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Heroes vs Villains: Building an Application Security Program that Scales

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Security Compass



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NASDAQ®

JCPenney

jetBlue

Over 160 Million Credit Cards lifted over 7 years



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Villains are **PROACTIVE**

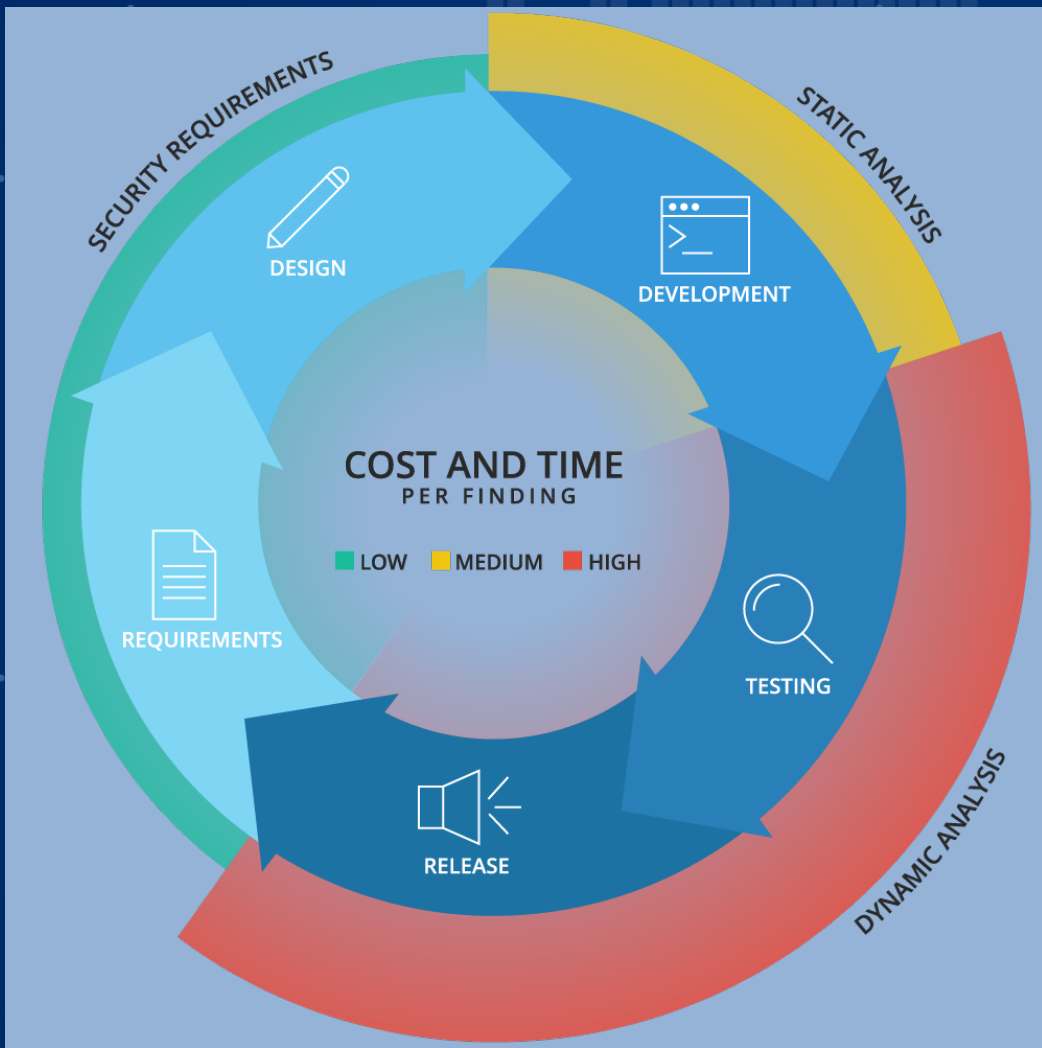
Heroes are **REACTIVE**



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5 Step Process



Why does this happen?



