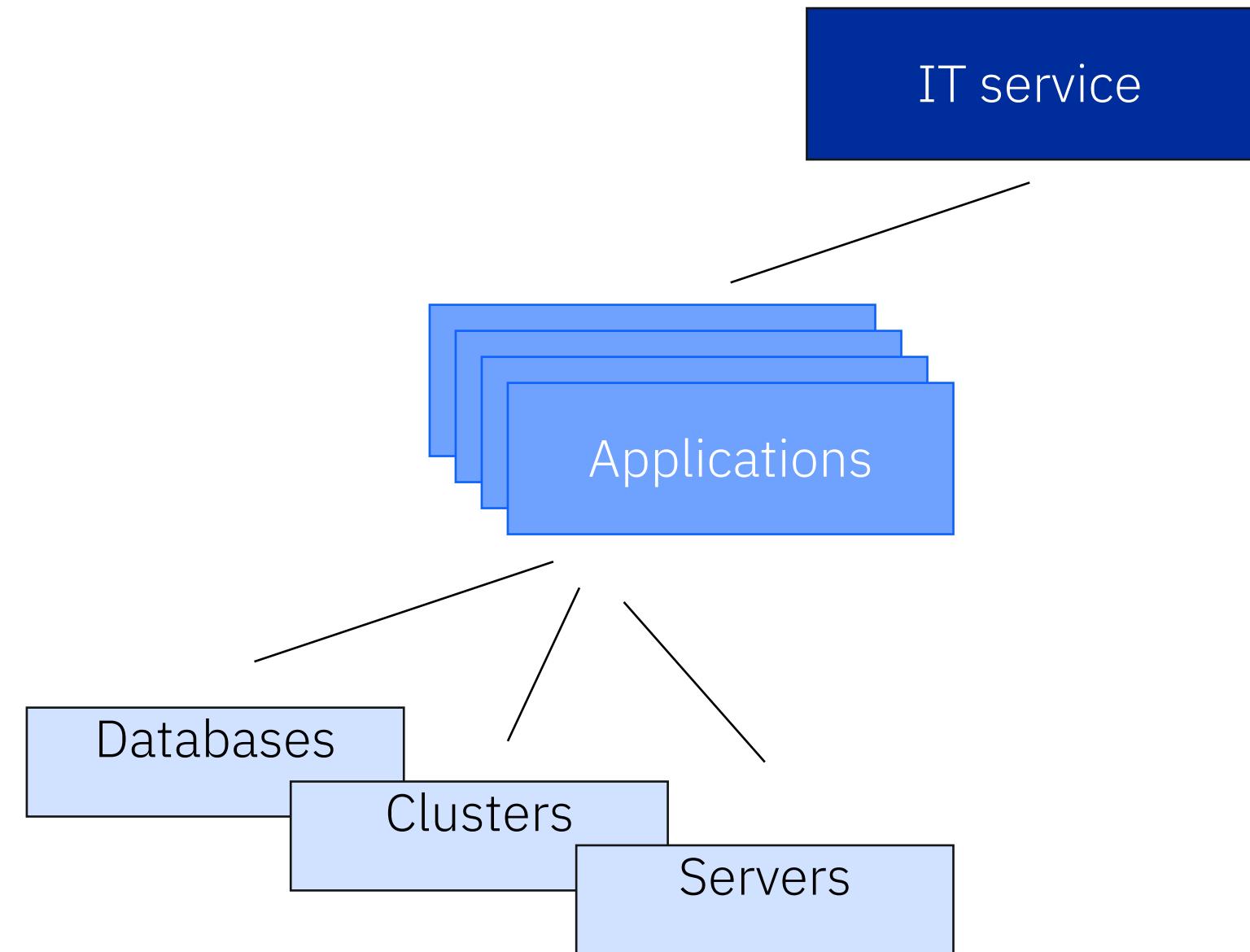
Transformation key constraints

- Scarce skills
- Efficiency
- Risk-based
- Feasibility

Transformation key constraints



Focus on a high-level cryptographic inventory as the first step



Initial focus was set by many on a detailed cryptographic inventory for operations and source-code, but:

- Using the collected insights is hard without context
- Many false positives, very high initial effort with limited gains

