

# Securing VCF

With VMware vDefend

# Introducing VMware Cloud Foundation

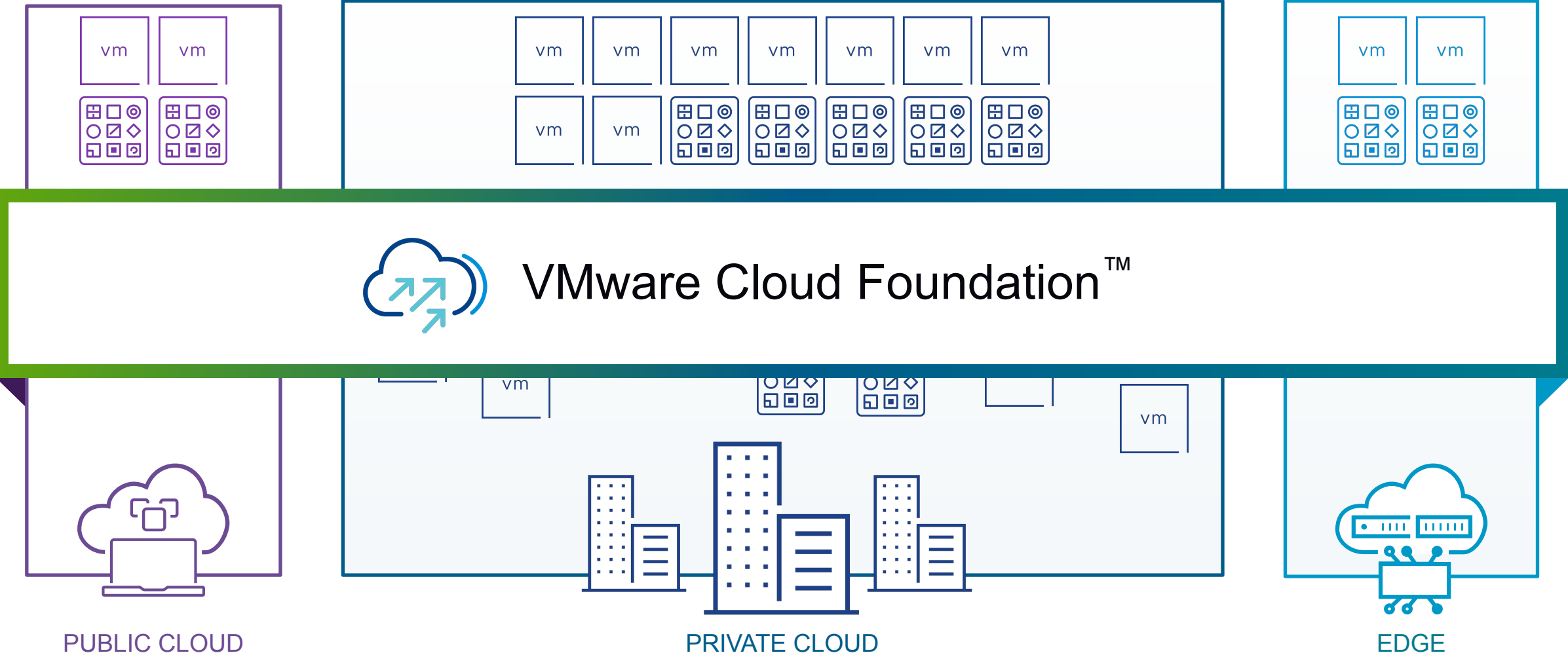


# VCF Architecture

## Definitions Reference

<b>Availability Zone (AZ)</b>	In VMware Cloud Foundation, an Availability Zone is defined by each group of hosts that make up a Stretched Cluster inside of a Workload Domain and usually when multiple Stretched Clusters exist, the groups from each share a common set of Infrastructure or Environmental Components that define the boundaries of a Fault/Failure Domain (e.g., Rack, ToR Switch Pair, Power Feed, HVAC Zone, etc.).
<b>Consolidated SDDC</b>	A Consolidated Domain/SDDC is a specific VCF Design option that focuses on reducing the footprint and overhead required to run a VCF Environment. Instead of Workload Domains and dedicated HW to separate different types of workloads from each other, it relies on Resource Pools.
<b>Edge Services</b>	Edge Services refers to the Networking and Security Services that run inside of VCF at the boundary between the Software Defined Network that is part of the VCF Architecture and the Physical Network in the Data Center. These Services include Routing, Firewall, NAT, VPN and other centralized built-in functions for the SDDC and the workloads running inside it. If these services are centralized, they will run on an NSX Edge Node.
<b>Fault/Failure Domain</b>	A Fault or Failure Domain is defined by a common set of Infrastructure or Environmental Components that define the boundaries (sometimes referred to as blast radius) where a single or multiple failure events when they occur will affect the availability of the workload relying on those components (e.g., Rack, ToR Switch Pair, Power Feed, HVAC Zone, etc.). The definition of the domain may vary based on the deployment and the level of impact from a failure they are willing to incur.
<b>NSX Federation</b>	Federation refers to the ability to connect the Networking and Security Services inside of one or more SDDC Instances together to present a consistent set of Security and Networking capabilities across workloads inside of those instances. It is enabled by implementing a one or more NSX Global Manager(s) between the NSX Domains inside the VCF instances.
<b>Life Cycle/LCM Activities</b>	VCF consists of a fixed set of Software with specific versions (BOM) combined with an engineered configuration. SDDC Manager is used to modify the software versions and their configuration. SDDC Manager is also able to perform many CRUD operations on the Infrastructure making up the SDDC as well. These operations are collectively referred to as Life Cycle Management Activities
<b>Region</b>	A Region is a common term used to define a geographic area that is outside of a "Metro" distance (5 ms RTT) which contains one or more VCF Instances.
<b>Standard SDDC</b>	A Standard SDDC is a specific VCF Design option that focuses on Scalability, Resiliency, and Separation of Duties as opposed to reducing footprint. It relies on Workload Domains and dedicated HW to separate different types of workloads from each other and always uses a dedicated Management Workload Domain.
<b>Stretched Cluster</b>	A Stretched Cluster is when more than one group of hosts in a vSphere Cluster that configured with vSAN Storage contains a full copy of the data stored and witnesses required to present a healthy copy of the vSAN data store. If there are only two groups of hosts that meet this requirement, a special node called a vSAN Witness is required.
<b>VCF Instance</b>	A VCF Instance refers to the entire SDDC stack of software and the HW it is deployed on required to present a Software Defined Data Center. The instance is bounded by a single SDDC Manager and may be deployed in a single location or across multiple locations if the locations meet the requirements of VCF
<b>Workload Domain (WLD)</b>	A Workload Domain (WLD) is a defined set of physical infrastructure that is dedicated to a single vCenter and VCF Instance. This set of infrastructure is maintained at the same versions and utilizes the same configuration. The consumption of a WLD is implementation specific however it commonly represents a unit of tenancy or use case. An example of a WLD that is based on use case is the Management WLD in a Standard SDDC implementation.

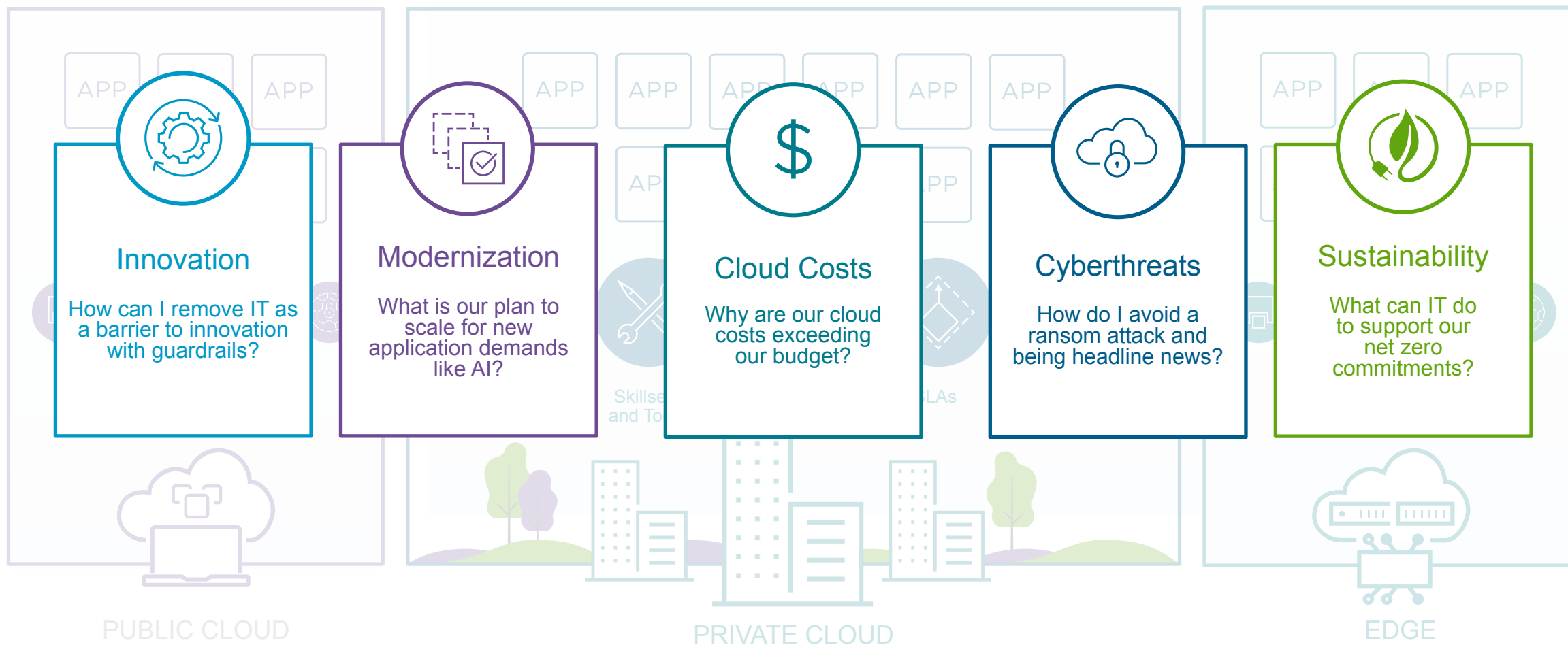
# Delivering On Your Goals, Everywhere





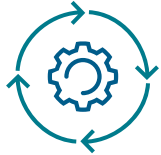
# “Complexity is the Enemy of Execution”

- Inconsistent operations stifle innovation, throttle productivity, and increase cost





## VMware Cloud Foundation Components



SDDC MGR

Consistent Operations  
and Automation



vSphere

Built on Virtualized  
Infrastructure



vSAN

Hyper-Converged



NSX

Integrated Networking and  
Security \*



TKG

Conformant  
Kubernetes



Aria

Cloud Management

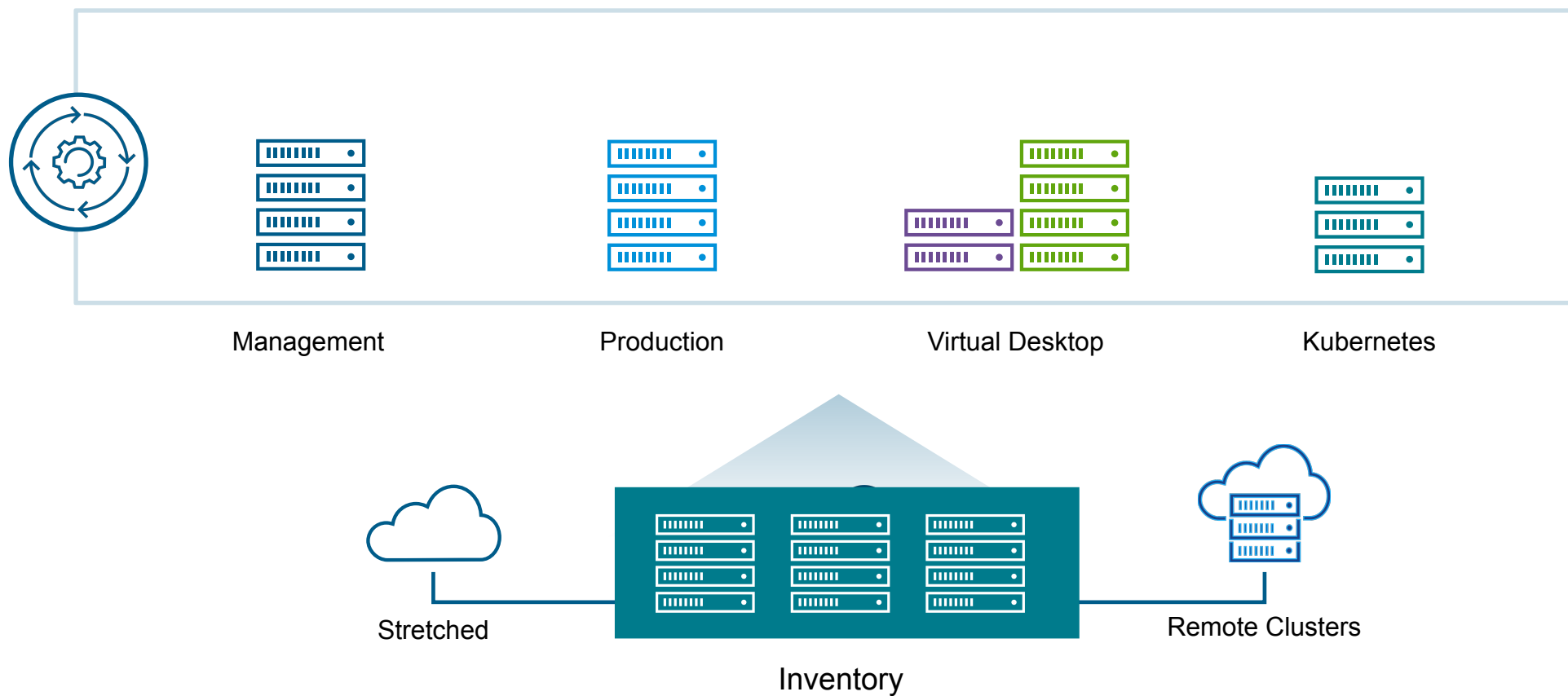


Run any kind of workload from basic to AI-accelerated  
applications on VMs or containers



# Workload Domains

Deliver a Scalable Private Cloud



# VCF

## Security Offerings

### Ideal For:

- Securing Infrastructure
- Tenant Environment separation
- Application Zoning
- App Microsegmentation

### VMware Firewall

Distributed Firewall

Gateway Firewall

Security Intelligence

Container Security

### VMware Firewall with ATP

Distributed and Gateway IDS/IPS

Malware Prevention

NTA, NDR

Distributed Firewall

Gateway Firewall

Security Intelligence

Container Security

### Ideal For:

- IDS/IPS
- Malware and Ransomware Protection
- Breaches and Compliance
- Threat Monitoring

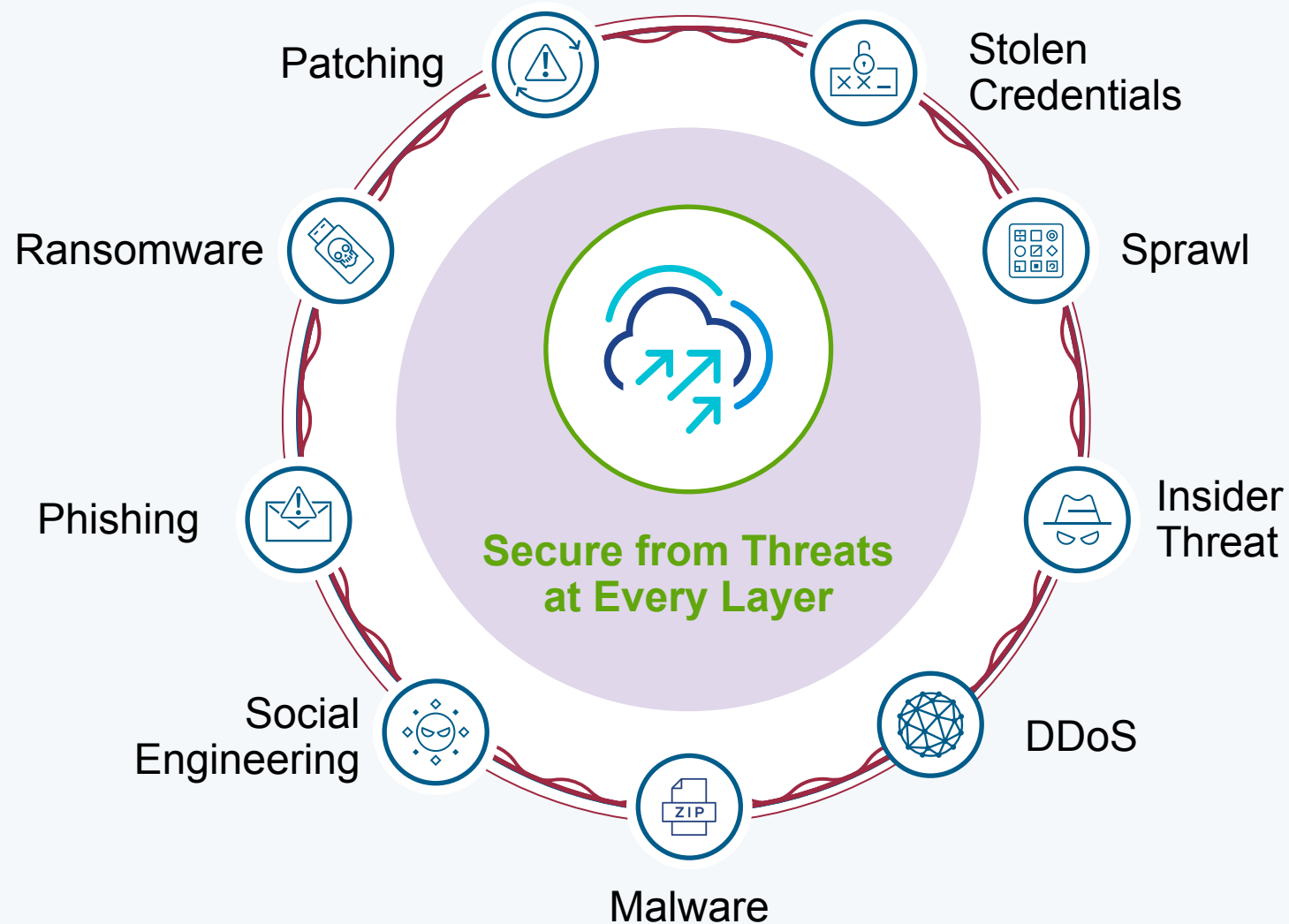
VMware Cloud Foundation (VCF)



