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Digital Dominoes: Scanning the Internet to Expose Systemic Cyber Risk

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- Lead Cyber Catastrophe Modeling at Coalition, Inc.
- Pioneered cyber risk models adopted by global insurers & reinsurers
- Previously featured in Financial Times / New York Times for research on systemic infrastructure & climate risk

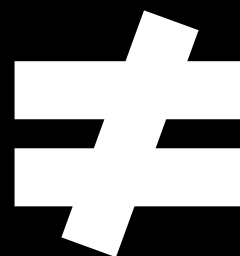


3 Large-scale Cyber Events in 2024



Cyber Catastrophe Risk (CAT)

- Insurance-specific
- Portfolio losses quantification
- Commercial CAT models
- **Risk Management:** underwriting, coverage, capitalization, reinsurance



Systemic Cyber Risk (SCR)

- Broader than insurance
- Economy- / industry-wide impact
- Ad hoc impact assessment
- **Interventions:** public policy, regulation, public-private sector collaboration

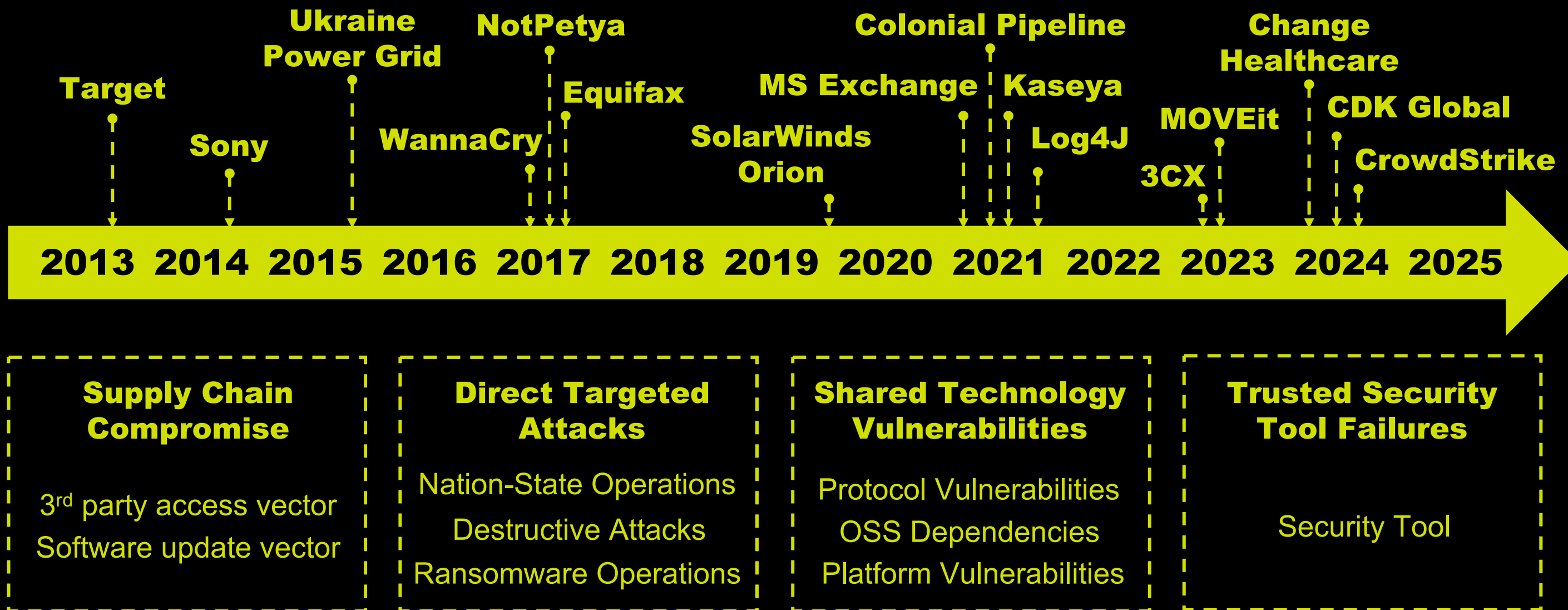


Same Root Cause

**Accelerated Interconnectedness in
our Increasingly Digital Economies**

Dissecting Past Cyber Events

Categorizing Landmark Cyber Events



(More or Less) Common Cyber Insurance Levers

**From “Silent
Cyber” to
Affirmative
Cyber**

**Coverage
Expansion &
Exclusion**

**Sub-Limits
Introduction**

**Premium
Adjustment**