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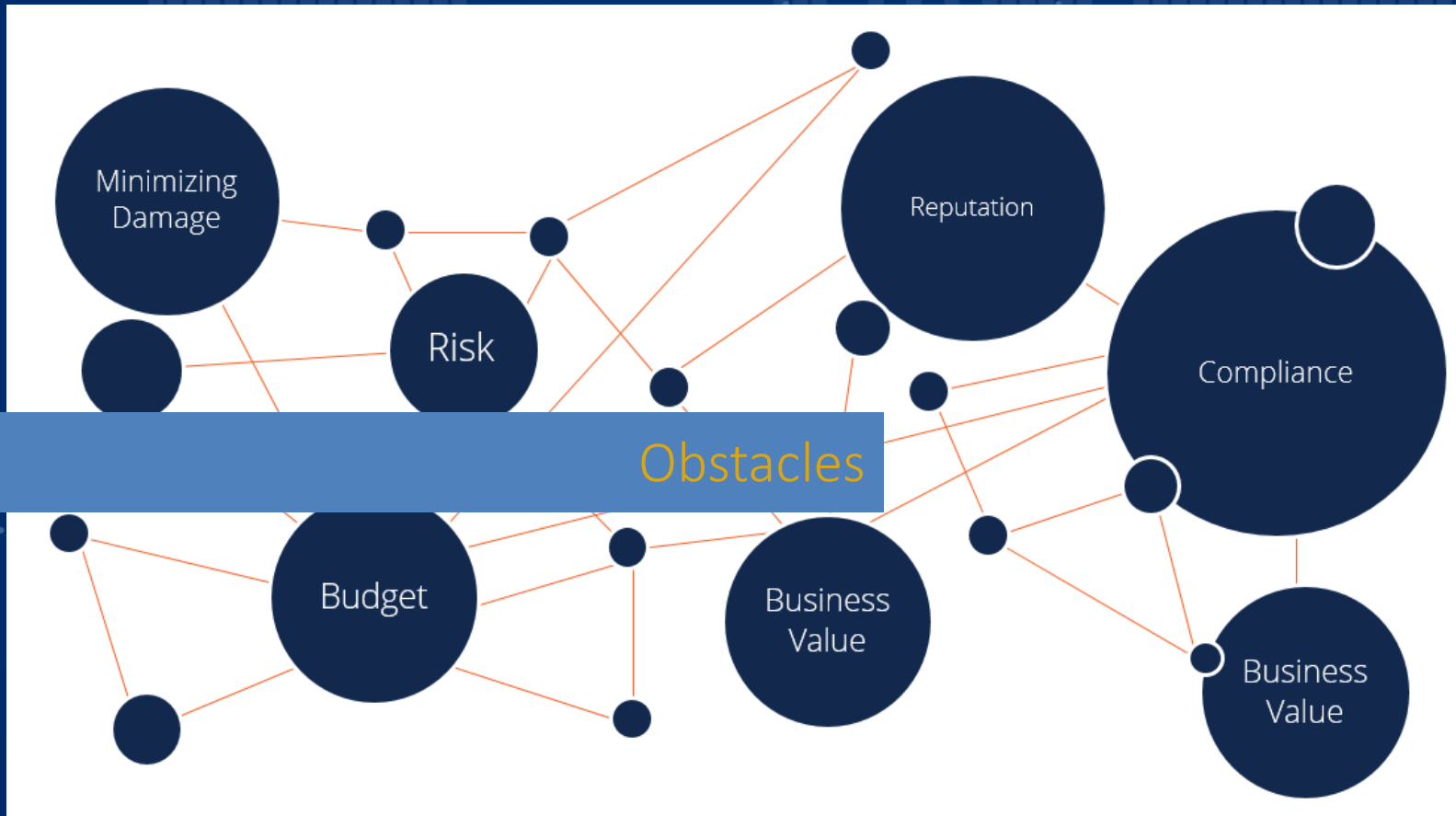
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- Inexperienced developers
- Apathy towards secure development
- Overwhelming requirements documents
- Too much reliance on static and dynamic analysis tools



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Time, Skills, Security Talent

**Pin-pointing vulnerabilities
before cyber criminals do**

**Customer requirements and ever
changing compliance standards**

The Struggle is Real.

Good help is hard to find



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Your company is not the only one that struggles to find the experienced IT professionals and security architects necessary to perform risk assessments

- **70%** of respondents believe their organization does not have enough IT Security Staff
- **36%** of security positions were unfilled.
- **58%** of senior security positions were unfilled.

