



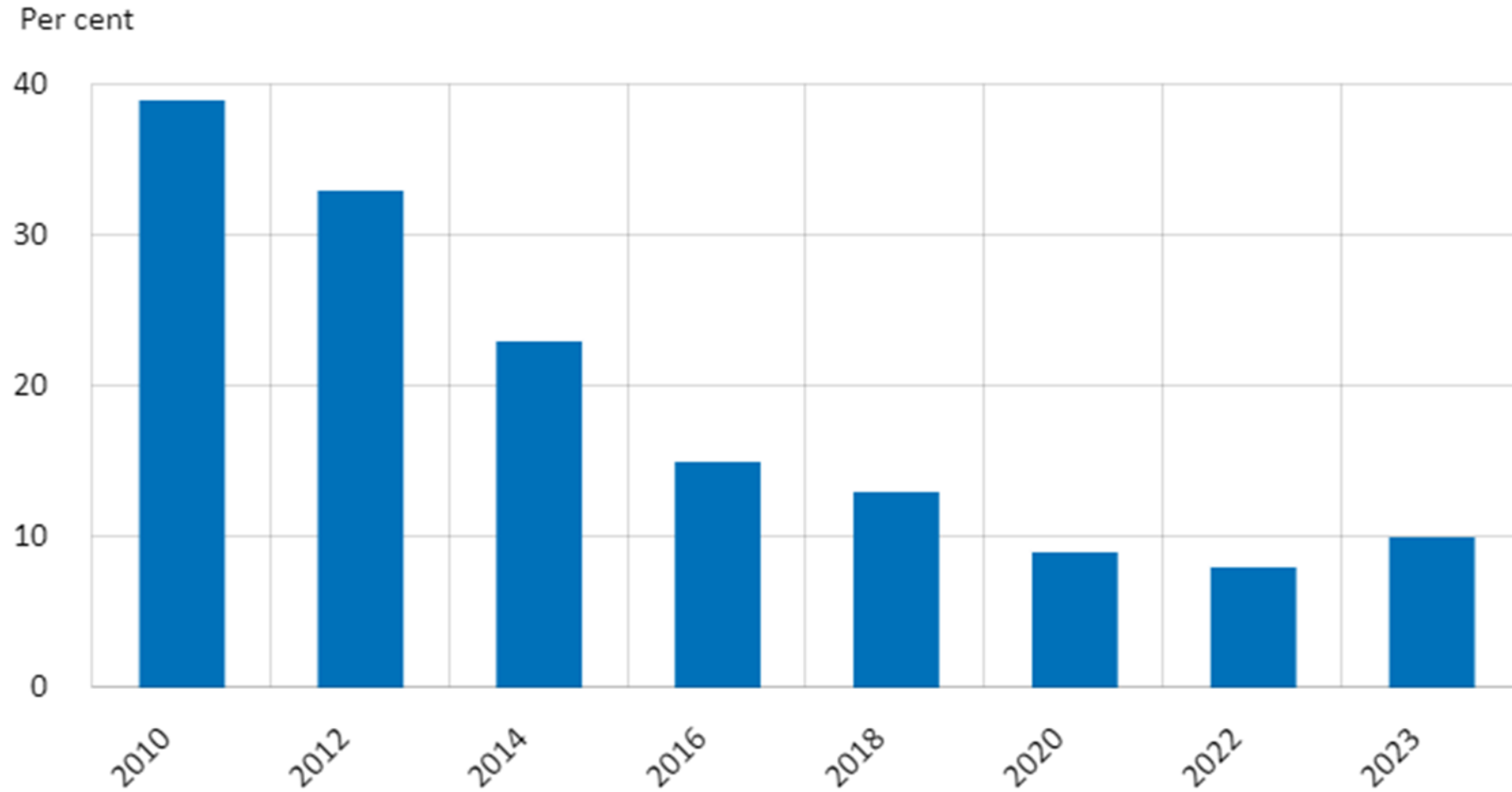
# Striving for a Better Future of Payments

William Zhang, Adviser, Bank for International Settlements Innovation Hub – Nordic Centre

September 26, 2024

Disclaimer: Views expressed here are my own and do not represent the official position of the BIS or the BIS Innovation Hub.

