



# Software Security Assurance

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# Agenda

- Software & Industry Breaches
- Software Security Assurance (SSA)
- SSA Program Diagram
- SSA Activities
- Wrap up



# Why Software Security?

- Software is Ubiquitous
  - It's in the phones we carry
  - It's in the cars we drive
  - It's in the planes we board
  - It's in....pretty much in everything...possibly even the air we breath :)



# Energy Industry Breach

The US Department of Energy's July 2013 Cyber Security Breach

## Story

- Early warning signs that certain personnel- related information systems were at risk ignored
- Department did not take action to protect PII of a large number of past and present employees
- July 2013 Exfiltration of PII for 104,000+ individuals.

## Investigation

- PII info not encrypted in storage
- System was publically accessible
- Lack of Assurance (Security Testing)
- Presence of Critical and High Risk Vulnerabilities
- Failure to update or replace outdated system

## Impact

- \$1.6 Million Credit Monitoring and Call Center
- \$2.1 Million in Corrective Efforts



# What can we do?

Use a systematic approach to treating software risk

- Goal: Reduce Risks posed by Software
- Objectives:
  - Identify Risks
  - Prioritize Risks
  - Treat Risks
- Assurance Activities:
  - Awareness (Secure Coding Training/Guidelines)
  - Security Testing
  - Remediation of findings with respect to impact

# Defining Software Security Assurance

- What is assurance?
  - Building confidence / trust in a certain claim
- What is security?
  - Defending the Confidentiality, Integrity and Availability (CIA) of System/Assets
- What is software security assurance?
  - Building Confidence that C I A requirements are met



# Frameworks and Standards

- Constituents of a structured framework  
Provides a structured definition of:
  - Goals
  - Functions that serve those Goals
  - Roles and Duties for each Function
  - Measurements and Performance Indicators
  - Supporting Tools and Resources



