

WEBINAR
SERIES

Safeguarding Critical National Information Infrastructure – Risks and Opportunities

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WELCHMAN KEEN



ABOUT US

WELCHMAN KEEN STRATEGIC ADVISORY

- ✓ As a part of our focus on connectivity, we provide training on a variety of topics.
- ✓ Help to build a country's CNII strategy from the ground up through a measured approach to include what is necessary in achieving their specific objectives.
- ✓ Our key focus on critical national infrastructure (CNII) represents a belief that these pillars hold the key to national, economic, public safety and social well-being.



**TECHNOLOGY
POLICY**



**TELECOMMUNICATION
INVESTMENT
STRATEGY**



**CYBER RISK AND
POLICY**



MARKET ACCESS



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SECTION 01

WHAT IS CNII?



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Critical National Infrastructure

“Those infrastructures which are essential for the maintenance of vital societal functions, health, safety, security, economic or social well-being of people, and the disruption or destruction of which would have serious consequences”.

Source:

Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE)



Critical National Information Infrastructure (CNII)

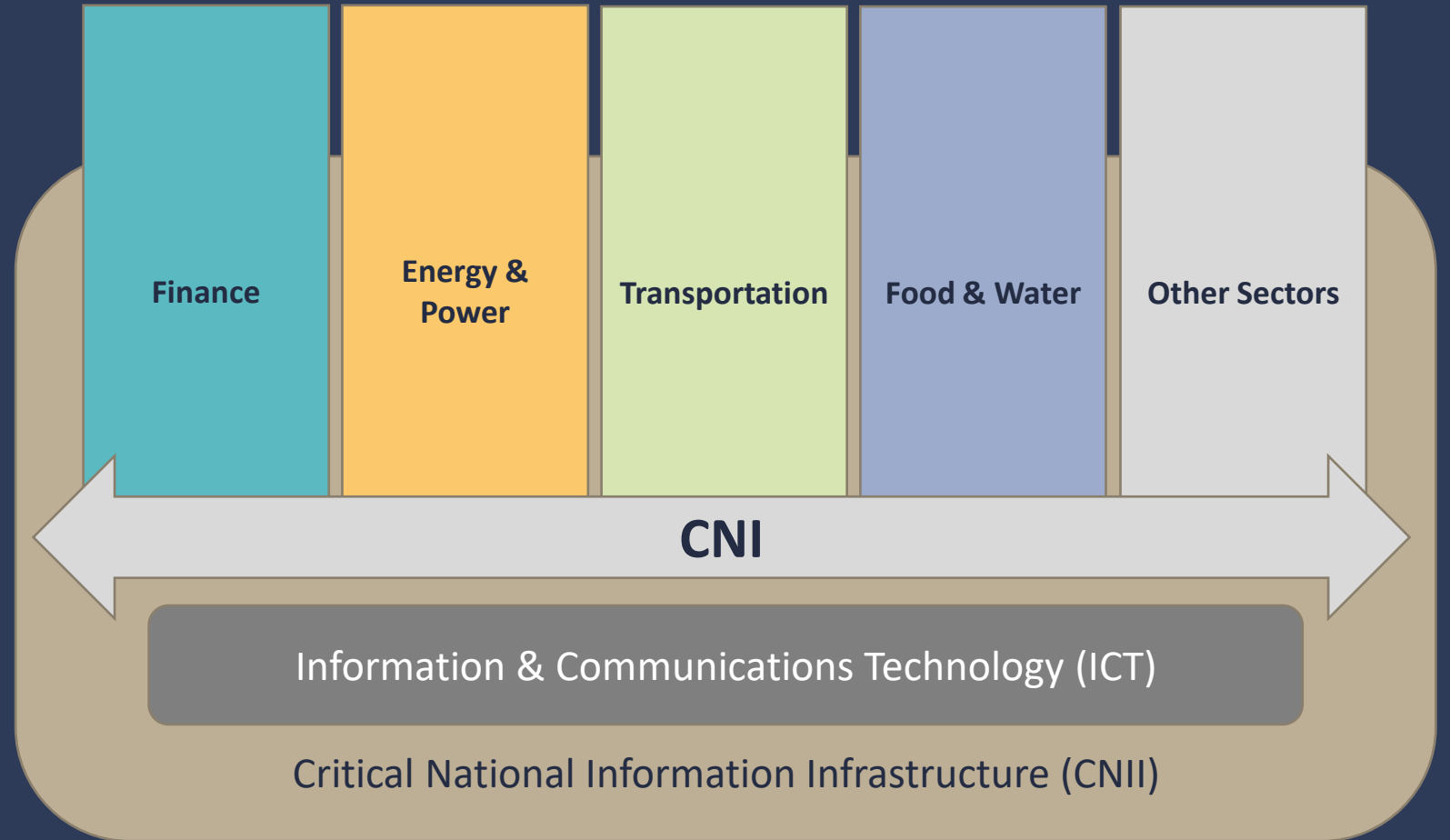
“Material and digital assets, networks, services, and installations that, if disrupted or destroyed, would have a serious impact on the health, security, or economic well-being of citizens and the efficient functioning of a country’s government”