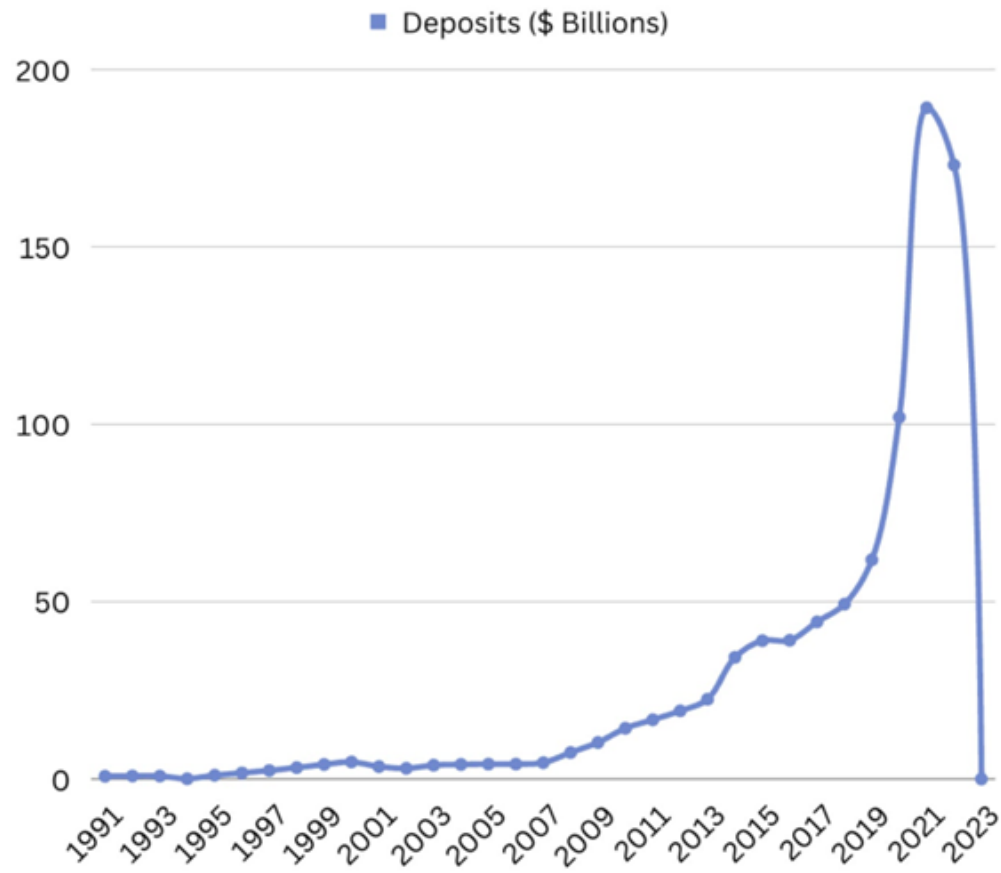
## Today's Payment Services Are Going Digital ...



The use of cash in Sweden

# And Going Digital Has Its Consequences

Silicon Valley Bank: deposits held, per year

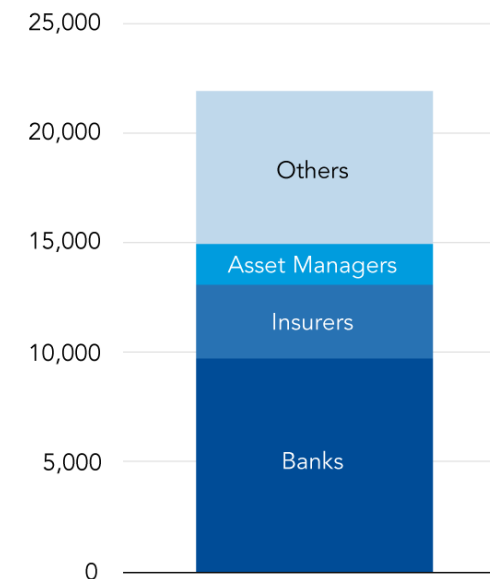


pragmaticengineer.com

## Attractive target

The financial sector has suffered more than 20,000 cyberattacks, causing \$12 billion in losses, over the past 20 years.