# Framework\*SSA / OpenSAMM

Framework SSA

Software  
Development

Business Functions

Governance

Construction

Verification

Deployment

Strategic  
Planning

Education  
and  
Guidance

Standards  
and  
Compliance

Security  
Requirements

Threat  
Modelling

Defensive  
Design

Architecture  
Review

Code  
Review

Security  
Testing

Vulnerability  
Management

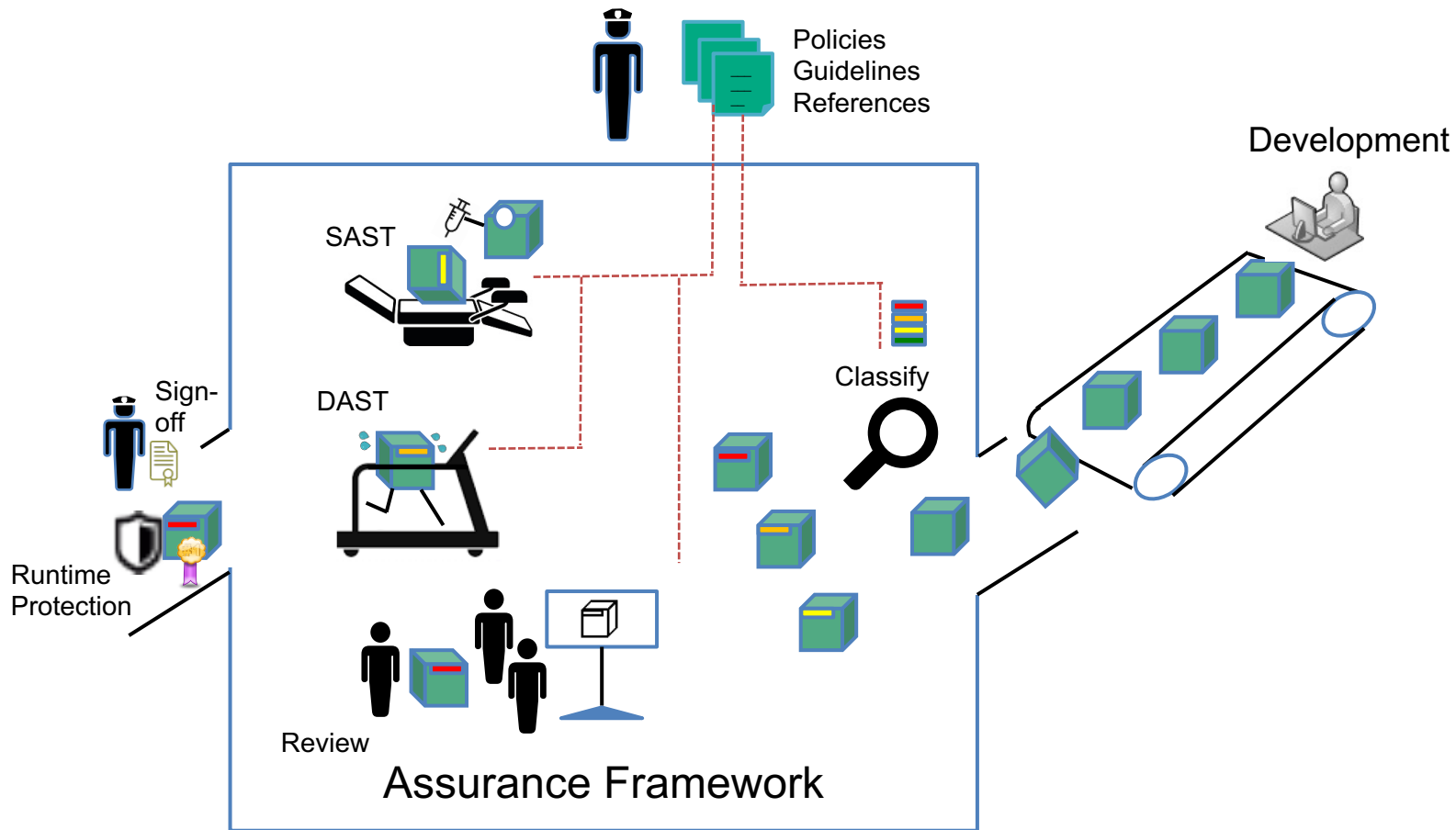
Infrastructure  
Hardening

Operational  
Enablement

Security Practices



# SSA in Practice



Governance

Construction

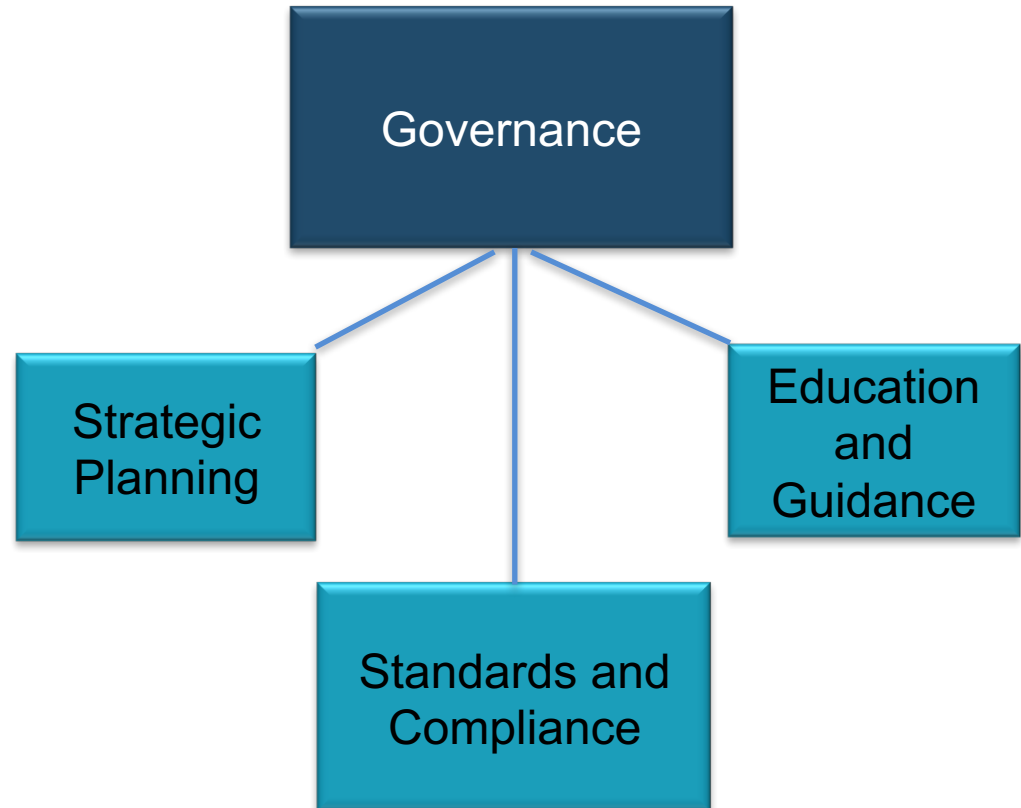
Verification

Deployment



Strategic Planning  
Standards and Compliance  
Education and Guidance

# GOVERNANCE



# Strategic Planning



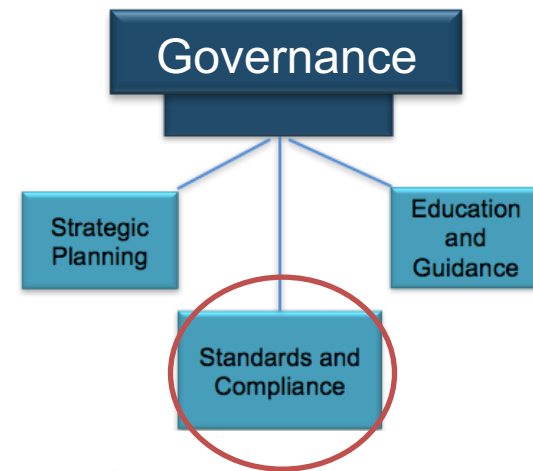
## Initiate a Software Security Assurance Program

- Define Goals of the program with stakeholders
  - Goals, e.g. “Lower risks posed by Internet Facing Systems”
  - Motivation, e.g. Government regulation / Competitive advantage
  - Risks, e.g. Loss of Customer Confidence/Business, Penalties
- Define Strategy
  - “Identify and analyse risks specific to Internet Facing Applications used by the organisation”
- Raise Awareness
  - Publish program goals and conduct awareness sessions
- Develop evaluation criteria

Overall Risk Severity				
Impact	HIGH	Medium	High	Critical
	MEDIUM	Low	Medium	High
	LOW	Note	Low	Medium
		LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Likelihood				



# Standards and Compliance



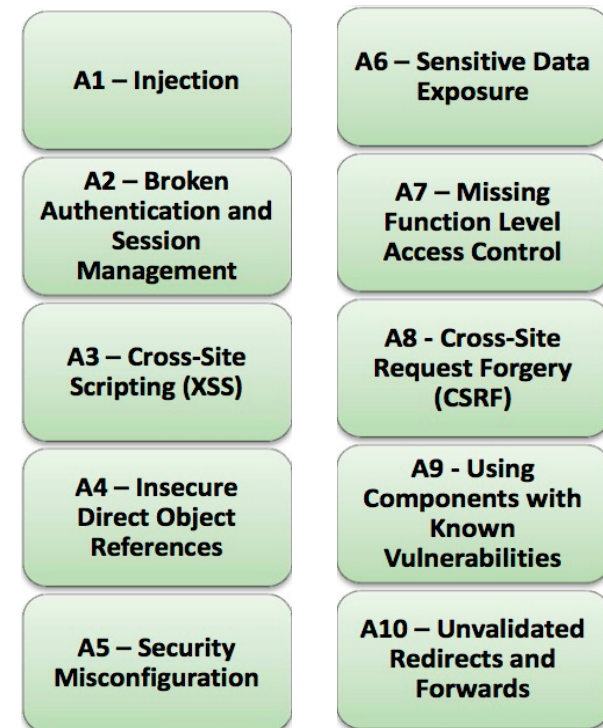
## Identify Compliance Drivers

- Identify your software/data obligations to
  - Customers, Partners, Government
- Translate to Security Requirements for projects
  - e.g. Project Requirements Documents state: “All user input must be validated”
  - All projects will state security requirements using template xyz
- Keep Up-to-date