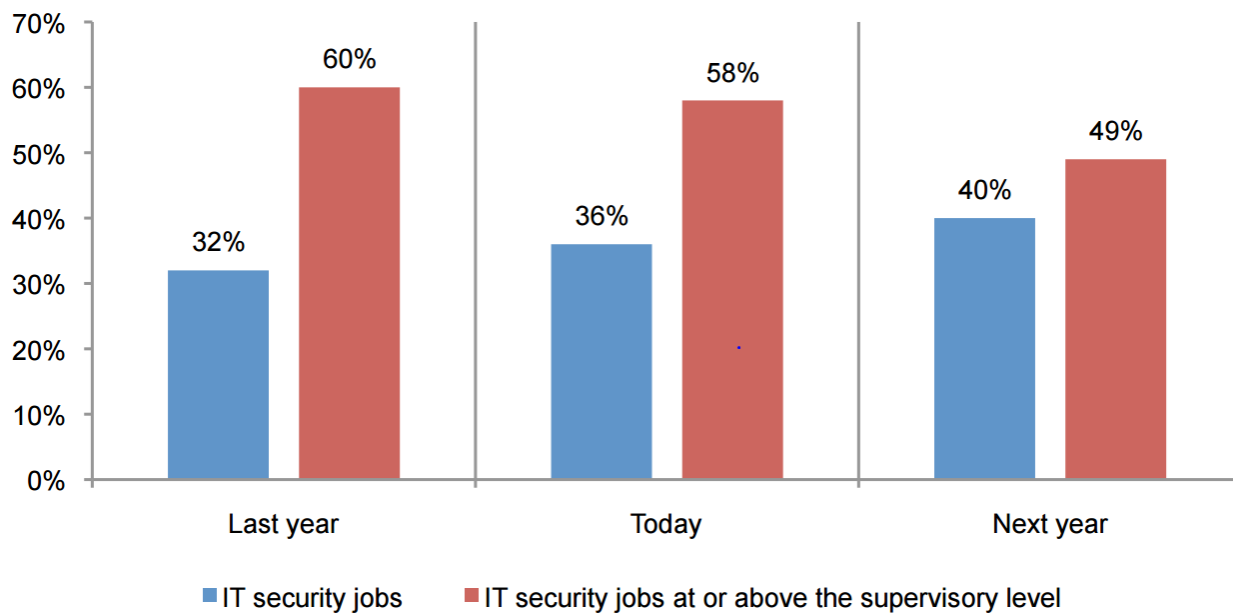


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Shallow Talent Pool

Figure 4. Average percentage of IT security positions not filled



Understaffed and at Risk:
Today's IT Security Department - Ponemon Institute

The Numbers



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- Demand for InfoSec jobs growing 3.5x faster than other IT jobs, 12x faster than all jobs.
- 12,000 InfoSec professionals surveyed believe that talent shortage weakened their defenses [ISC2]
- 70% of companies surveyed in the US believe their IT Security department is understaffed.
- 50,000 CISSP postings in the US alone, but only 60,000 CISSP's worldwide.



burningglass
CAREERS IN FOCUS



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An Expensive Endeavor

Average Security Architect salary in
the United Kingdom is £75,000



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Employers want certified domain experts with multiple years of experience in:

- Network security governance
- Policies
- Procedures
- Application Security

General Security Knowledge is not Enough



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Do more with less

- Stop relying on just your security team for security
- Identify security champions in your development team and empower them.
- Incentivize with training and certifications - transferrable skills.
- Teach your heroes to think like VILLAINS!



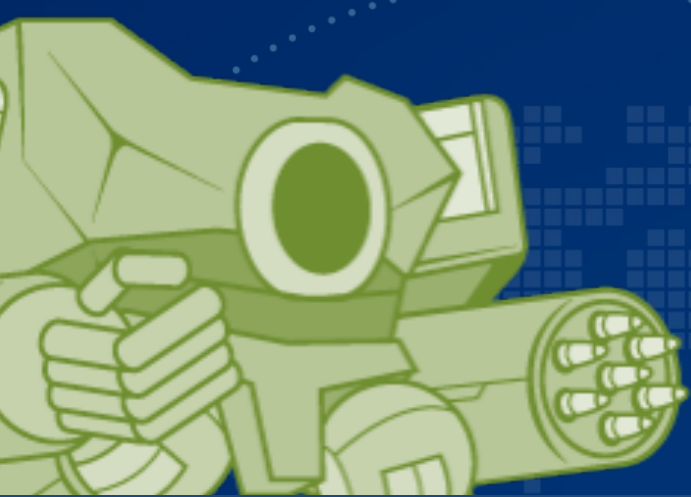
Certified Secure
Software Lifecycle Professional



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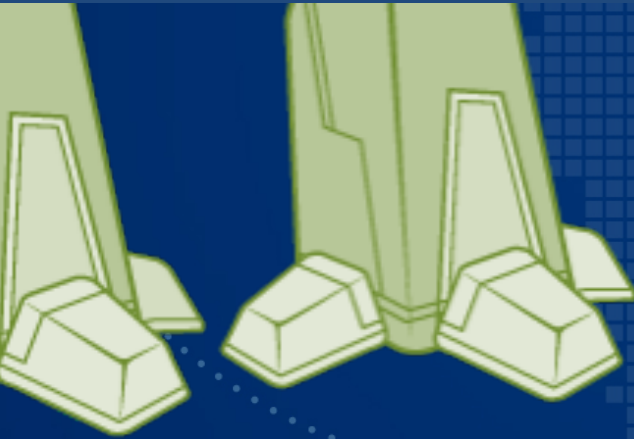
- How to develop an application security program
- How to reduce production costs, application vulnerabilities, and delivery delays
- How to ensure that secure software is accepted and delivered effectively.



