

Nothing Lives Forever. Especially Unsupported Devices

How lifecycles can undermine security and trust

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Lifecycle management is a security problem

Technically, assets can survive decades. But would you like to use it?

- Lifecycle is matter of security, not accounting
- In a connected world, only support provided will decide about lifetime
- Risk analysis for devices without support is an equivalent of robbery

"Nothing says 'robust cybersecurity' like a Windows Server old enough to vote."



Your Assets Has Better Persistence Than Your Security Team

Vulnerability growth over time

- Lack of support for assets with geological lifespans
- Devices become forgotten and Shadow IT rises
- Security controls become incompatible
- Cryptography becomes unsupported
- Supply-chain dependency problems grow

"Temporary exception approved in 2010. Still temporary in 2025."



Motivation and misconception

What is a motivation for device replacement?

- Could be one or more from list:

TCO, PUE, availability, stability, safety, price, simplicity, user interface
in rare cases - support

- Everyone forgot security

Beware:

- Extended Support Is Not Resurrection

- Risk Acceptance Is Not Risk Elimination

If It Cannot Be Patched, It Becomes Malign

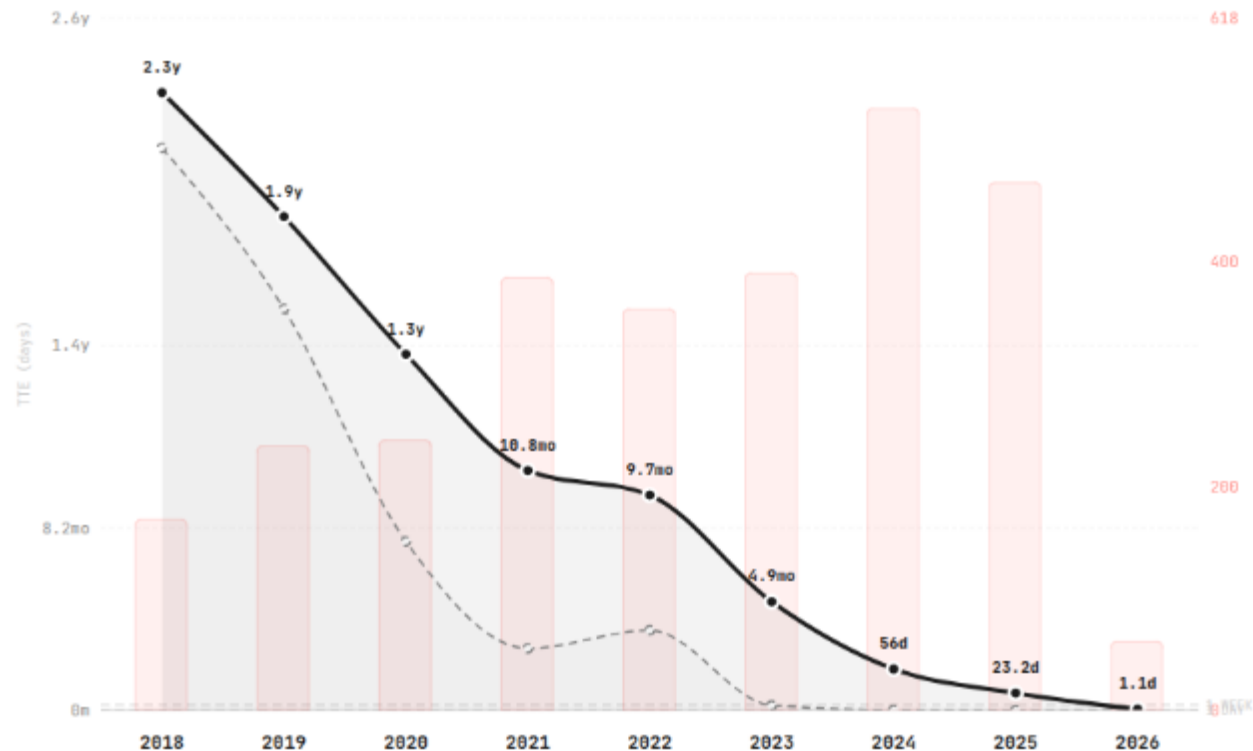
- Unsupported systems become systemic risk.
- Lifecycle management is security governance.
- EoL planning must exist before deployment.

Cybercrime and AI twist the game

From Vulnerability to Exploitation

TTE (Time-to-Exploit) measures the gap between CVE disclosure and confirmed exploitation

— Mean TTE (10% trimmed, days) - - - Median TTE (days) ■ Weaponized Exploits (count)



- 2026 - 1 day (*actually 10 hours*)
- 2027 - 10 minutes
- 2028 - 1 minute !!!