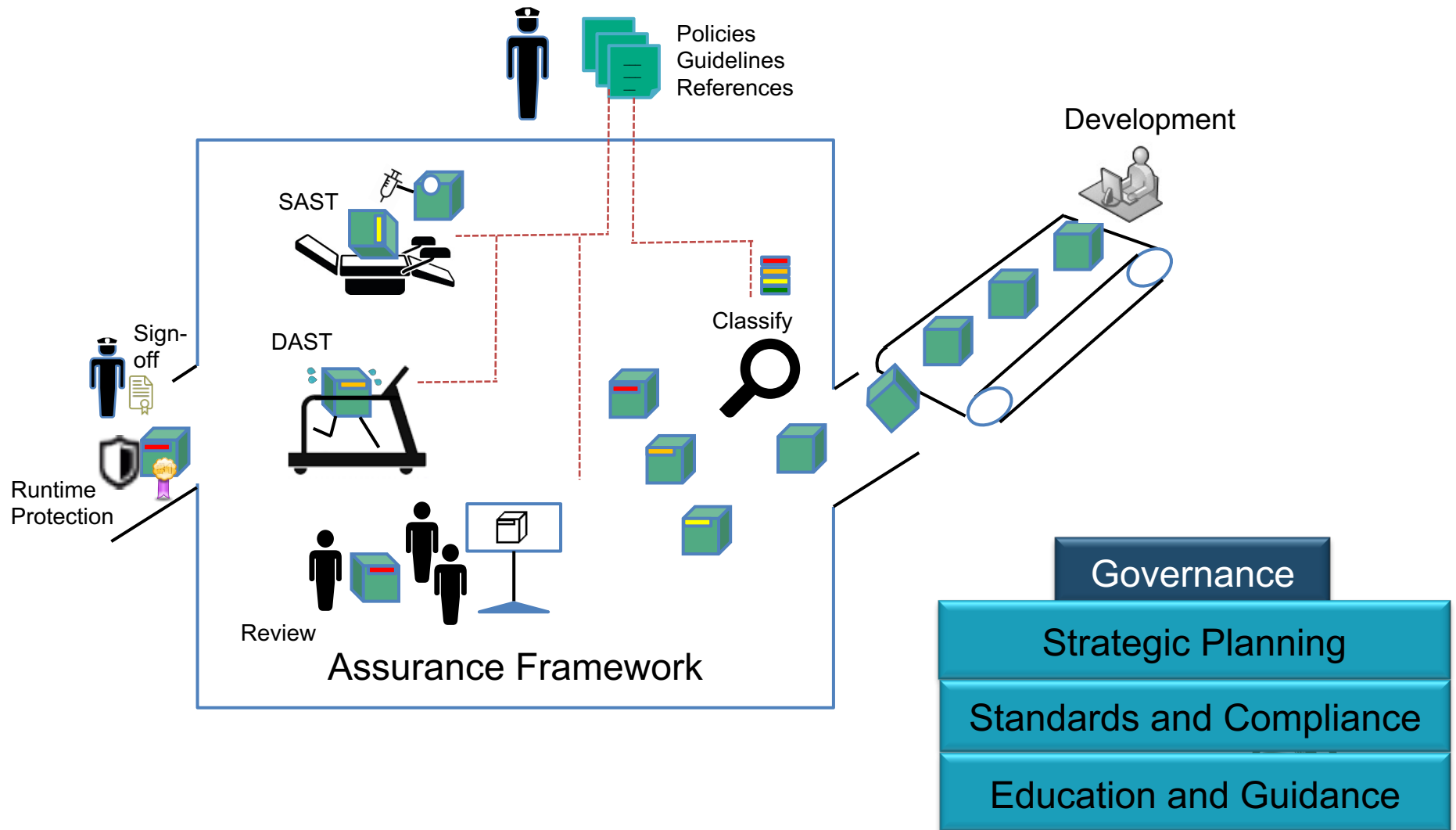


# Education and Guidance

- Educate Teams
  - Developers
    - Application Security Awareness
    - Common Vulnerabilities
    - Secure Coding Best Practices
- Assemble Guidance Resources
  - Secure Coding Guidelines
  - Secure Coding Checklists
- Annual Training (refreshers)

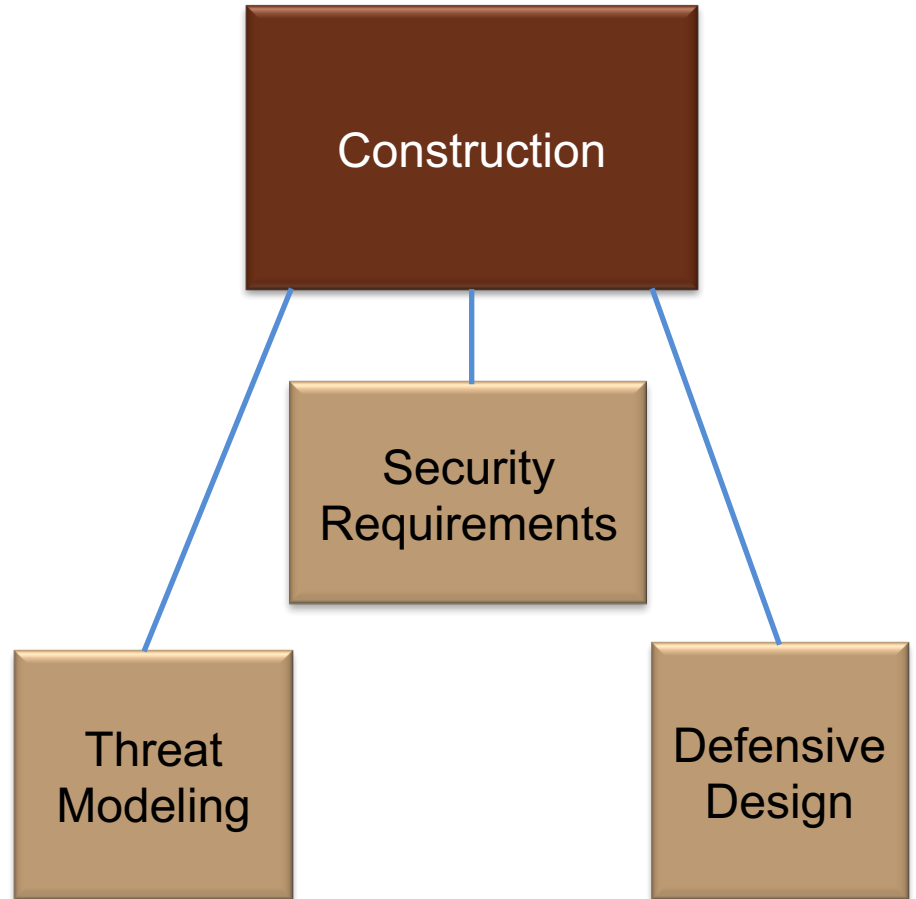


# SSA in Practice

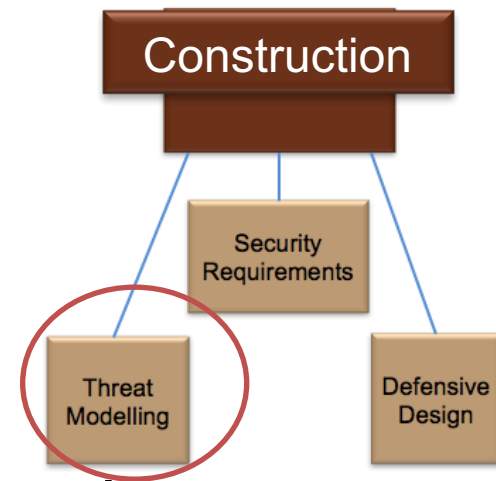


Threat Modeling  
Security Requirements  
Defensive Design

# CONSTRUCTION



# Threat Modeling



Identify high-level threats for projects

- Projects should list relevant Threats and how they handle them
  - Find threats by listing worst-case scenarios (abuse Cases)
  - Recognise threat agents (Internal and External)
  - Identify controls and gaps
  - Collect these for further adoption by organisation (maturity)
  - Repeat as new features added to projects