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What makes a GREAT AppSec Program?





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Adaptable



Security Requirements

Scaled Security Information

Tailored Security Information

Security Baseline



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Focused

- A great appsec program is focused on the strengths of the people participating.
- Ideally, security tasks should be generated on-the-fly based on the profile of the application and its associated risks and delivered directly into your developers' ALM tools like JIRA or TFS.
- Ensures nothing is missed and reduces time spent searching for what's applicable to a project by multitudes.

FILTERS <<

Find filters

My open issues

Reported by me

All issues

Open issues

Done issues

Viewed recently

Created recently

Resolved recently

Updated recently

FAVORITE FILTERS

You don't have any favorite filters.

Search

Kevin's Epic Pr... ▾
 Type: All ▾
 Status: All ▾
 Assignee: All ▾

 More ▾
 🔍
 [Advanced](#)

1-35 of 35 🔄

T	Key	Summary	Assignee	Reporter	P ↓	Status	Resolution
	KEP-22	T38: Bind variables in SQL statements	Unassigned	Kevin Delaney		TO DO	Unresolved
	KEP-9	T21: Ensure confidential data is sent over an encrypted channel	Unassigned	Kevin Delaney		TO DO	Unresolved
	KEP-35	T375: Release resources when no longer needed	Unassigned	Kevin Delaney		TO DO	Unresolved
	KEP-34	T70: Implement account lockout or authentication throttling for system accounts	Unassigned	Kevin Delaney		TO DO	Unresolved
	KEP-33	T32: Always perform input validation on the server	Unassigned	Kevin Delaney		TO DO	Unresolved
	KEP-32	T50: Use indirect object reference maps if accessing files	Unassigned	Kevin Delaney		TO DO	Unresolved
	KEP-31	T37: Avoid DOM-based cross site scripting (XSS)	Unassigned	Kevin Delaney		TO DO	Unresolved
	KEP-30	T31: Perform input validation on all forms of input	Unassigned	Kevin Delaney		TO DO	Unresolved
	KEP-29	T42: Avoid relying on untrusted data for server side page, view, or template selection	Unassigned	Kevin Delaney		TO DO	Unresolved

☰ JIRA Dashboards ▾ Projects ▾ Issues ▾ Boards ▾ Create

Kevin's Epic Project / KEP-31

T37: Avoid DOM-based cross site scripting (XSS)

Edit Comment Assign To Do In Progress Done Admin ▾

Details

Type:	🔴 Bug	Status:	TO DO (View workflow)
Priority:	↑ Critical	Resolution:	Unresolved
Labels:	SD-Elements		
Epic Link:	SD Elements Epic		

Description

You need to be aware that some of the DOM properties can be controlled by the user and might include unsafe values. An example is `document.location`. If this property is used in your dynamic JavaScript code to create HTML content in an unsafe manner (e.g. assigned to `element.innerHTML`), it can allow attackers to inject script by creating malicious links and essentially leading to a cross-site scripting vulnerability.

To prevent a DOM-based XSS, you need to:

- Treat the user-controlled DOM values as unsafe.

Some of the DOM properties that may be manipulated for XSS include (note that these properties might have sub-attributes such as `location.hash` that are considered unsafe as well):

```
document.URL
document.URLUnencoded
document.location (and many of its properties)
document.referrer
window.location (and many of its properties)
location (note that window.location can be access as just location)
```





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Collaborative

- No more “us vs. them” mentality between developers and security.
- Developers must take responsibility for security tasks.
- You cannot create a security culture – it is created from within the development org.





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Recap

- Proper management of security requirements early in the SLDC prevents problems before they happen and turns down the noise from static/dynamic analysis tools.
- Delivering these requirements directly to developers in the tools they use every day is critical for acceptance.
- Leverage and empower your existing resources, because finding new ones is no easy task.
- Make sure your AppSec program is adaptable, focused, and collaborative.



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Thank You, Villains!

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<http://securitycompass.com/>