

# Measure More, Spend Less *ON THE WAY TO* Better Security

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US Department of State  
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**State  
Department  
IT Security  
Context**

# Projects

- Trusted Internet Connections multi-agency provider
- Einstein 2 pilot
- Center of Excellence – Awareness Training
- CNSS working group members – 45 people

 **FISMA Improvement initiatives**

 **Risk Scoring**

# OBSTACLE

CXOs are **accountable** for  
IT security

**BUT**

**directly supervise only a  
small part of the  
technology actually in  
use.**

# FEDERAL COMPUTER SECURITY REPORT CARD

April 12, 2007

## GOVERNMENTWIDE GRADE 2006: C-

	2006	2005		2006	2005
AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	A+	A+	DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY	C-	F
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT	A+	D+	DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY	D	F
NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION	A+	A	NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION	D-	B-
OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT	A+	A+	DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	F	F
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION	A	A-	DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE	F	D+
SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION	A	A+	DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE	F	F
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	A-	D	DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	F	C-
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY	A-	A+	DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR	F	F
SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	B+	C+	NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION	F	D-
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES	B	F	DEPARTMENT OF STATE	F	F
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	B	C-	DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY	F	D-
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR	B-	A+	DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**	--	F

\*\*The Department did not provide its FY06 FISMA Report

# CASE STUDY

## Department of State

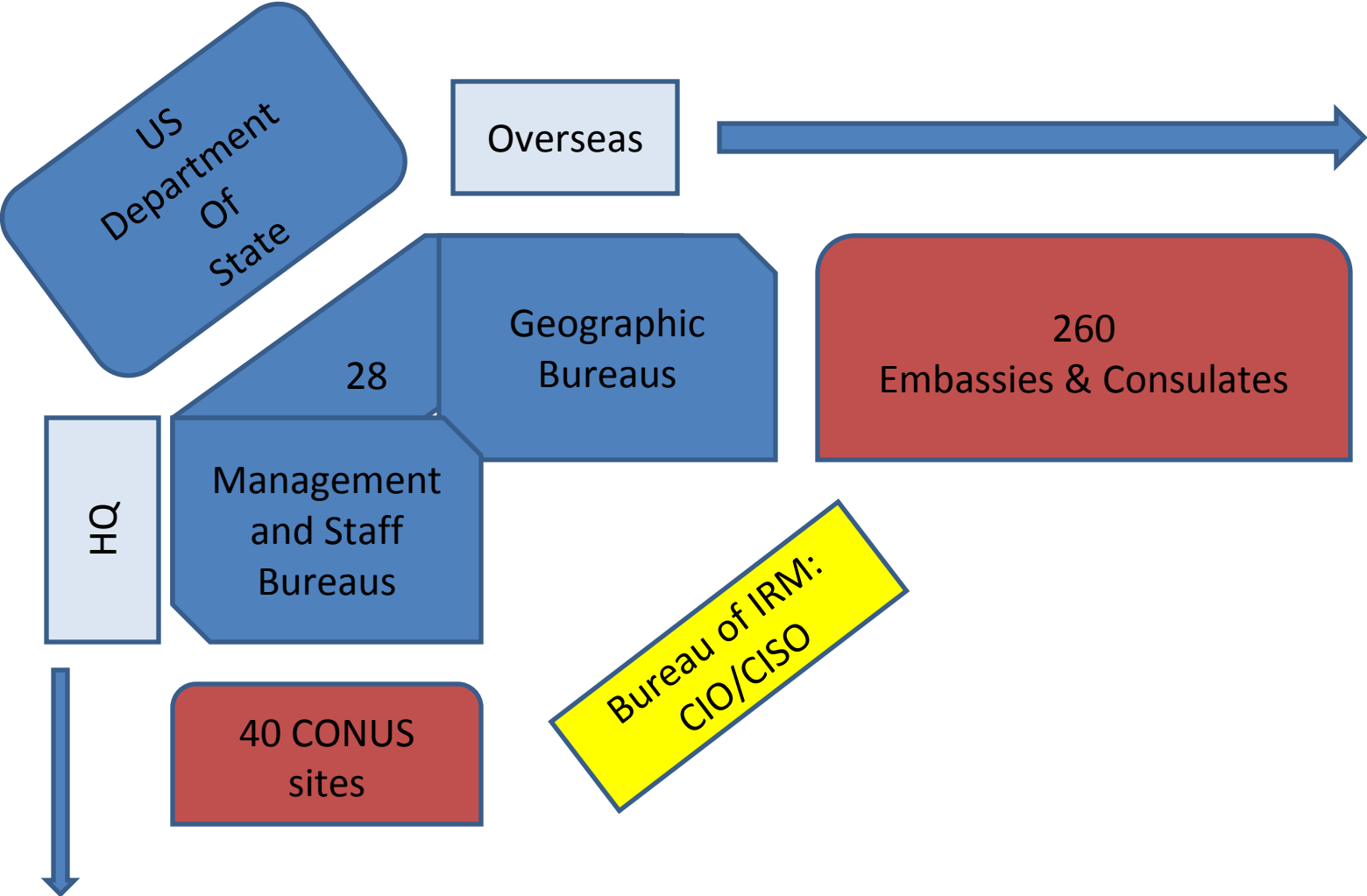
- 70,000 people
- 260 overseas & 40 CONUS locations
- Staff with significant IT security responsibilities : **4135**
- Staff doing C&A: **60**

