

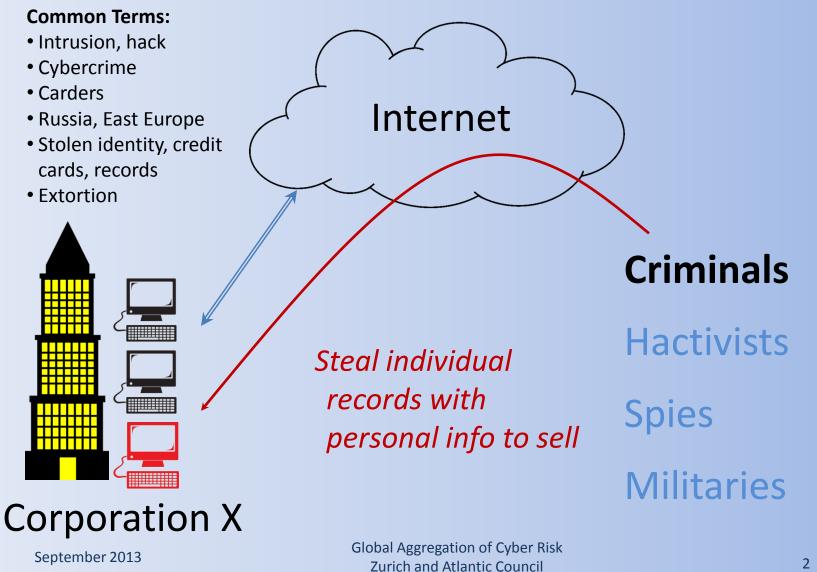
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Global Aggregation of Cyber Risks: "Finding Cyber Sub-Prime"

2nd International Conference on Cyber-crisis Cooperation and Exercises 23-24 September 2013 | Athens, Greece

# **Traditional Cyber Threats**

"Cyber" just means interconnected IT, but that increasingly means everything





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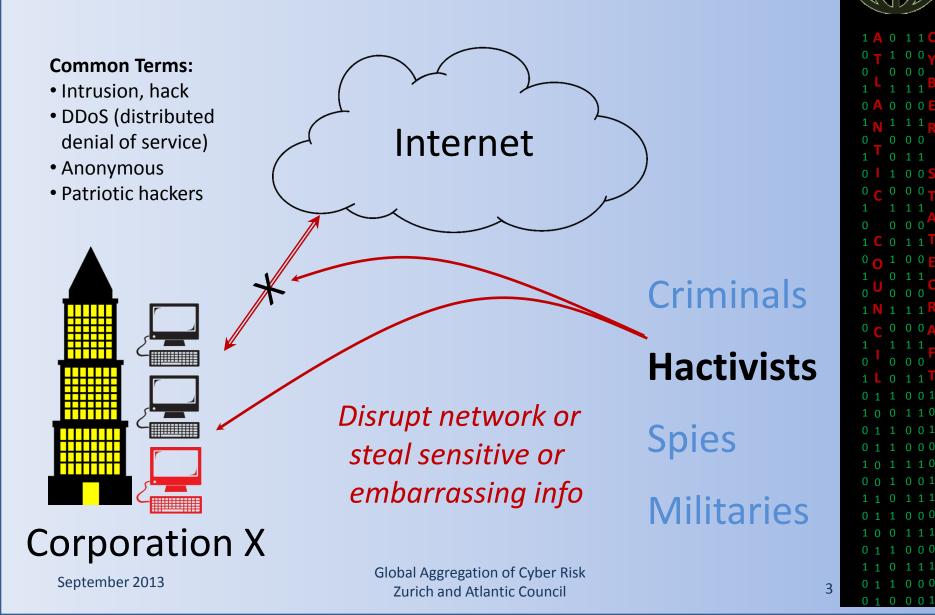
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# **Traditional Cyber Threats**