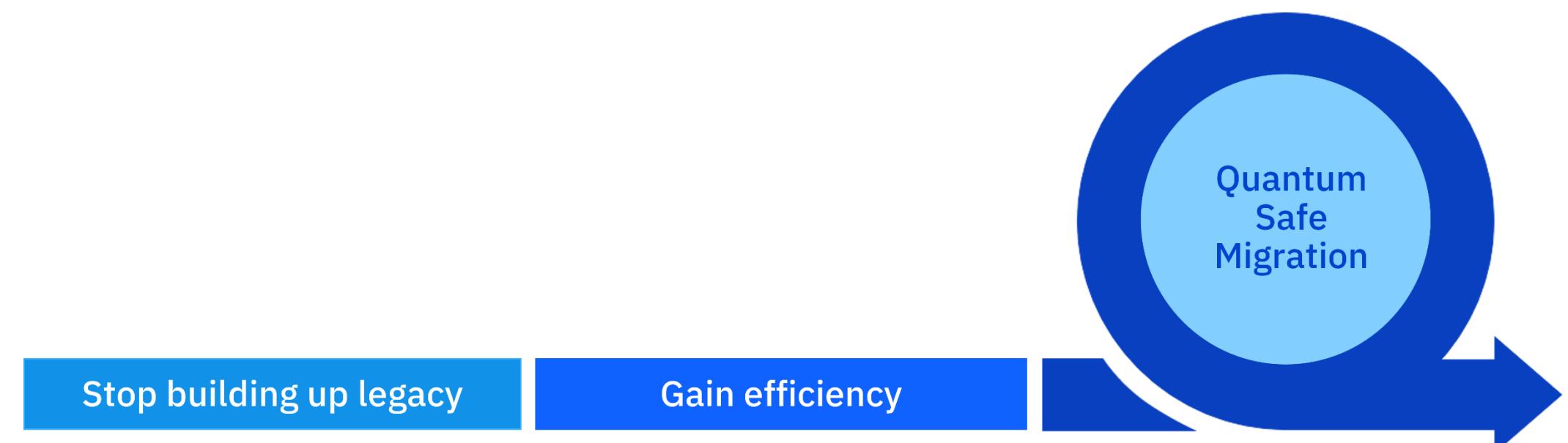
Prioritization should be driven by business criticality of an asset – can be done on IT-Service level

Focusing on **external** critical flows, it is possible to define urgent actions

Identify **dependencies** in more and more depth to drive the migration planning

Create an agile transformation plan

- Transformation plan needs to be **constantly adjusted** according to risk, re-prioritization, and feasibility of actions
- A clear management **mandate** is needed
- Early focused preparation & actions in “fundamental cryptographic services” – e.g., **PKIs**, as well as **procurement**, **cryptographic governance** are key
- Focusing on network perimeter & common infrastructure
- Individual teams need **central guidance** – which algorithms to choose, which technical dependencies to consider, what is the direction of protocol standardization, what to ask from suppliers, etc



Client case study

Client Journey: European Banking Group (incl.
Insurance Business)

Client Profile & Challenge

- Technology provider for large Banking Group with entities across Europe
- Awareness of quantum threat, but no view on QS priorities
- Cryptographic governance not well defined or documented