**Financial sector cyber incidents**  
(number, 2004-23)



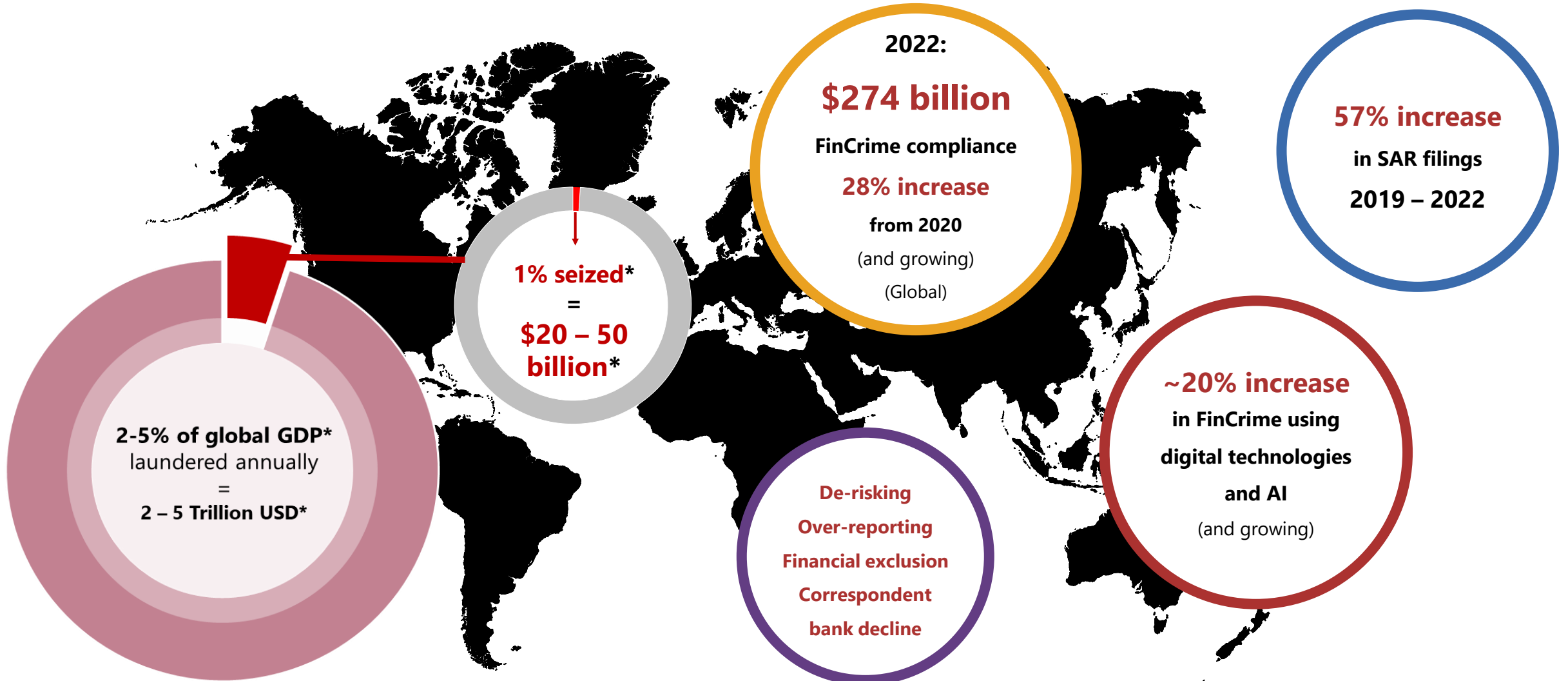
**Financial sector losses**  
(billions of US dollars, 2004-23)



Source: Advisen cyber loss data and IMF staff calculations.

IMF

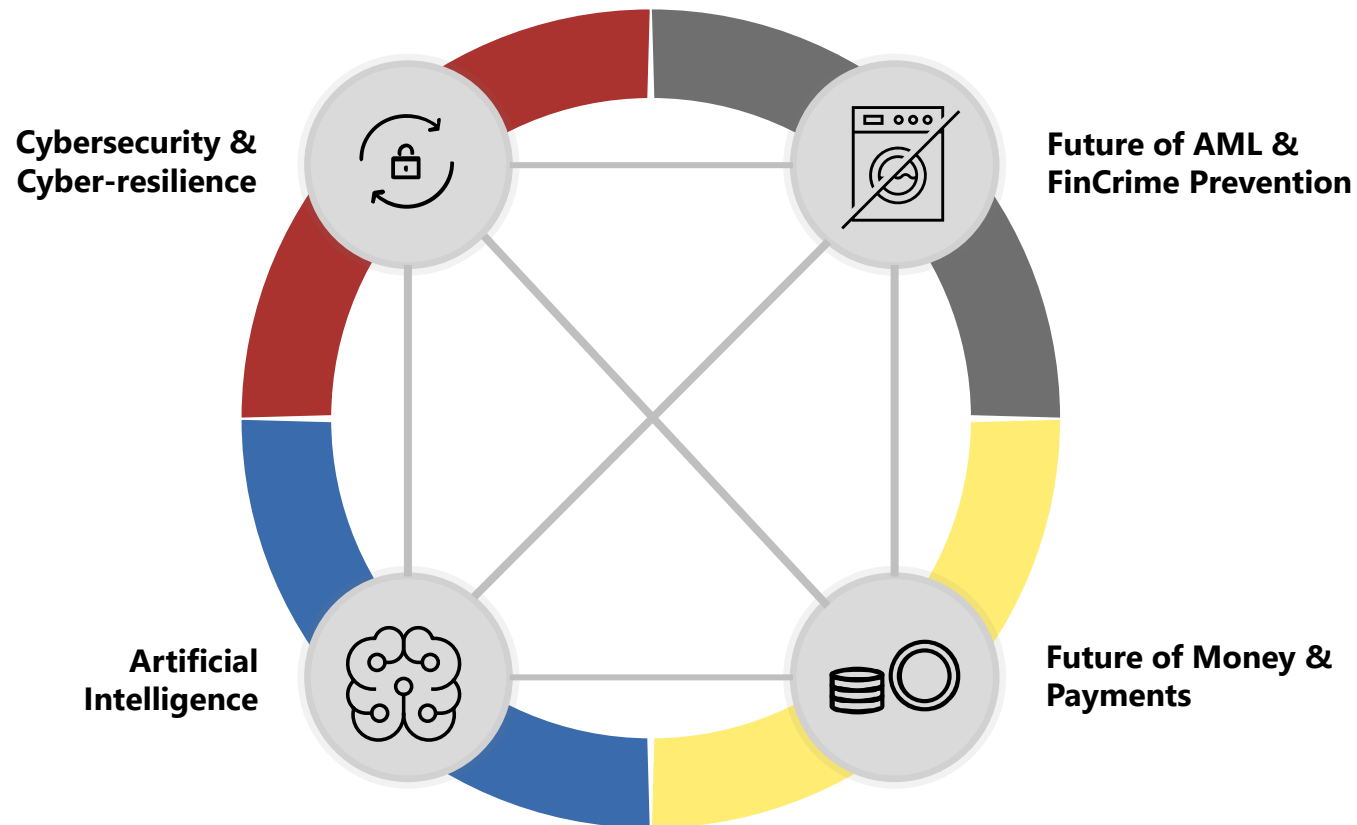
# Financial Crimes is a Global and Increasing Problem