Source: <https://zerodayclock.com/>



Agile Cryptography

You can't spell Cryptography without "cry" ...




Mosca's theorem

$$X + Y > Z$$

X Migration time 

Y Security shelf life 

Z Time to compromise 


Secret keys
compromised

Withdraw timescale in cryptography is usually about 10-15 years!



Record, Measure, Evaluate, Manage ...

- Unknown assets are just future incident reports
- If you do not measure and evaluate it, attackers probably already did
- Cryptoagility: Change in minutes, not months

What else required?



Cryptoagility and technology

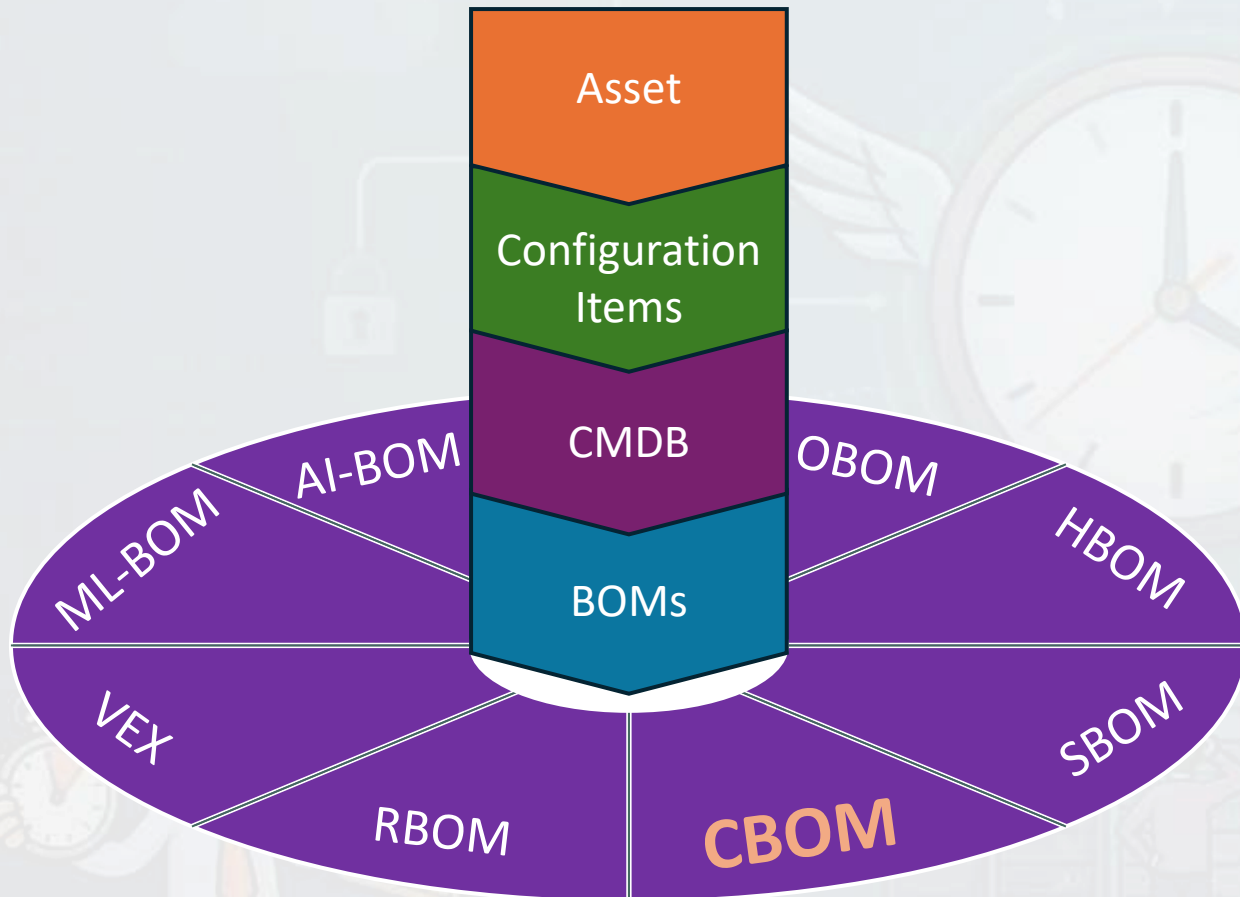
- Separate cryptography from business logic.
Replacing one cipher should not require rewriting whole history.
- Cryptographic policies must be centrally managed.
Developers should not “express themselves” through custom crypto settings.
- Cryptography must be continuously tested.
“It encrypted something” is not a successful test result. Who will decrypt it?
- Key rotation and crypto migration must be automated.
Expired certificates remain one of humanity’s favorite outage generators.
- Plan for cryptographic replacement before disaster happens.
Attackers usually do not wait for your next maintenance window.