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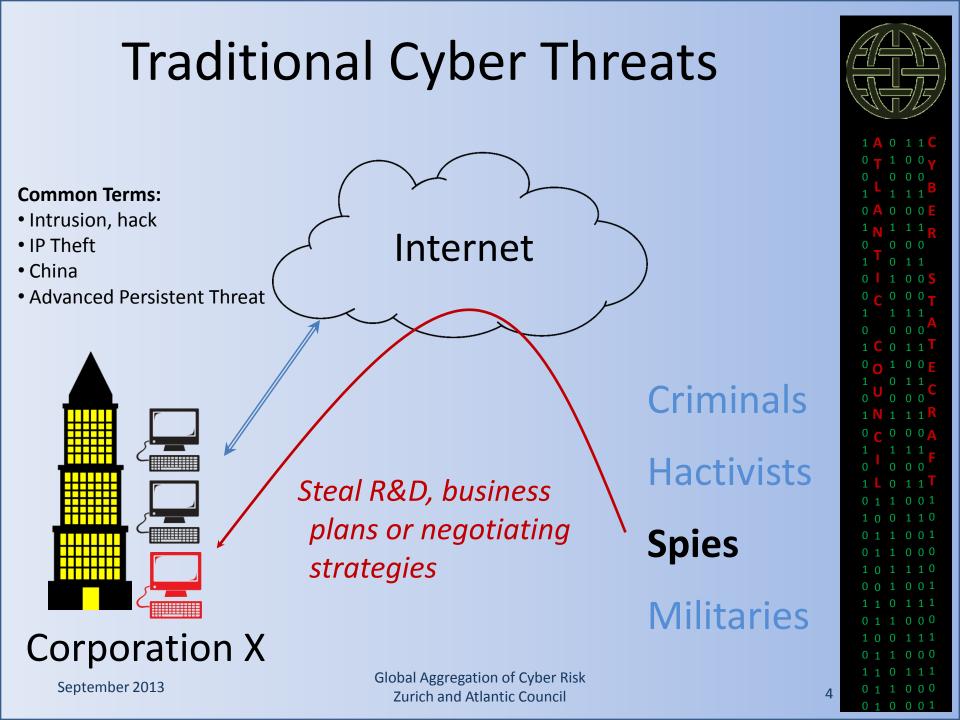
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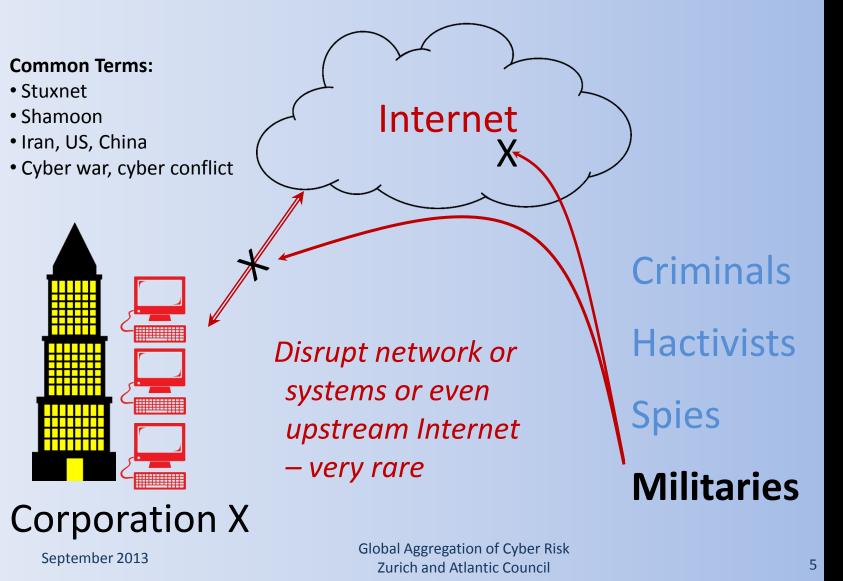
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# Traditional Cyber Threats





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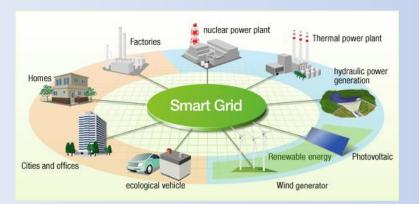
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### **Non-Traditional Cyber Threats**