**Underwriting
Scrutiny +
Formal
Controls**

**More Robust
Data
Collection**

**Reinsurance
/ Risk Capital**



Major Public Policy / Regulator Response

**Public
Reporting**

**Best
Practice /
Guidance /
Advisory**

**Attribution /
Coordinate
/ “Fix”**

**Charges /
Fines /
Sanctions**

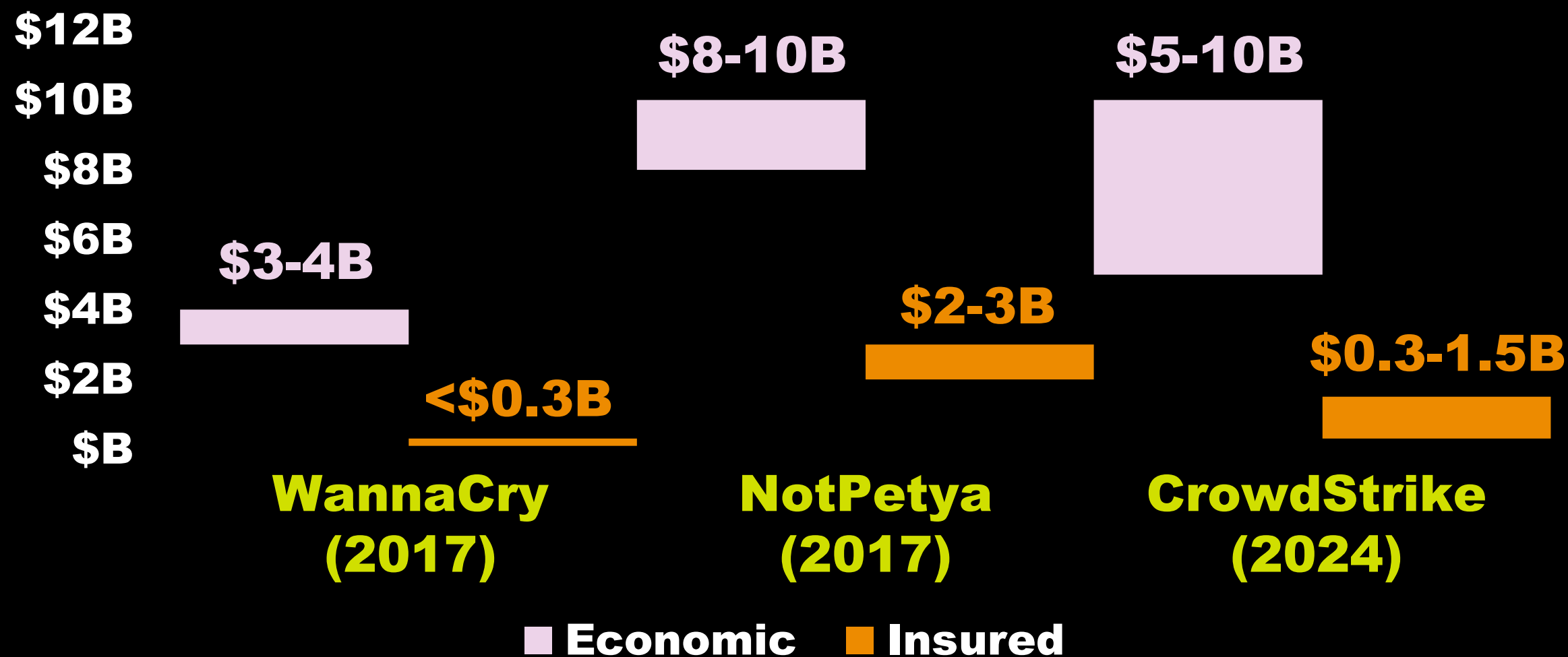
**Supply
Chain
Visibility**

**Critical
Infrastructure**

**Finance &
Insurance**



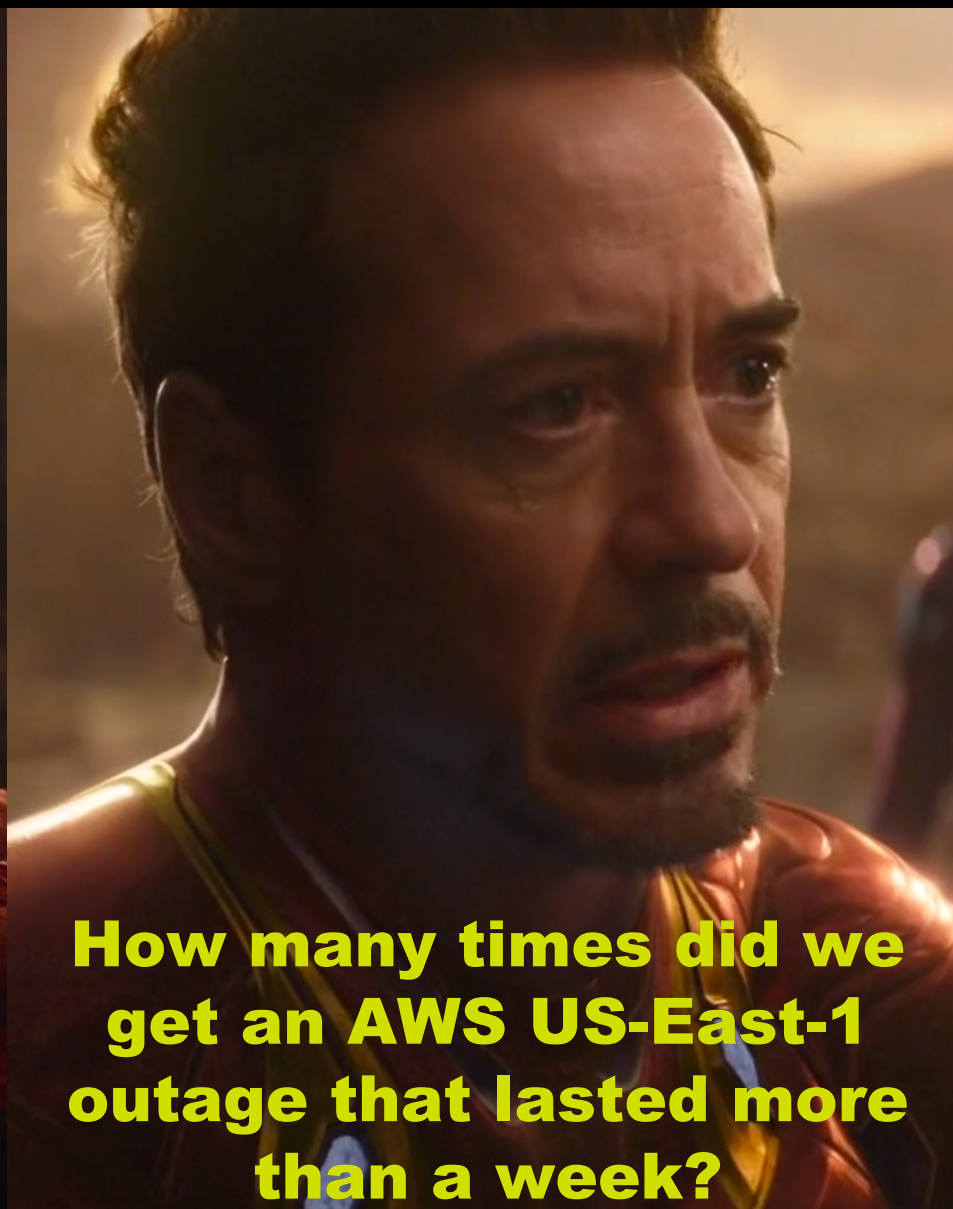
Loss Estimates from Past Cyber Events



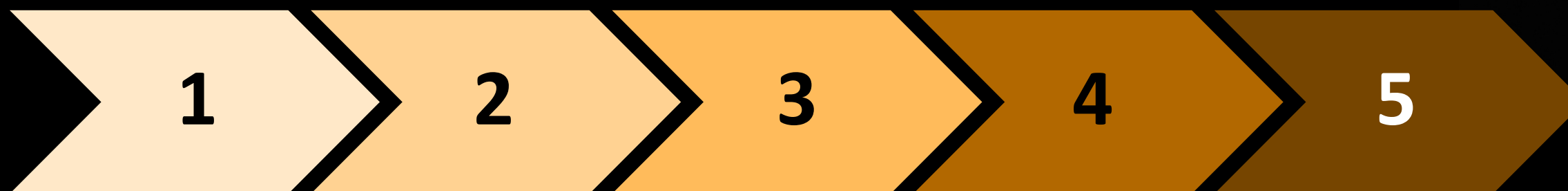


Modeling What Matters in Systemic Cyber Risk

What is Cyber Catastrophe Risk Modeling?