CBOM and measurement

- Not providing a CBOM is still a strategy. For now.
- “Military-grade encryption” stops sounding impressive once someone asks for metrics.
- Relax. It’s only statistics deciding your security posture.



Explaining Why “One More Migration” Is Actually a Feature



CBOM (Cryptography Bill of Materials)

Consist:

- Libraries
- Protocols
- Algorithms
- Key materials

Scopes:

- Capability
- Dependencies
- Default configuration
- Used settings



**When they die, where do
Hackers go?**

Encrypts

Side-Channel Attack or Sith Side Attack?

Secure in Theory, Leaking in Practice



ARROW

The encryption survived. The physics testified against it.

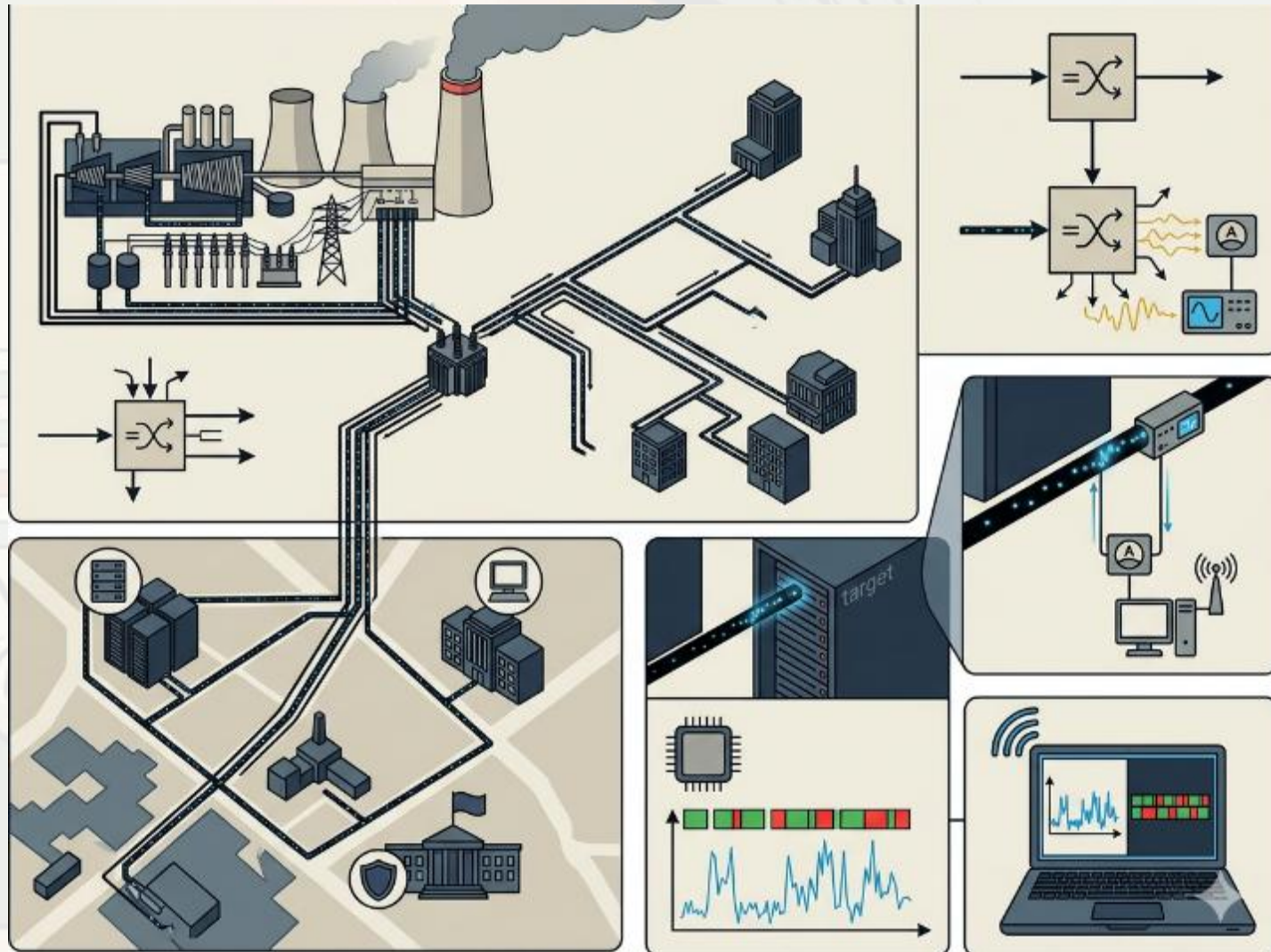
- Timing: Measuring your mistakes in nanosecond scale
- Power: Power plant is now part of your threat model
- EMI: Dr. Oscilloscopy can witness
- Cache: The cache is not exactly your friend.
- Acoustic: When encryption speaks out loud.
- Optical: Device decided to become a lighthouse.