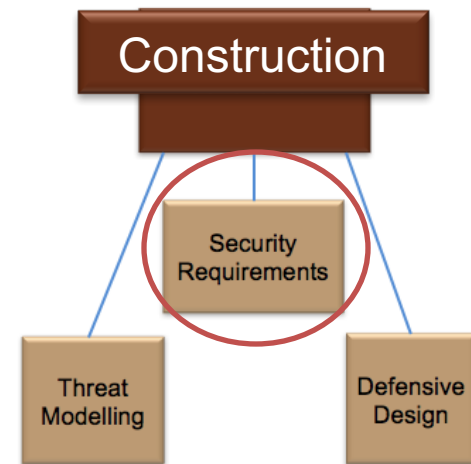




# Security Requirements

Identify Security Requirements for each project

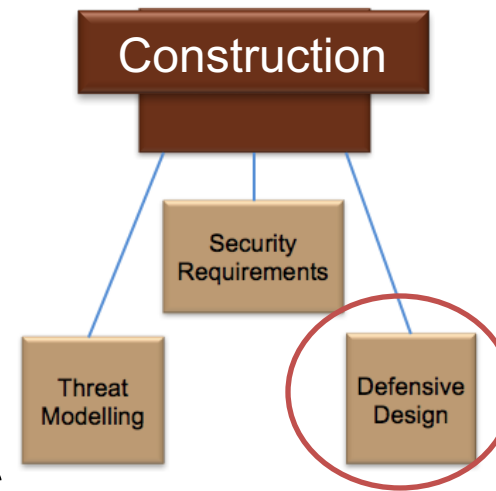
- Derive from Functional Requirements
- SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, realisable, traceable)
- Based on Industry Best Practices and Standards
- Documented
- Analyse existing systems for missing requirements
- Refactor existing systems to implement missing requirement **by priority**



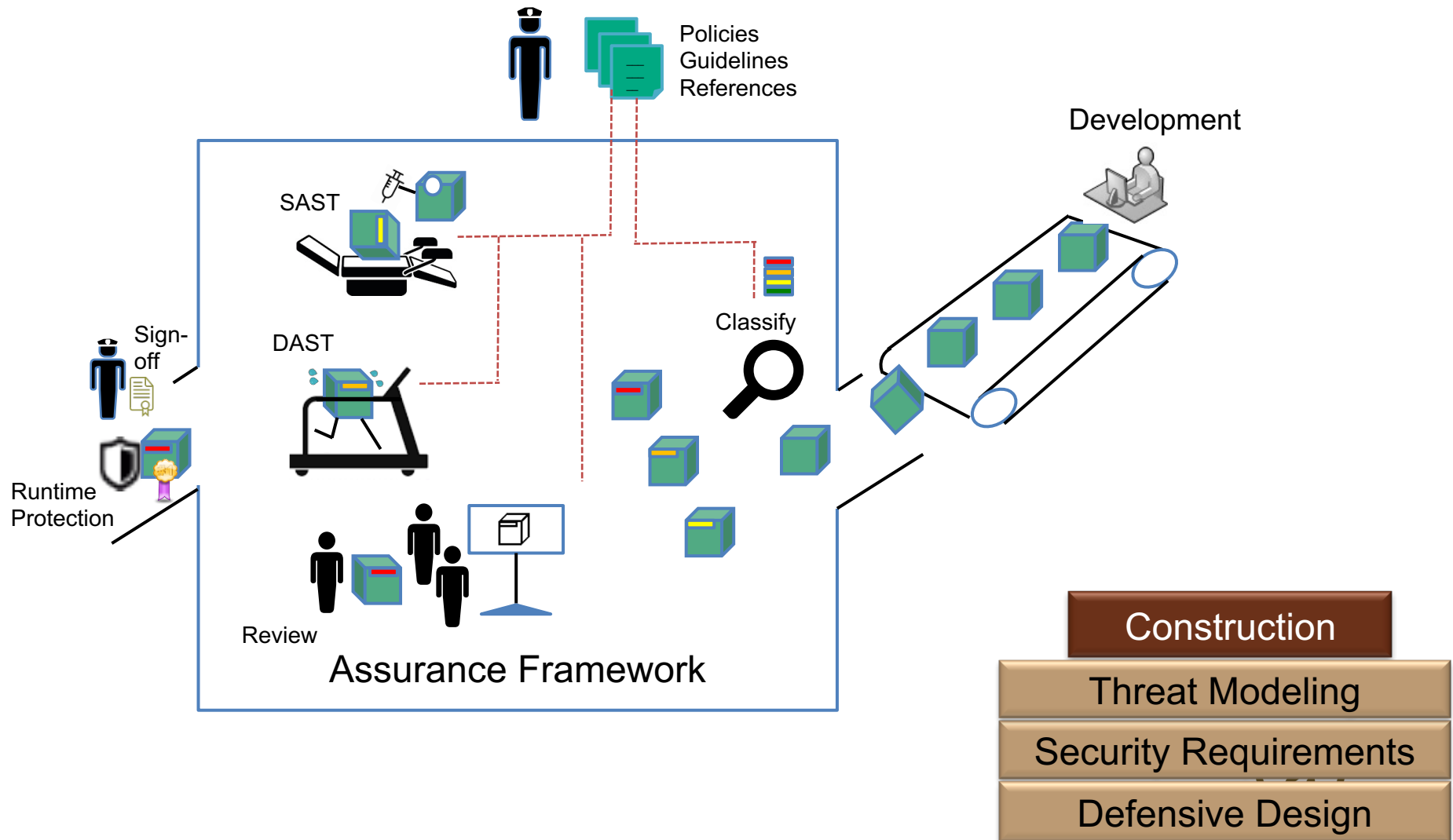
# Defensive Design

## Identify Dependencies, Acceptable Third Party Components & Interfaces

- Teams document their usage of third party components
  - Open Source Libraries / Free tools
  - Commercial Libraries
- Secure Design Principles Guidance
  - Secure Design Guidelines
  - Secure Design Checklists