### USAID (FY 2003 +)

- 8000 people
- 72 overseas locations



# Decentralized Structure of DoS



# Concerns: FY2007

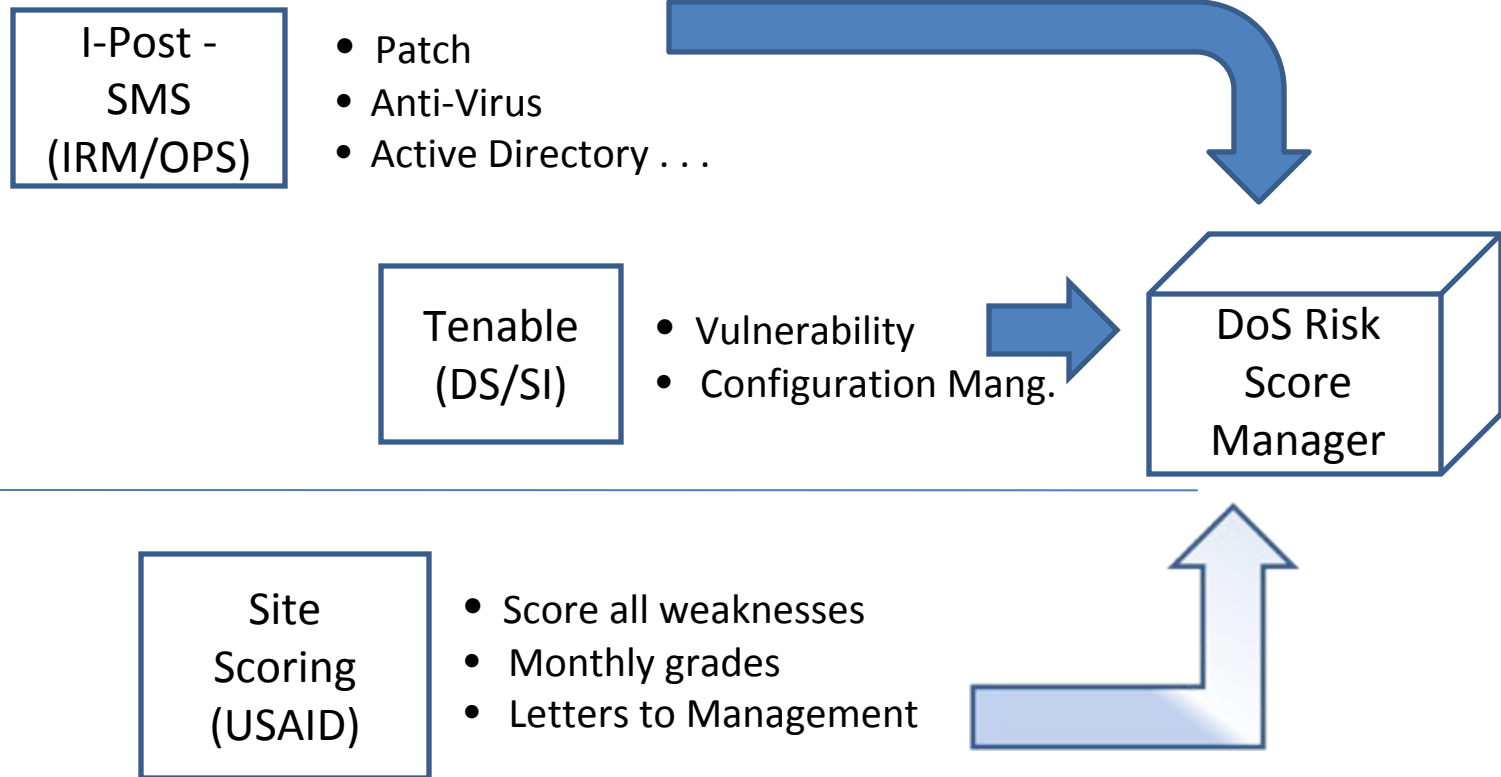
- **Material weakness: Teaming**
- **Cost of compliance program**
- **FISMA: Four F's , One D Minus**
- **Large numbers of vulnerabilities**



# Origins of DoS Continuous Monitoring

2002      2003      2004      2005      2006      2007      2008      2009

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# Themes

## Case study:

- **Targeting risk reduction**
- **How to reduce C&A Cost**
- **Greater efficiency in defensive cyber security**