Timing: Measuring your mistakes in nanosecond scale



ARROW

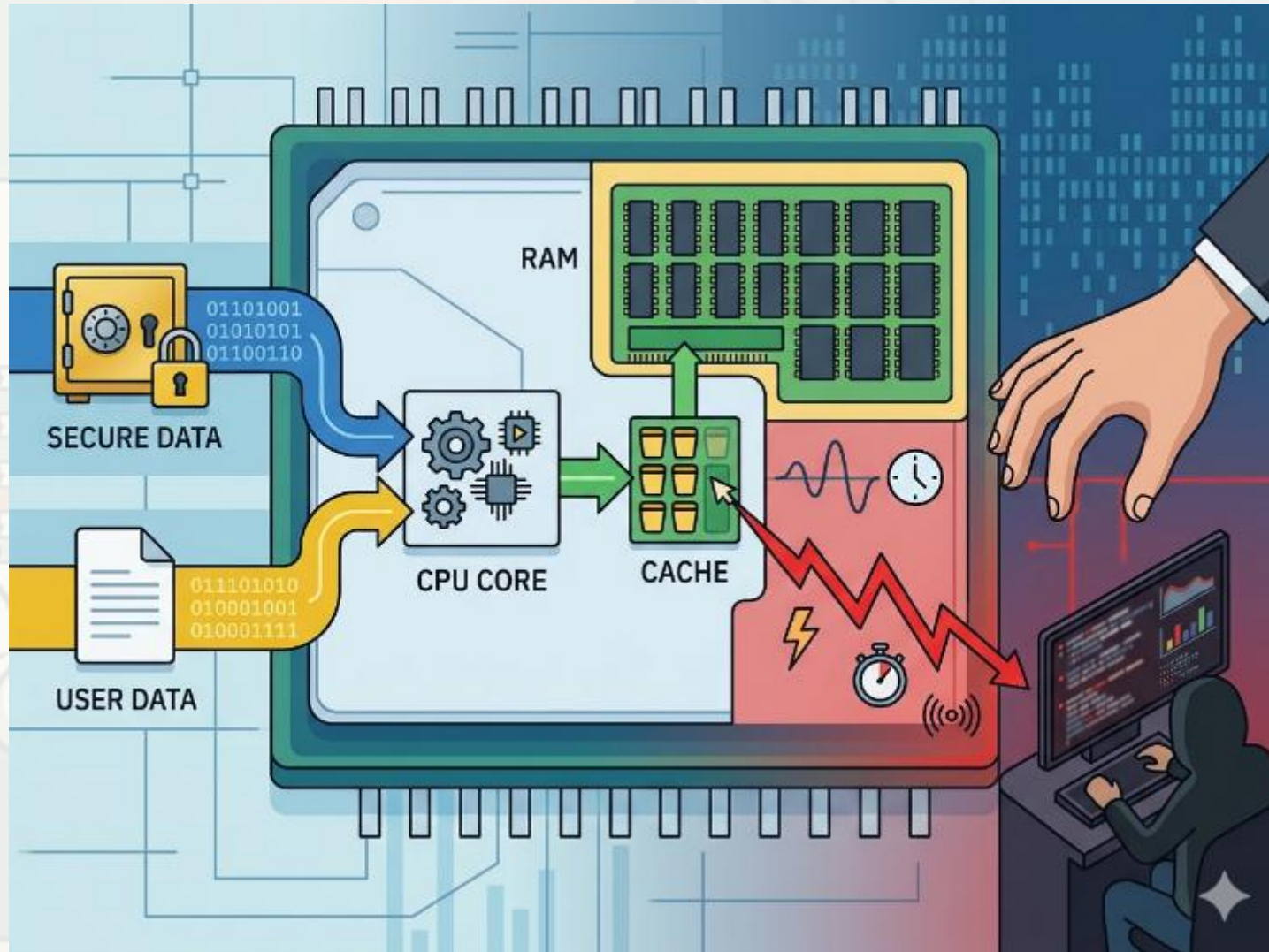
Power: Power plant is now part of your threat model



EMI: Dr. Oscilloscopy can witness



Cache: The cache is not exactly your friend.