Payment-specific infrastructure is a high priority use-cases

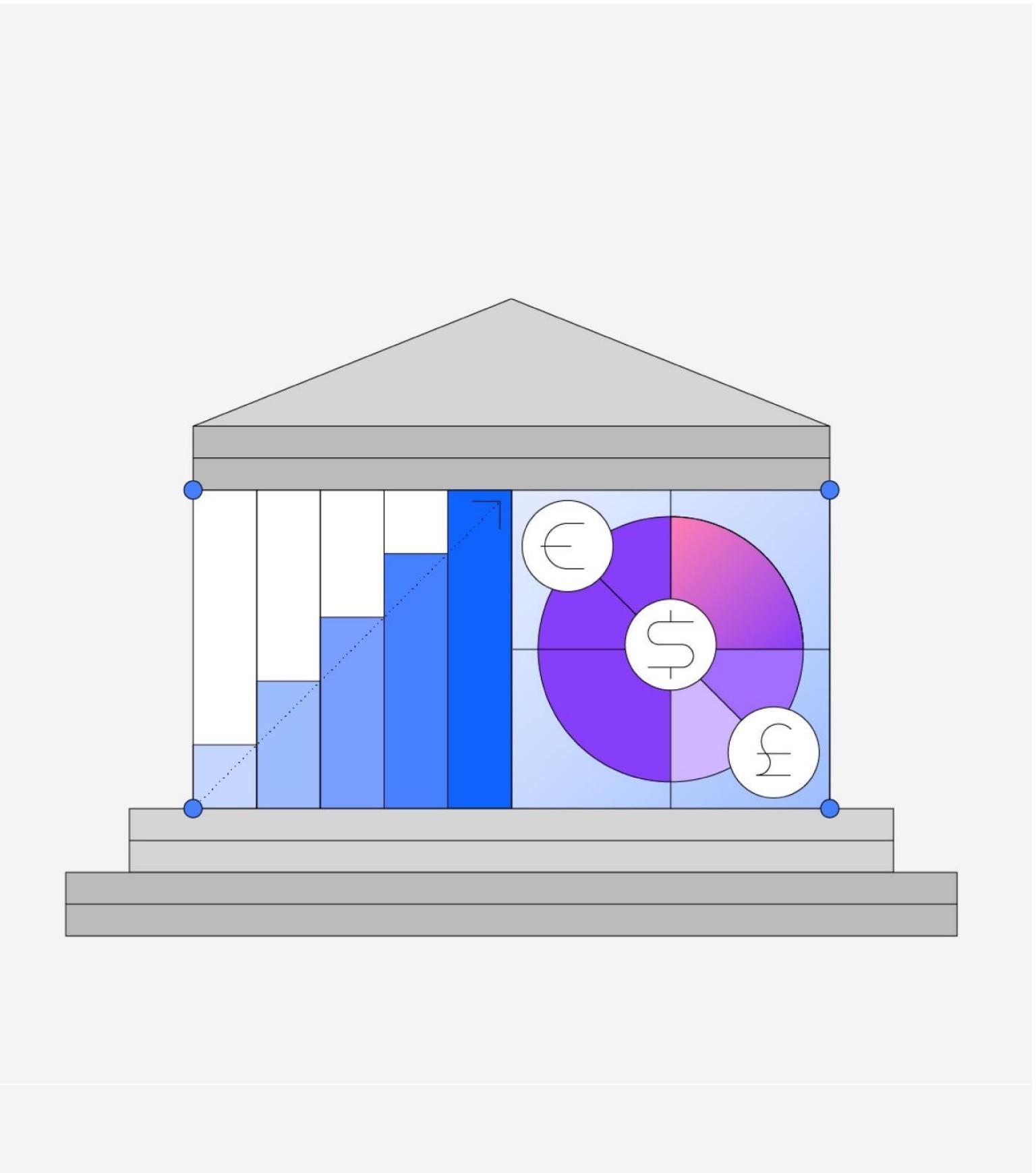
--some parts are depending on payment-specific regulations

Complex PKI landscape – “to hybrid or not to hybrid?”

Internally-developed cryptographic services in need of adaption

Governance of the quantum-safe program within the organization clashes with the internal structure

➔ Complex multi-year transformation



Client case study
A large international telco operating
in many countries.

Client Profile & Challenge

- Large, multi-national telco
- 20+ operating countries
- Diverse vendor landscape
- Struggling with cryptographic posture management
- Unaware of order of magnitude of problem across product, organizational, and infrastructure landscapes

Observability/monitoring is challenging on telco components

What does **cryptographic agility** mean?