**Attacks**  
**Increasing**

# Increase & Shift

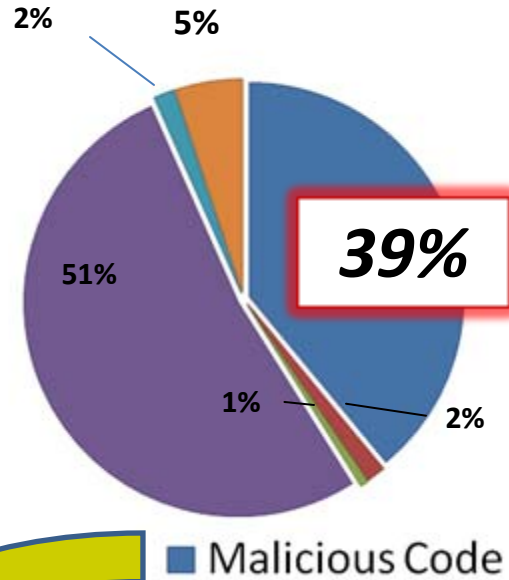
## TICKETS

Years Compared	
<i>FY 08</i>	<i>FY 09</i>
2104	3085

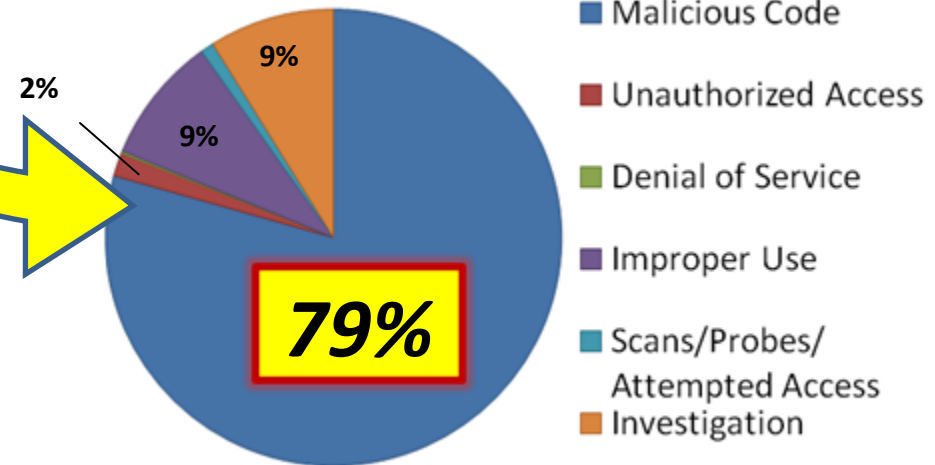
FY 09 Quarters	
<i>Quarters</i>	<i>Tickets</i>
Oct-Dec 08	560
Jan-Mar 09	555
Apr-Jun 09	639
July-Aug 09 <i>(Partial)</i>	805

Months Compared		
	<i>2008 - Tickets</i>	<i>2009- Tickets</i>
June	154	300
July	183	352
August	250	453

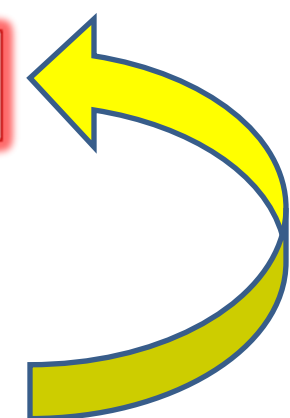
**FY08**



**FY09**



**TYPE**



# Targets:

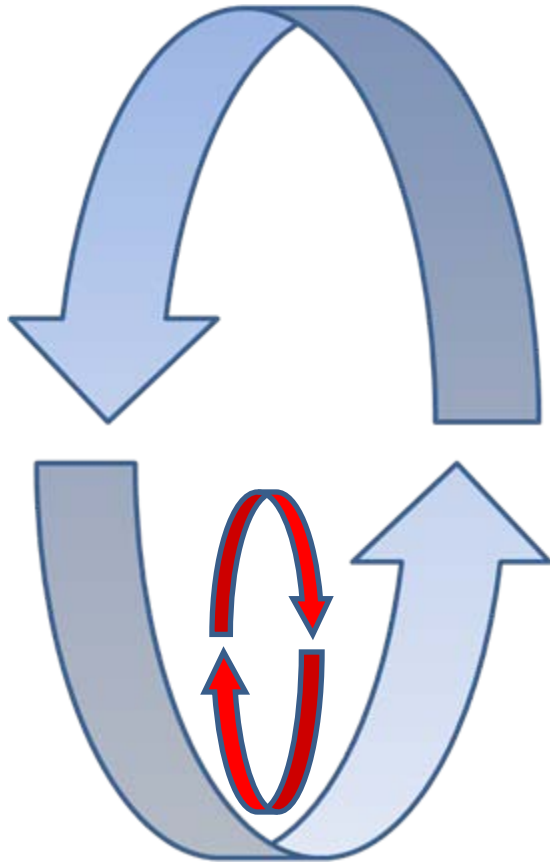
[11 months before Feb 09]

CAG ID	Consensus Audit Guideline	NIST-800-53	US CERT Report
1	Inventory of authorized and unauthorized hardware	CM-1, CM-2, CM-3, CM-4, CM-5, CM-8, CM-9	+ 6 %
2	Inventory of authorized and unauthorized software	CM-1, CM-2, CM-3, CM-5, CM-7, CM-8, CM-9, SA-7	+ 22 %
5	Boundary Defense	AC-17, RA-5, SC-7, SI-4	+ 7 %
9	Controlled access based on need to know	AC-1, AC-2, AC-3, AC-6, AC-13	1 %
12	Anti-malware defenses	AC-3, AC-4, AC-6, AC-17, AC-19, AC-20, AT-2, AT-3, CM-5, MA-3, MA-4, MA-5, MP-2, MP-4, PE-3, PE-4, PL-4, PS-6, RA-5, SA-7, SA-12, SA-13, SC-3, SC-7, SC-11, SC-20, SC-21, SC-22, SC-23, SC-25, SC-26, SC-27, SC-29, SC-30, SC-31, SI-3, SI-8	+ 60%

# Penetration Tests

**80% of the successful attacks used known vulnerabilities**

# Why Shift Strategy?



- combatants with the fastest “Observe – Orient – Decide – Act” cycle win. <sup>1</sup>
- Organized crime and adversaries can adapt cyber threats faster than U.S. government and businesses can counteract them
- **Most attacks on the Department of State were on known risks**

2

‘OODA’ loops described in Boyd, The Fighter Pilot Who Changed the Art of War, by Robert Coram

# *New Defensive strategy*



- a. Remove all threatening digital foot-holds and cracks used to attack the Department of State beginning with the greatest risks first.
- b. Track progress



**Law  
and  
Regulation**

# One Word

On December 17, 2002, the President signed into law the Electronic Government Act. Title III of that Act is FISMA, which *lays out the framework for ~~annual~~ IT security reviews, reporting, and remediation planning at federal agencies*. It requires that agency heads and IGs evaluate their agencies' computer security programs and report the results of those evaluations to OMB, Congress, and the GAO.