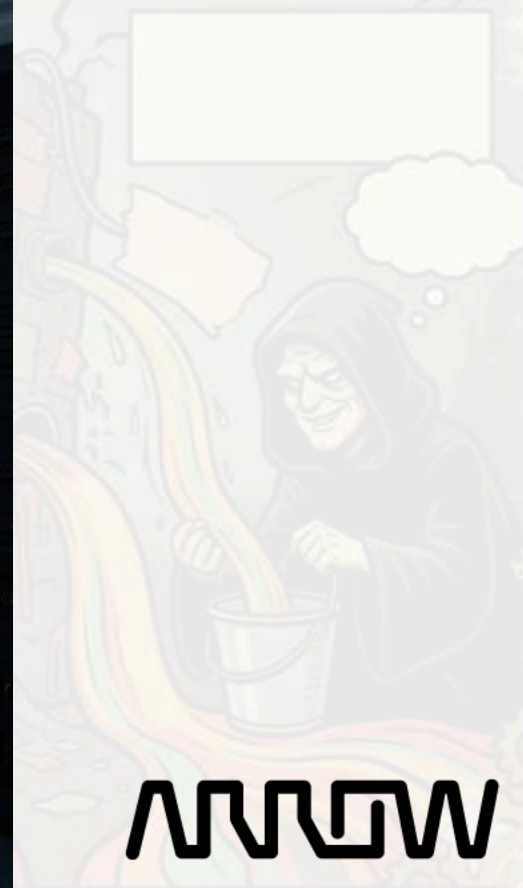


Acoustic: When encryption speaks out loud.



ARROW

Optical: Device decided to become a lighthouse.