## MANAGING RISK & CYBERSECURITY\*

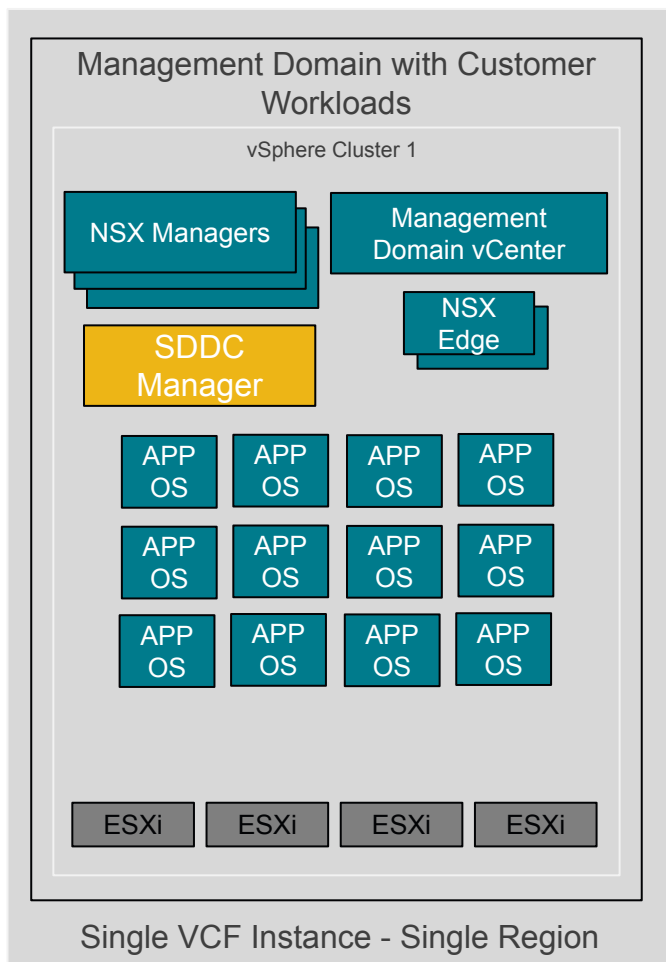
### Secure, systematic approach to attacks

- Implement zero-trust defense for app and data security
- Proactively inspect and monitor for threats
- Establish a rapid recovery plan for potential attacks



# VCF Architectures

## Single Site Deployment (Consolidated Architecture)



Management is a self contained NSX Domain with NSX Managers

Collapsed Management VMs and customer workload VMs are co-located, single pool of resources

Single change window, single version of the BOM

Typically use cases:

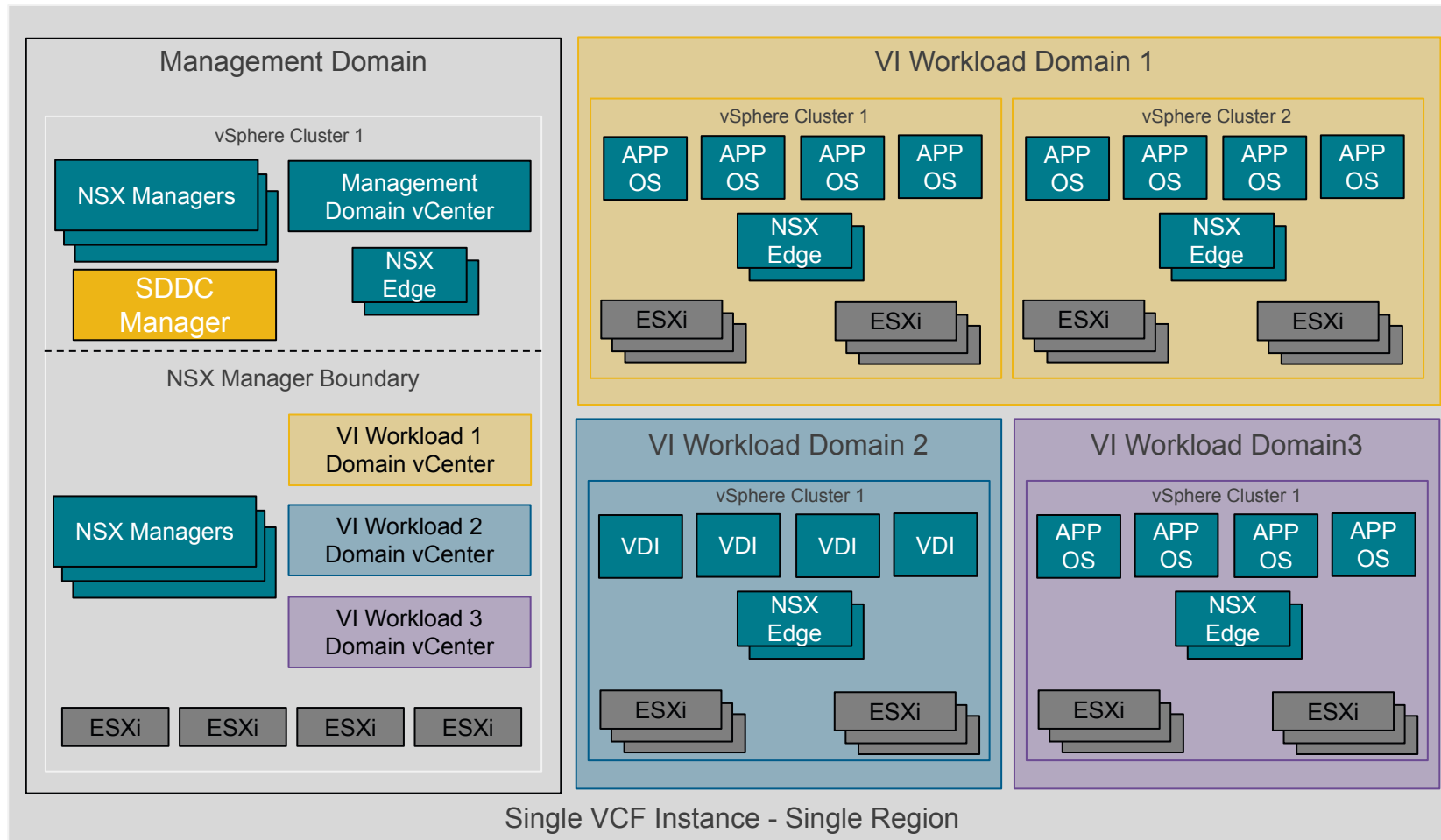
- Small-scale environment
- Lab/Proof-of-concept testing

Scale from 3 up to 100 ESXi hosts

Scale out Cluster (more nodes = more availability for vSAN), Multi AZ and Multi VCF Instances with NSX Federation is supported

# VCF Architectures

## Single Site Deployment (Standard Architecture)



Management is a self contained NSX Domain with NSX Managers

Management Domain is dedicated to running infrastructure management workloads

Production compute workloads run in a VI WLD and are managed by separate vCenter servers

Single NSX Domain for consistent security and networking across multiple VI WLDs

Extendable to Multi AZ or Multi VCF Instances using NSX Federation

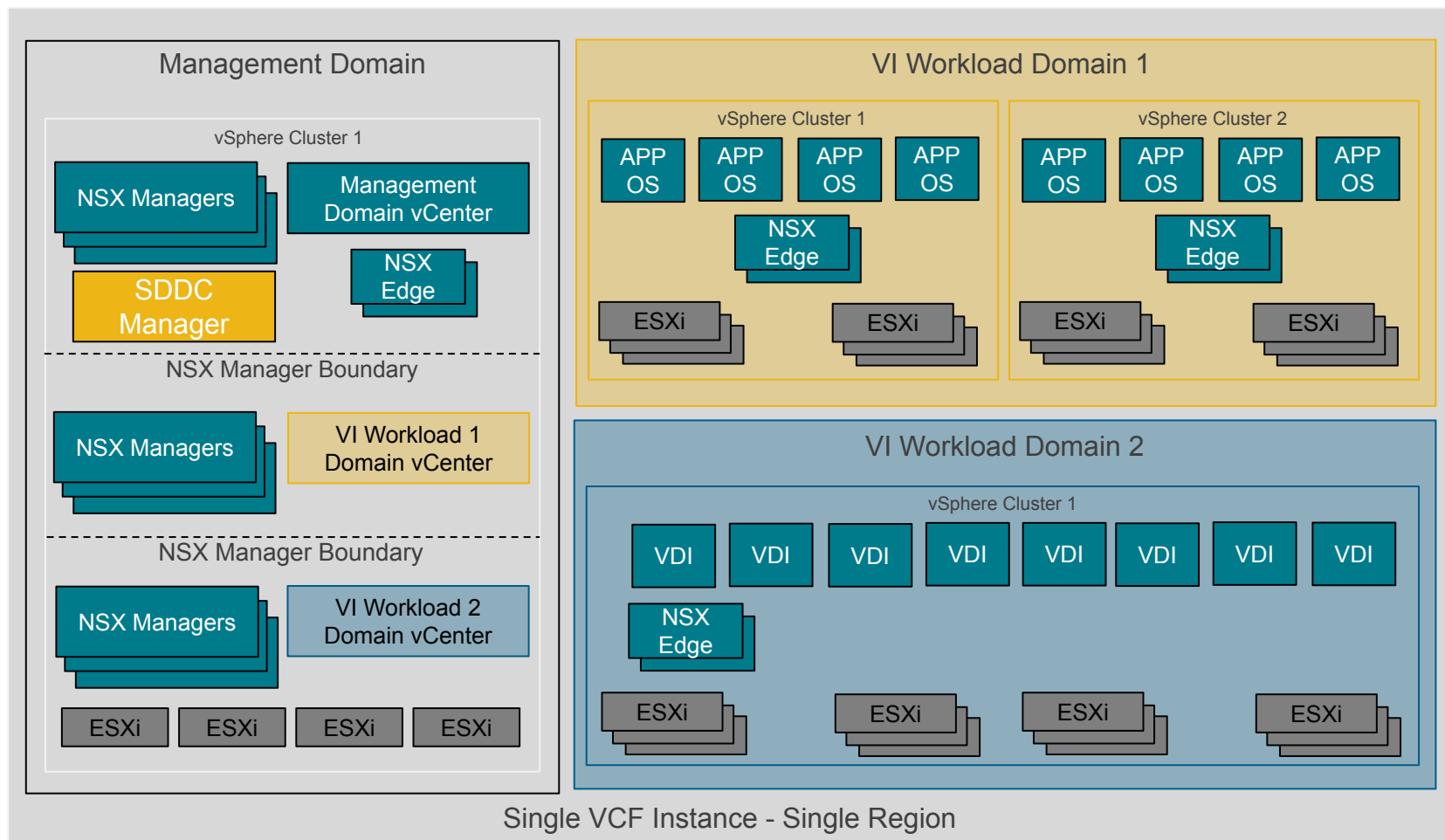
Single NSX Domain = Single change window

Scale from 100 up to 1000 ESXi hosts



# VCF Architectures

## Single Site Deployment (Standard Architecture)



Management is a self contained NSX Domain with NSX Managers

Management Domain is dedicated to running infrastructure management workloads

Production compute workloads run in a VI WLD and are managed by separate vCenter servers

Single VCF Instance with multiple independent VI WLD/NSX Domains

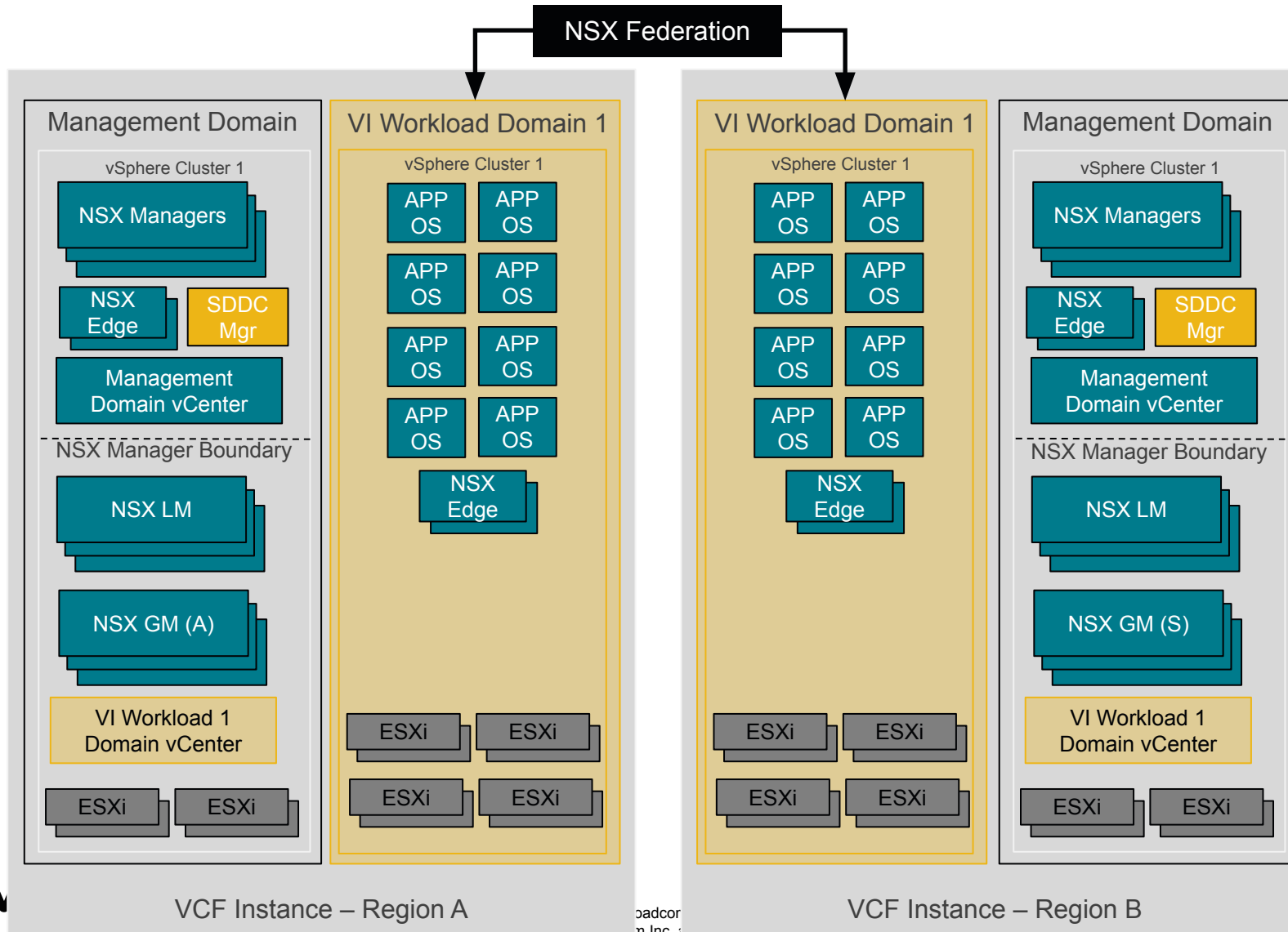
Extendable to Multi AZ or Multi VCF Instances using NSX Federation

Multiple NSX Domains = Multiple groups with isolated change windows

Scale from 100 up to 1000 ESXi

# VCF Architectures

## Multi VCF Instance Deployment using NSX Federation



Multiple VCF Instances connected via NSX Federation for consistent security policy, global networking, and disaster recovery

NSX Federation extend compute pooling across NSX Domains

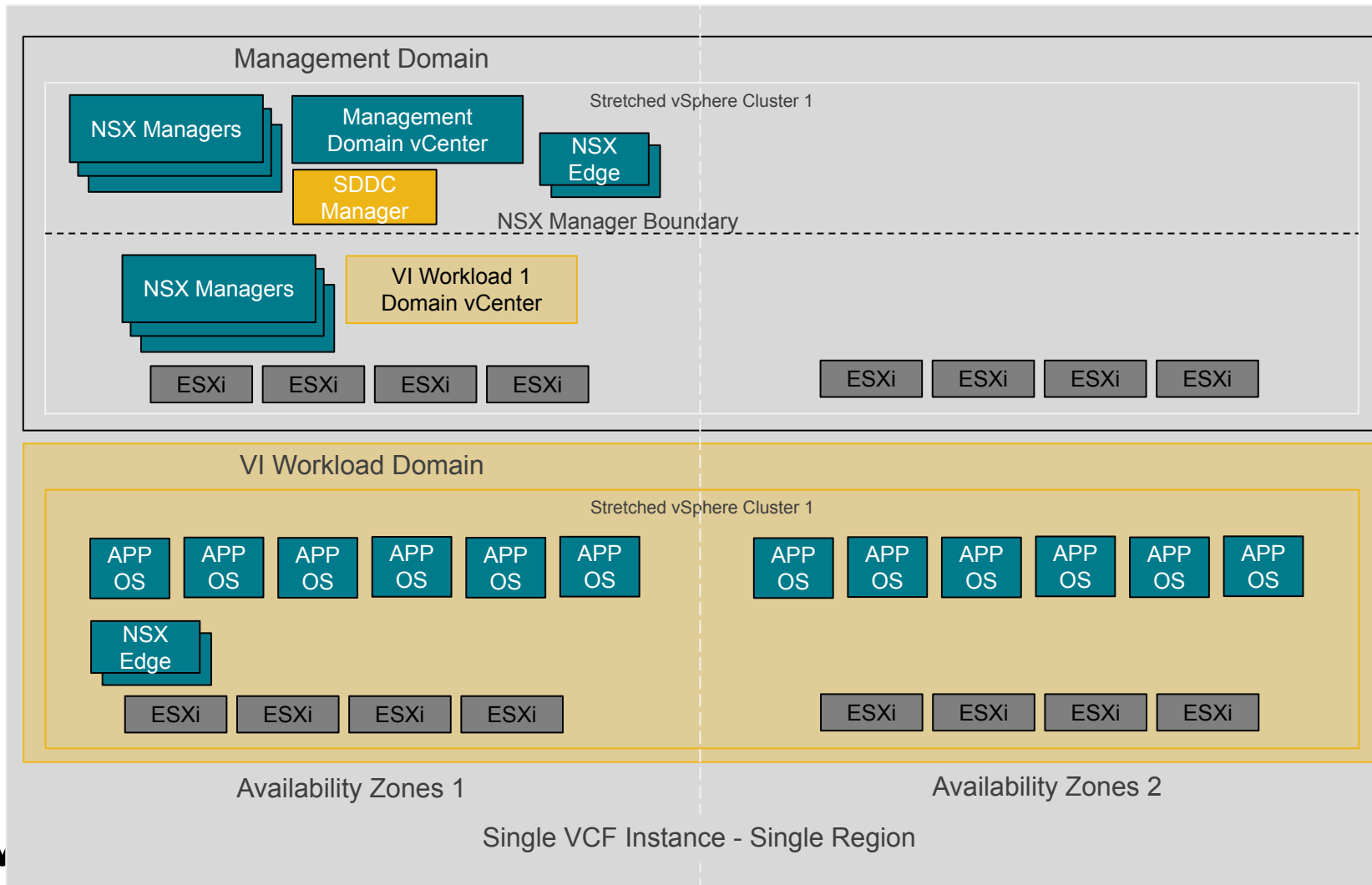
NSX Federation between VI WLD or/and between Management Domains from different VCF instances

Manual NSX Federation deployment process following VMware Validated Solutions (VVS) guidance

Note: Multi VCF Instances using NSX Federation is enabled per NSX Domains, not for the whole VCF

# VCF Architectures

## Multi Availability Zone (AZ) Deployment using stretched Clusters



A vSphere Cluster with vSAN Storage that spans multiple Availability Zones (AZ) where each Availability Zone constitutes a Failure Domain.