Source:

INTERNATIONAL CIIP HANDBOOK 2008 / 2009

CNII

CNI & CNII Integration



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CNI Focus



OECD 2015 Security Risk Recommendation:

- ✓ CNI should focus on the protection of essential services against digital security risk rather than the protection of critical information infrastructures themselves.

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CNII Sectors

✓ A critical sector in one country may not be critical to another, however, there are common sectors that most countries agree on to be categorised as critical and essential.

✓ Governments must prioritize these sectors when it comes to its protection as it relies on the availability of funding, technology, and human capacity.



Health



ICT



Energy



Security & Defense



Water



Manufacturing



Food



Transportation



Finance



Government



SECTION 02

THREATS AND ATTACKS ON CNII



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Increased Cyber threats during COVID-19

Threats during Covid-19

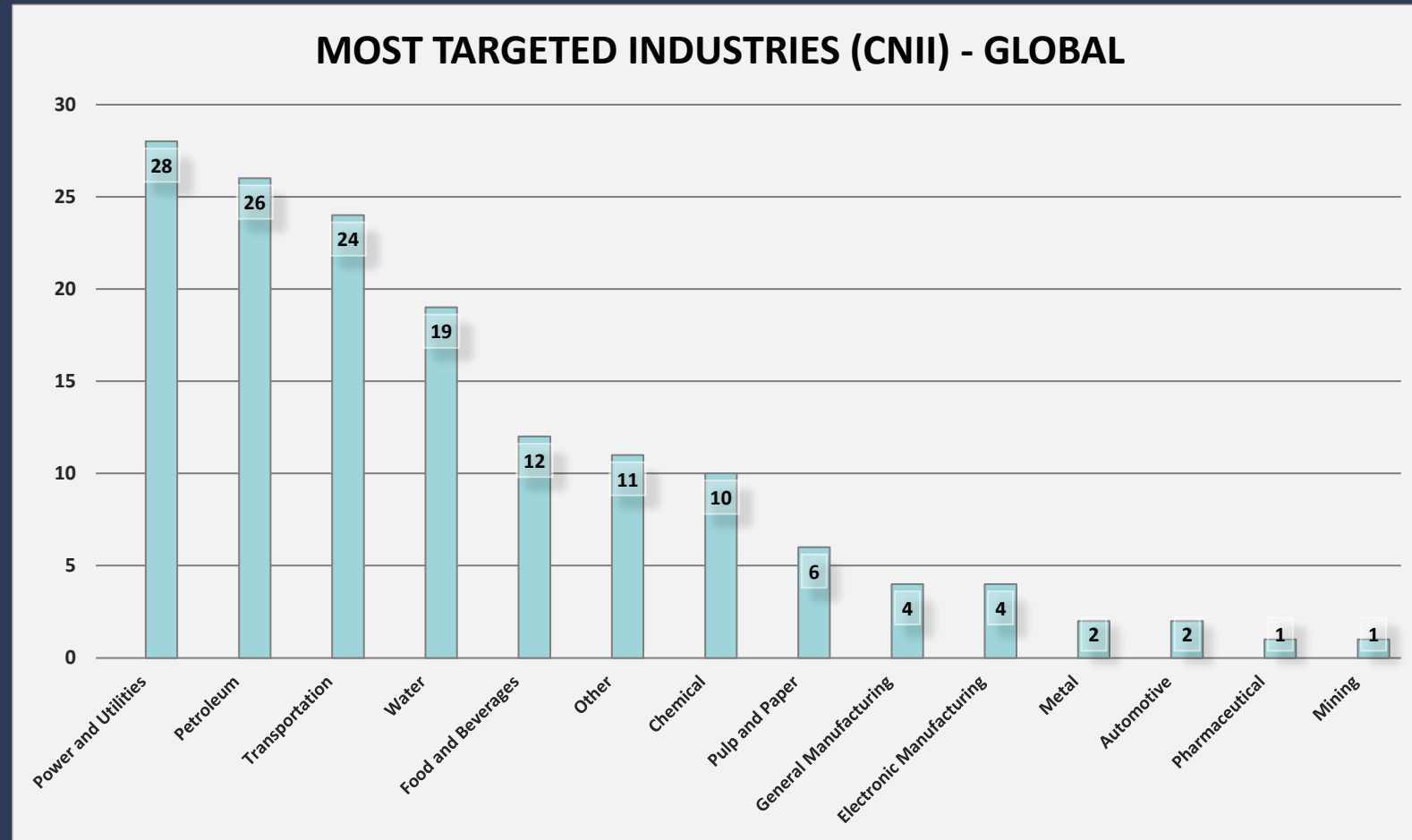
- ✓ Recent assessment conducted by INTERPOL, it was revealed that the Covid-19 pandemic has seen a shift of attacks from small businesses to critical infrastructure, government and major corporations.
- ✓ Deloitte reported that COVID-19 is seeing a “next normal” where sectors not classified as critical before are now being viewed as critical.
- ✓ Healthcare and humanitarian organisations such as WHO are being targeted and Check Point Software Technologies reported a 500% increase in attacks toward these organisations.