Sources: UN Office of Drugs & Crime – (\* Estimates are calculated relative to recent GDP)

True Cost Financial Crime Compliance 2022 | LexisNexis Risk Solutions.

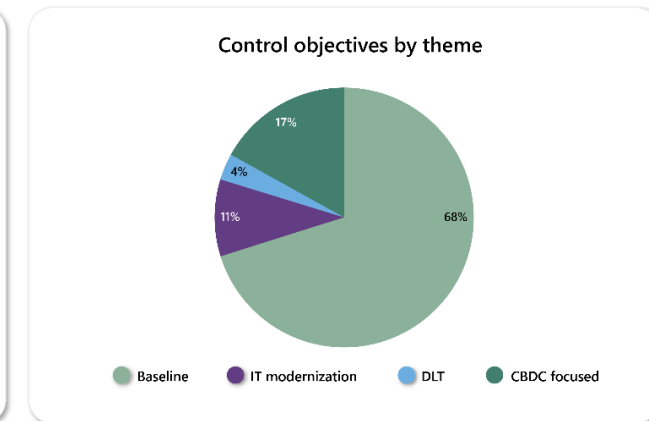
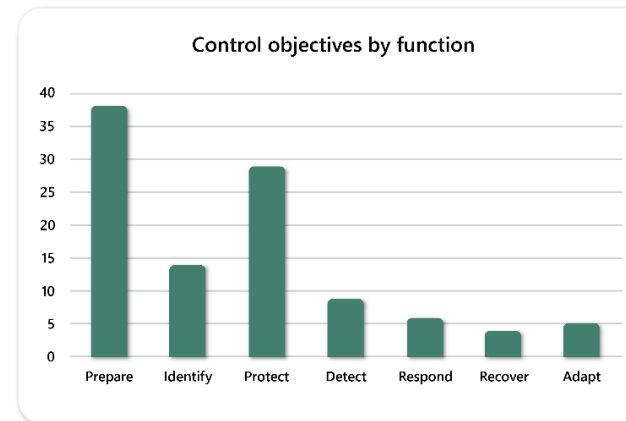
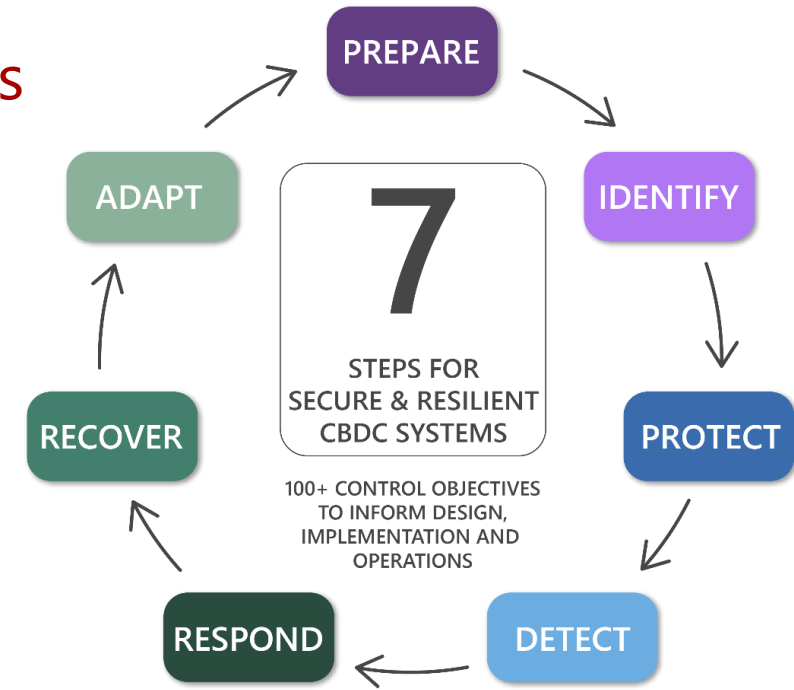
# Nordic Centre – Holistic strategy and focus going forward