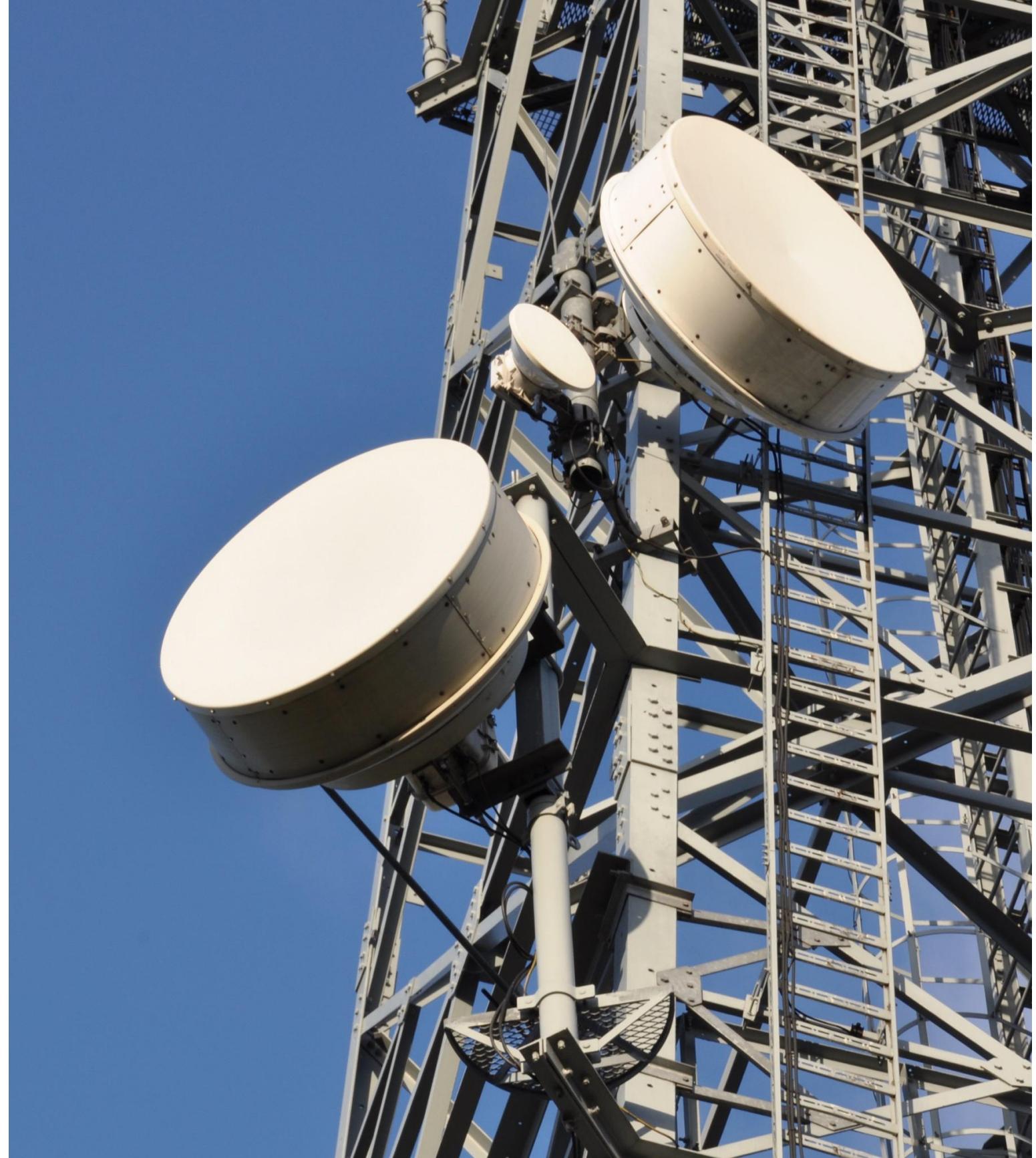
→ Major focus on updateability of products in the field.. Translating into:

- Requirements for suppliers
- Requirements for internal development
- Requirements and adaptations to internal processes

Changes depending on telco-specific standards

IoT-devices in scope pose strict requirements

→ Complex multi-year transformation with group <-> local markets coordination



Key take-aways

Quantum
threatens our
digital security

Quantum computers
threaten current
cryptography

The Quantum Threat is
already **relevant today**

But cryptography is **difficult**
to **replace**

Industry sectors
and Governments
recommend to act

New cryptographic
algorithms have been
developed and standardized

Leading nations have
incorporated quantum-safe
preparation into their
national quantum strategies

Entities such as the
European Commission
encourages Member States
to develop a **comprehensive**
strategy for the adoption of
Post-Quantum Cryptography

Organizations
should take a re-
usable approach

Organizations must **prioritize**
their efforts to address the
quantum threat

A **risk framework** should be
used to identify and prioritize
areas of high risk

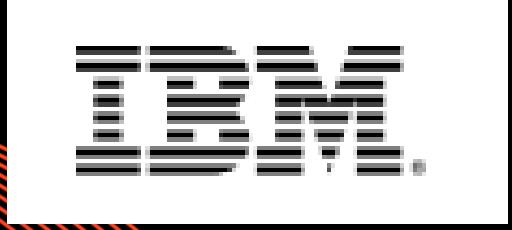
A **central team** approach is
required to manage the
complexity

MINDSHARE

2025 10-11 SEP

Securing
Identity for
our Digital
Future

CYBERSECURITY
LEADERSHIP FORUM



Questions

Dr. Efstathia Katsigianni
IBM Research