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Most Targeted Industries

Global statistics



<https://www.lanner-america.com/critical-infrastructure/integrating-multi-layer-architectures-mitigate-cyber-vulnerabilities-oil-gas-sectors/>

CNII Cyber Attacks

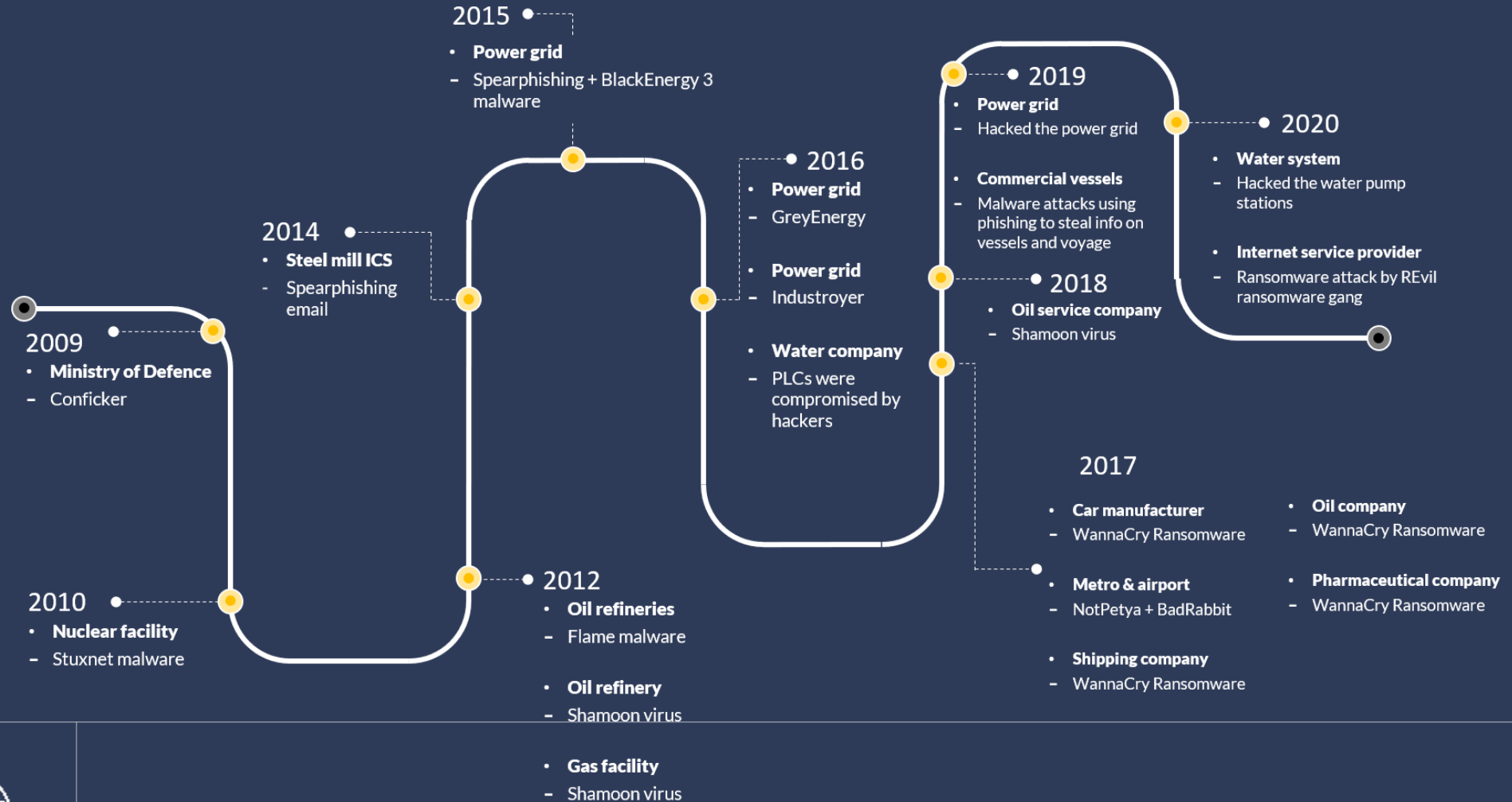
Threats and Attacks

- ✓ **Social engineering**
 - Phishing
 - Spearphishing
 - Whaling
 - Smishing
 - Voice phishing
 - Baiting
- ✓ **Malware**
 - Trojan
 - Spyware
 - Keylogger
 - Ransomware
- ✓ **DDoS**