The stretched cluster retains vSphere HA and DRS functionality allowing for a fully automatic recovery from an Availability Zone failure

vSAN witness node is required

Management Domain cluster must be stretched prior to stretching any VI WLD vSAN clusters

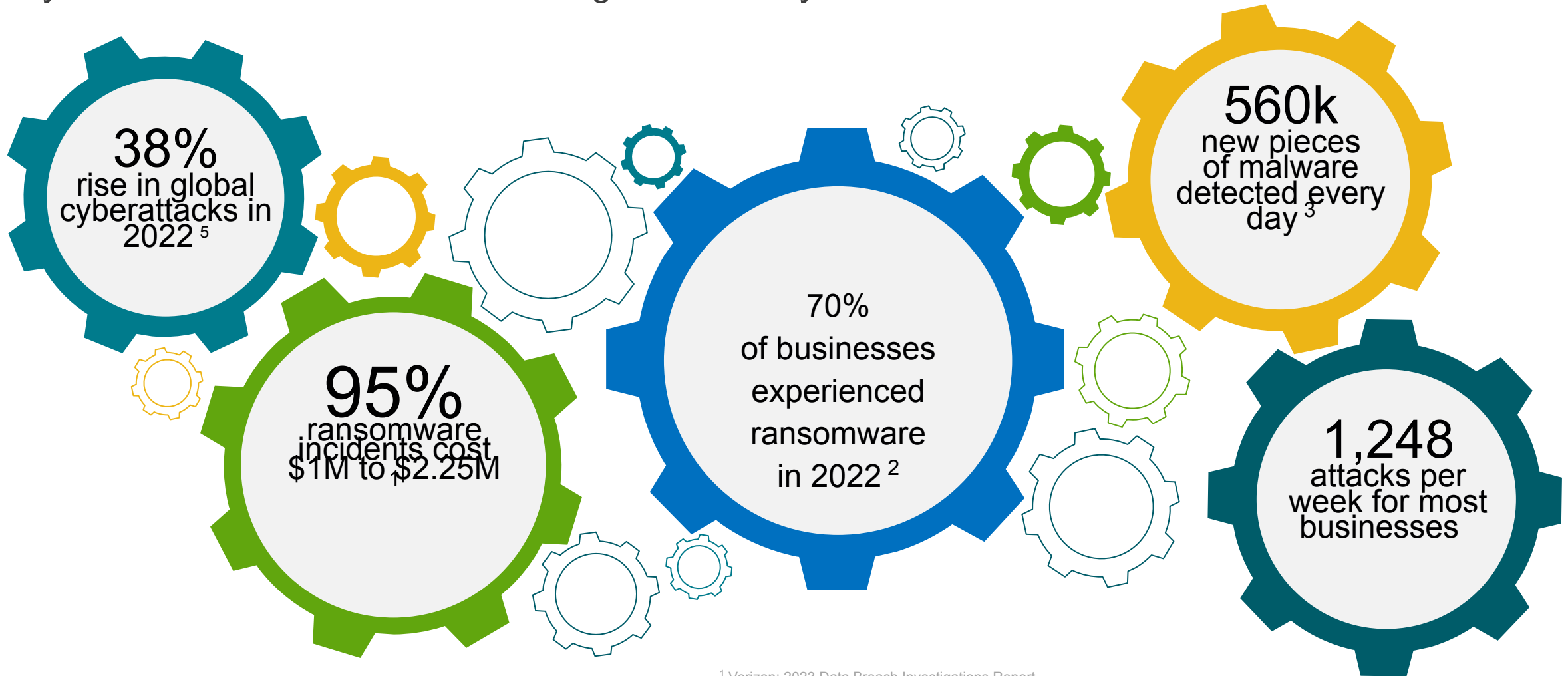
Stretch other vSAN clusters as needed for availability

# Today's Security Realities



# Today's Security Realities

Cyber attackers and threat actors target data everywhere – all the time



<sup>1</sup> Verizon: 2023 Data Breach Investigations Report

<sup>2</sup> [www.statista.com/statistics/204457/businesses-ransomware-attack-rate/](https://www.statista.com/statistics/204457/businesses-ransomware-attack-rate/)

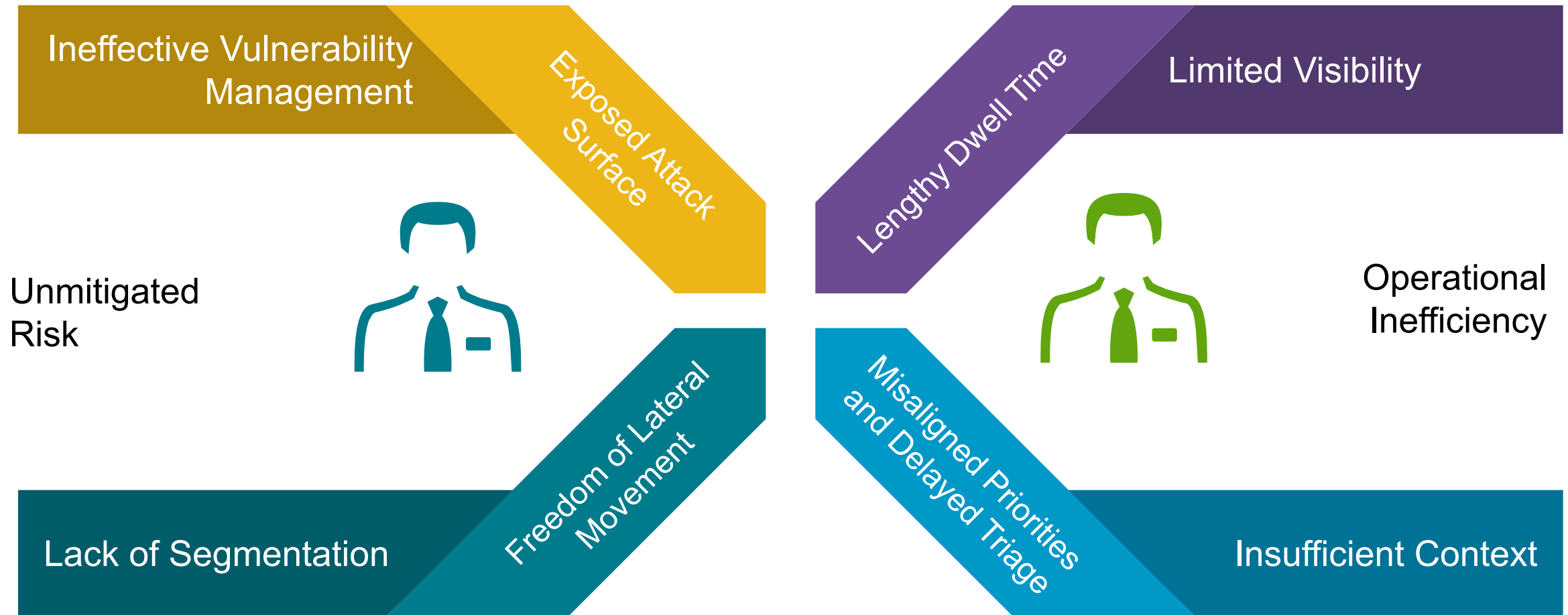
<sup>3</sup> <https://dataprot.net/statistics/malware-statistics/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://pages.checkpoint.com/forrester-wave-for-enterprise-email-security-2023.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://blog.checkpoint.com/2023/01/05/38-increase-in-2022-global-cyberattacks>

# Today's Security Realities

Operational Inefficiencies and Unmitigated Risks



# Today's Security Realities

Lack of Segmentation and Automation - Freedom of Lateral Movement

# 44%

of breaches perform  
some form of lateral  
movement <sup>1</sup>

Most island hopping is

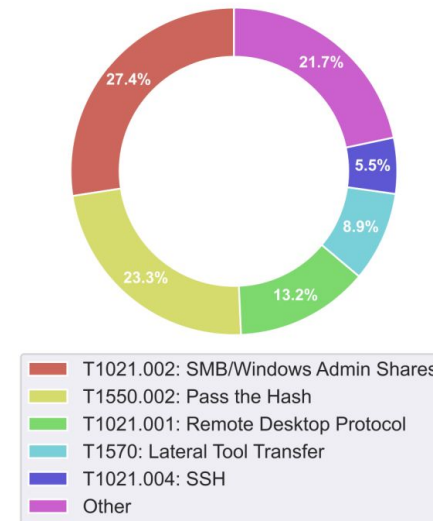
# 2-3 Hops

and very rarely 4, making for  
swift closing and laser focused  
propagation attempts <sup>2</sup>

# 64%

use of the Samba service,  
Pass the Hash and the  
Remote Desktop Protocol

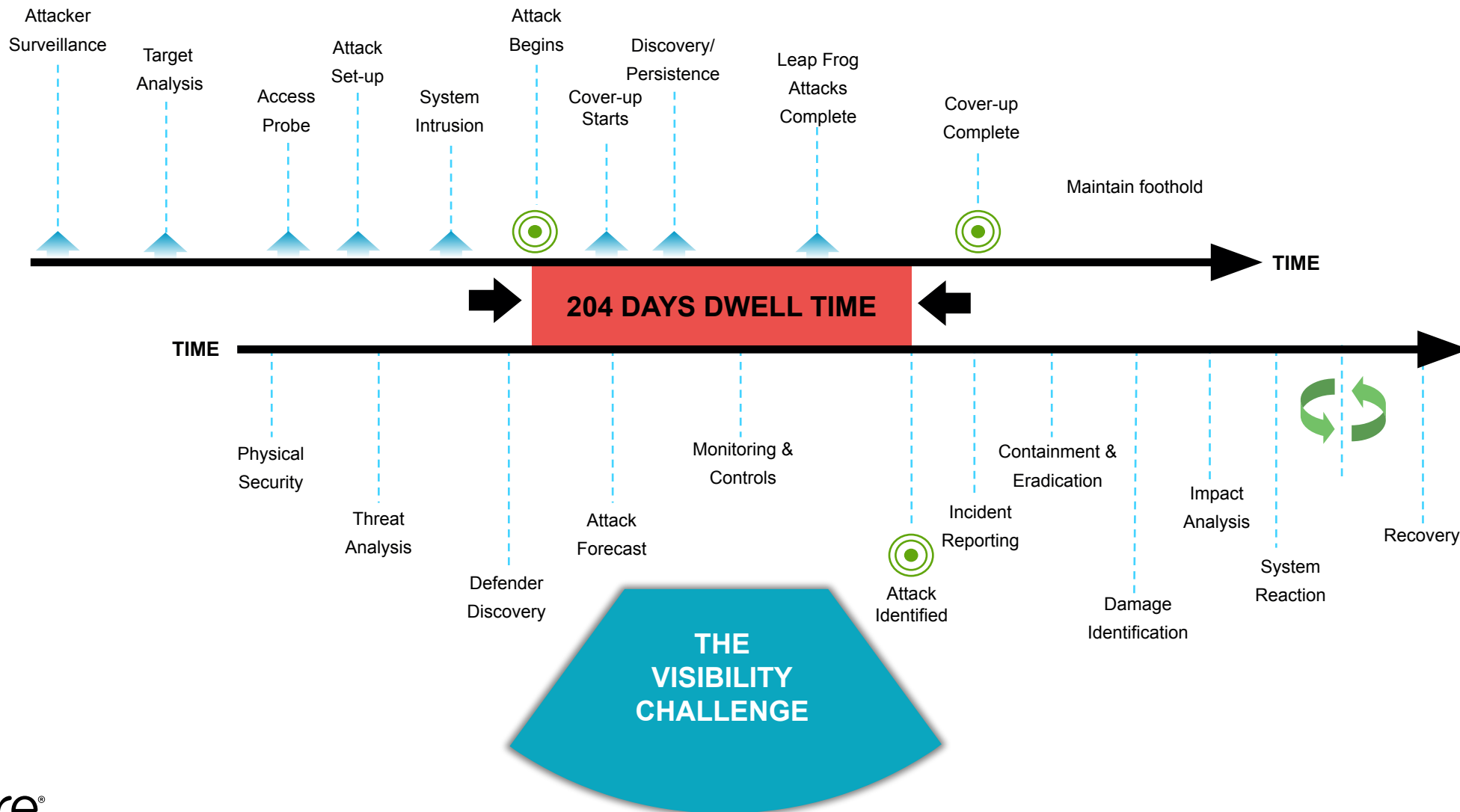
“The Remote Desktop Protocol and SSH connections are probably two of the easiest techniques to perform lateral movement. These intrusion events are particularly difficult to identify as they easily get lost among the events associated with legitimate administrative activity. ”





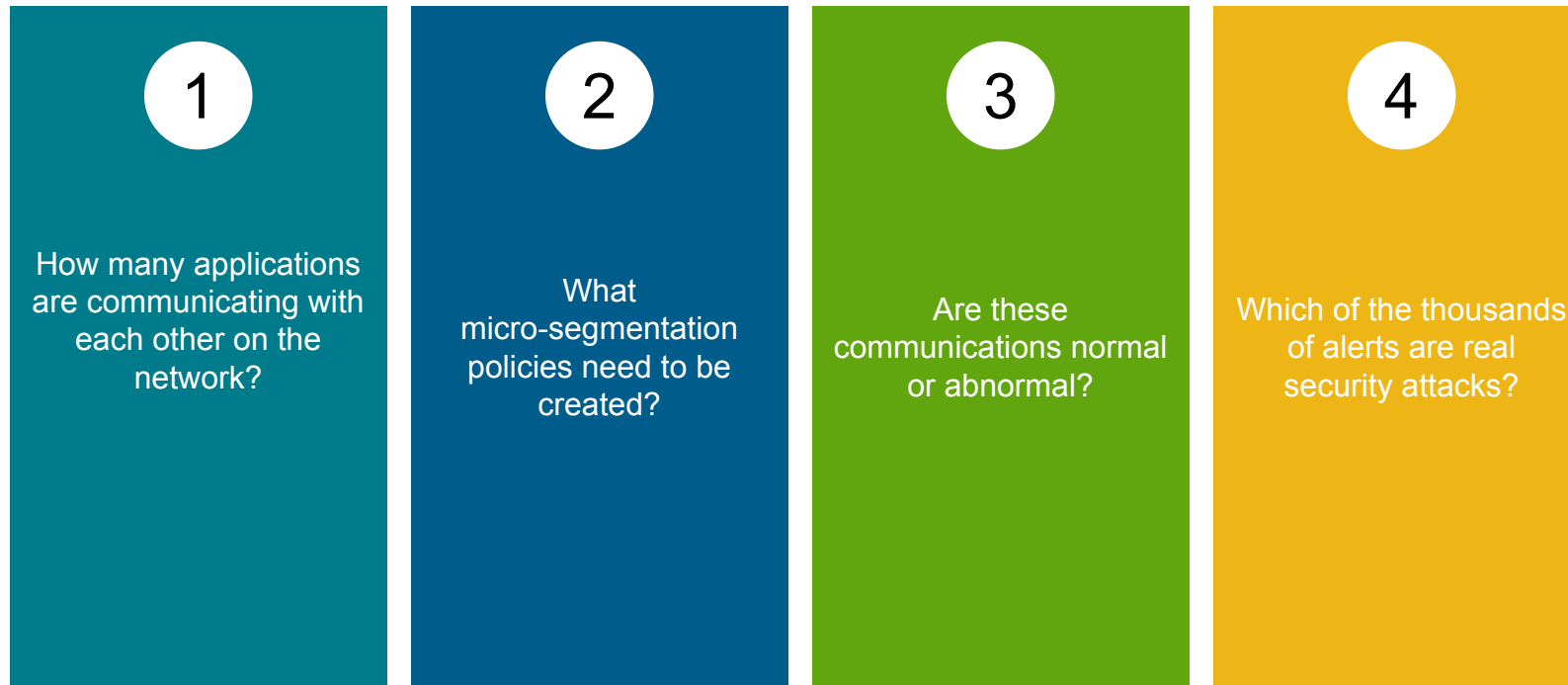
# Today's Security Realities

## Lack of Visibility - Lengthy Dwell Times



# Today's Security Realities

Lack of Visibility - You cannot protect what you cannot see



Data Center Network hosts thousands of application components  
It is a black box for most Network Security teams