Insurance Catastrophe Modeling 101



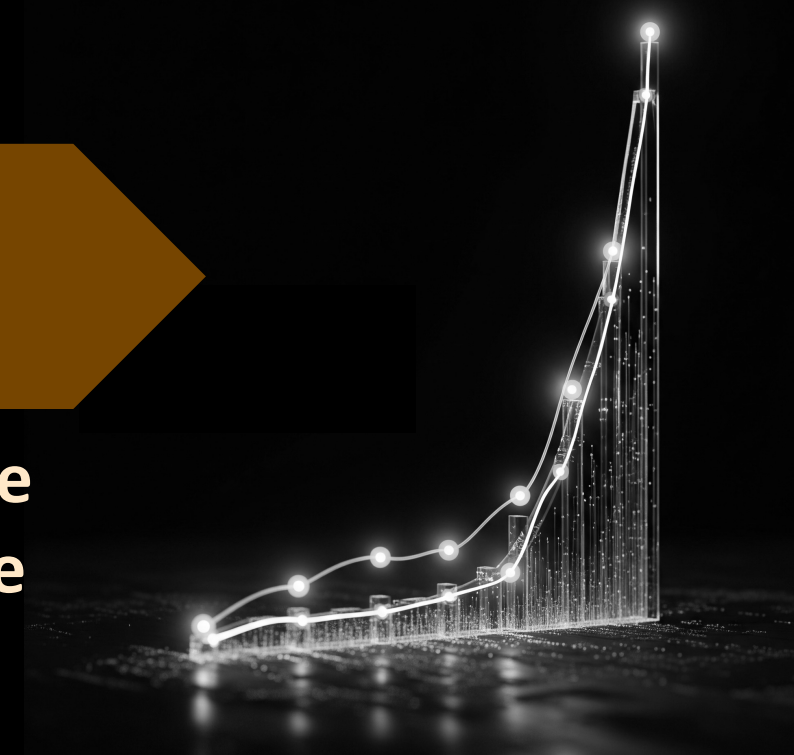
Event
Set

Hazard
Footprint

Exposure
(assets, orgs)