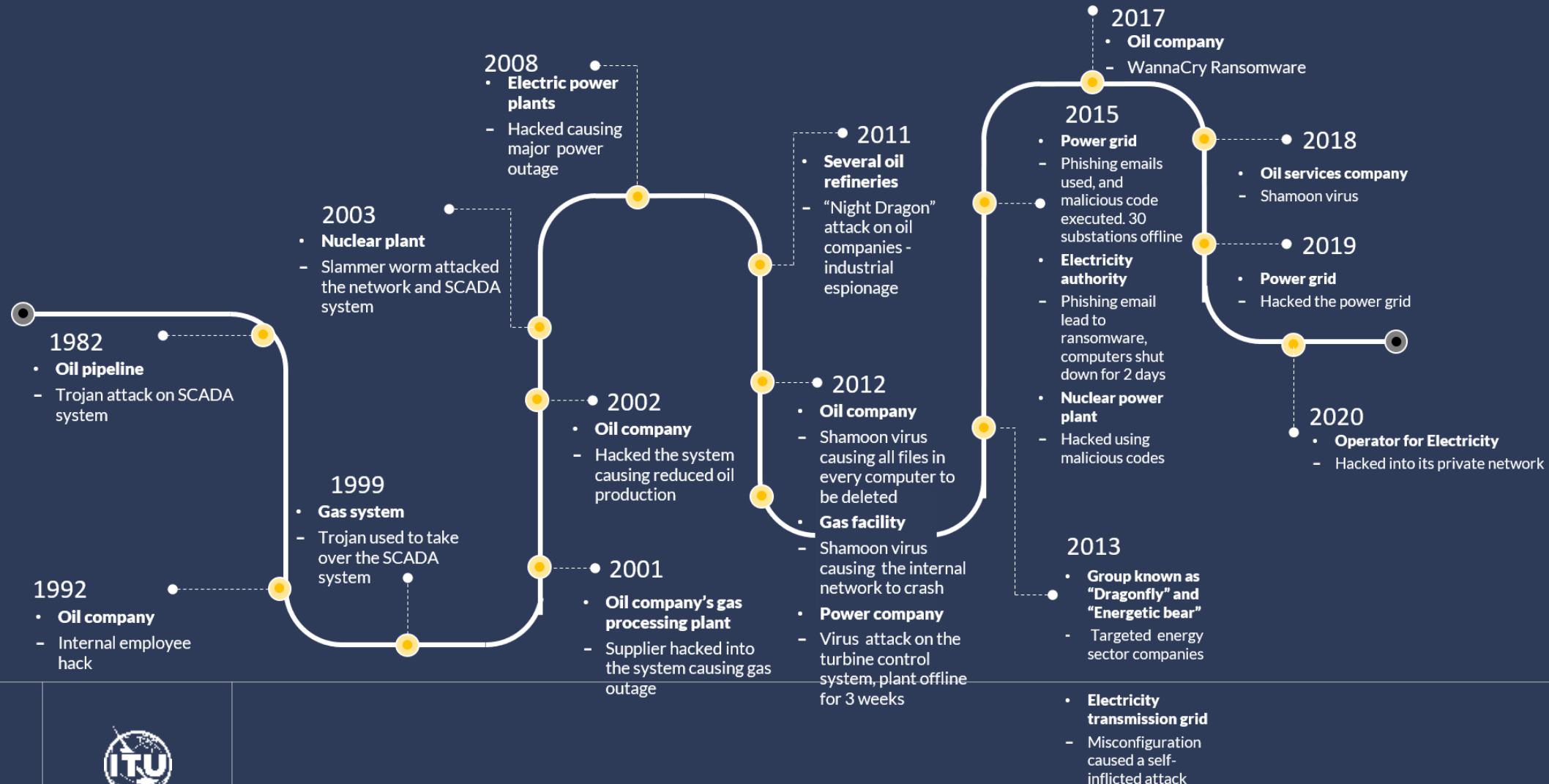
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