<sup>1</sup> House Oversight and Government Reform website

# FISMA 1.0

## Compliance “*SNAPSHOTS*”

1. “**Annual**” awareness course
2. “**Annual**” systems inventory
3. “**Annual**” testing
4. C&A<sup>⌘</sup> every “**three**” years
5. Weaknesses “**Quarterly**”
6. **Configuration Management**
7. **Incident Reporting**

⌘

Certification and Accreditation studies

# **C&A PROCESS**

## C&A Concerns

- a. Once in 3 year study of 110 technical, managerial and operational controls (NIST 800-53)
  - 25-2000 pages; \$30K - \$+2.5M
- b. Library cost: \$130M in 6 years
  - 95,000 pages @ \$1400 per page
- c. Changes: 150 -200 a week;
  - 24,000 programs changed in 3 years

## C&A Concerns

- d. Technical control sections are out of date rapidly
- e. CISO's control few systems directly, but are accountable.
- f. C&A's focus on individual systems. Enterprise faces risk.
- g. Many attacks focus on subset of controls (CAG)

## Targeted Gains

C&A cost down **56% then 62%** ✕

- Invest in tool kits for everything

✕ Certification & Accreditation decentralized, just in time

**Technical control data efficiency:**

- Every **2-15 days** not **3 years**

**Assemble accountable tiger teams:**

- inventory and to reduce site risks

# FISMA + Pilot

## Continuous:

7. Incident Reporting
6. Configuration Management
5. Weakness updated “daily”
4. C&A technical control (x72) ✕
3. Daily not “Annual” testing
2. Inventory improvements
1. “Daily” awareness training

✕

Certification and Accreditation study of technical controls



# **Risk Scoring Initiative**

## *Information & Tools*

Timely – Targeted<sup>2</sup> – Prioritized

*“Metrics with  
the Most Meaning”*

<sup>3</sup> The One to One Fieldbook: The Complete Toolkit for Implementing a 1 to 1 Marketing Program by [Don Peppers](#), [Martha Rogers](#), and [Bob Dorf](#)

Site Filter Options:

Foreign Domestic

Abidjan

Performance

Server Performance

Network Latency

Network Traffic

Network Usage

Performance Alerts

Security

Compliance Scans

Vulnerability Scans

Active Directory

Patch Management

Configuration

Processor

Memory

Logical Disk

Risk Scoring Reports

All Risk Scoring Exceptions

Enterprise Level

Enterprise and local risk scoring exceptions.

Vulnerability Management

Enterprise Level

Active scoring exceptions for vulnerabilities

Risk Score Rank

Site Level

Displays site risk score ranks in the enterprise

Enterprise Risk Score Monitor

Enterprise Level

Risk scores, grades, and rankings for each primary site in the Enterprise

Regional Risk Score Monitor

Regional Level

Risk scores, grades, and rankings for each site

Risk Scoring Exceptions

Site Level

Risk scoring exceptions applicable to the selected site

Site Collection Risk Score Monitor

Enterprise Level

Risk scores, grades, and rankings for each site in a named site collection

Risk Score Advisor

Site Level

Analysis assistance to facilitate improvement of risk score

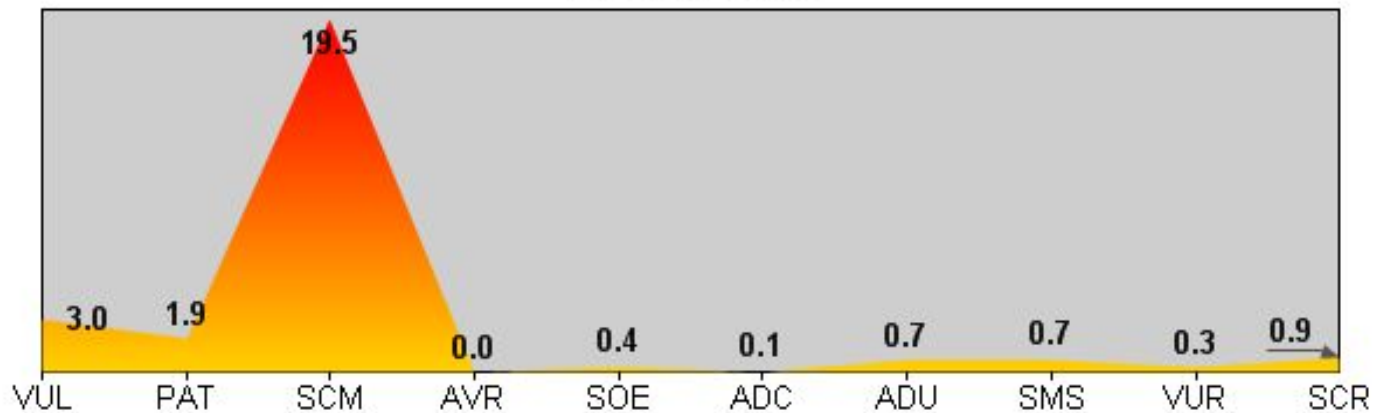
## Risk Score Advisor






The following grading scale is provided by Information Assurance and may be revised periodically.