Vulnerability
/ Severity

Insurance
Coverage



**Great fit for insurance / reinsurance risk
quantification & management use cases**

... But CAT Models suboptimal for SCR

Misaligned Modeling Paradigm

- Static “Nat Cat” approach is a poor fit for dynamic **SCR**

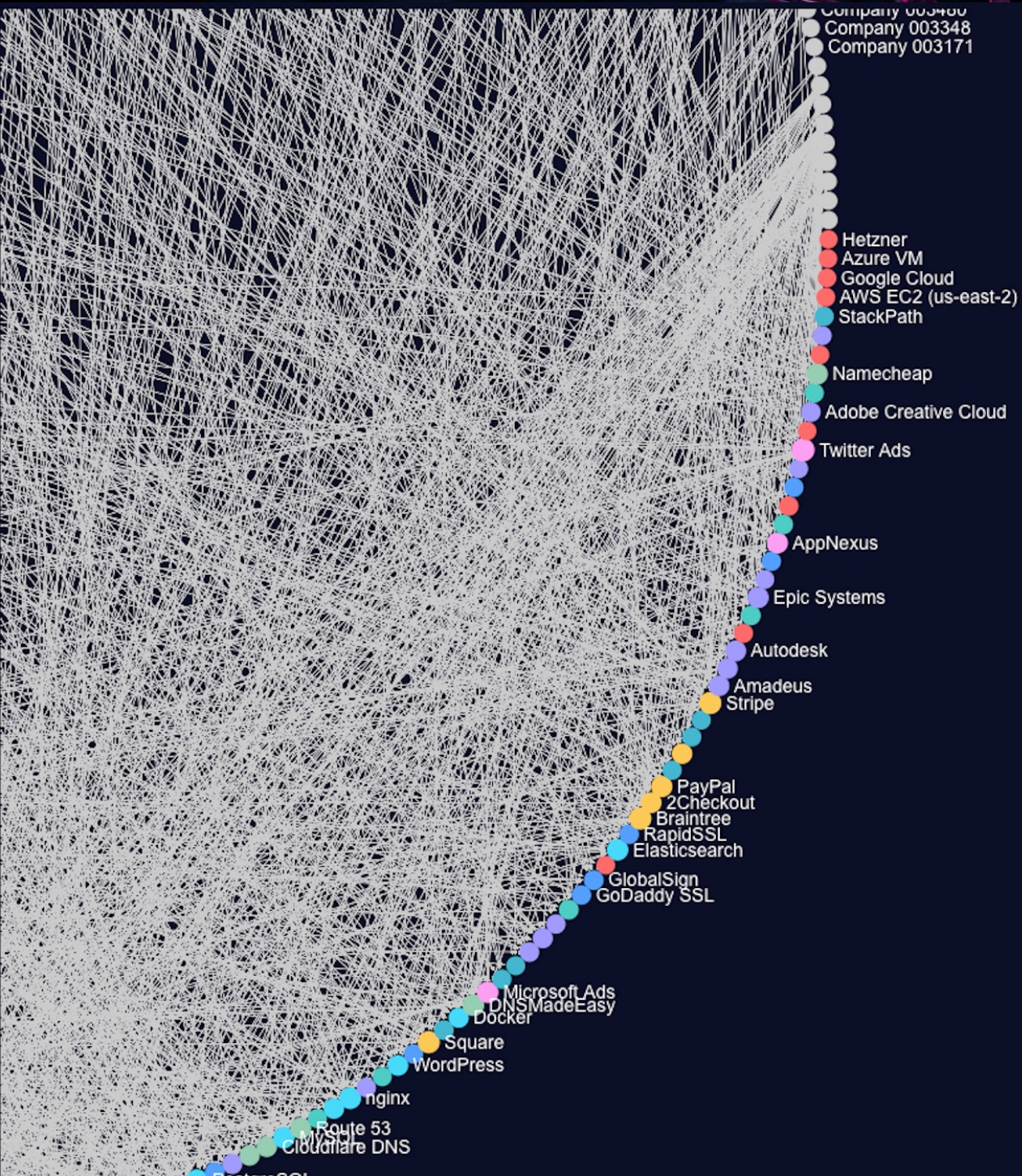
Data Issues

- Models unvalidated by a true catastrophe precedent
- Non-insured organizations are out of scope

Vendor Inertia & Flawed Anchoring

- Vendor models initially overstated risk
- Business inertia prevents necessary model updates





Data-Driven SCR Modeling

SCR is best represented as a Massive Graph

- Leverage Coalition's data to curate **Aggregation Technologies & Vendors (ATV)** datasets

Focus on what is Known (i.e., public-facing internet)