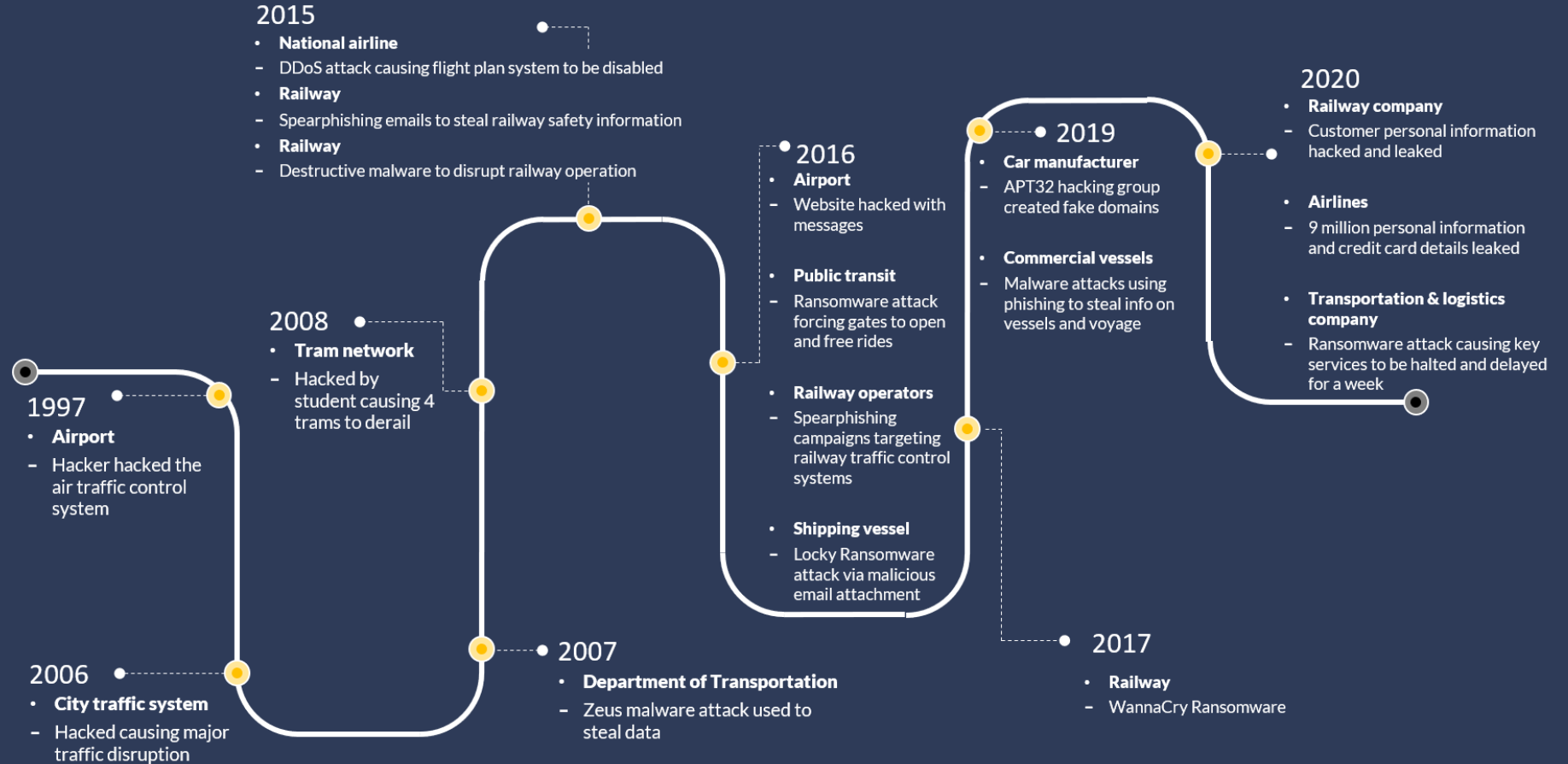
GLOBAL CNII CYBER ATTACKS 2009 - 2020