<b>Site Risk Score</b>	<b>8,687.1</b>
<b>Hosts</b>	<b>317</b>
<b>Average Risk Score</b>	<b>27.4</b>
<b>Risk Level Grade</b>	<b>A+</b>
<b>Rank in Enterprise</b>	<b>163 of 438</b>
<b>Rank in Region</b>	<b>16 of 48</b>

Average Risk Score		
At Least	Less Than	Grade
0.0	40.0	A+
40.0	75.0	A
75.0	110.0	B
110.0	180.0	C
180.0	280.0	D
280.0	400.0	F
400.0	-	F-

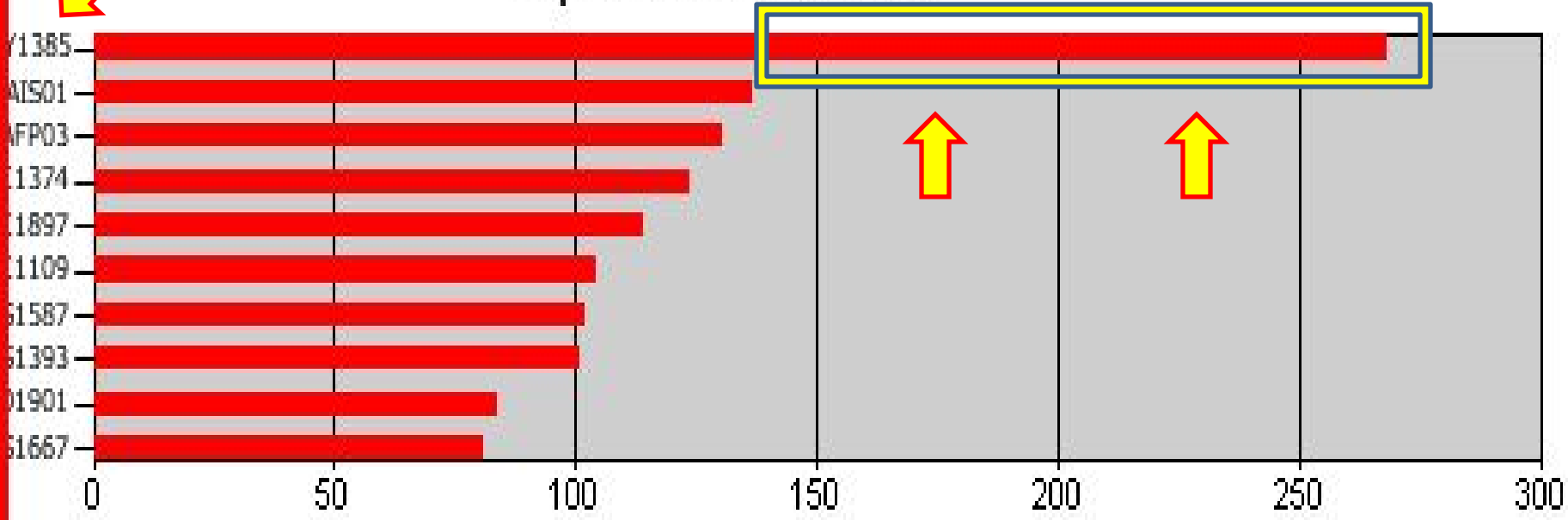
**Risk Score Profile**



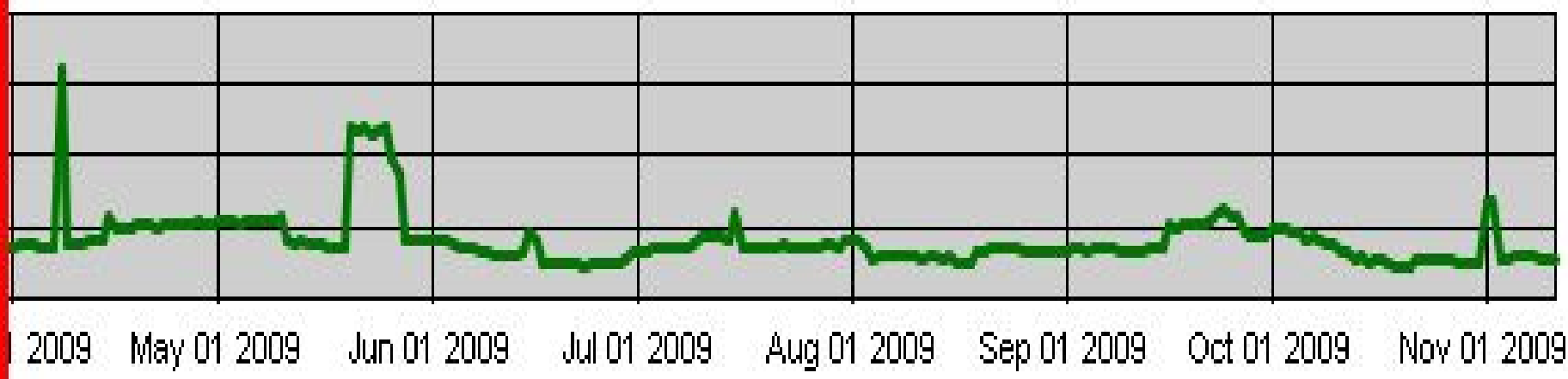
Component	Risk Score	Avg / Host	% of Score	How Component is Calculated
VUL - Vulnerability 	947.0	3.0	10.9 %	From .1 for the lowest risk vulnerability to 10 for the highest risk vulnerability
PAT - Patch	603.0	1.9	6.9 %	From 3 for each missing "Low" patch to 10 for each missing "Critical" patch
SCM - Security Compliance 	6,181.2	19.5	71.2 %	From .9 for each failed Application Log check to .43 for each failed Group Membership check
AVR - Anti-Virus	0.0	0.0	0.0 %	6 per day for each signature file older than 6 days
SOE - SOE Compliance	115.0	0.4	1.3 %	5 for each missing or incorrect version of an SOE component
ADC - AD Computers	26.0	0.1	0.3 %	1 per day for each day the AD computer password age exceeds 35 days
ADU - AD Users	222.0	0.7	2.6 %	1 per day for each account that does not require a smart-card and whose password age > 60, plus 5 additional if the password never expires
SMS - SMS Reporting	230.0	0.7	2.6 %	100 + 10 per day for each host not reporting completely to SMS
VUR - Vulnerability Reporting	84.0	0.3	1.0 %	After a host has no scans for 15 consecutive days, 5 + 1 per 7 additional days
SCR - Security Compliance Reporting	279.0	0.9	3.2 %	After a host has no scans for 30 consecutive days, 5 + 1 per 15 additional days
<b>Total Risk Score</b>	<b>8,687.1</b> 	<b>27.4</b> 	<b>100.0 %</b> 	