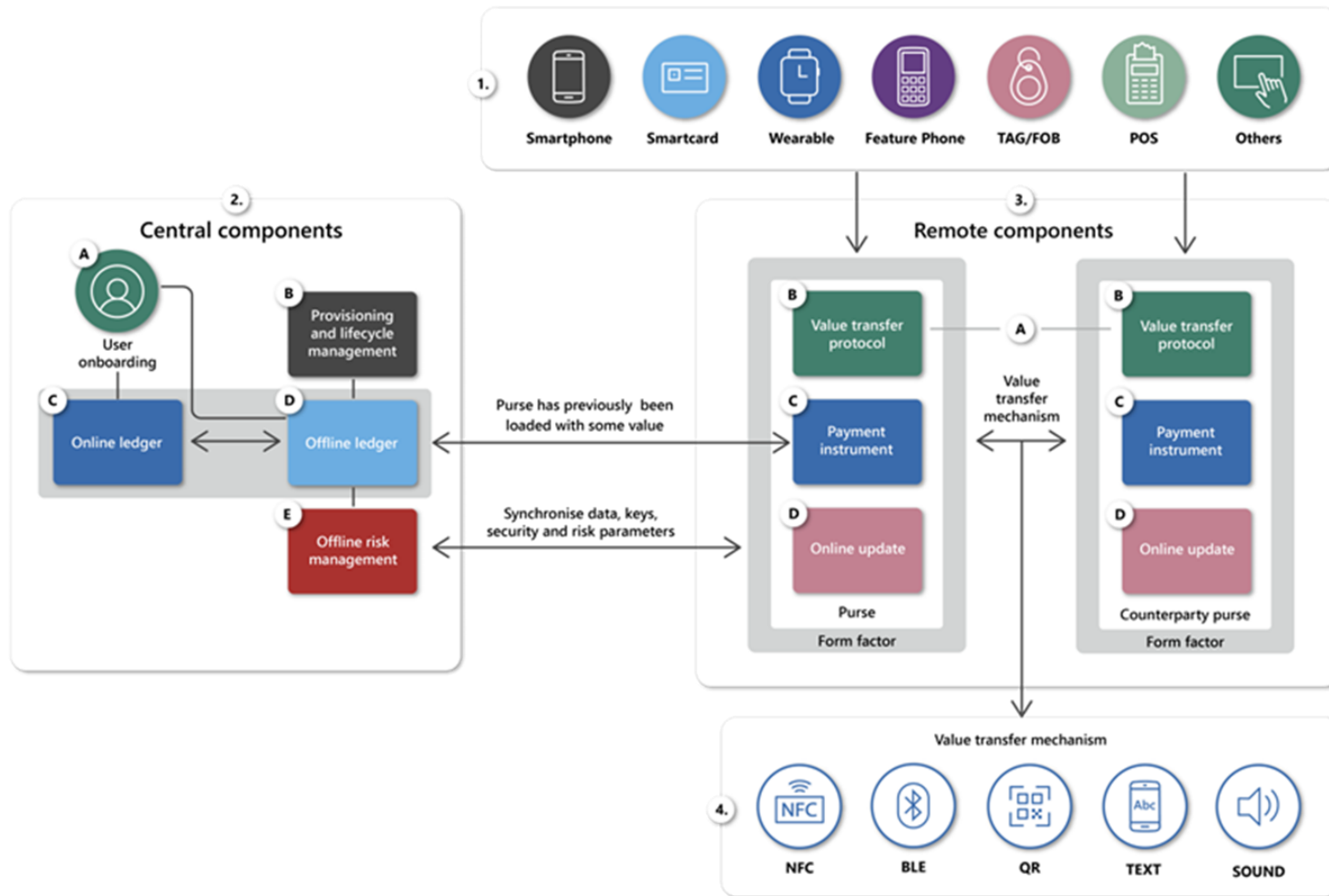
- Critical subjects for central banks and supervisory authorities
- High impact to the overall financial system
- Apply to today and the future
- All are inter-related / have inherent synergy

# Polaris Framework for Secure and Resilient CBDCs

- **New threats for awareness & preparedness**
- **Best practices from IT modernization**
- **One-Stop Shop for security and resilience for future payment solutions**
  - > 100+ control objectives
  - > 35% focused on preparedness
- **Aligned to industry standards**
  - > Map current capabilities
  - > Identify and develop new capabilities



# Make Digital Money Operable Even While Offline – Project Polaris



- Make CBDC work similar to cash
- Provides a digital form of resilient payment solution during outage
- Requires significant amount of:
  - *design thinking*
  - *security engineering*
  - *risk analysis, and*
  - *ecosystem collaboration*