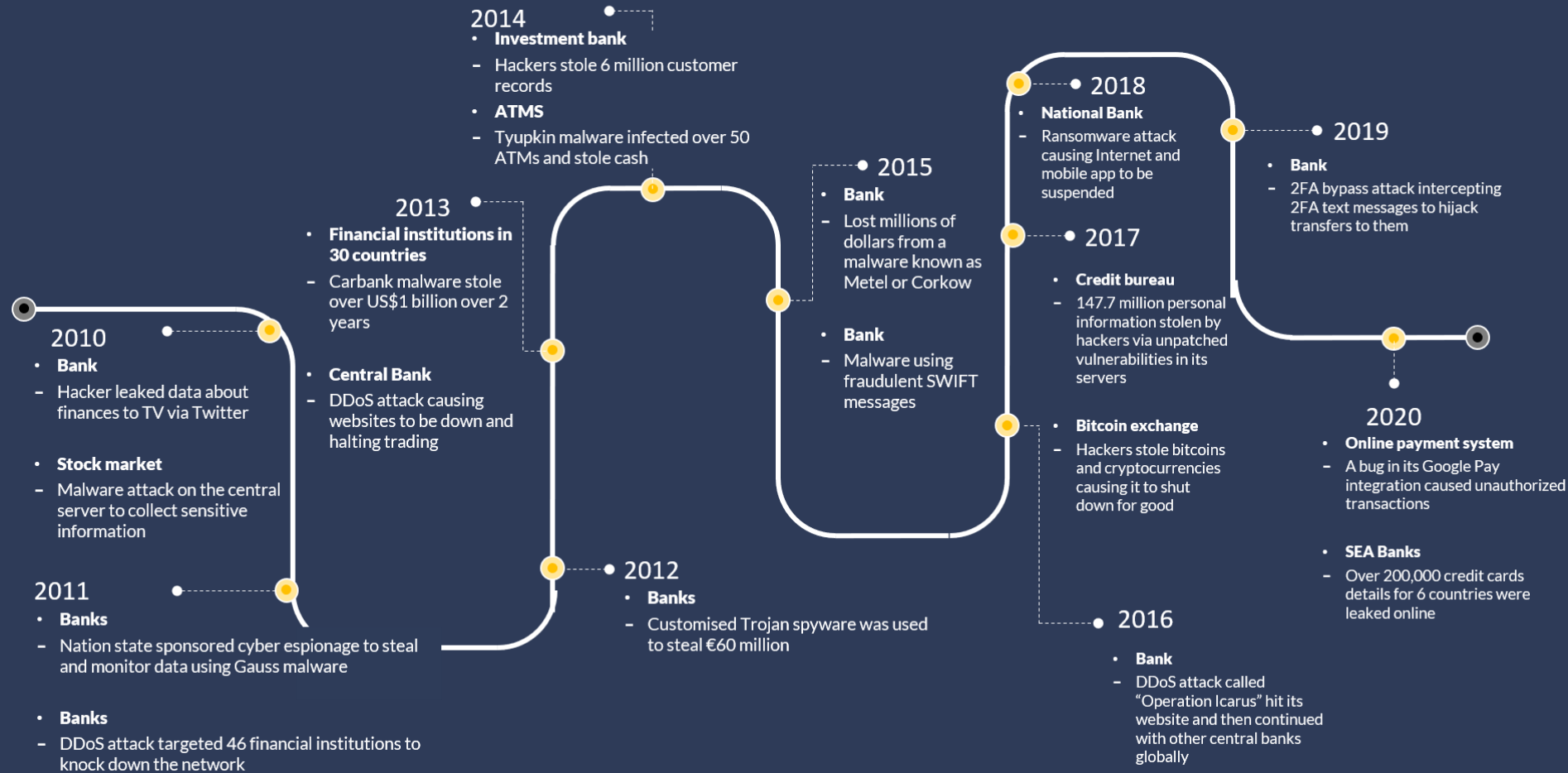
CNII CYBER ATTACKS ENERGY & POWER GRID (1982 – 2020)