*For additional information on Risk Scoring, assistance with remediations, or to report suspected false positives, contact the IT Service Center to open a "Risk Score" ticket.*

# Top 10 Host Risk Scores



# Risk Score History





Site Filter Options:

Foreign  Domestic  
Abidjan

Performance

- Server Performance
- Network Latency
- Network Traffic
- Network Usage
- Performance Alerts

Security

- Compliance Scans
- Vulnerability Scans
- Active Directory
- Patch Management

Configuration

- Processor
- Memory
- Logical Disk

Risk Scoring Reports

**E** [All Risk Scoring Exceptions](#)  
**Enterprise Level**  
Enterprise and local risk scoring exceptions.

**E** [Enterprise Risk Score Monitor](#)  
**Enterprise Level**  
Risk scores, grades, and rankings for each primary site in the Enterprise

**E** [Site Collection Risk Score Monitor](#)  
**Enterprise Level**  
Risk scores, grades, and rankings for each site in a named site collection

**E** [Vulnerability Management](#)  
**Enterprise Level**  
Active scoring exceptions for vulnerabilities

**R** [Regional Risk Score Monitor](#)  
**Regional Level**  
Risk scores, grades, and rankings for each site

**S** [Risk Score Advisor](#)  
**Site Level**  
Analysis assistance to facilitate improvement of risk score

**S** [Risk Score Rank](#)  
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Displays site risk score ranks in the enterprise

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Risk scoring exceptions applicable to the selected site

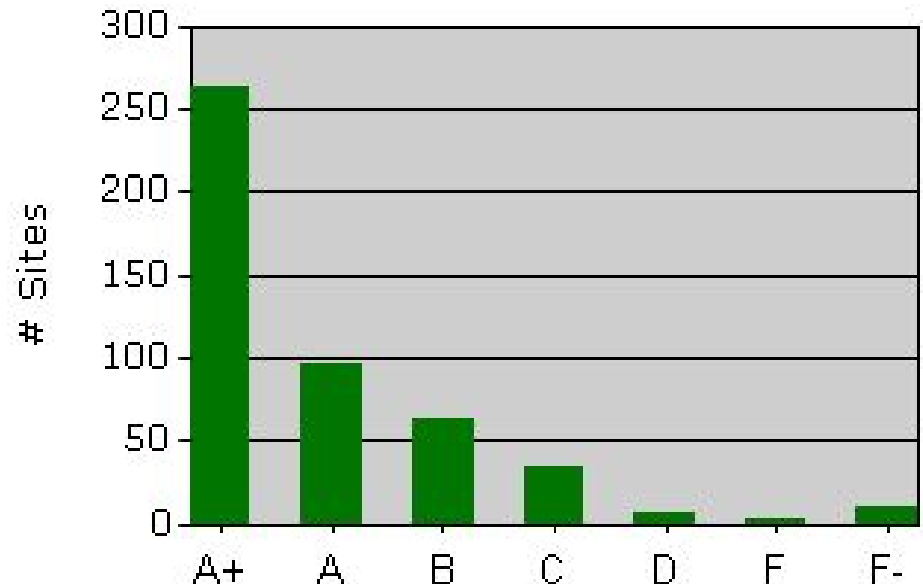
# Risk Score Monitor Enterprise

<b>Total Hosts</b>	<b>32,366</b>	<b>51,157</b>
<b>Average Risk Score per Host</b>	<b>101.7</b>	<b>33.2</b>

## Grading Scale

Average Risk Score		
At Least	Less Than	Grade
0.0	40.0	A+
40.0	75.0	A
75.0	110.0	B
110.0	180.0	C
180.0	280.0	D
280.0	400.0	F
400.0	-	F-