# Gaps in Existing Cybersecurity Toolbox in Protecting Against Novel Attacks

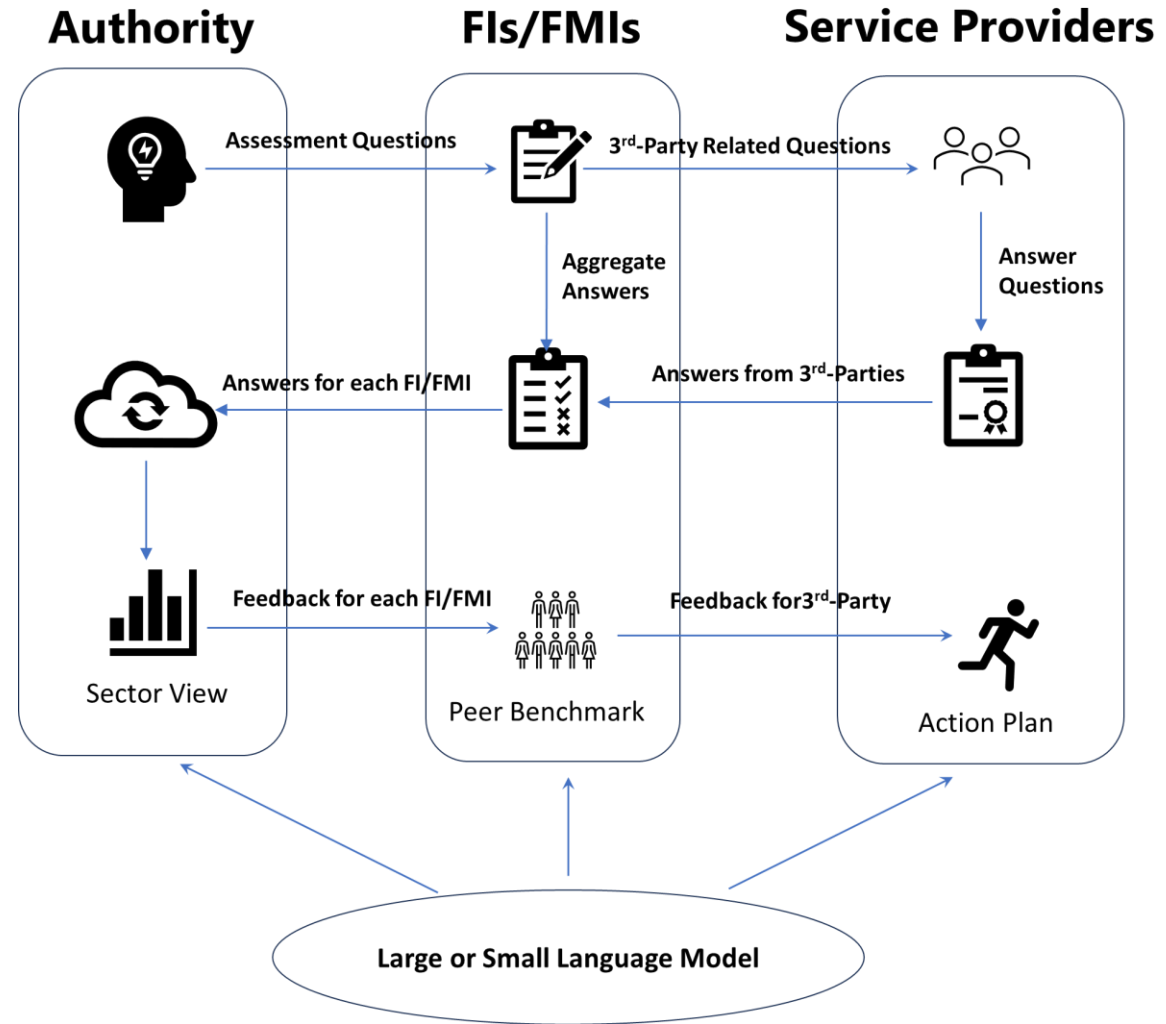
Details of some notable DeFi hacks in recent years				
DeFi Project	Loss (USD)	Time	DeFi category	Main cause
Poly Network	610m	Q3 2021	Protocol	Logic vulnerability
BadgerDAO	120m	Q4 2021	Yield Aggregator	API key leakage
Axie/Ronin	625m	Q1 2022	Bridge/Gaming	Private key leakage/phishing
Wormhole/Solana	325m	Q1 2022	Bridge	Logic vulnerability
Beanstalk	182m	Q2 2022	Stablecoin/Protocol	Logic vulnerability
Fei Protocol	80m	Q2 2022	Stablecoin	Logic vulnerability

(Project Polaris Part 3: Closing the CBDC cyber threat modelling gaps)