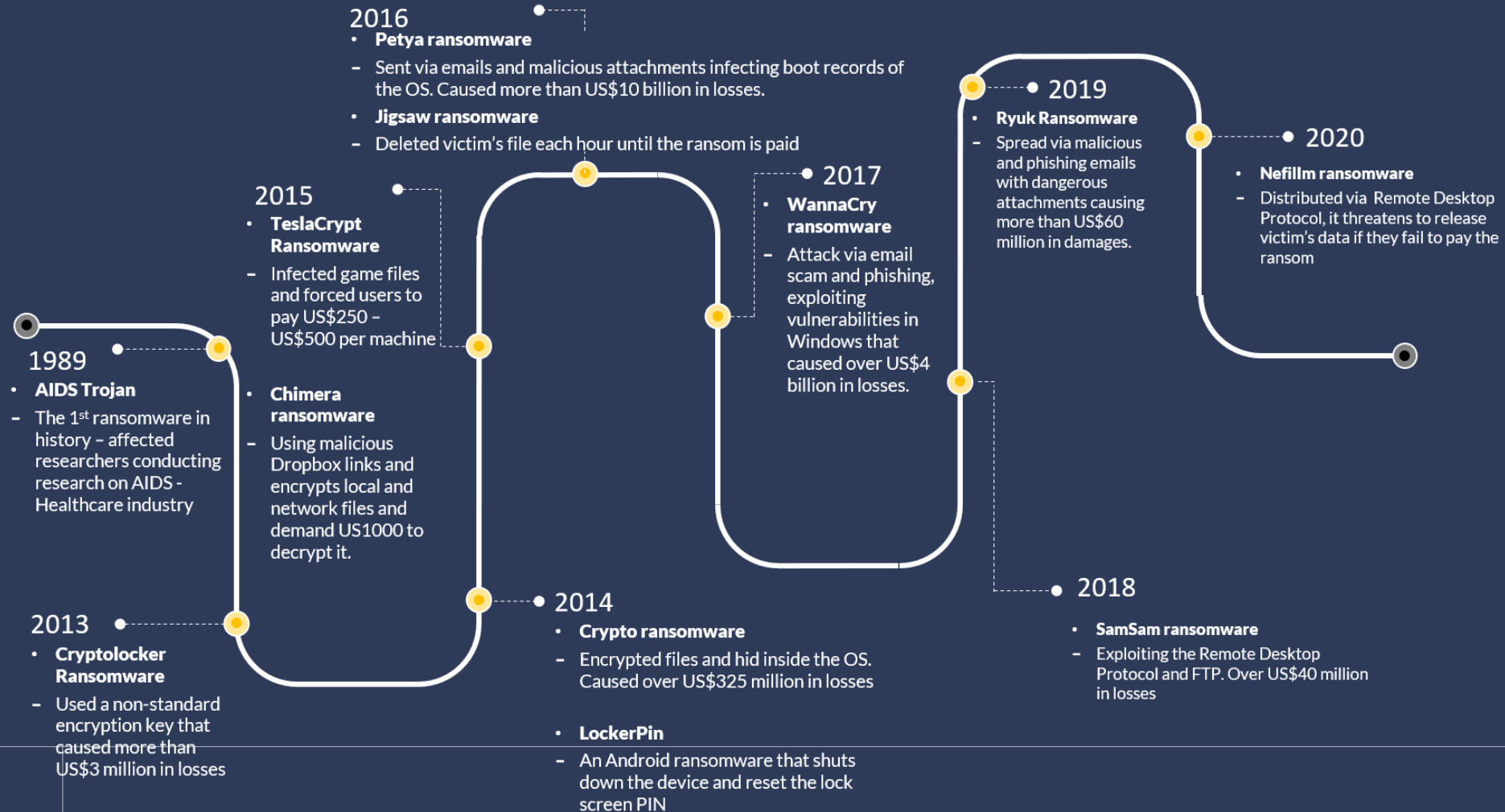
CNII CYBER ATTACK TRANSPORTATION (1997 – 2020)



CNII CYBER ATTACKS FINANCIAL (2010 – 2020)



CNII CYBER ATTACKS RANSOMWARE (1989 – 2020)





Trends in CNII Security

- ✓ Many critical infrastructure technologies are based on legacy IT and OT systems which are poorly secured, posing serious risks to utilities, and ultimately national security. Plugging these loopholes and stopping the exploitation of these access points by cyber attackers will play an important role in the cybersecurity of CNI.
- ✓ Data breaches are likely to continue for as long as personal and organizational data remains a valuable black-market commodity. Sensitive data of CNI's in the wrong hands can prove disastrous leading to huge losses and disruptions to daily life.

OOOOPS, YOUR FILES HAVE BEEN ENCRYPTED!