## Grade Dis





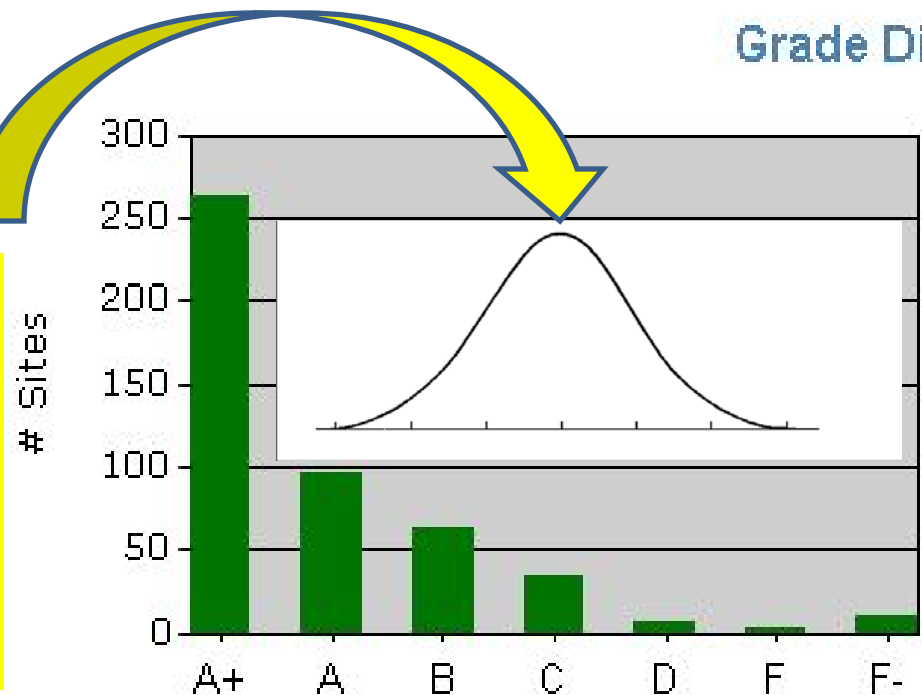
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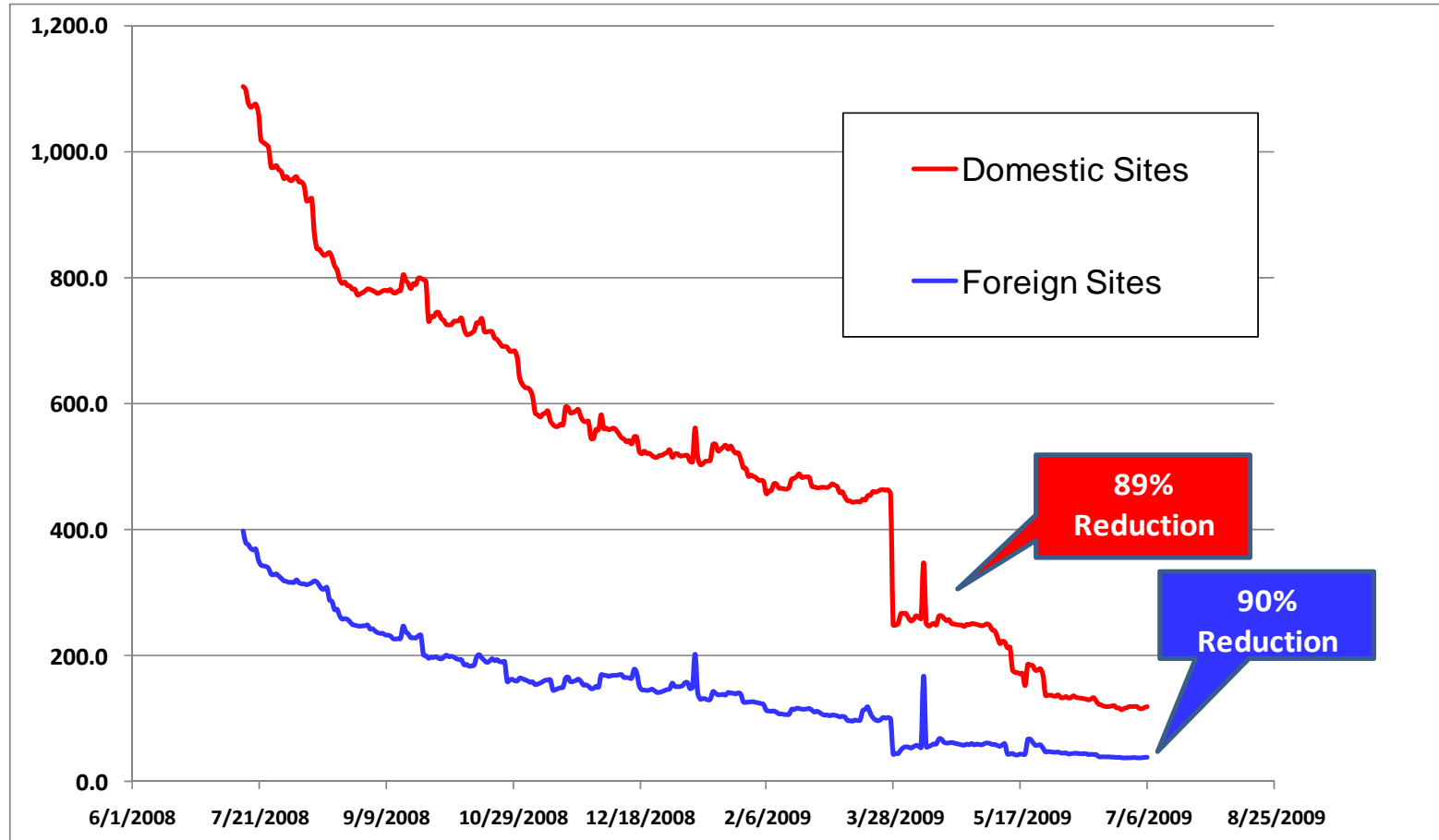
Average Risk Score			Grade	# Sites
At Least	Less Than			
0.0	40.0		A+	13
40.0	75.0		A	25
75.0	110.0		B	36
110.0	180.0		C	60
180.0	280.0		D	93
280.0	400.0		F	133
400.0	-		F-	

## Grade Dis





# Results in 12 Months



# Finding

Details empower  
technical managers

***FOR TARGETED, DAILY  
ATTENTION TO REMEDIATION***

Summaries  
empower executives  
***TO OVERSEE CORRECTION OF  
MOST SERIOUS PROBLEMS***

# Lessons Learned

- When **continuous monitoring** augments snapshots required by FISMA:
  - Mobilizing to lower risk is feasible & fast (11 mo)
  - Changes in 24 time zones with no direct contact
  - Cost: 15 FTE above technical management base
- This approach leverages the wider workforce
- Security culture gains are grounded in fairness, commitment and personal accountability for improvement

# Federal issues

1. Exceptions impacting risk across Cabinet Departments
  - Personnel applications
  - Passport and visa information sharing
2. Studies by group of IP addresses for OIG, GAO and Independent Auditor