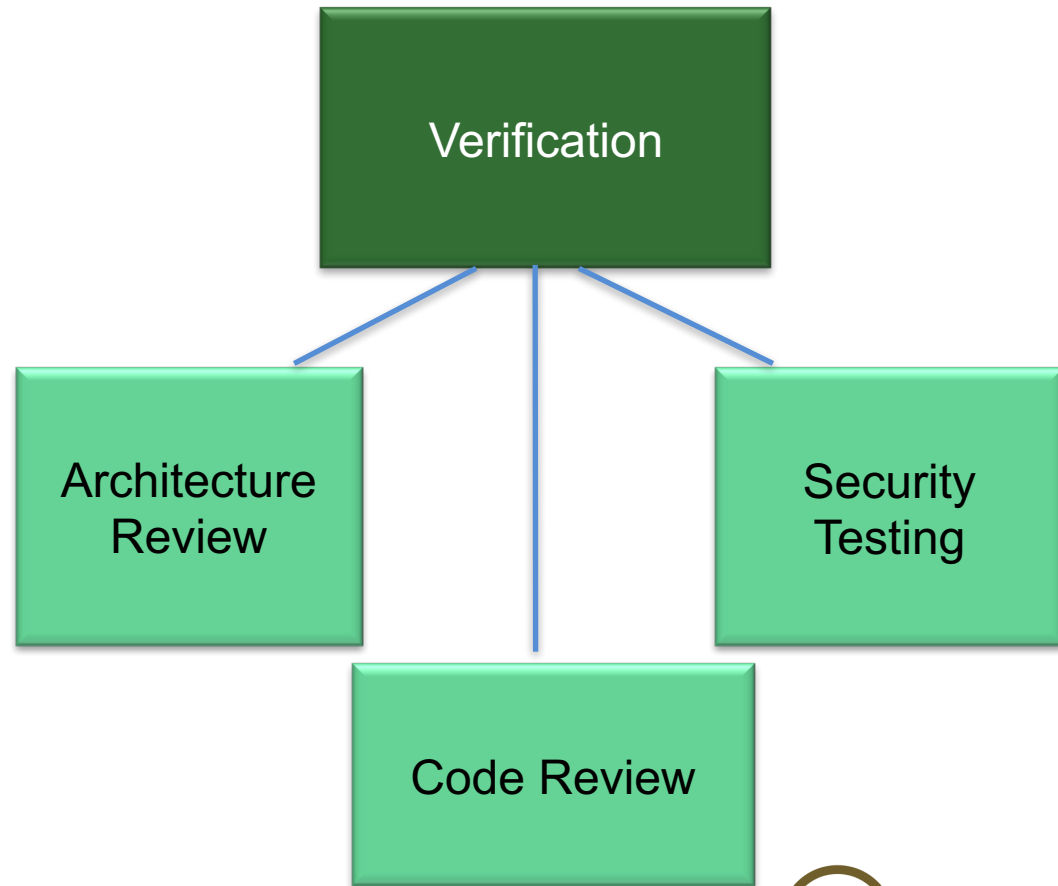


# SSA in Practice



Architecture review  
Code Review  
Security Testing

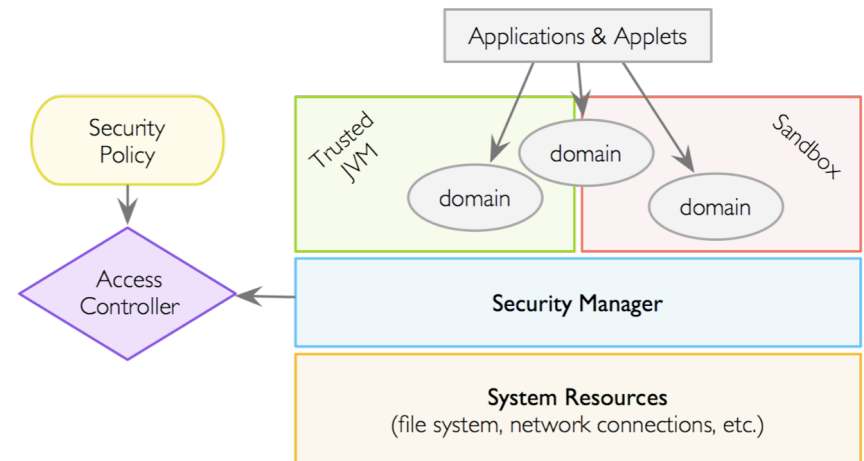
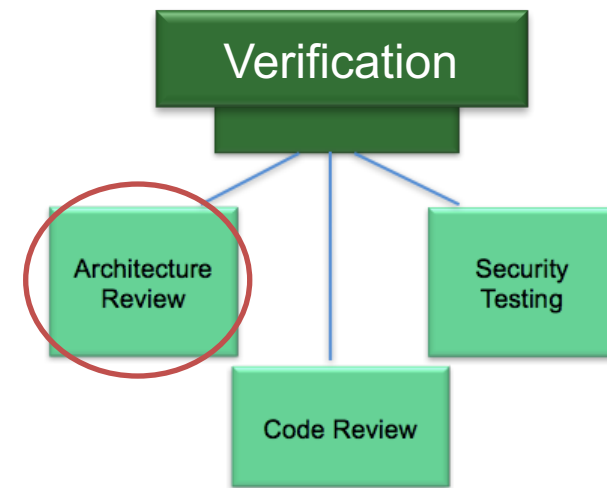
# VERIFICATION



# Architecture Review

Annotated Architecture Diagram is provided for each project

- Describes User-roles and exposed functionalities
- Describes Assumptions and Trust-boundaries
- Identifies related security functionalities
- Checked for missing security features
- Updated as system changes