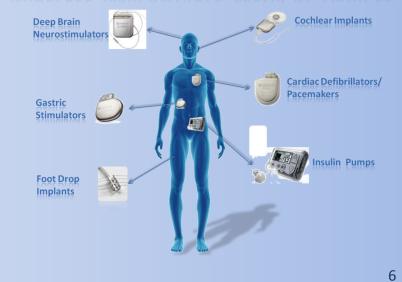








#### WIRELESS IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICES





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### But This is All at the Level of Individual Organization

### What About the Systemic Risks?

# Mainstream cyber risk management is markedly similar to that for financial *prior* to 2008!



September 2013

Global Aggregation of Cyber Risk Zurich and Atlantic Council

### Cyber Sub-Prime

- Cyber is in the same place finance was prior to 2008
- Examination of cyber risk pools
- Analysis of key factors
- Recommendations





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### Cyber Sub-Prime

Cyber is in the same place finance was prior to 2008

- Risk only examined one organization at a time
- Risks passed outside organization into unknown pools
- Little if any governance of the system as a whole and complex interdependencies ignored
- Led to catastrophic global failure, even for those organization which handled internal risks correctly!
- We are heading for similar fate with global aggregation of cyber risk



### **Overlapping Pools of Systemic Cyber Risk**

### Outsourced and Contract

- China, India
- Manufacturing
- Professional: HR, legal, accounting, consultancy
- Defense industrial base

### Upstream Infrastructure

- Electrical, finance
- Bandwidth and Internet infrastructure like IXPs, submarine cables, security tokens
- Embedded devices: ICS, SCADA
- Some key companies: MSFT
- Networking standards like BGP and DNS
- Internet governance

#### **External Shocks**

- Conflicts, malware pandemics
- States: China, Russia, US
- Non-states: Activists, Anonymous, organized crime
- Intrusion, disruption, theft of IP, espionage

### Supply Chain

### Counterparties and Partner

- Trusted interconnections
- Dependence

#### China

- Counterfeit components,
- software
- Global logistics chain

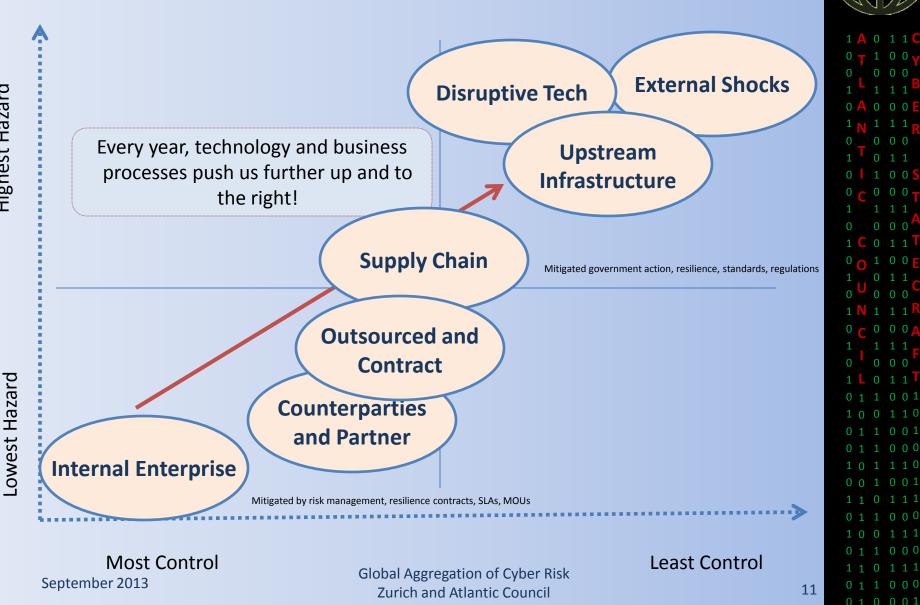
#### **Disruptive Tech**

- Internet of everything and digital economy largely w/o human intervention
- Embedded medical, human enhancement, driverless cars, etc