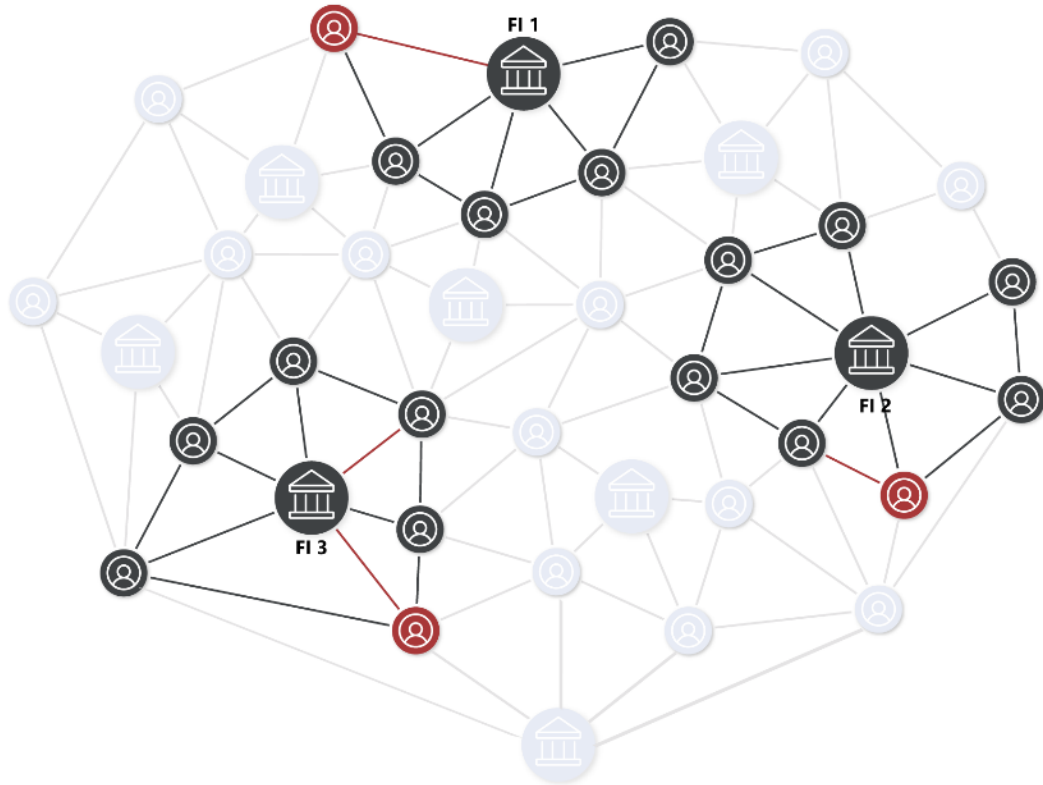


# Project Raven: The Use of AI for Financial Sector Cyber Assessment

- Regular cyber posture assessment is important but often cumbersome
- Inspired by the FSOR practice in Denmark
- Explore the effectiveness of language models in extracting cyber-related information
- Provide a public good for public-private partnership in improving cyber posture