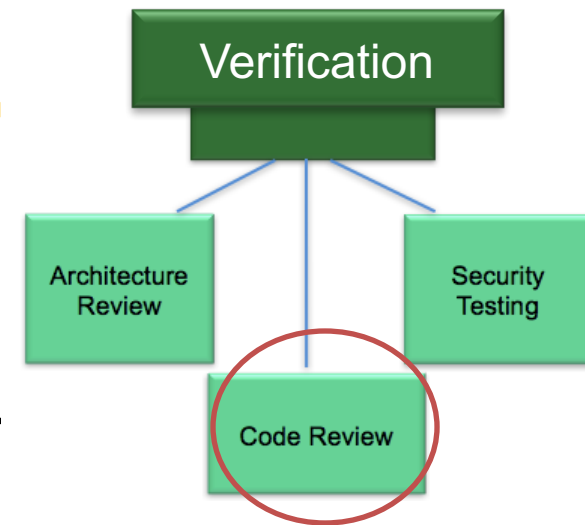


# Code Review

```
98 ThreadWatcher watcher;  
99  
100 try  
101 {  
102     // start the command  
103     child = Runtime.getRuntime().exec(command);  
104  
105     // get the streams in and out of the command  
106     InputStream processIn = child.getInputStream();  
107     InputStream processError = child.getErrorStream();  
108     OutputStream processOut = child.getOutputStream();  
109  
110     // start the clock running  
111     if (timeout > 0)  
112     {  
113         watcher = new ThreadWatcher(child, interrupted, timeout);  
114         new Thread(watcher).start();  
115     }  
116  
117     // Write to the child process' input stream  
118     if ((input != null) && !input.equals(""))
```

## Project utilise Secure Coding Guidelines Documentation

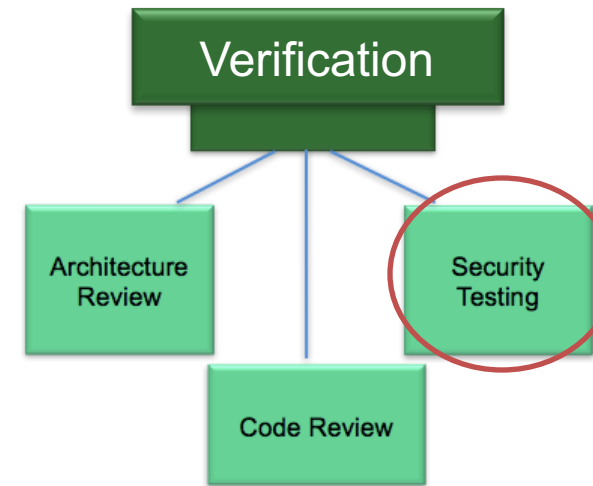
- Secure Coding Checklists
- Training on Secure Coding and Checklist usage
- High-risk projects are reviewed first, findings handled by priority
- Tools for review (SAST)
  - Internal, External, Consultant-driven...etc



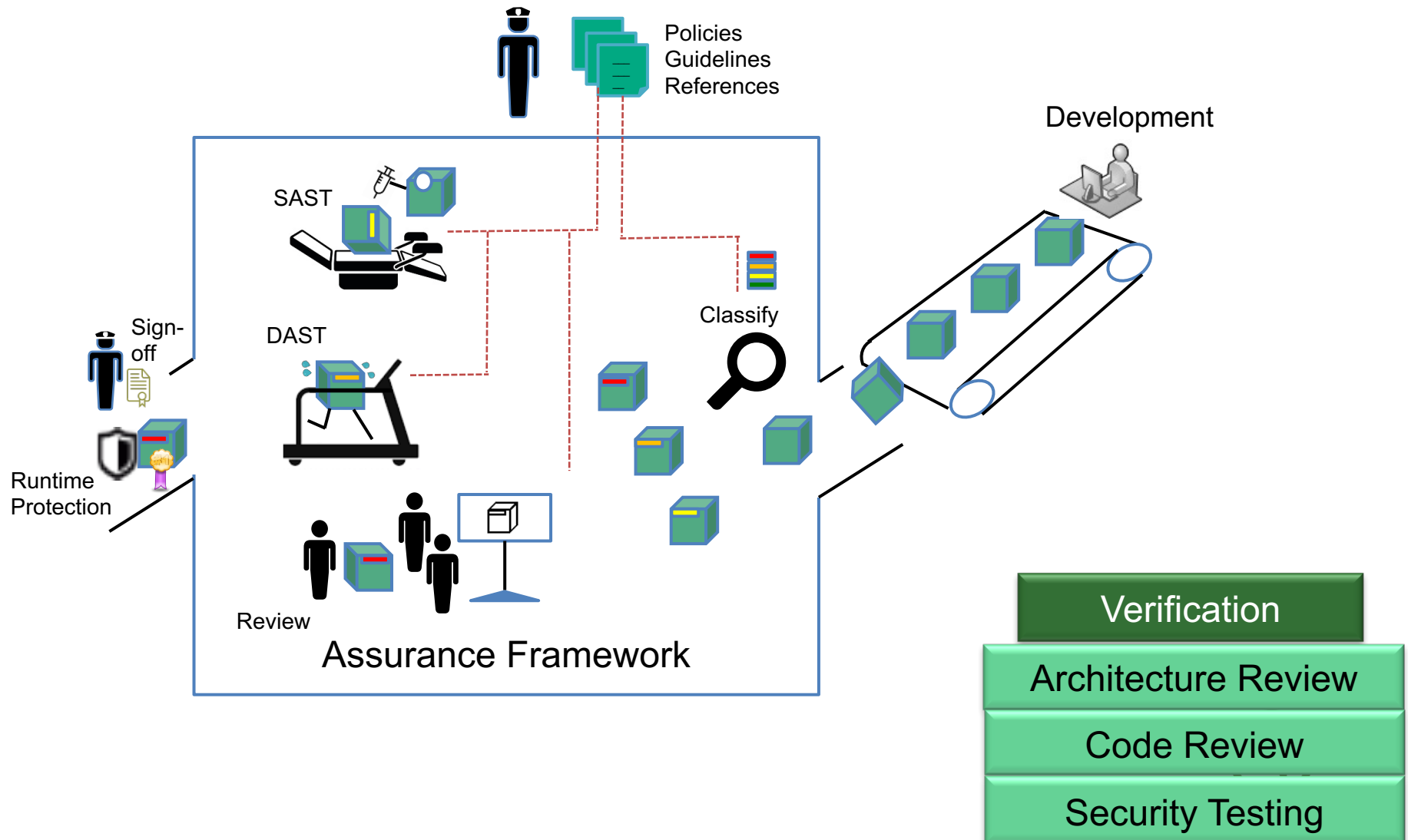
# Security Testing

Define Testing Requirements  
based on Security Requirements

- Projects define test cases
- Projects perform penetration test before release
- Findings are reviewed and treated as per prioritisation with stakeholders
  - Tools for review (DAST)
    - Internal, External, Consultant-driven...etc