# Today's Security Realities

Lack of Patching Urgency – Exposed Attack Surface

“60% of breach victims said they were breached due to an unpatched known vulnerability where the patch was not applied”

Ponemon Institute



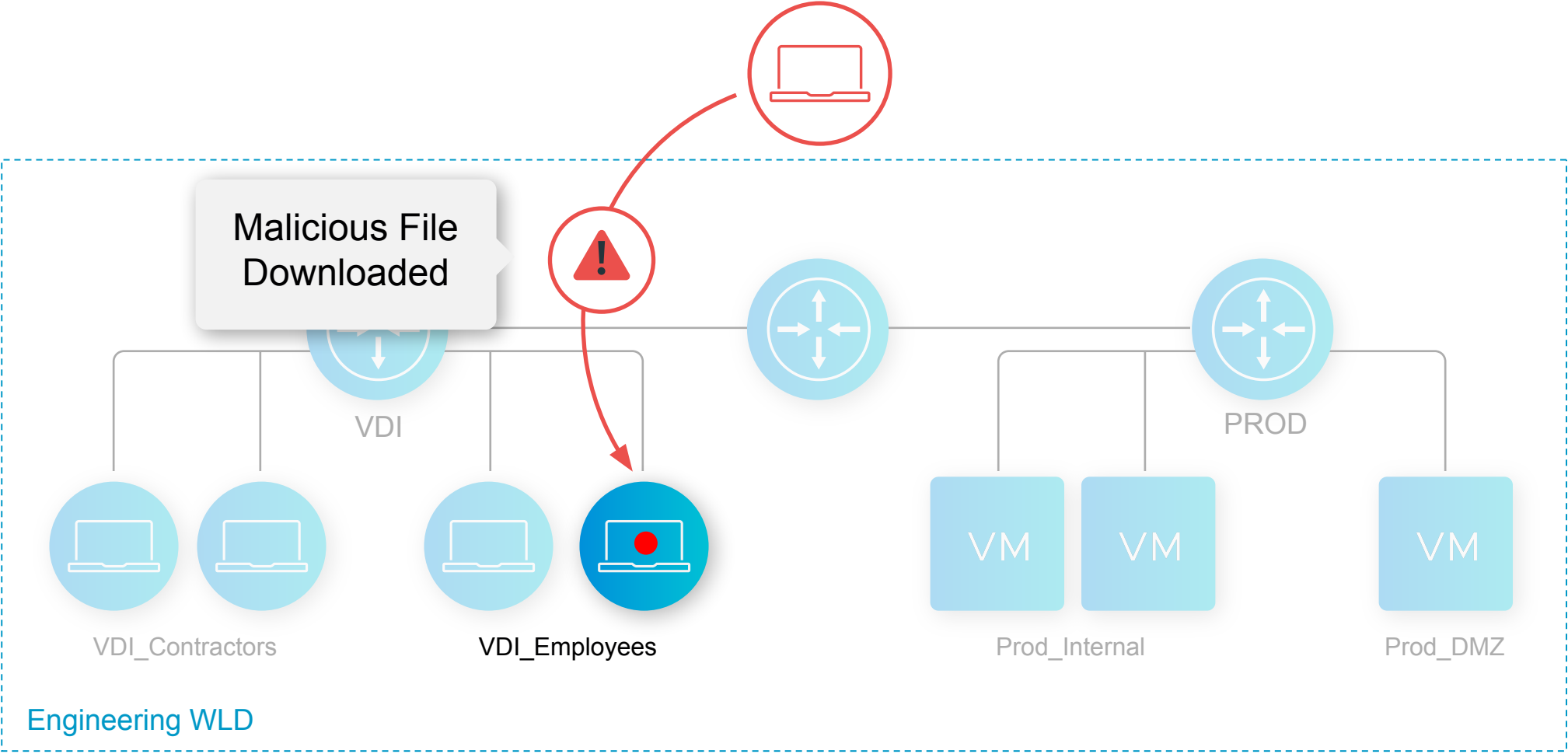
# Today's Security Realities

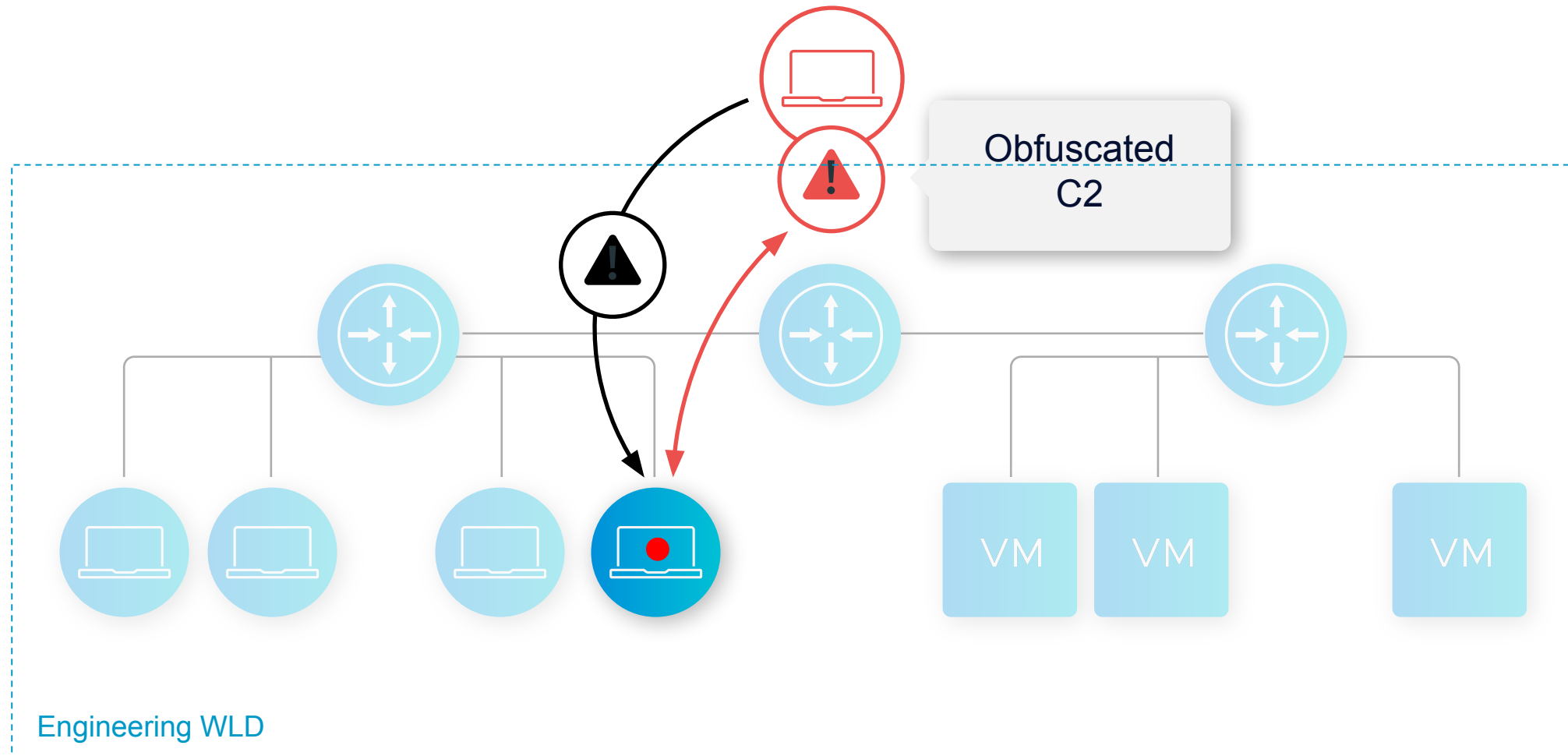
Lack of Context - Misaligned Priorities and Delayed Triage

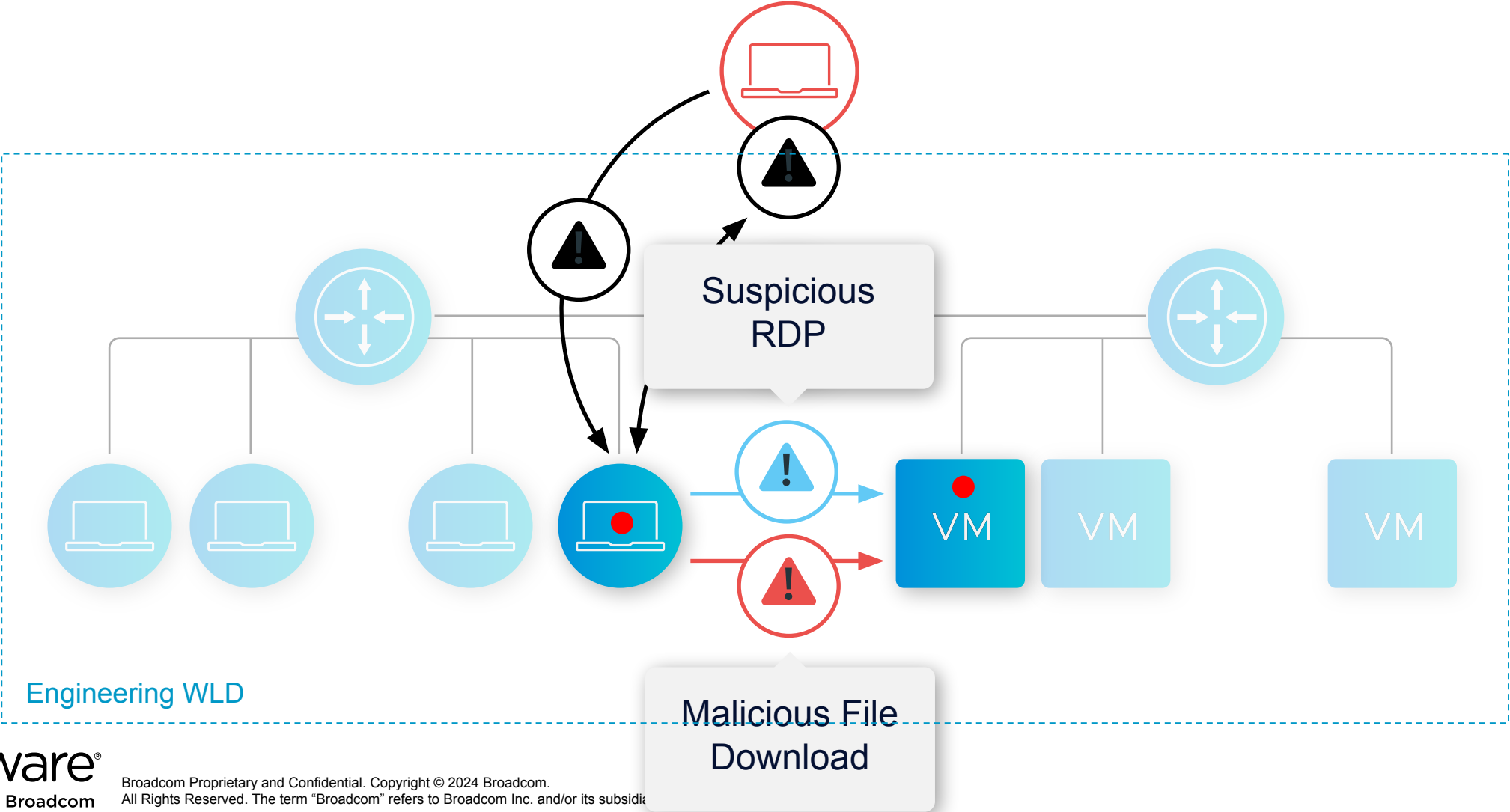
“Outdated security technology and processes and **too many alerts** or false negatives with detection software are listed among the top obstacles”