CAT Typical Level of Detail

- Overestimate Concentration & Losses
- Limited / Flawed Insights

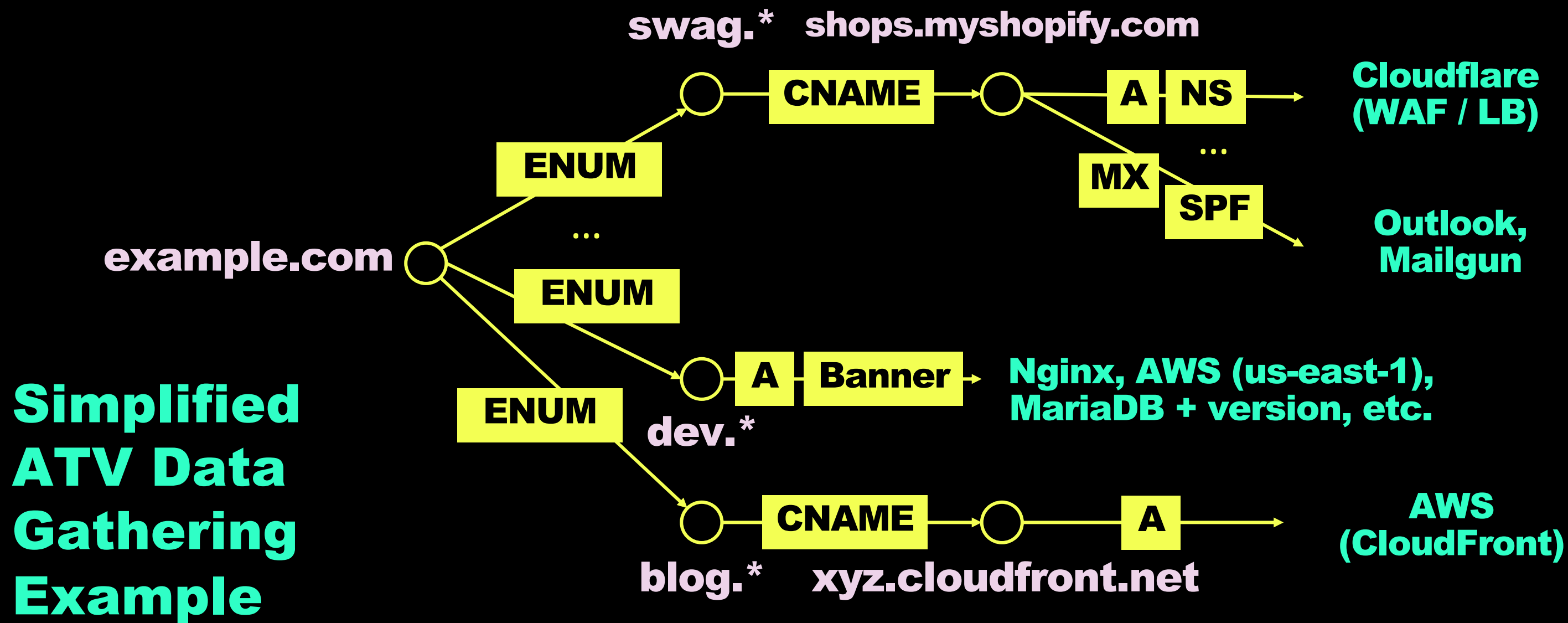
| | None | Basic | Detailed |
|----------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Detailed | AWS US-East-1 (Athena) Market Share | Uses AWS US-East-1 (Athena) | Uses AWS US-East-1 (Athena) for Dynamic Pricing |
| Basic | AWS Market Share | Uses AWS | Uses AWS for Dynamic Pricing |
| None | CSP Market Share | Uses a CSP | Uses a CSP for Dynamic Pricing |
| | Organization Details | | |

ATV Details

SCR Target Level of Detail

- More Credible Losses
- Nuanced understanding of **SCR**

Identifying Aggregation Technologies & Vendors



Industry / Segment Deep Dives

Inc. 5000 Firms

5K
US Orgs.