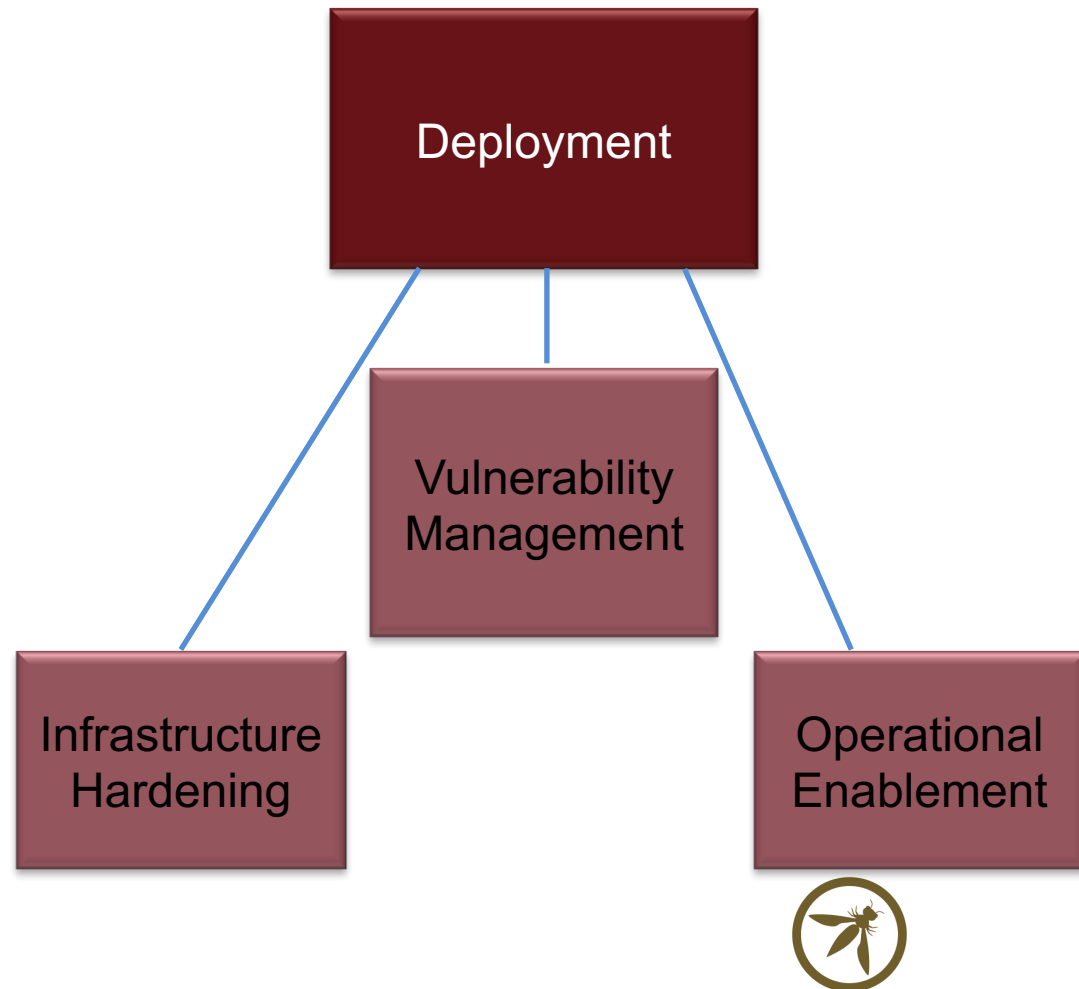
# SSA Clock-work





Vulnerability Management  
Infrastructure Hardening  
Operational Enablement

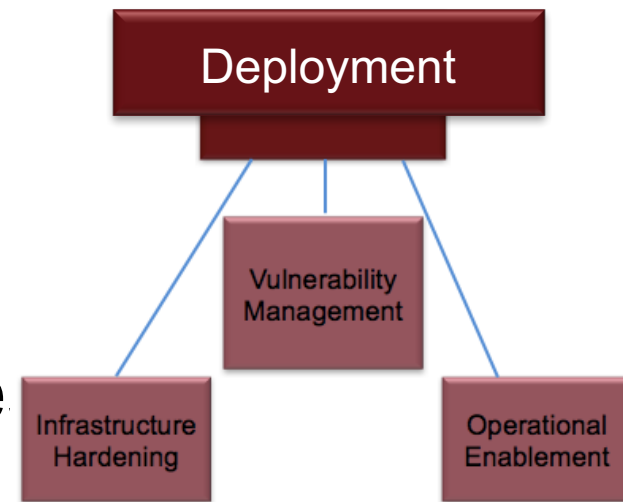
# DEPLOYMENT



# Vulnerability Management

## Identify Key Security Resource

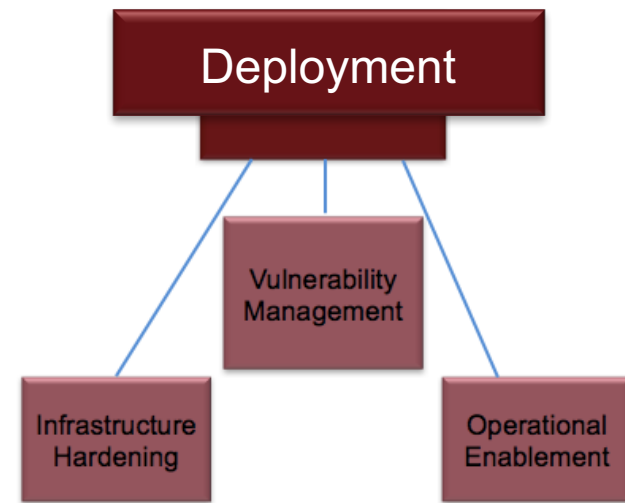
- Security Response Team
  - Security-Savvy developer per project
- Incident Response Process
  - Manage Incidents
  - Report Vulnerabilities to project
  - Follow-up on Remediation
  - Report to Stakeholders