Scale Venture Partners 2020 Cybersecurity Perspectives

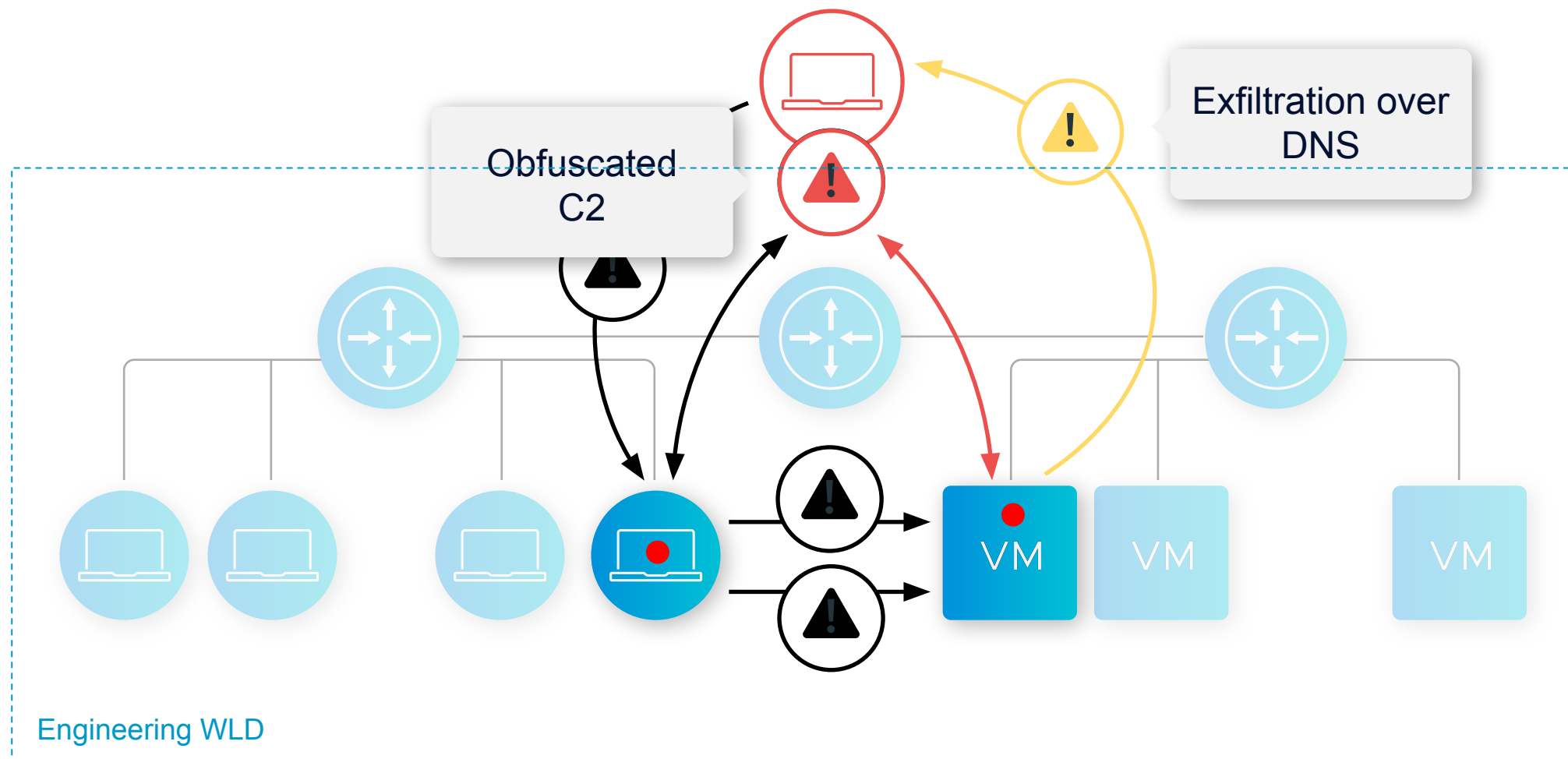






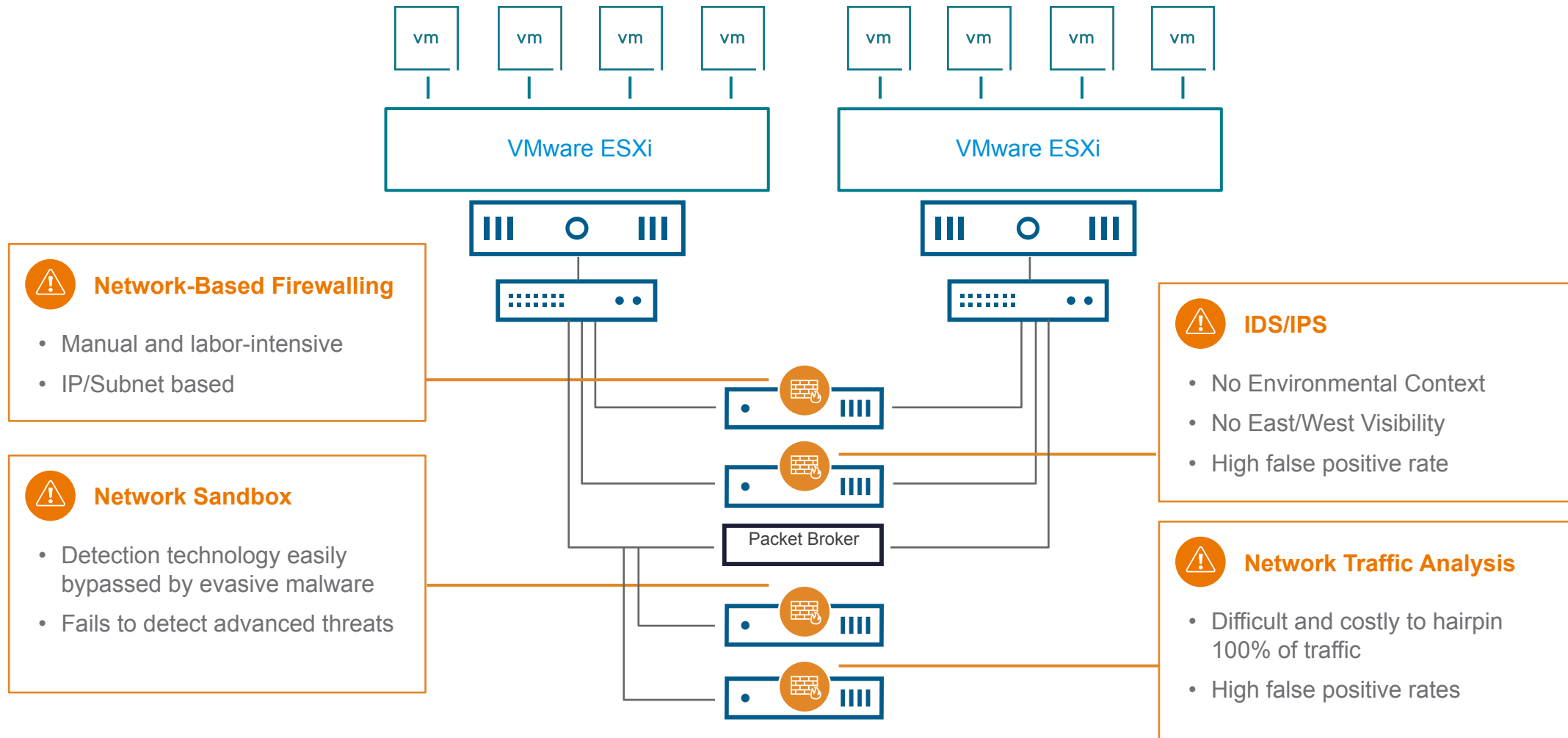






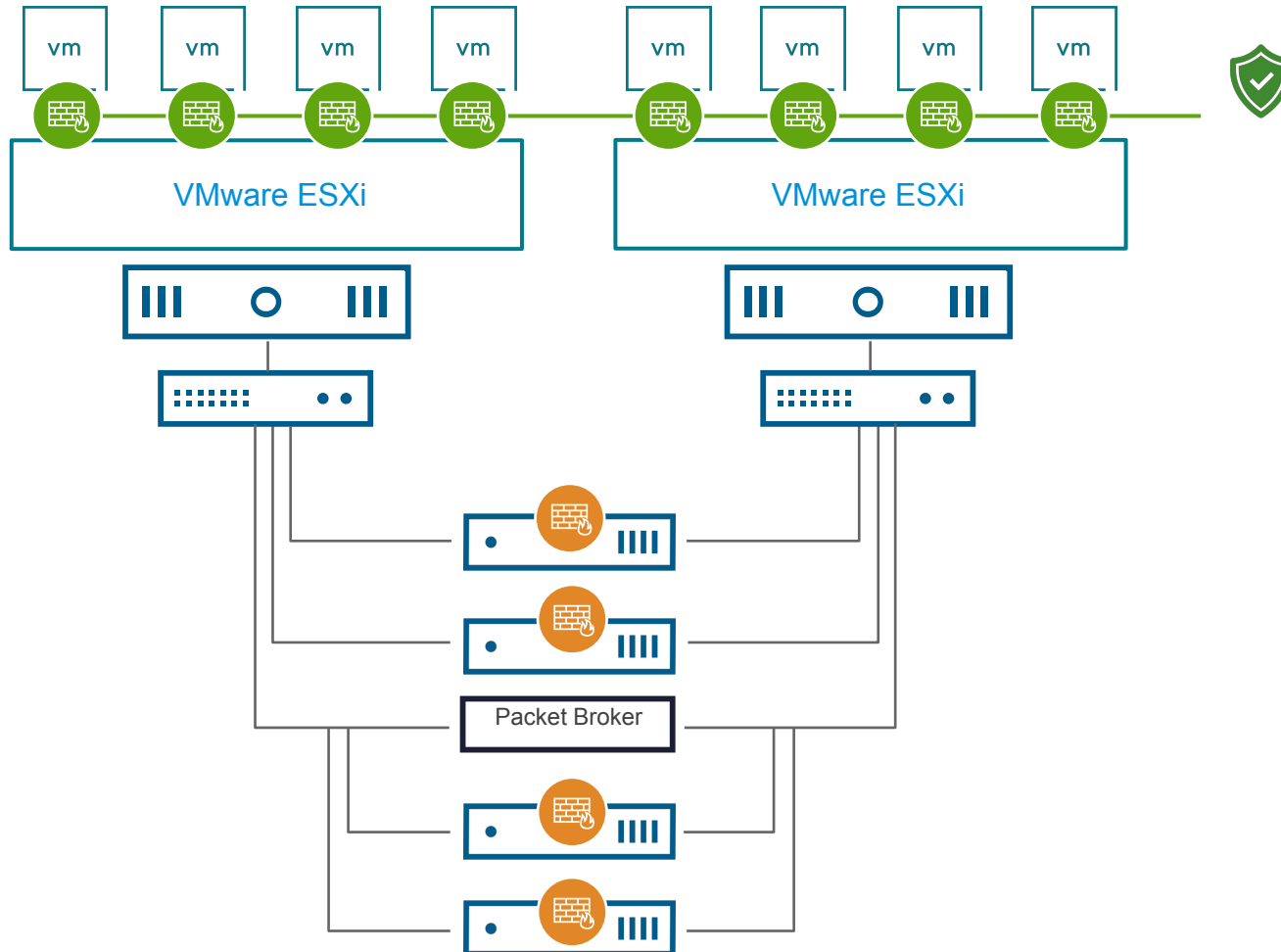
# Today's Security Realities

## Legacy Security



# Securing VCF with VMware Firewall

## VMware Firewall - Hypervisor Based Advanced Threat Protection



No Network Changes

Hypervisor Observability

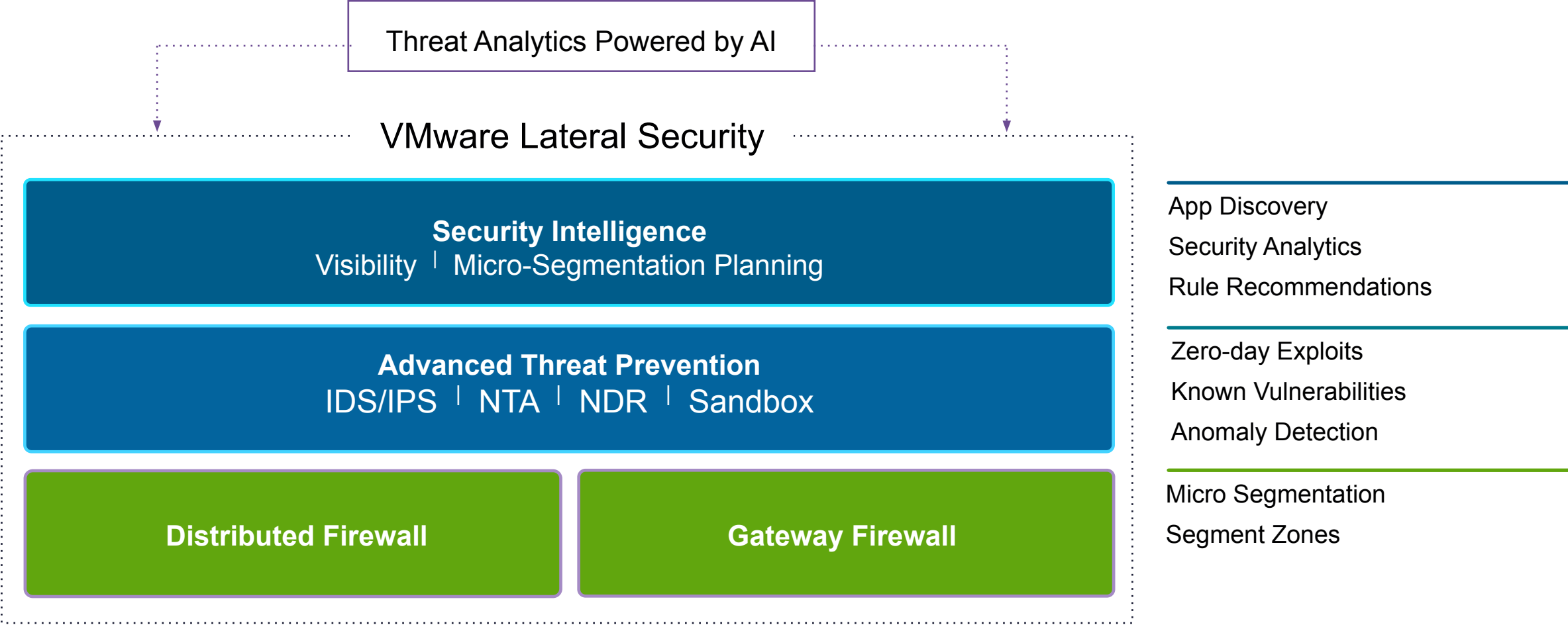
Segmentation/  
Microsegmentation

NSX Network Detection &  
Response

- Tapless NTA (E-W Visibility)
- NSX Sandbox (Guest Introspection)
- NSX Distributed IDS/IPS
- Network Event Correlation

# Securing VCF with VMware Firewall

Comprehensive VMware Lateral Security Defense



# Securing VCF with VMware Firewall

## Lateral Security Use cases

### Zero Trust

#### SECURE INFRASTRUCTURE

##### DFW

Protect critical infrastructure services  
Eg., allow sshv2 only, no telnet

#### SECURE VIRTUAL ZONES

##### DFW, GFW

Create zones in software with  
No changes to underlying infra

#### SECURE APPS

##### DFW, Security Intelligence

Secure critical applications  
Eg., EPIC, SWIFT, Horizon VDI

### Ransomware Protection

#### VIRTUAL PATCHING

##### IDPS

Protect from known vulnerabilities  
Reduce risk while you schedule maintenance

#### MALWARE PREVENTION

##### Sandbox, IDPS, DFW

Protect against known and zero-day ransomware  
Prevent lateral movement associated with ransomware

#### THREAT INVESTIGATION

##### Sandbox, IDPS, NTA NDR

Detect advanced Threats  
Correlate Threats, Scope impact, prioritize respond

### Security Solutions

#### Secure VCF

##### DFW, ATP

Secure management and infra  
Secure workload domains

#### SECURE RANSOMWARE RECOVERY

##### DFW, ATP, VCDR

Recover to a known clean state  
Monitor recovery points before restoration

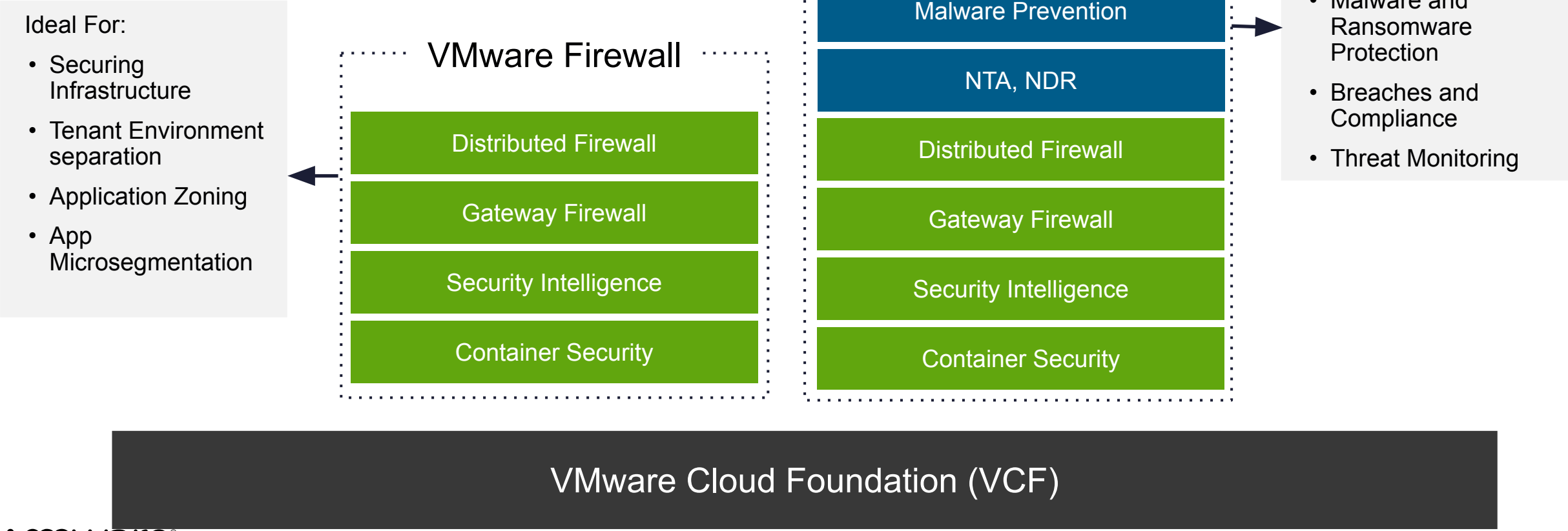
#### COMPLIANCE

##### DFW, GFW and IDS/IPS

Assist to create compliance zones  
Meet Audit goals. PCI, HIPAA requires IDS/IPS

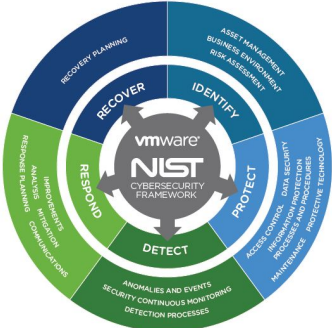
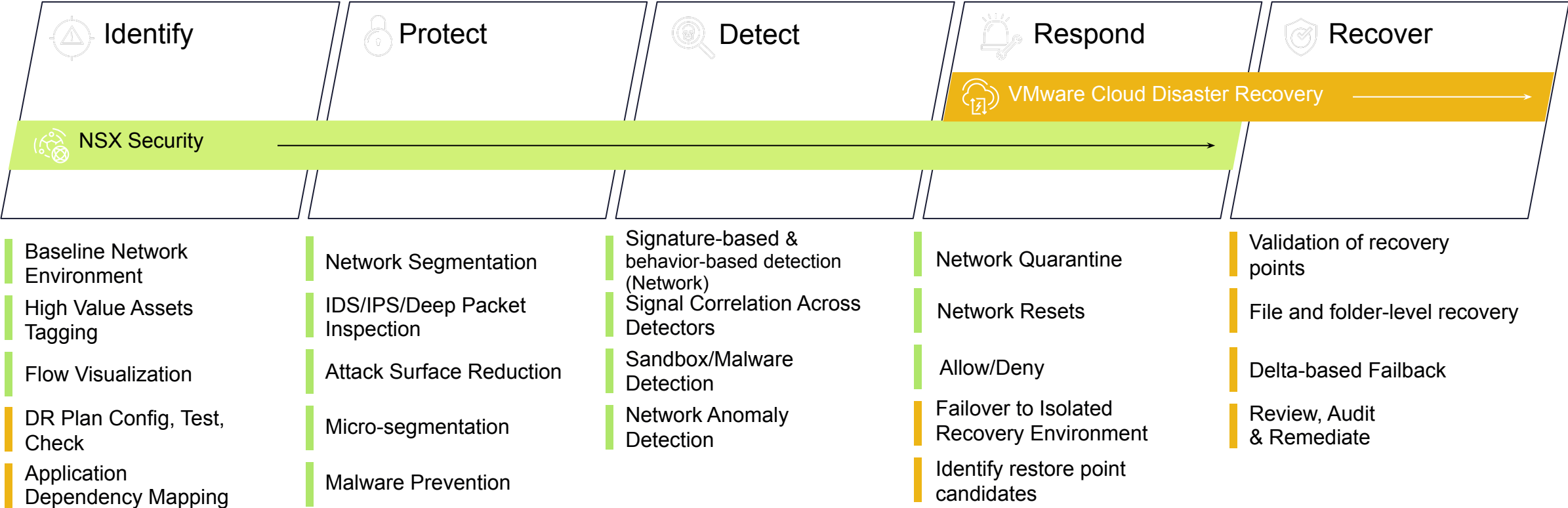
# Securing VCF with VMware Firewall