#### **Internal Enterprise**

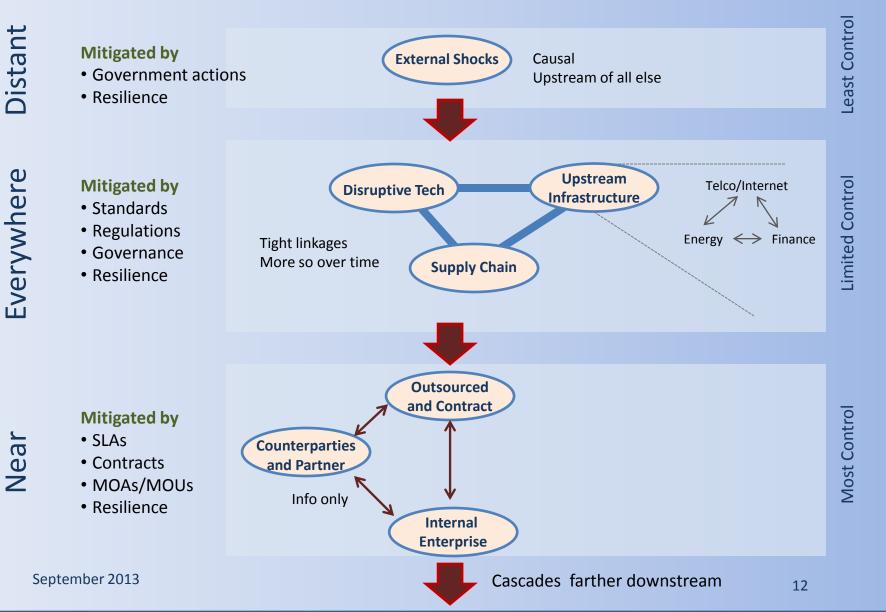
- Desktop, server, data centers, networks, security
- Software: in-house, legacy, custom, commercial, open source,

### **Notional Quad Chart**



Highest Hazard

### Notional Chart of Upstream Risks Three Zones of Risk (?)



# Analysis: The Upside

- Few if any *single* shocks could affect cyberspace in any way that could transfer into a strategic shock to the global economy
  - Defenders are excellent at responding
  - System has been extremely resilient day-to-day and year-to-year





# Analysis: The Downside

- Three separate vulnerabilities: interconnectedness and complexity, lack of transparency, and lack of either local control or system-wide governance
  - Everything increasingly interdependent in unknowable ways
  - Tech and business models continue to push major risks away from management understanding and control
  - No system-wide governance
  - In the face of catastrophic failures, not clear who would be in charge or what levers they could use
  - Few backup paths for crisis communication or manual workarounds



### Therefore

- Main concern is a failure of multiple key elements could lead to cascading failures
  - Where is the next Lehman? The next subprime?

Expected future: Organizations will suffer ever more frequent shocks like natural disasters ... too severe to ever be able to sufficiently protect



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# How?

- Either one shock that cascades completely out of control or multiple shocks which cascade and reinforce one another
- Examples: California earthquake, large cloud provider goes bust (Enron-style fraud, Lehman-style misunderstanding of risk, etc), major routing protocol failure or attack, slow deterioration of resilience and defenses over time, major GPS outage takes out global precision navigation and time signals



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### Three Recommendations for Companies

- Organizations can take basic and advanced mitigations, depending on their maturity and resources
- However, since so much risk is external, complex, and interdependent then resilience is the main hope for companies
- 3. Board-level **strategic risk management** including insurance and other risk transfer options



Two Recommendations for Governments and System-Wide Organizations

- 1. Far more focus on systemic rather than organizational risk
- 2. Eventual goal for defense to be better than offense



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### **Need for Strategic Exercises**

- Many exercises look only to the technical or organizational levels for solutions
- Private sector companies are unaware of what strategic decisions are being made until it is too late
- Event non-cyber disasters can cause unknown threats





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