# Infrastructure Hardening

Set and Agree on Expectations  
for Operating Environment

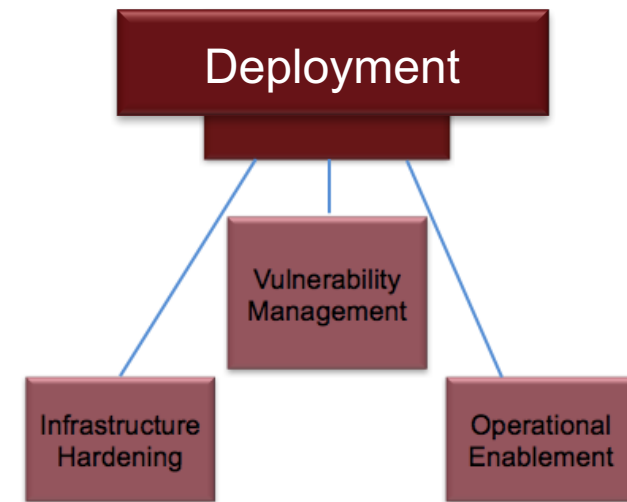
- Describe Baseline Configurations available for projects
- Document project run-time requirements and deviations from baseline
- Monitor critical updates for infrastructure, platform and dependencies (e.g. Libraries)
- Separation of Duties (Operations / Development)



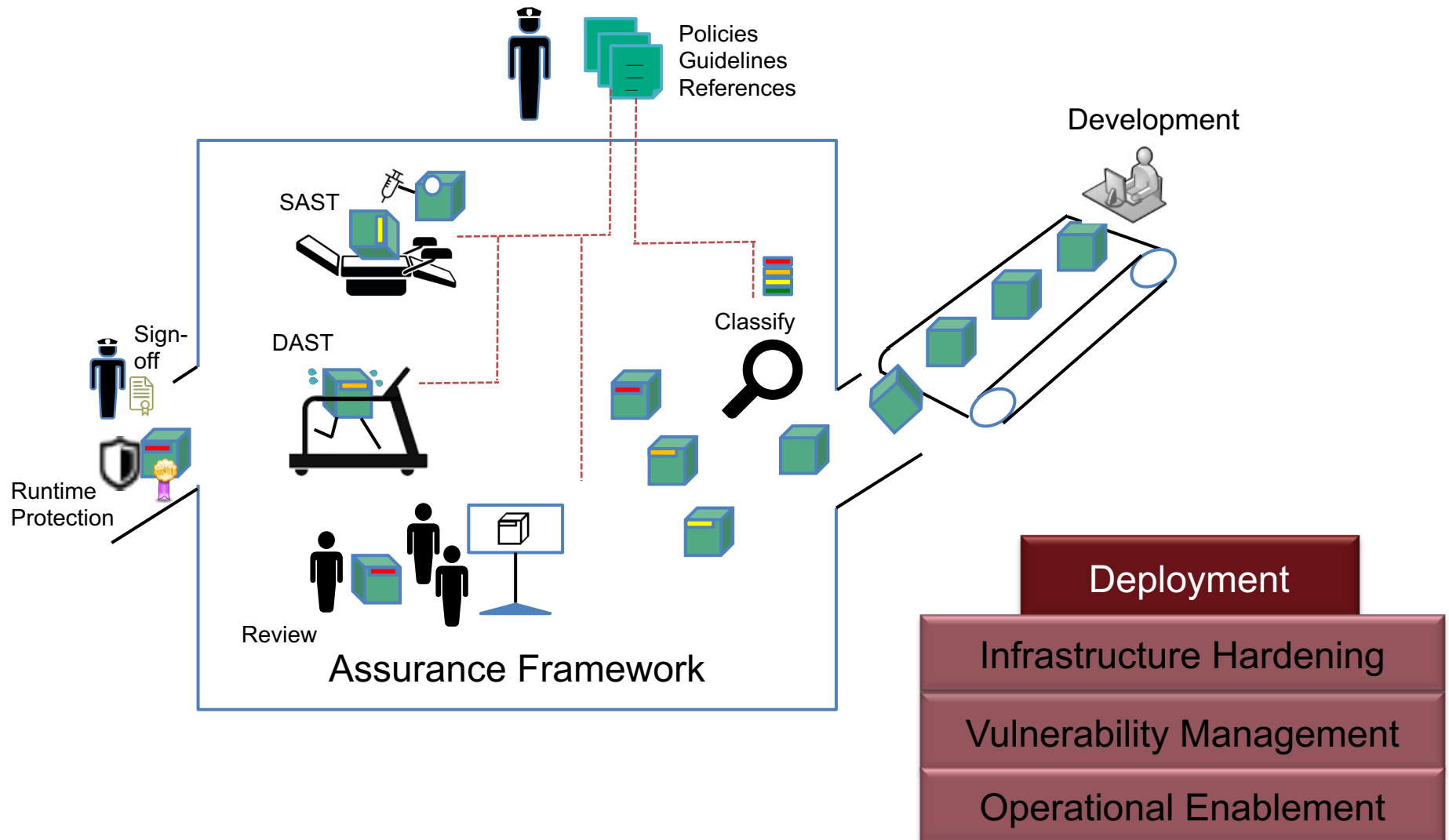
# Operational Enablement

Inform Operations on secure usage of system

- Project documents
  - Security Features and how to configure them
  - Secure Defaults and the security impacts of changing configurations
  - Security-relevant alerts and error conditions
- Operations to Monitor system and Take Proper Action



# SSA Clock-work



# Incident Response

- Application design
  - Security Events – what is recorded?
- Application Implementation
  - Frameworks for logging
  - Interfaces and Integrations with common detection systems (e.g. SIEM)
- Documentation – how to respond from a contextual point of view
- Protection and response



# SSA IN PRACTICE



# Classification

- How do you classify your projects risk?
  - Data Processed (C I A)
  - Business Functions served
  - Surface of attack / Exposure
  - Threats and their Likelihood





# Project Types

Consider how you may handle these differently:

- Internal Development Projects
- Commercial Off-the-shelf (COTS)
- Vendor Developed / Outsourced Projects
- Legacy



Access to the documentation

Ability to perform assurance activities

Access to the source code

Access to the development team



# SSA

- Resourcing SSA Programs
  - Size of development effort and number of projects
  - Size of development community/department
  - Current Resources
    - Developers, Managers, Business Owners
    - QA Testers
    - Auditors / Consultants
  - Development Lifecycle Stage of Projects
    - New, Stable, BAU, Retiring



# Solutions and Resources

- Tools and Solutions
  - Internal vs. External Resourcing
    - SAST: Are we allowed to share our code?
    - DAST: Is our system accessible to the outside world?
    - Threat Modeling: Do we have access to the necessary documents or people?



# In Sum

- Start by assessing where you stand
- Inspect Business Functions
- Identify Current Security Practices
- Identify Gaps
- Set a roadmap
- Update your SSA strategy/plan
- Implement Changes
- Repeat



# Thank You

- Questions?

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