## Security Offerings



# Securing VCF with VMware Firewall

## Mapping to NIST Cyber Security Framework



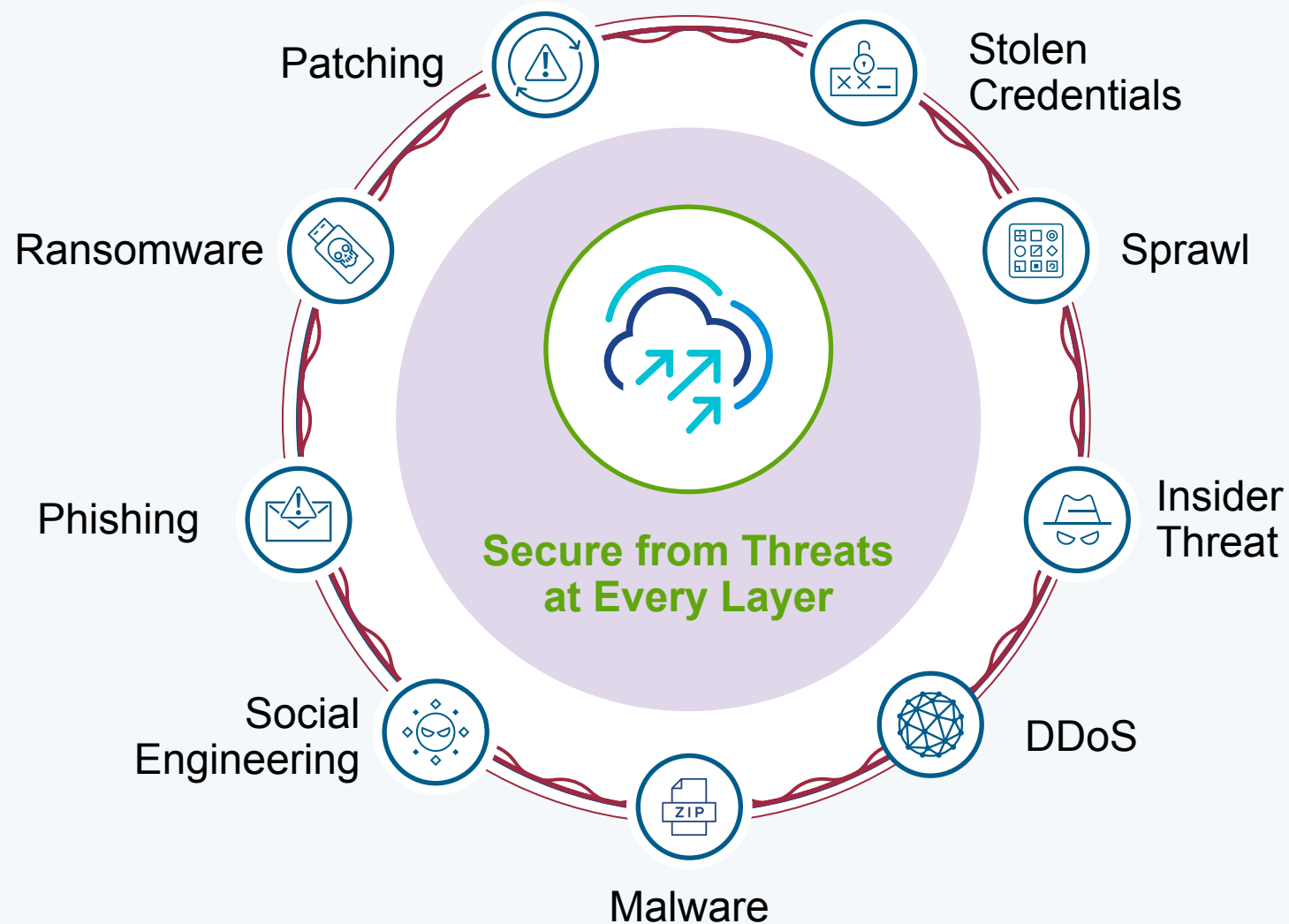




## MANAGING RISK & CYBERSECURITY\*

### Secure, systematic approach to attacks

- Implement zero-trust defense for app and data security
- Proactively inspect and monitor for threats
- Establish a rapid recovery plan for potential attacks

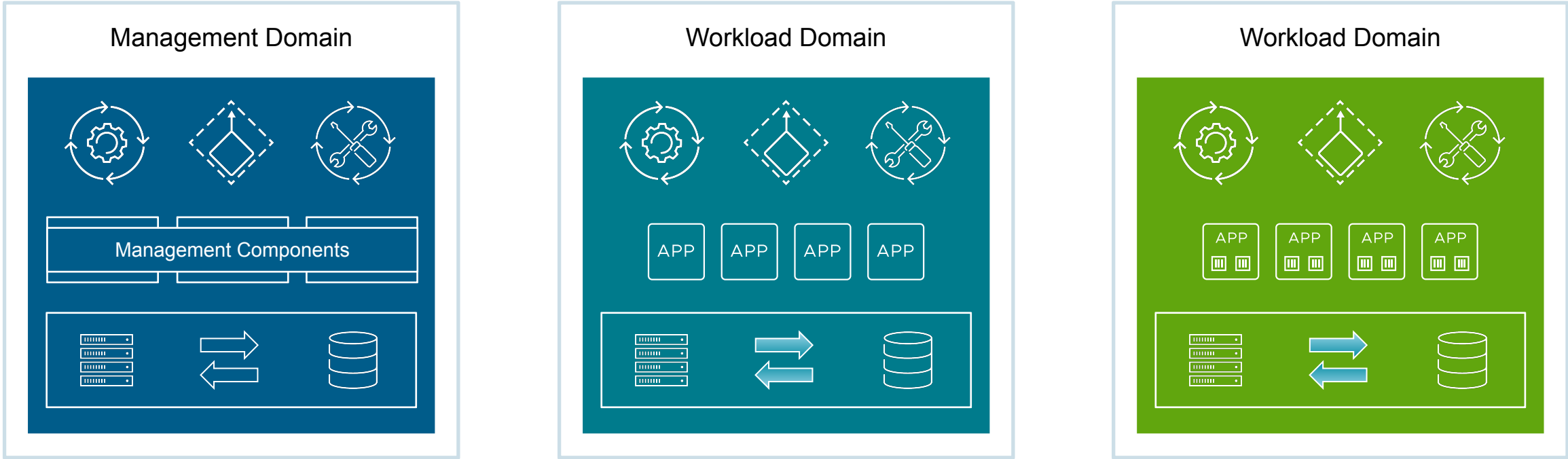


# Securing VCF Workload Domains



# Management and Workload Domains

Delivering a Scalable Private Cloud Platform



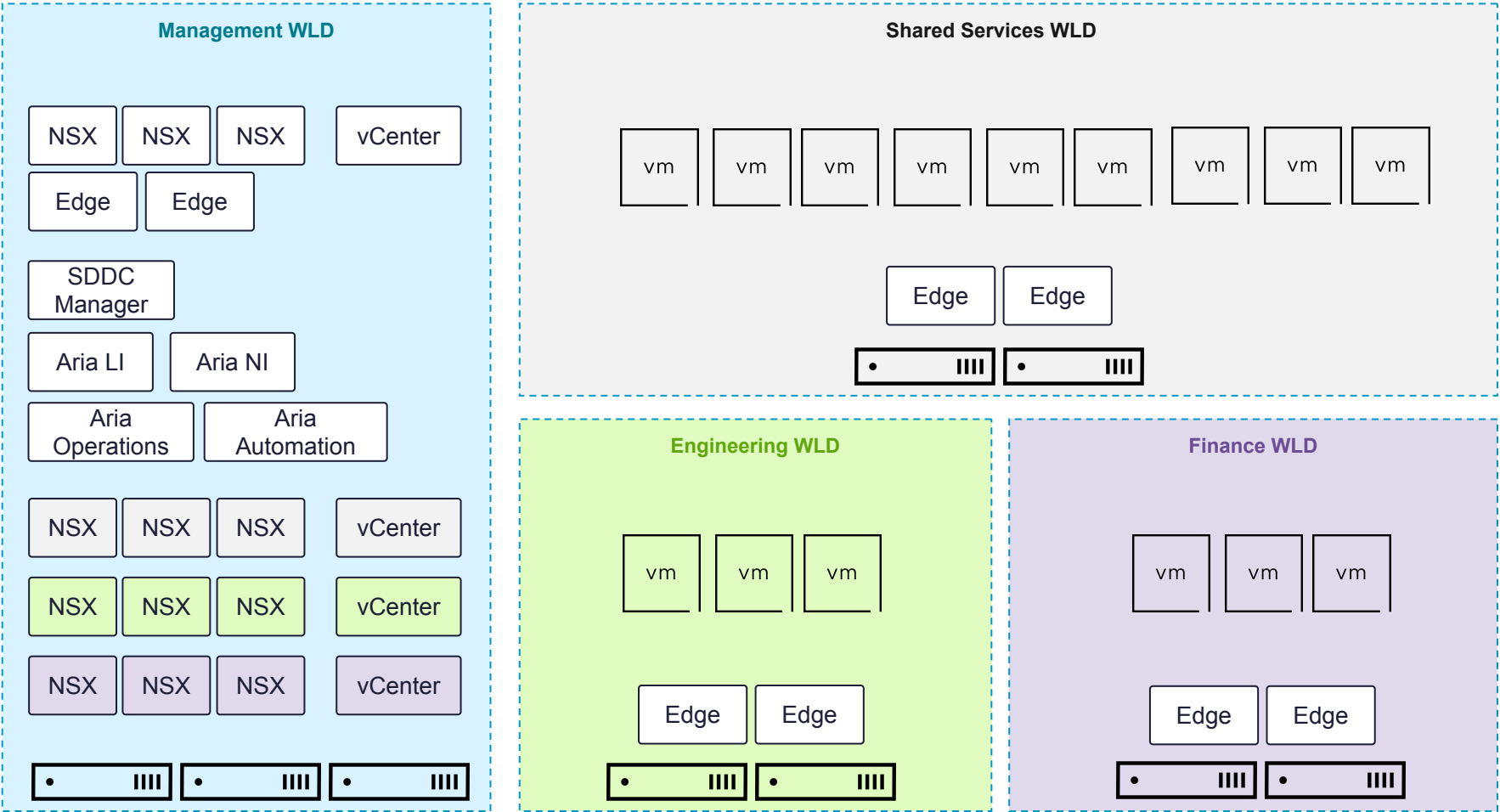
# Securing VCF with VMware Firewall

## VCF Workload Domains at a Glance

Management Domain has dedicated NSX Managers and Edge cluster

Multiple VI Workload Domains can be added, using new or existing NSX Managers

VI Workload Domain NSX Managers and vCenters are located in the Management Workload Domain



# Securing VCF with VMware Firewall

VI and MGMT WLDs

## Securing VI WLD

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Secure Apps with Security Intelligence and DFW

Ransomware Protection & Threat Investigation with NSX ATP

Secure Virtual WLD zones using the GFW/DFW

## Securing MGMT WLD

---

Secure Infrastructure using the Distributed Firewall

Compliance

# Securing Virtual Infrastructure Workload Domains

## Highlighted Use Cases

### Secure Zones

#### Gateway or Distributed Firewall

Between WLDs or within a WLD

Create network-based or network-agnostic zones/environments (i.e. dev/test/prod/compliance)

Isolated zones or provide controlled zone access

### Secure Apps

#### DFW and Security Intelligence

Minimize the blast radius/attack surface

Zero-Trust model for Network Security

Align security policy lifecycle with application lifecycle

### Ransomware Protection & Threat Investigation

#### Advanced Threat Prevention

Prevent exploits and extend patching cycles with Virtual Patching

Detect & Prevent evasive malware

Prioritize and correlate threats into actionable campaigns

Security across Sites with NSX Federation

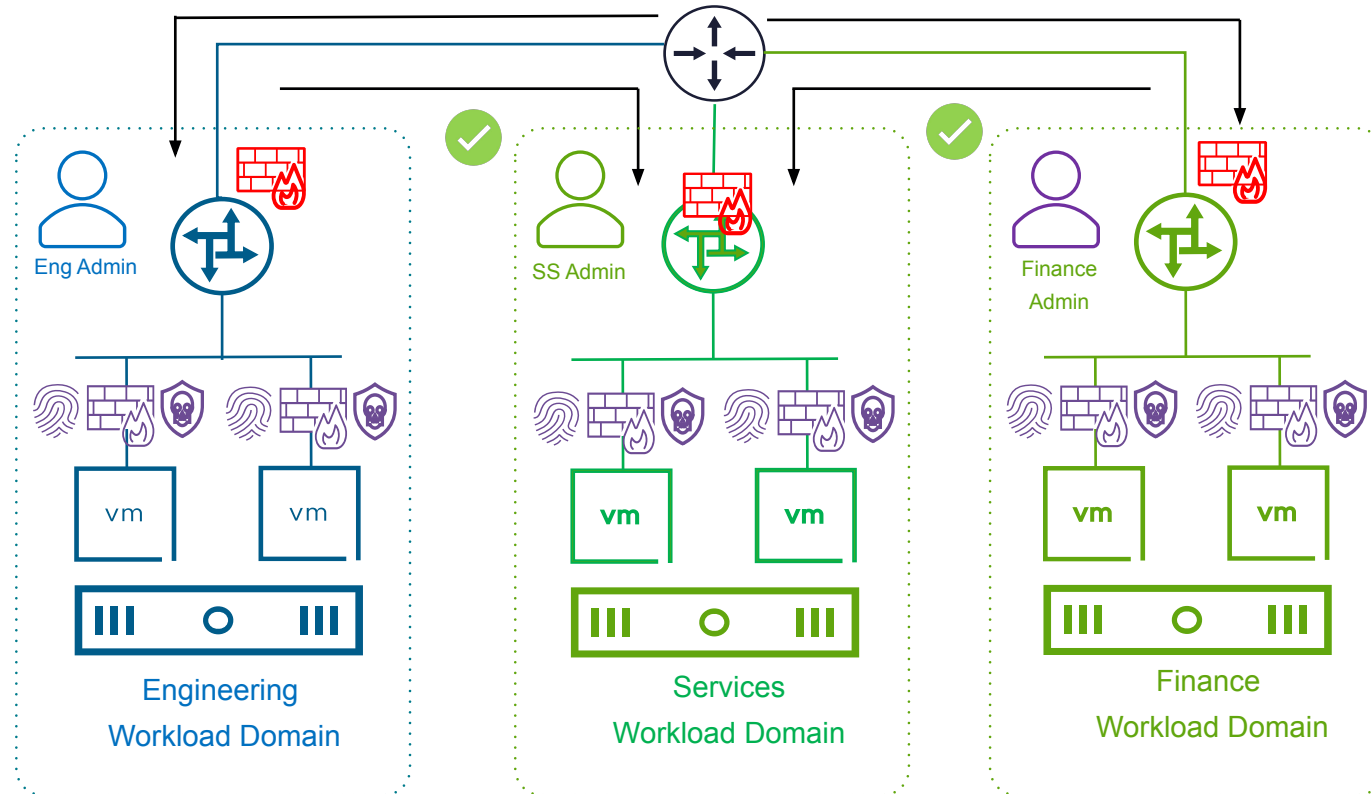
# Secure VI WLD Zones

## Zoning Between WLDs using the Gateway Firewall

GFW can be used to implement zoning between WLDs

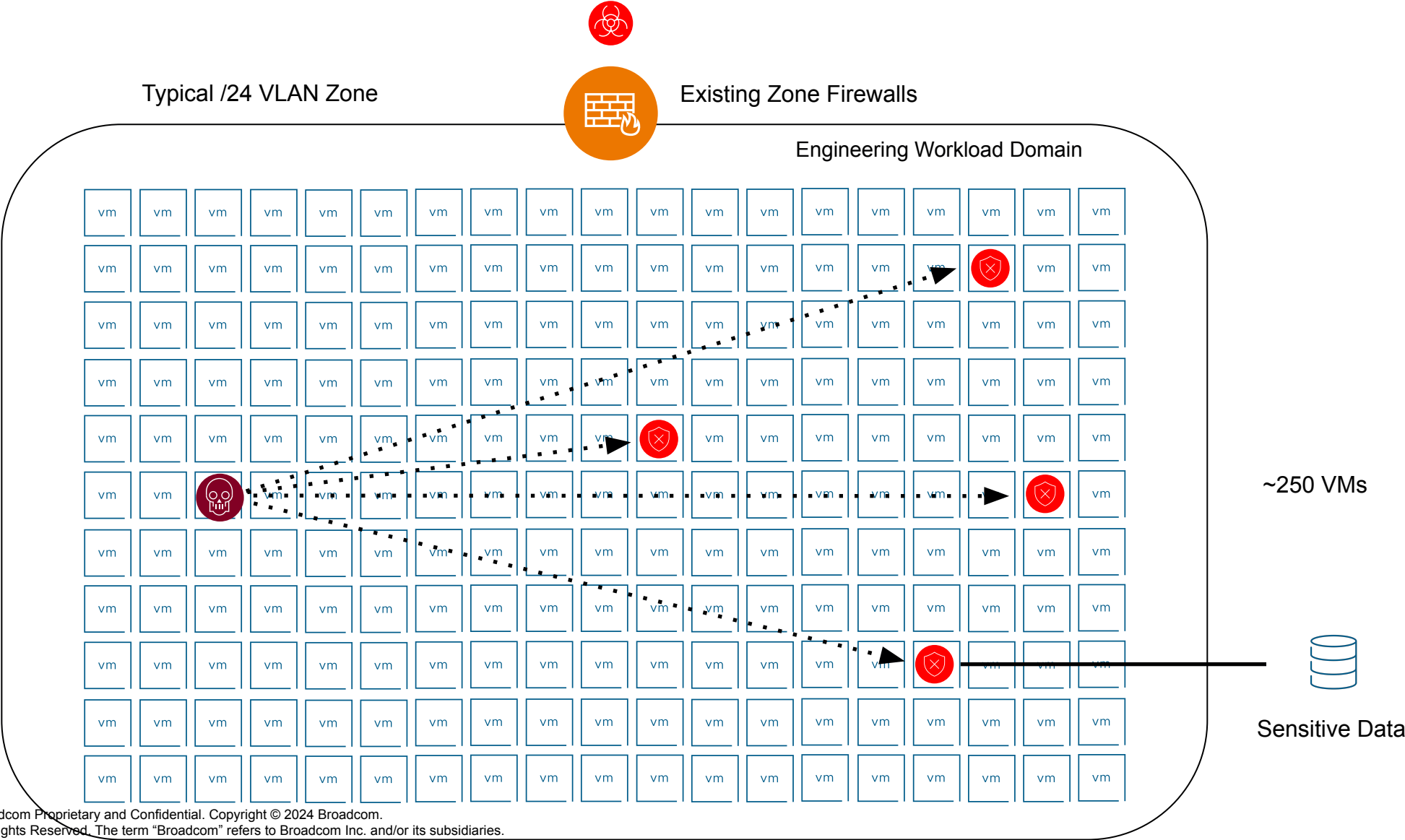
Restrictive inbound GFW rules

intra-WLD security with full NSX stack (DFW, DIDPS, MP, ...)