200%+
Growth

1.4M
Headcount

\$317B
Revenue

~5K
Unique
Domains

Systemic Cyber Risk is Cross-Sectoral

**DEMO #1 – Most leading ATVs can
be found in multiple, sometimes
unrelated, industries**

Registered Investment Advisory Firms

22K
Firms

\$145T
AUM

1M+
Headcount

60M+
Clients

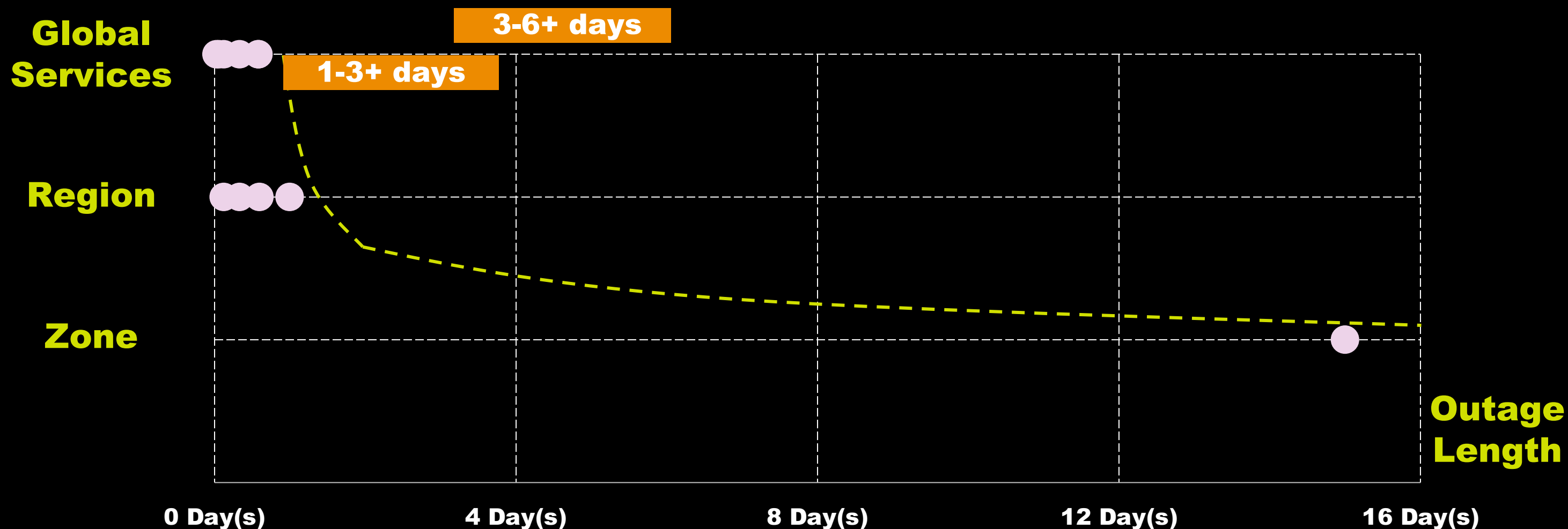
18K+
**Unique
Domains**

Cloud Outage Risk More Nuanced Than Claimed

DEMO #2 - A more nuanced data-driven understanding of cloud architecture generates more credible cloud outage loss estimates

Multiple Levels of Cloud Outage Risk

Sample CAT Cloud Outage Scenarios



Scope: longest AWS, GCP, and Azure outages over 2020-2025

US Real Estate Agencies (CT)

20+K
Agents

2.5+K
Agencies

~2K
Unique
Domains

Aggregation via SaaS & Franchisor IT

DEMO #3 – Most industries have industry-specific ATVs around which organizations tend to be clustered

Identifying High-SCR Technologies & Vendors

**All ATVs from
2024 SCR
events were
named in an
antitrust
proceeding**

*NSS Labs, Inc. v.
CrowdStrike, Inc. et al,
(N.D. Cal. 2020)*

*U.S.A. v. UnitedHealth
Group & Change
Healthcare (D.D.C.
2022)*

*In re Dealer
Management Systems
Antitrust Litigation (N.D.
Ill. 2024) – including
CDK Global, LLC*

**A Glimpse
of More to
Find in FTC
Data**

Mortgage / Real Estate

- Origination
- Marketplaces
- Bulk data

Finance

- Software / API

Healthcare

- Bulk Data
- EHR / CRM

Implications & Recommendations

For Policymakers

Shift to a Proactive, Data-driven Approach to SCR Policymaking

Expand Definition of “Critical Infrastructure”

- Focus on Systematically Important Technologies (i.e., **ATVs**), not just sectors

Mandate & Incentivize Measurable Resilience

- Mandate Supply Chain Visibility for organizations utilizing designated critical **ATVs**
- Incentivize resilience through market mechanisms like cyber insurance