ARROW

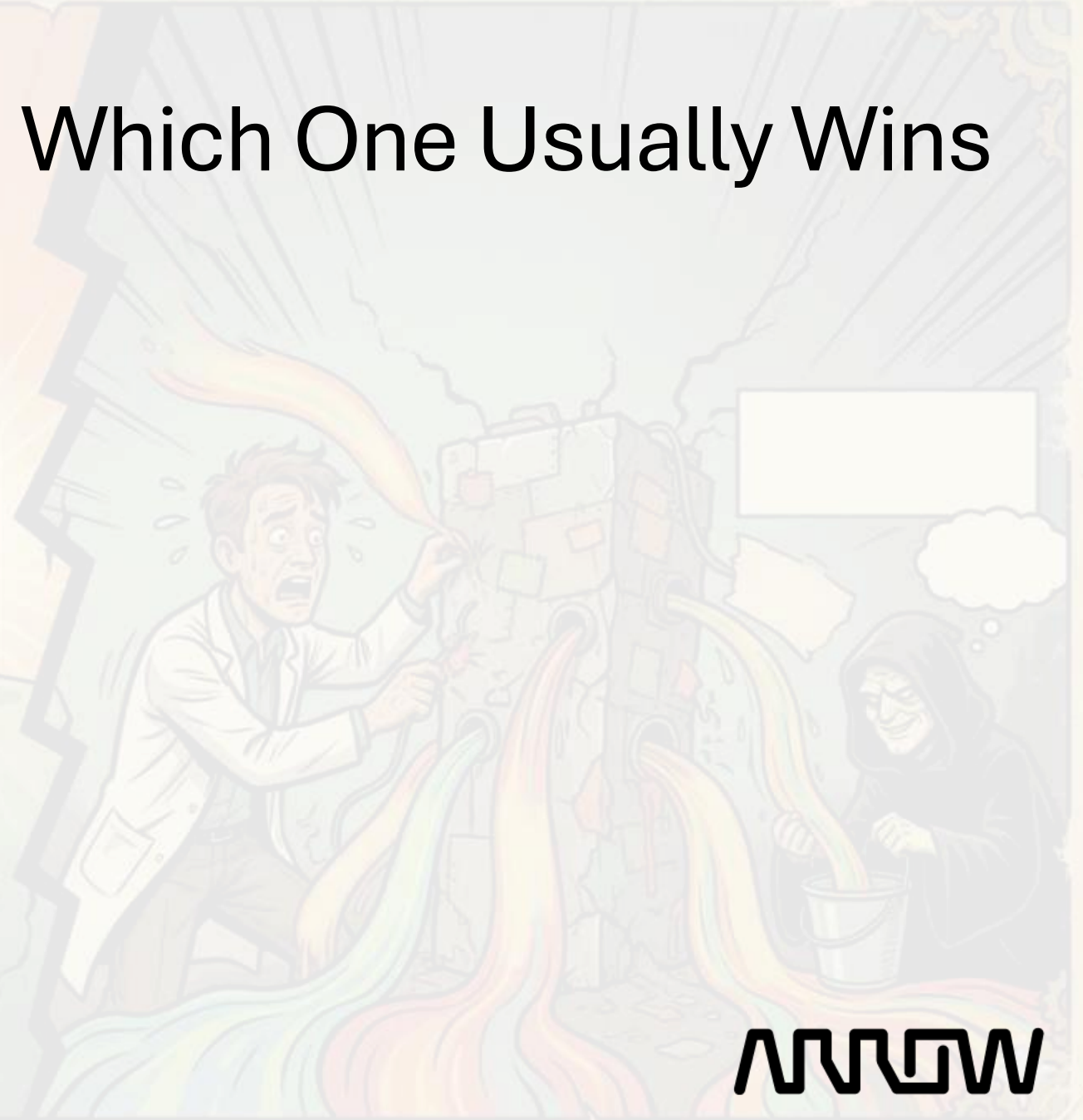
Important and Overlooked Part

- Performance versus latency
- Price versus security



Security vs Cost: Guess Which One Usually Wins

- Constant-time coding
- Shielding
- Noise generation
- Tamper detection
- Hardware isolation
- Secure enclaves
- Physical hardening



ARROW

I.O.T.

DID YOU KNOW THE 'S'
IN I.O.T. IS FOR SECURITY?

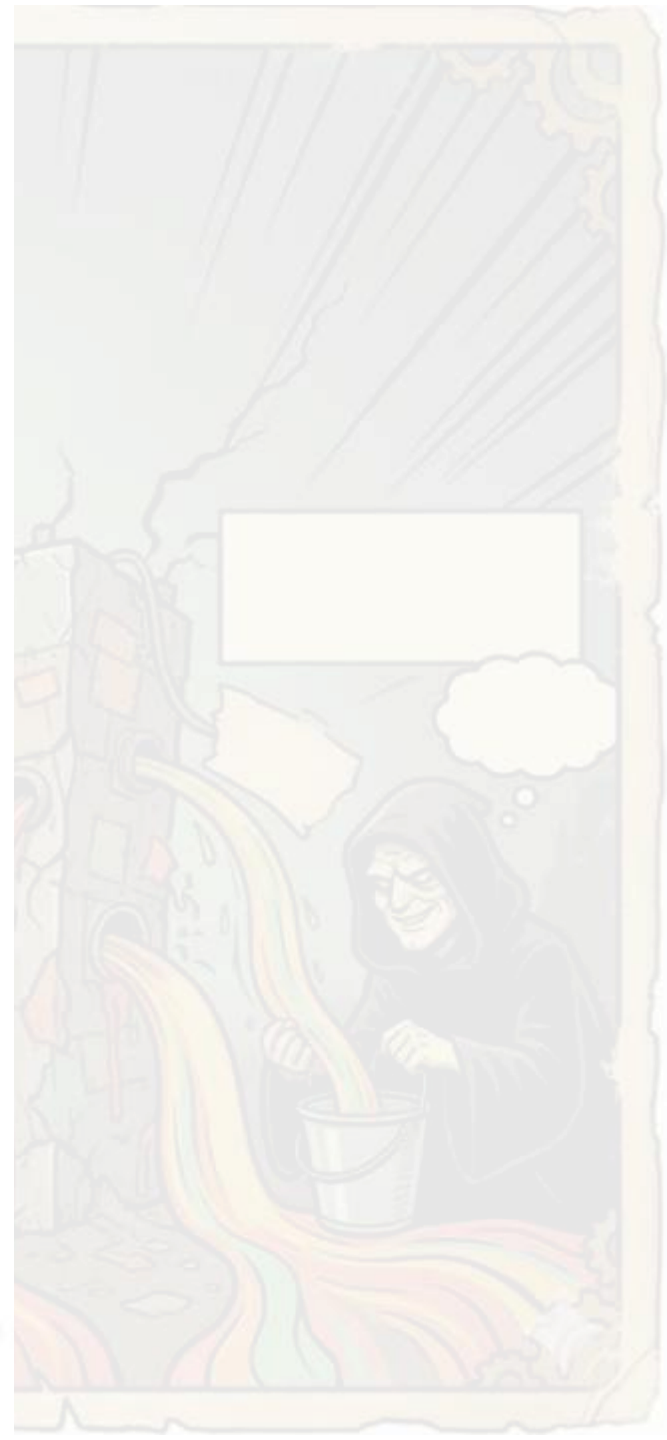
BUT... THERE IS NO 'S'
IN I.O.T. ?!

EXACTLY
MY POINT!

Hello...

dcypher
Symposium
2017
MEDIAPLAZA - UTRECHT

Gerd van
Kleefte





Post-Quantum Cryptography

Quantum Computing: Because Classical Problems Were Too Easy

ARROW

PQC and QRC

- Difference between classical and quantum computation.
- Why cryptography is affected.
- Long-term confidentiality risks.
- Key Facts
- Quantum computers threaten asymmetric cryptography most severely.