# Security within a VI WLD

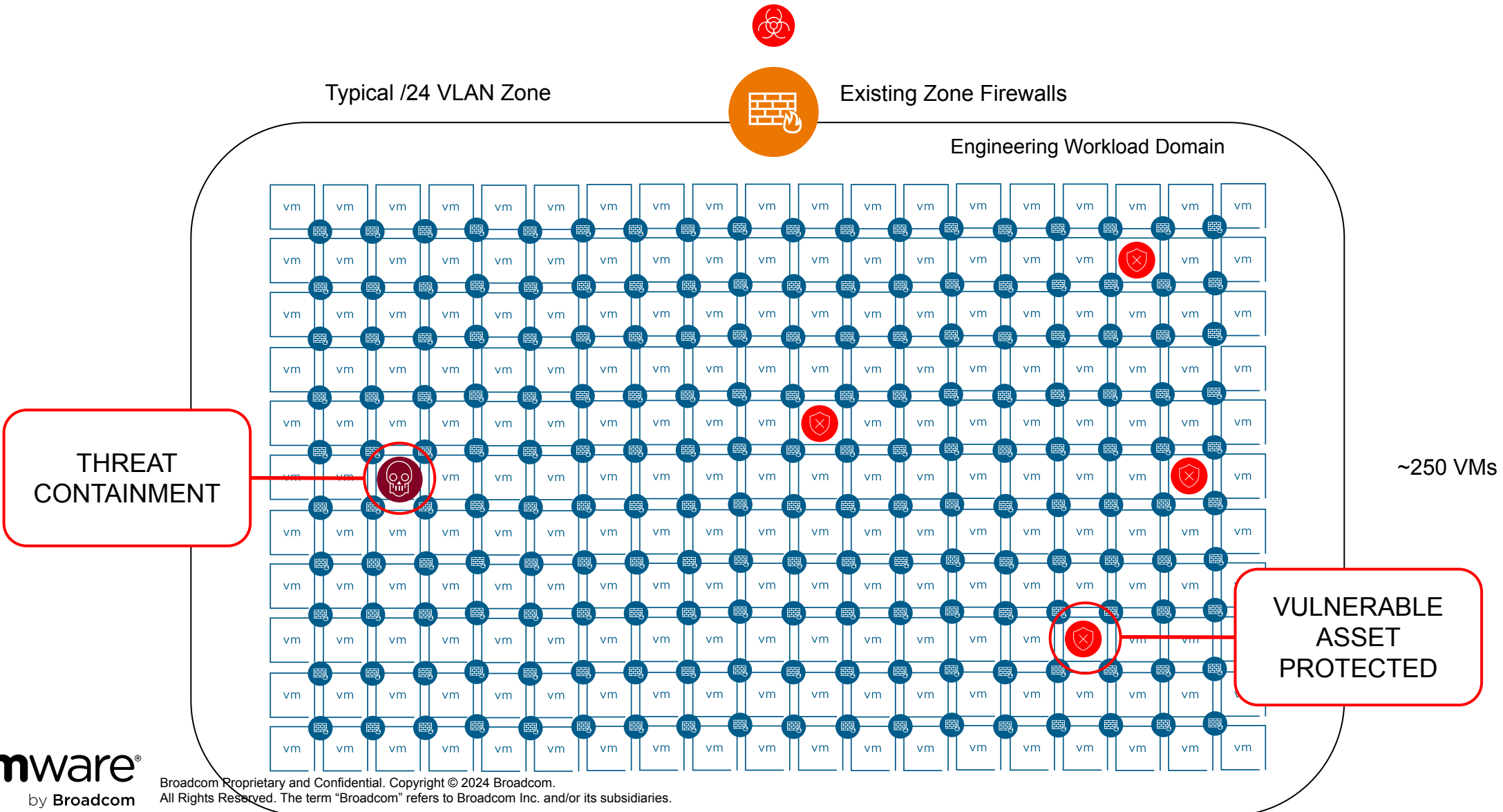
My WLDs are isolated, but what about...Security WITHIN the WLD ?





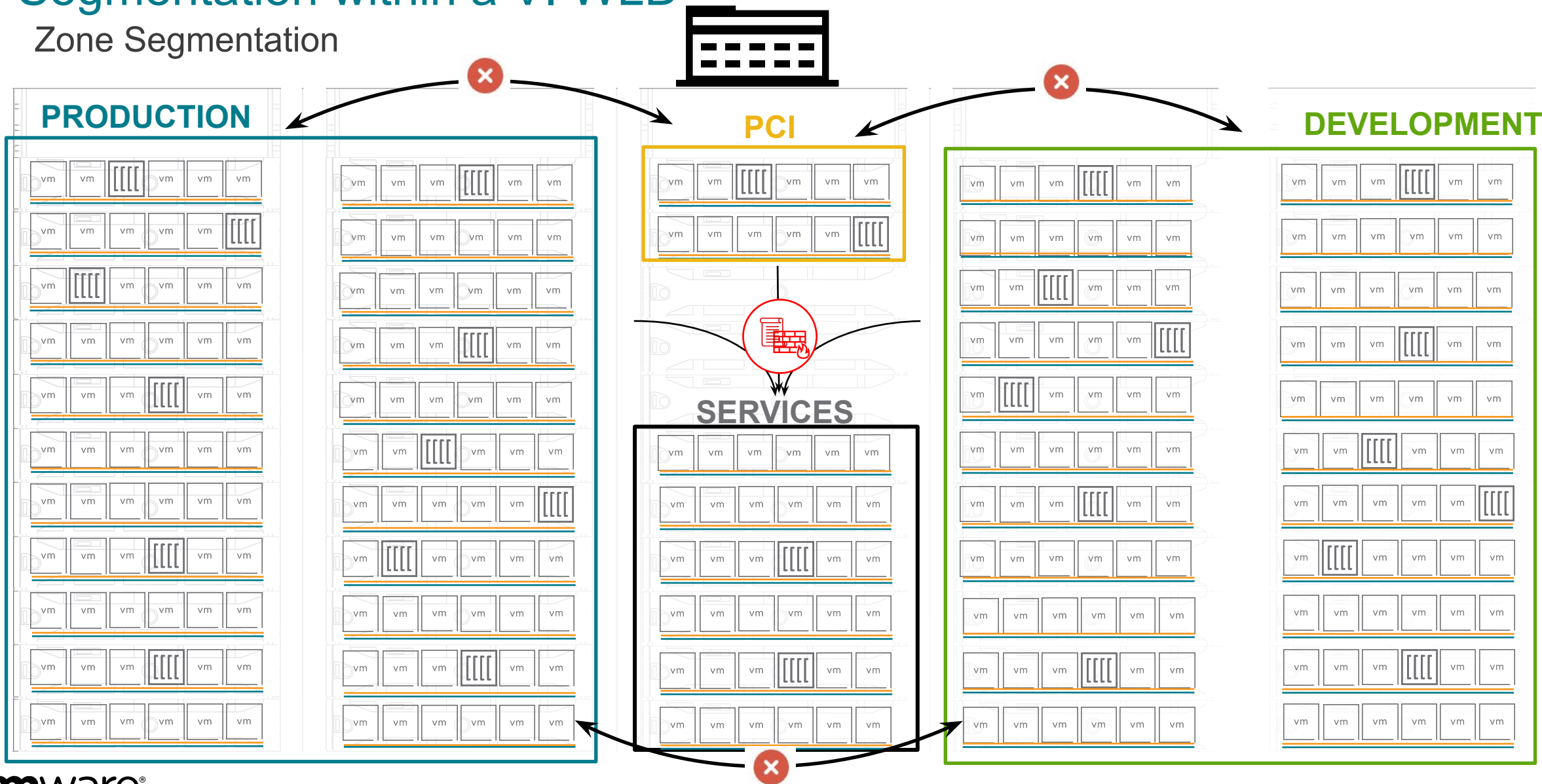
# Segmentation within a VI WLD

My WLDs are isolated, but what about...Security WITHIN the WLD ?



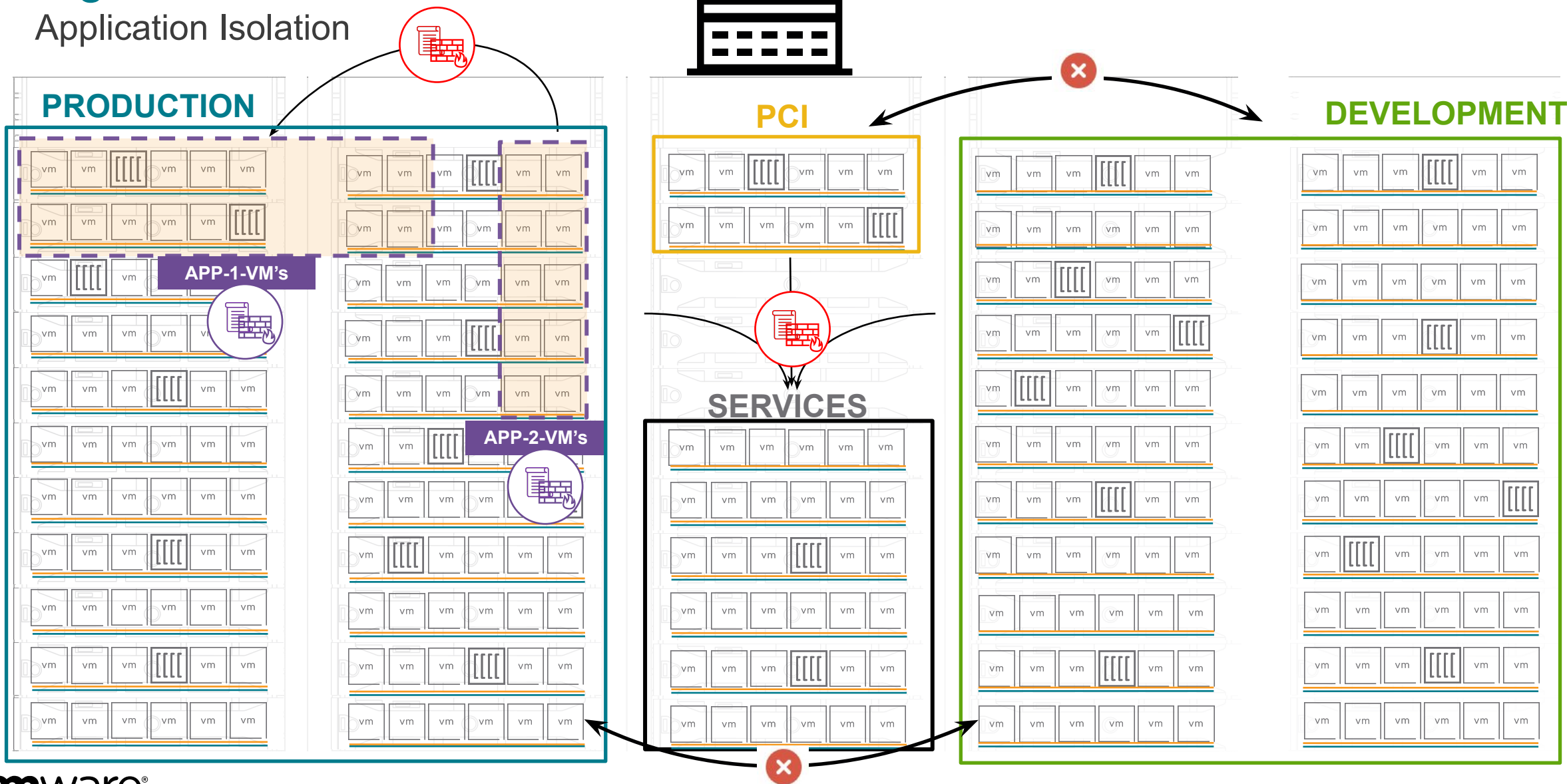
# Segmentation within a VI WLD

## Zone Segmentation



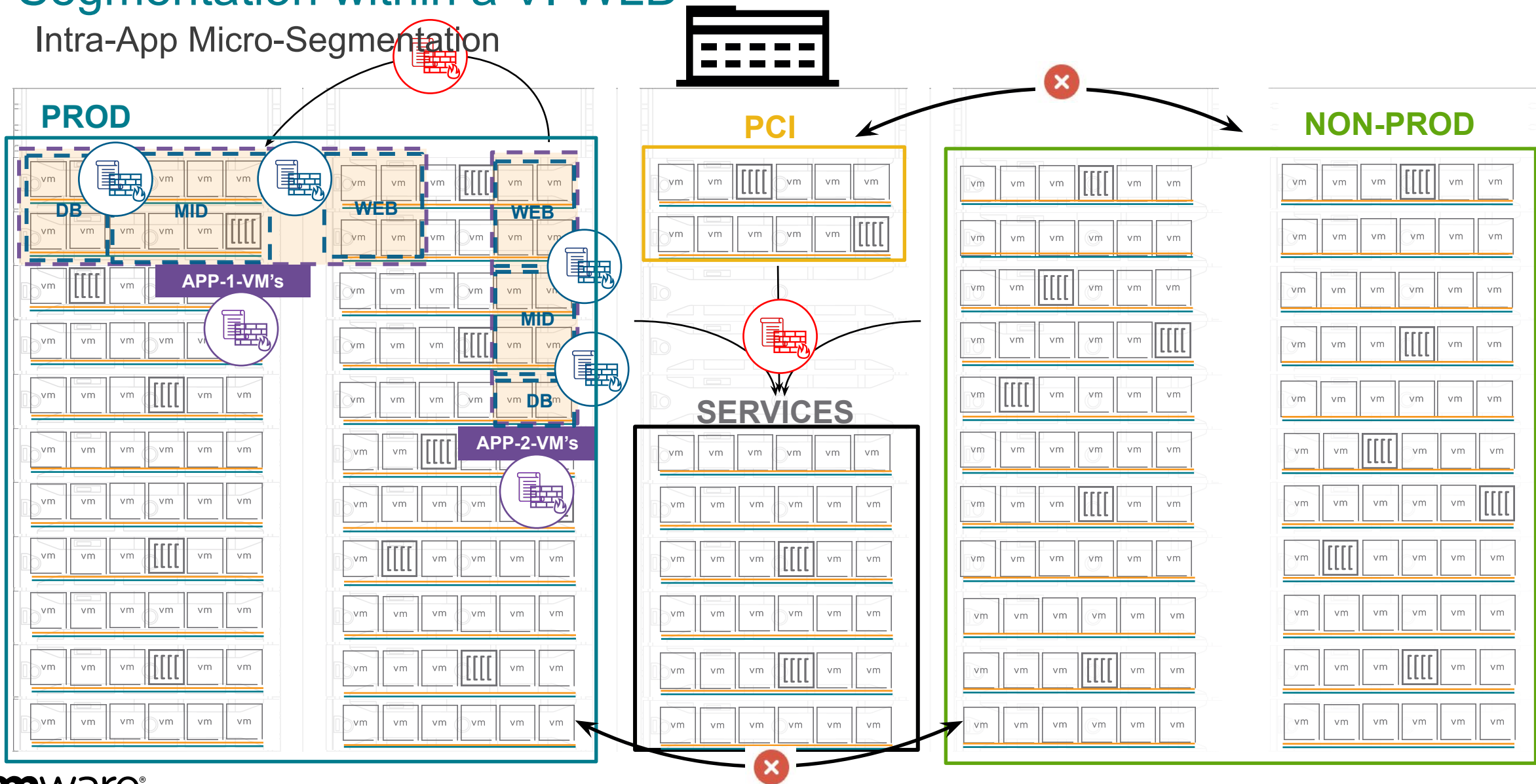
# Segmentation within a VI WLD

Application Isolation



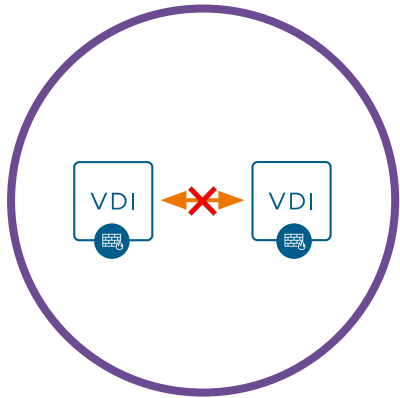
# Segmentation within a VI WLD

## Intra-App Micro-Segmentation



# Segmentation within a VI WLD

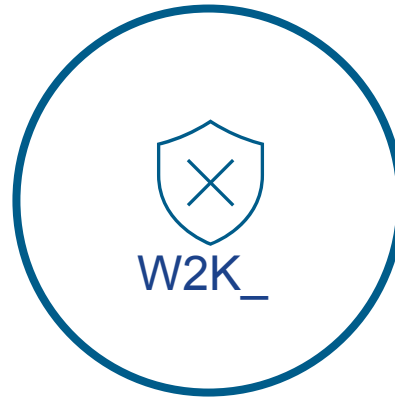
## Quick Win Segmentation Use-Cases



VDI/EUC  
Published  
App  
Security



Lock/Monitor  
East/West  
RDP



Obsolete  
Operating  
Systems



Block  
Unsecure  
Protocols  
(Compliance)