# Federal conclusions

- Concepts are scalable to large complex public (and possibly) private sector organizations
- Spending of \$1.3 billion estimated for federal C&A cycle:
  - Higher ROI for continuous monitoring of technical controls as a substitute for paper reports
- Progress in reducing vulnerabilities on a summary level could be fed to Cyber Scope

# Additional slides

# Essential Elements to Begin

## Key Pieces:

1. CAG Directed Toolset – baseline growing to 15 control families. Status now:
  - a. SMS (Systems Management Server – Microsoft)
  - b. Vulnerability/Configuration Management
    - N-Circle, Tenable, McAfee
2. Data warehouse to store enterprise risk information securely (GOTS)
3. Risk Scoring Dashboard (GOTS)



# Wider Implementation

## Recommended Model:

- Multiple award contract from GSA
  - Dashboard, 15 tool groups, data integration
  - Continuous update of scanner technology
- OMB, DHS, NIST guidance to protect .gov
  - Yardsticks needed for each of 20 CAG elements
  - Public-private FDCC model achieved the most, the fastest;
- Federal level interdisciplinary support team
- DHS/DoD provide protection for data

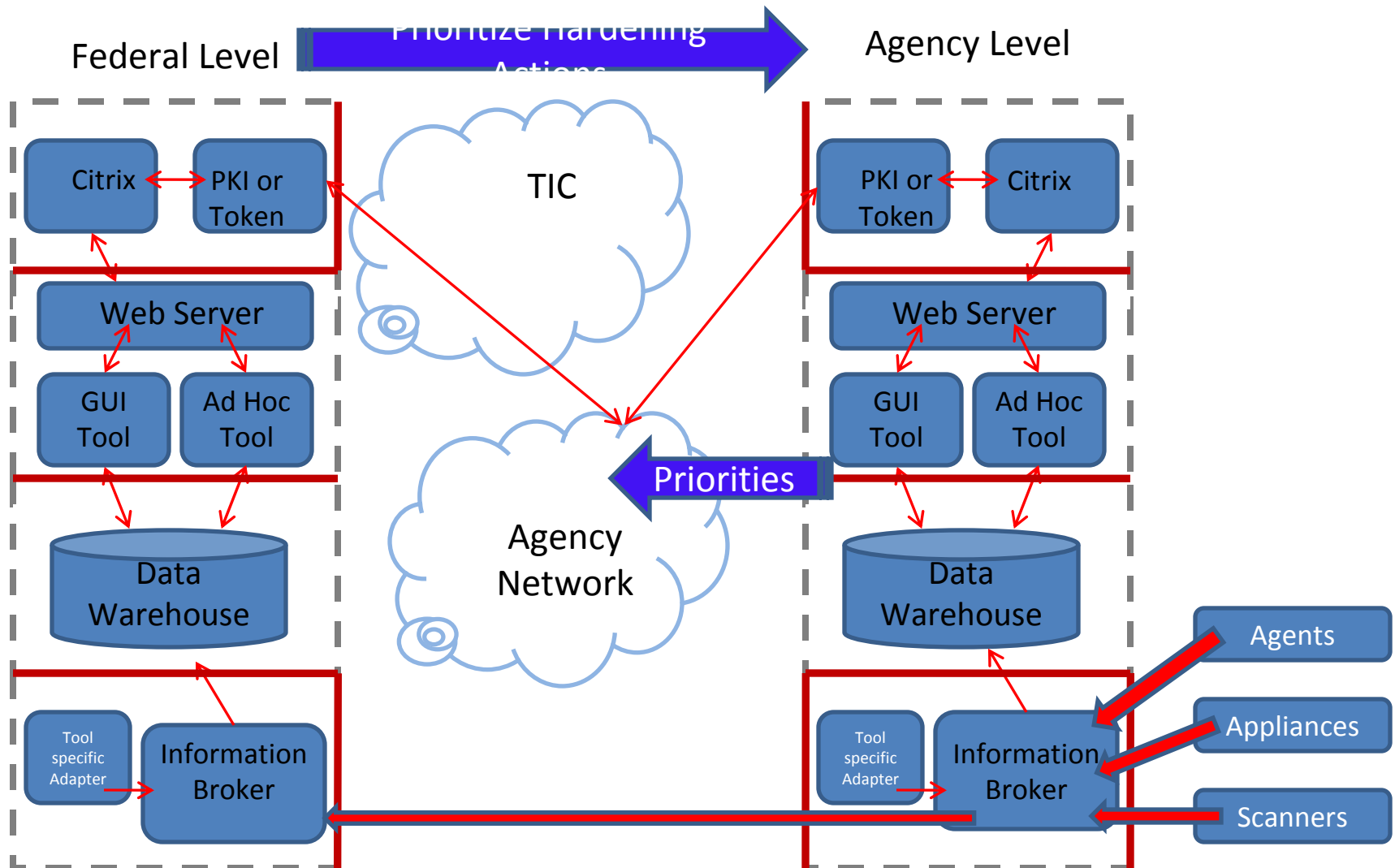
# Security Dashboard Skill Requirements

- Business/Organization critical success factors:
  - Business Change Management
  - Communications
  - Culture of Cost Effectiveness
  - Negotiation
  - Security Risk/Threat Analysis
  - Performance Measurement
  - Data Analysis

# Security Dashboard Requirements

- Critical Success Factors (Technical):
  - Data Enclave Protection
  - ID & Authentication
  - Data Mining Tools: Interface Design and Construction
  - Database design/administration/hardening
  - Information Broker management
  - System Administration

# Security Dashboard Architecture



# Security Dashboard: Other Uses of Data

Answer: Adjust priorities for hardening in response to actual/possible threats