"RSA had a good run. Roughly 47 years."

Designing Cryptography for the Next 20 Years

- Quantum computers are not the only thing trying to break your cryptography
- Future-proof implementations require algorithm agility and measurable security properties
- Your hardware will likely outlive your current threat model

Solution?

Same interface. Same controls. More capabilities where needed.

INCOMING POST-QUANTUM CRYPTOGRAPHY



Cracked red blocks representing broken algorithms:

- DH
- RSA
- DSA
- ECDH
- ECDSA/EdDSA
- LMS

Stacked blue blocks representing new post-quantum algorithms:

- XMSS/XMSS-MT
- ML-KEM FIPS 203
- ML-DSA FIPS 204
- SLH-DSA FIPS 205
- FN-DSA FIPS 206
- HQC-KEM FIPS 207

... to be continued

Quantum Algorithms

- SHOR: Impact: Minutes to Hours
- GROVER: Analysis: Minutes
- BHT: WARNING / UNKNOWN IMPACT Status: Speculative Theology Inefficient
- SPECULATIVE

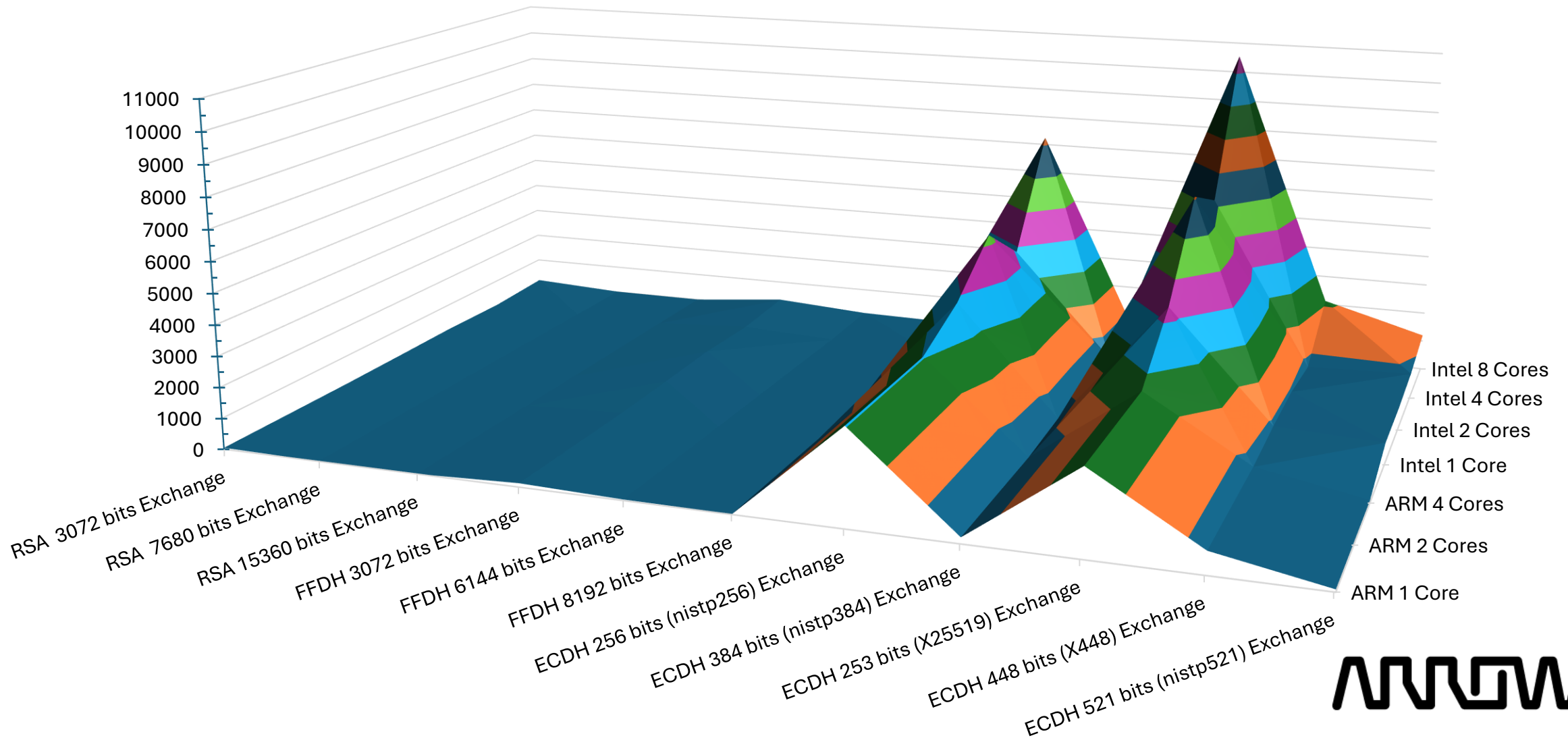
Post-quantum cryptography does not simply replace RSA with “RSA but newer.”