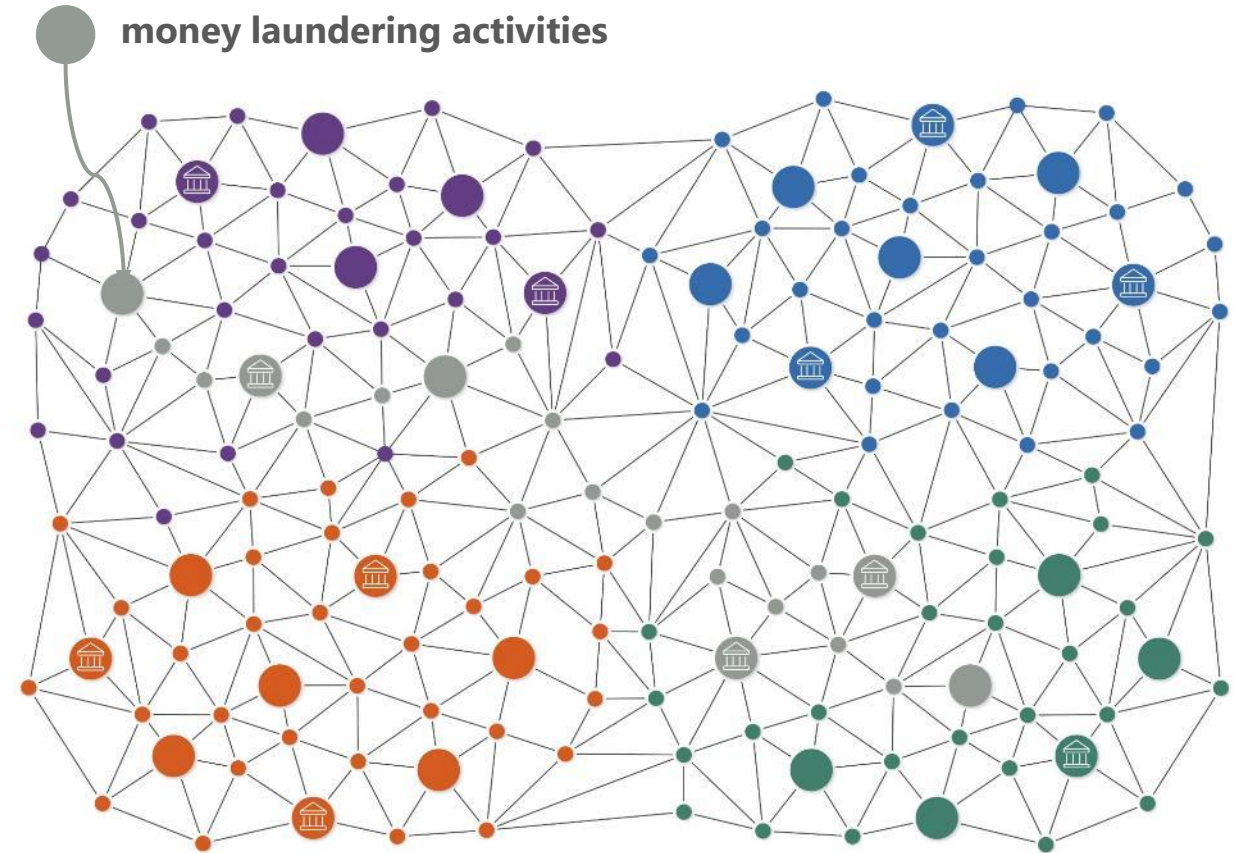


# Project Aurora: tackling information asymmetry with collaborative data analytics



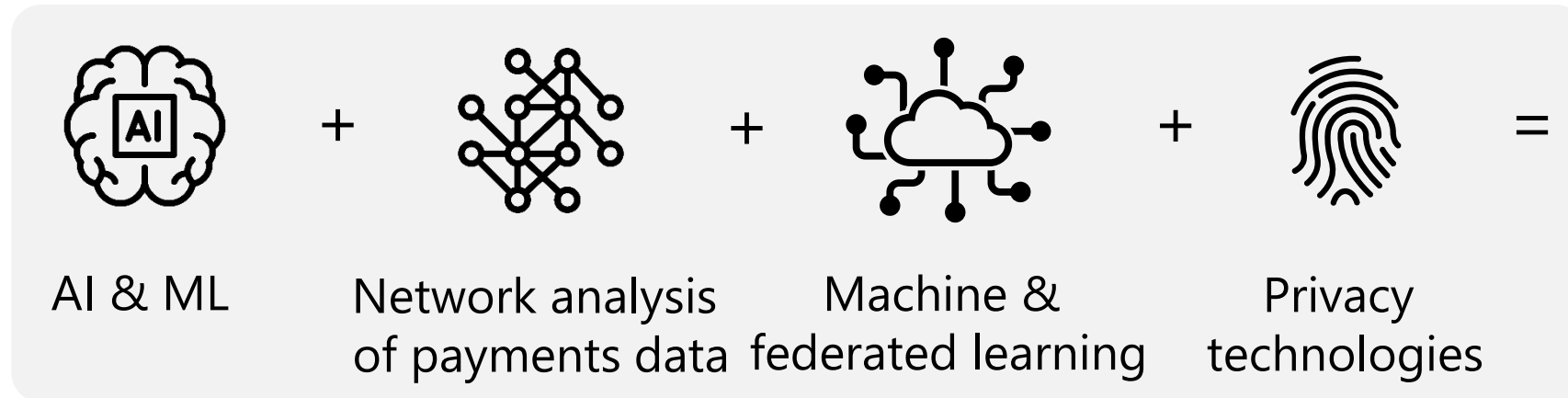
Firms work in siloes

VS



Collaboration is required on transaction monitoring and network analysis

## Project Aurora – Phase 1 results overview



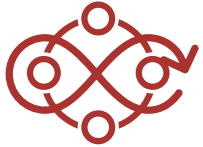
 **>3x** increase in the detection of money laundering

 **A reduction in false positives** by up to **80%**



**Protection of sensitive information** in collaborative AML analysis

## Project Aurora – Key findings



**Broadest view** from national and cross-border payments data is optimal



Key challenges need to be surfaced and discussed  
(data, privacy, legal, security, ops, technical, ethical)



Deeper technical research and work on key issues needed



**Real-world** technical proving and collaboration is essential

## Project Aurora Phase 2



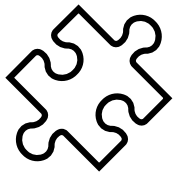
Convene global community of experts / interested parties



Research, discussion and practical work



Deliver a series of technical work with public / private stakeholders



Identify key challenges



Technical blueprints & tests



Assess results and discuss



Feasibility & value



Next steps

## Outstanding Areas That Require Further Work

- Balance between privacy protection and financial crime prevention
- Verification and trust of digital identity, in a world of deep fakes
- New threats and risks brought by new digital finance arrangements
- Data standardization and compatibility
- Cross-border interoperability of data and trust frameworks
- Legal and regulatory frameworks vs. the need to support innovation

Thank you!