CNII Protection

Send \$1,200 worth of
bitcoin to this address:

1BvBMSEYstWetqTFn5Au4
m4GFg7xJaNVN2



YOUR FILES WILL BE LOST

TIME REMAINING
59:04:25

Trends in CNII Security

- ✓ In the future, as reliance on virtual infrastructure in CNII becomes acceptable; physical redundancies may be abandoned, which would make it easier for an attacker to carry out a devastating breach that can cause real damage. Maintaining physical backups or other physical redundancies can reduce the impact of a successful attack.
- ✓ In 2019, an increasing number of institutions overseeing the critical parts of daily life – suffered IT system shutdowns as a result of ransomware attacks. The repercussions of data breach and denial of service can inflict millions and even billions in losses or disturbing the essential services for maintaining daily life. The trend of ransomware will continue in 2020.

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Trends in CNII Security

- ✓ As CNI organizations increase their reliance on mobile devices and on IoT devices, hackers will put more effort into exploiting vulnerabilities.
- ✓ A growing problem is rogue mobile apps that look like trusted brands but are designed to steal sensitive information.
- ✓ In IoT, more and more devices are getting connected to the internet every day without any effective policies and governance leading to many loopholes to be taken advantage of.
- ✓ Challenges with cybersecurity involve device security, data security, and protection of individual's privacy.

SECTION 03

ADDRESSING THE THREATS



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Addressing the threats



- ✓ **Define a risk management framework**
 - Elaborates a continuous and repeatable methodology for identifying, assessing, and responding to cybersecurity risks. (e.g. NIST framework)
 - Organizations can determine their risk tolerance, thus the acceptable level of risk for achieving their supply and organizational goals and are able to prioritize remediations and make informed decisions about cybersecurity investments.

- ✓ **Build and test emergency plans**
 - Plans must involve both physical and cyber-attacks to the infrastructure and include the process to defend, mitigate and respond against it.
 - On the national level, the national cybersecurity agency will periodically organise a cyber exercise to simulate potential attack vectors against CNII. This allows CNII to better prepare for such attacks and design appropriate responses to protect, defend and mitigate those threats.

Addressing the threats



✓ **Training, awareness & education**

- Training equips individuals with the necessary skills to perform specific functions within the organisation.
- Employees must be made aware of information security policies and the importance of adhering to them. Communicating this to all employees is vital to ensure they know, understand and comply. The key outcome of security awareness programs and activities is to create a culture of security, change of behaviour and attitude.

✓ **Supply chain security**

- Due to extensive outsourcing, today's supply chain is increasingly complex and externalized, with subsequent additional risks.
- The resilience of a supply chain depends on its weakest link and operators are secure only if their entire ecosystem of partners and vendors is secure.
- Adversaries can use poorly protected partners as attack vectors to compromise critical operators.
- An integrated and sustainable supply chain security objective must be included in business plans, contracts and operations.

Addressing the threats



✓ **Information sharing & cooperation**

- Through information sharing, CNI can reduce and prevent the spread of the attack and minimise the damage to the infrastructure and country.
- Through partnerships, sectors can share information as well as collaborate to solve issues relating to cybersecurity threats and attacks.
- Alliances also help to share skills within the sectors where some unique skills may be required from the government or private sector. (e.g. FIRST)

✓ **Legal compliance**

- Legal compliance ensures that operators meet critical security standards identified by national decision makers.

✓ **Continuous monitoring & assessment of cybersecurity posture**

- The digital risk landscape is in constant evolution and need to build repeatable processes to monitor and assess the cybersecurity maturity level on an ongoing basis.
- Assessment should consider the risk-related adequacy of the processes, people, and technology, in order to identify cybersecurity substantial gaps and determine appropriate remedies to resolve weaknesses.
- CNI must examine the general preparedness of the operator, and the ability to detect and to respond to incidents and ensure business continuity.

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CNII National Policies

To build a robust tower around CNI, you will need:

- ✓ A national strategy
- ✓ Legal foundations
- ✓ Incident response capability
- ✓ Industry-government partnerships
- ✓ A culture of security
- ✓ Information sharing mechanisms
- ✓ Risk management approach



SECTION 04

**MOVING FORWARD
& CONCLUSION**



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CNI must have:

- ✓ A shift of mindset in the manner cybersecurity is addressed.
 - ✓ Look beyond technical tools to adopt a new cyber defense strategy.
-

Conclusion



Conclusion

- ✓ Be prepared – training & vulnerability assessment.
- ✓ Design sector specific resources & initiatives.
- ✓ Cooperate with agencies on a national, regional and international level.
- ✓ Expand information sharing.
- ✓ Build robust national policies & strategies.

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THANK YOU

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