- Despite all that complexity, many of them still outperform today’s “modern” cryptography in selected scenarios.
- The migration is not only cryptographic. It is architectural, operational, and sometimes painfully organizational.

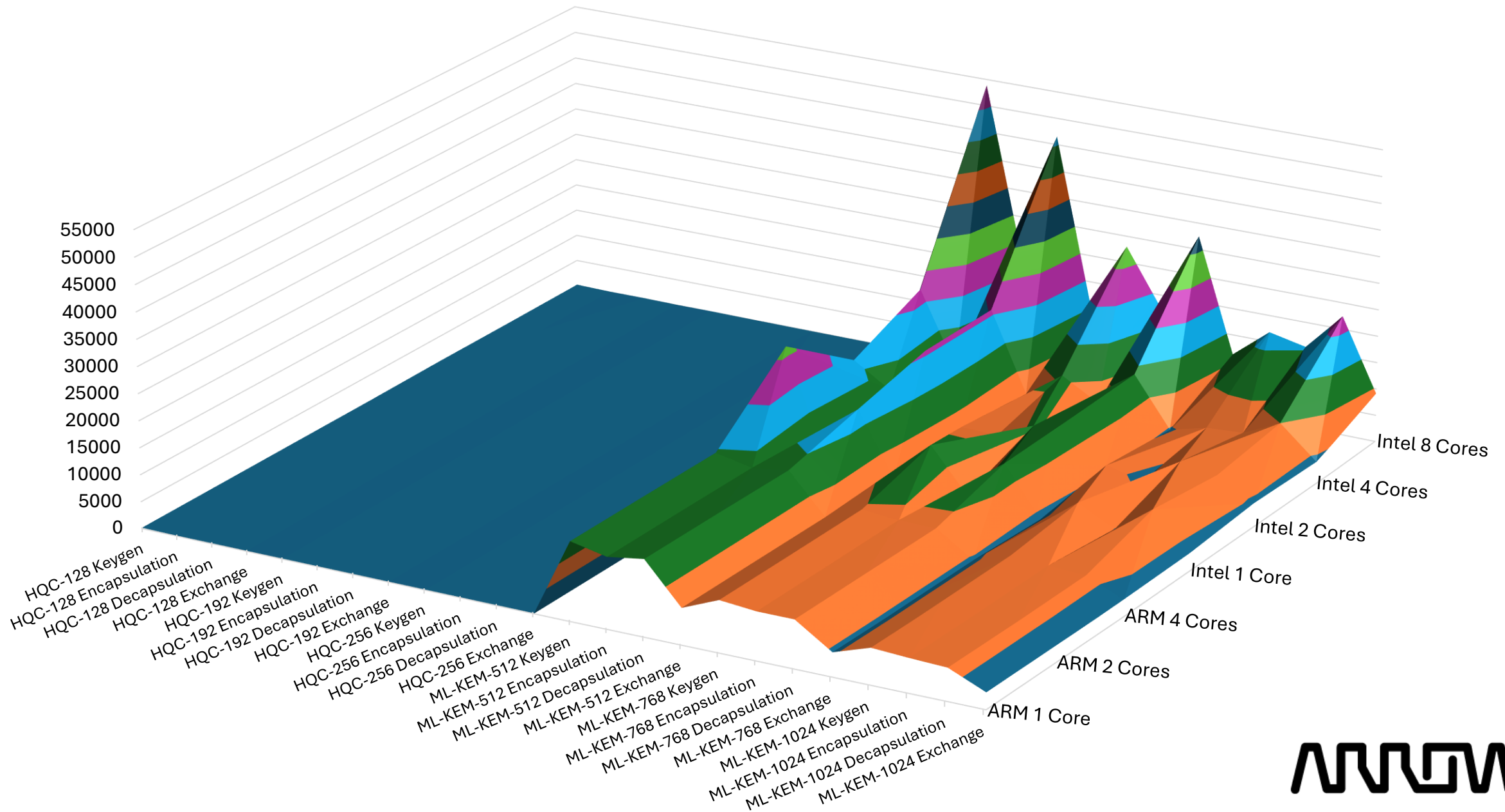
This is not a crypto refresh. It is an infrastructure personality change.



Performance of classical cryptography, normalization to 1GHz



PQC KEM - normalization to 1GHz CPU, impact of cores, HT and instruction sets





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