Leverage Dependency Data to Guide Antitrust and Regulation

For Risk Owners / CISOs

Cannot Prevent SCR -> Build Resilient Organization

Resilience & Supply Chain Security

- Nth-party **ATVs**
- Architecture
- TPRM / SBOM

Vulnerability & Exposure Management

- Real-Time Inventory
- Continuous ASM
- Emergency Patching

Containment & Operational Recovery

- Zero-Trust
- Immutable Backups
- IR Playbooks

Governance & Crisis Management

- (Real) Tabletop
- CRQ
- Cyber Insurance
- Out-of-Band

For Risk Modelers

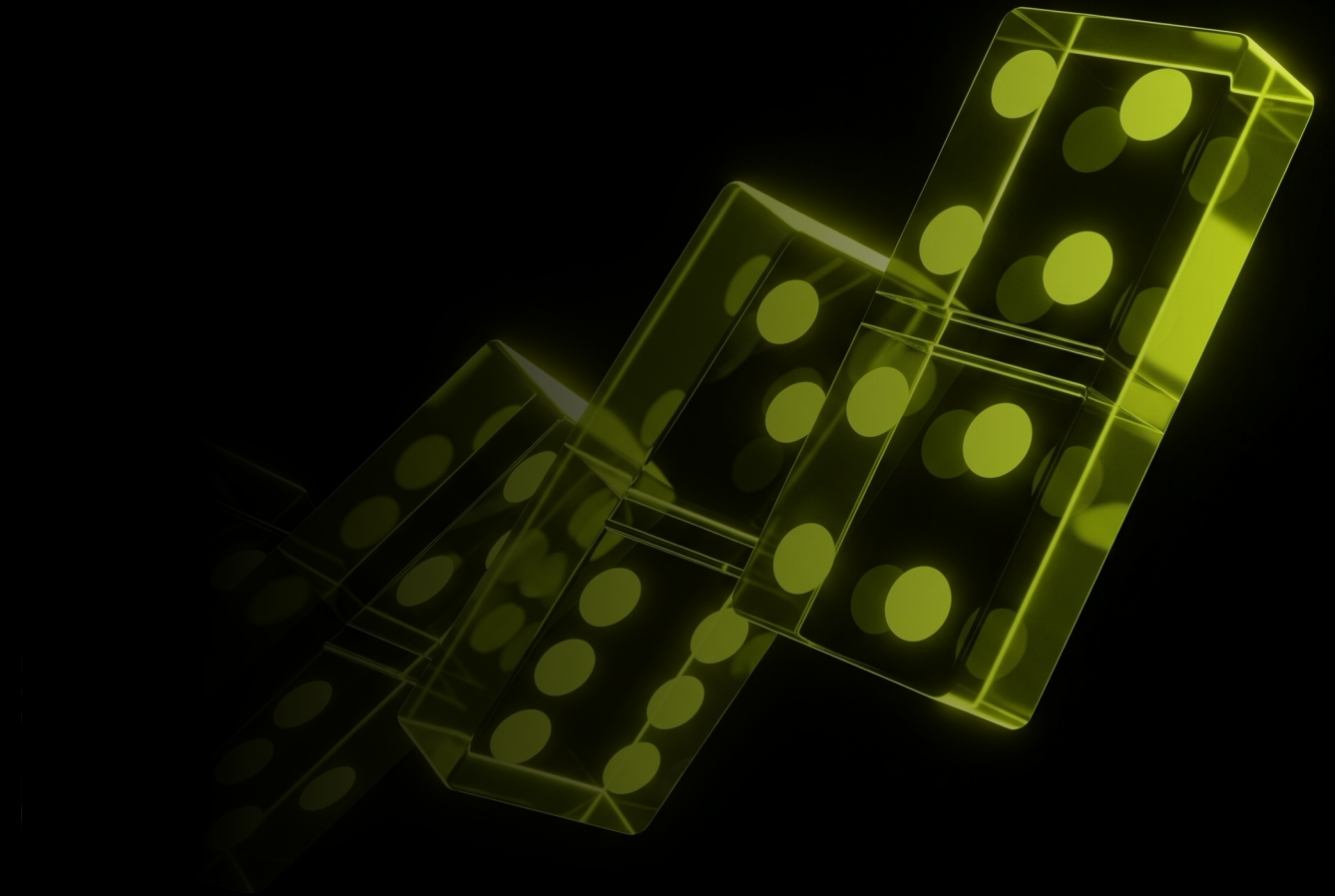
Prioritize Data-Driven Modeling of Economic Losses

- Embrace Granular **ATV** Usage & Detection Data
- Gold Standard -> Modeled Loss Traceability
- Else GIGO for Insured Losses

About Catastrophic Scenarios

- Stress Testing \neq Systematic FUD
- Anchor Event Catalogs & Assumptions in Updated Data

Next Steps



Addressing Limitations

Known Unknowns:

- WAFs / VPCs / Internal Networks / Clients
- Non-Digital Vendor Relationships

Unknown Unknowns:

- Unnoticed OSS / Components

Even Better Data Quality:

- Discovery / Enumeration / Attribution
- Richer Context & Asset Classification



Black Hat Sound Bytes

- Systemic Cyber Risk is a “**Too Connected to Fail**” reality, driven by the deep interconnectedness of our digital economies
- We must shift from static, theoretical catastrophe models to a **dynamic, data-driven approach** that maps the Internet's true dependencies
- For Risk Owners, the goal is **not prevention but resilience**; you must understand your risk through the lens of shared technology and your nth-party supply chain