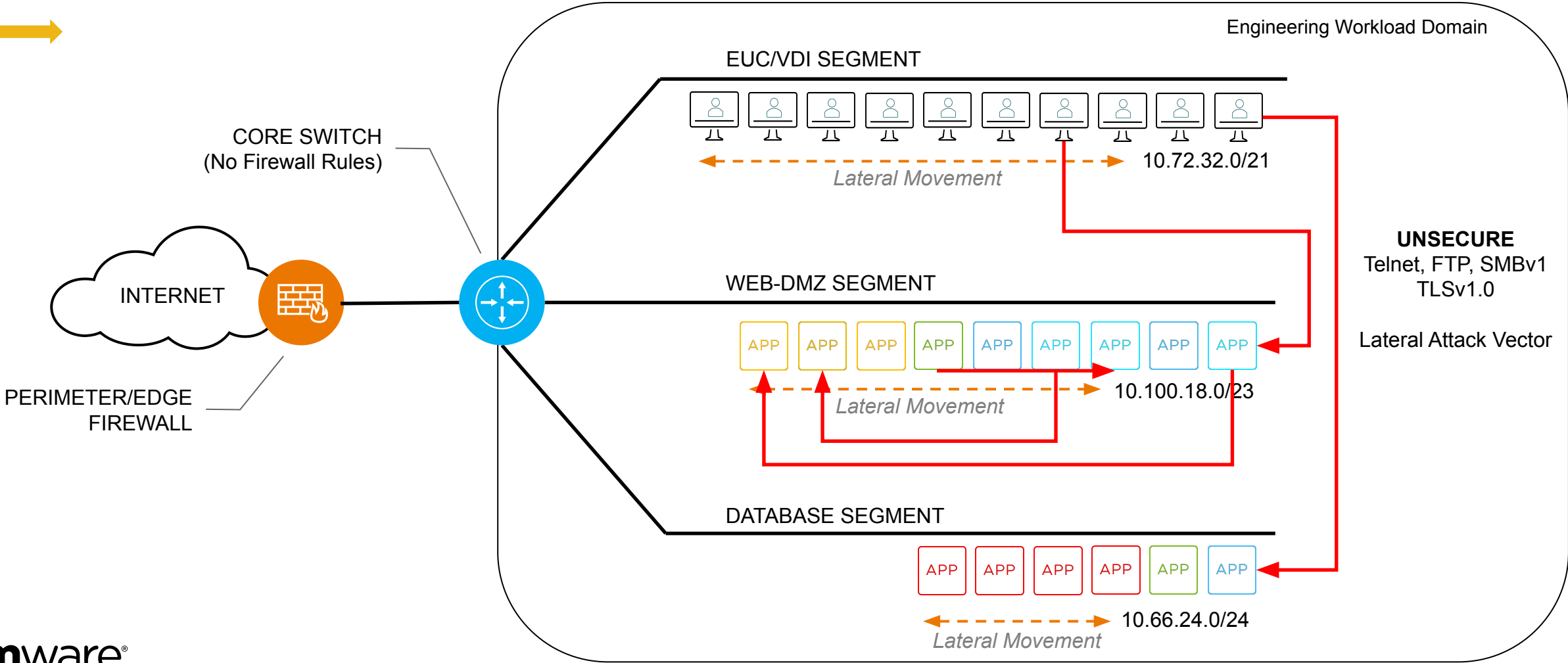


VDI/RDSH  
Identity  
Firewall

# Segmentation within a VI WLD

## Unsecure Protocols

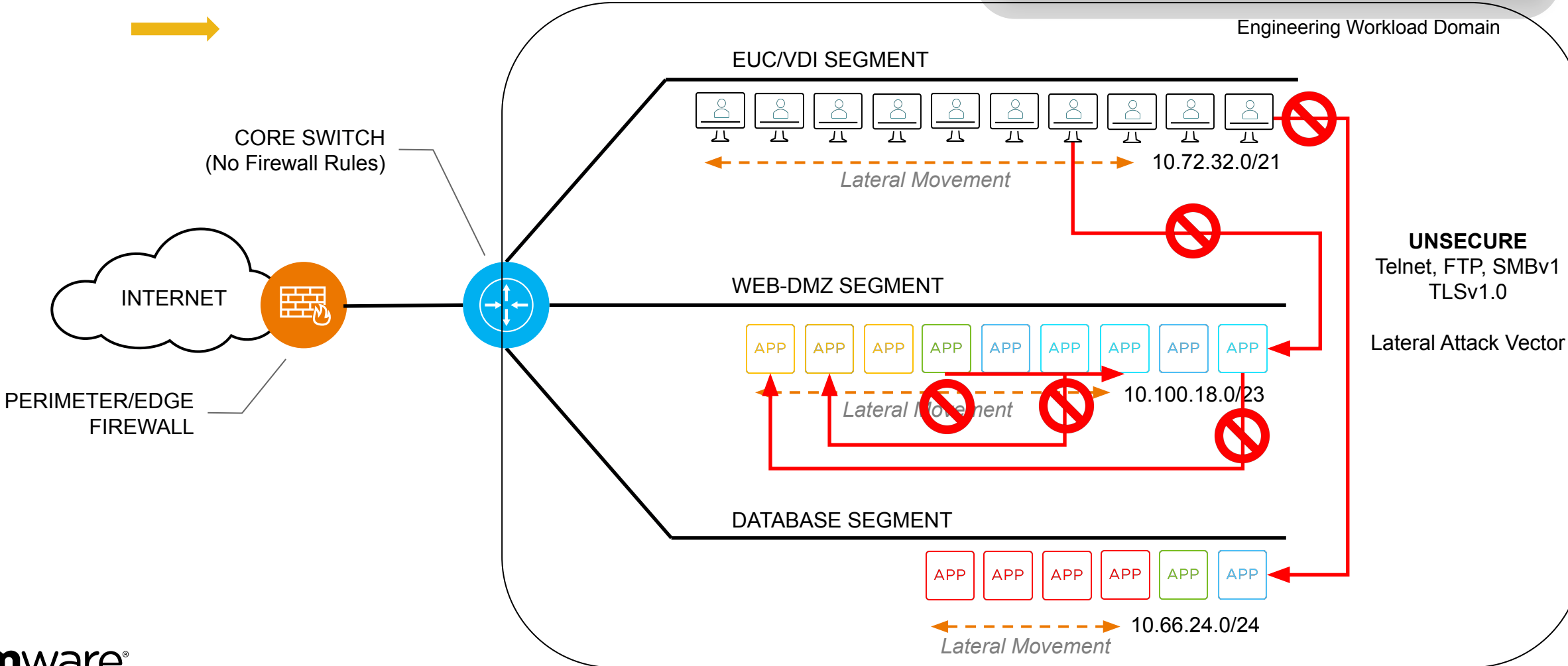
BEFORE AFTER



# Segmentation within a VI WLD

## Unsecure Protocols

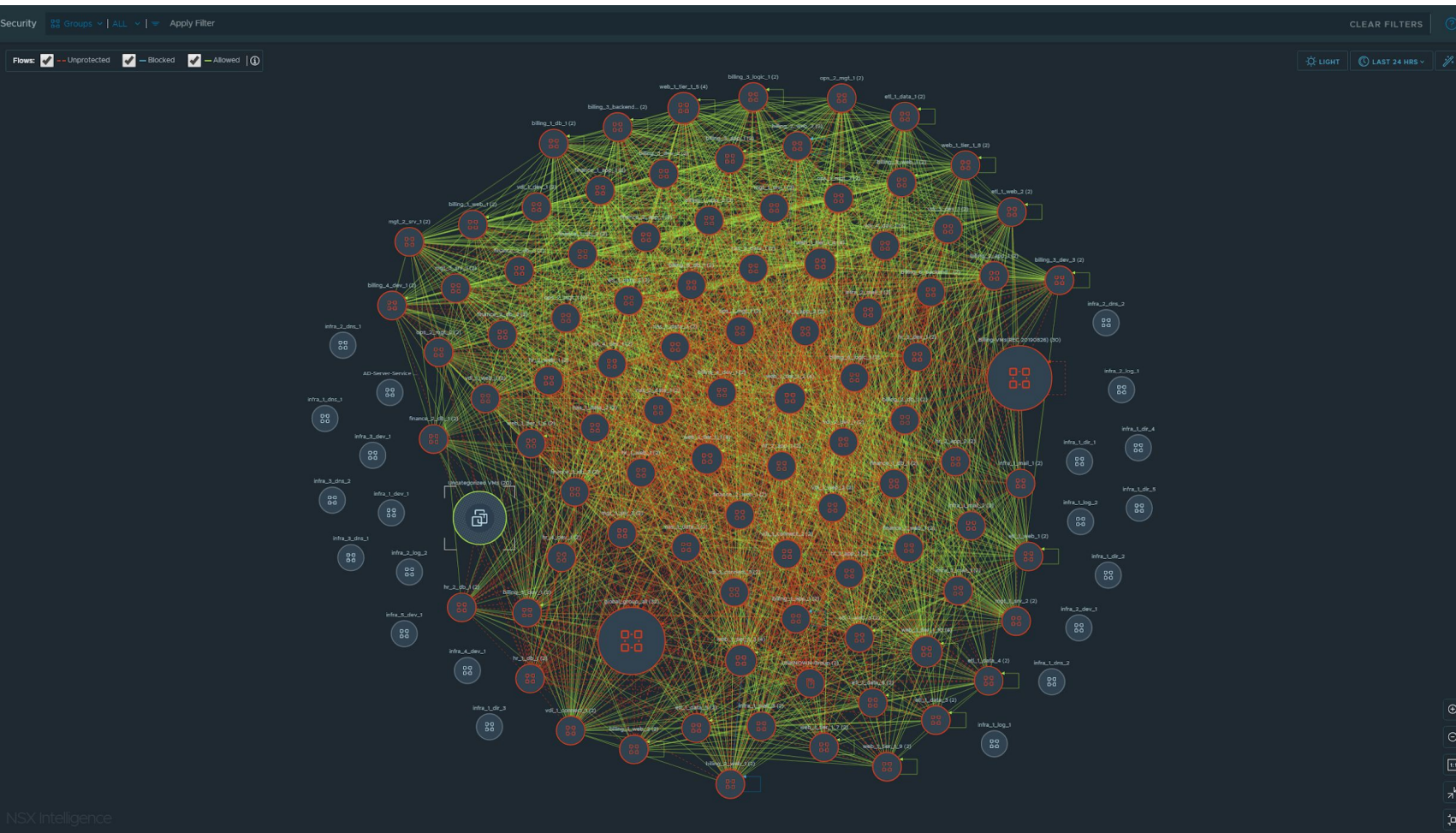
BEFORE AFTER





# Visibility and Analytics within a VI WLD

## VMware Security Intelligence



Visibility

Policy Recommendations

Network traffic Analysis

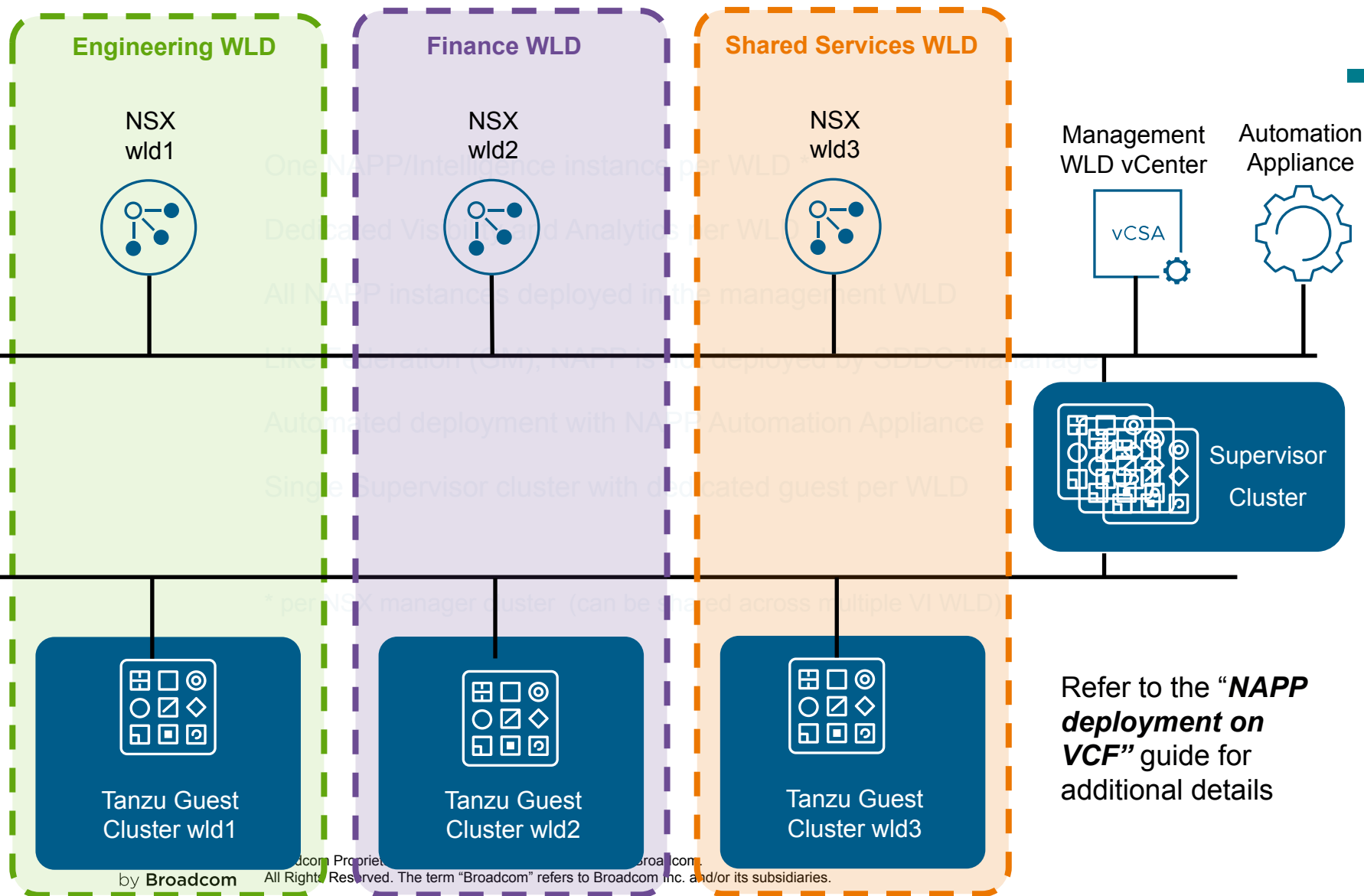
Collection of events from WLD

- Flow (L4/L7)
- Context
- Inventory



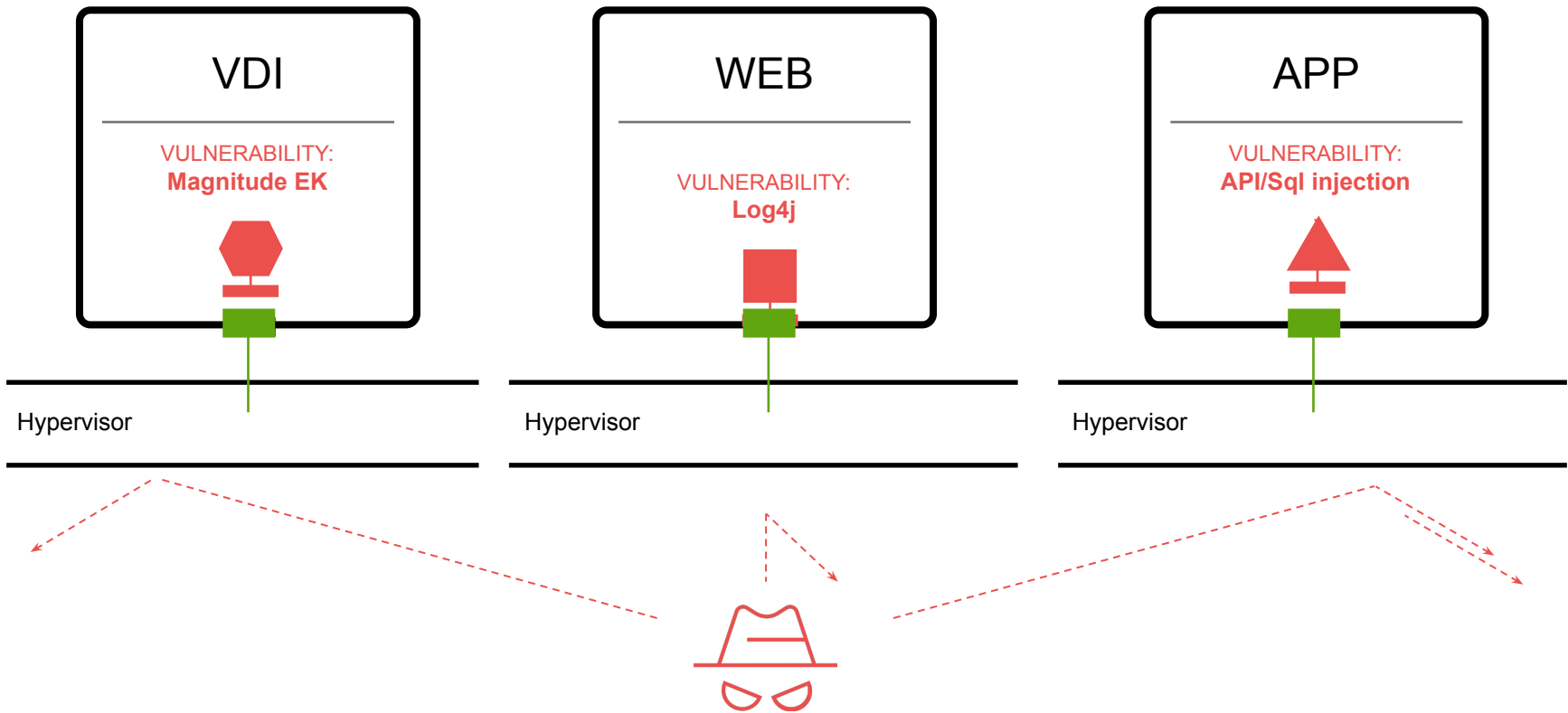
# Visibility and Analytics within a VI WLD

VMware Security Intelligence/NAPP



# Ransomware Protection & Threat Investigation within a VI WLD

## Virtual Patching with the Distributed IDS/IPS



Patching cycles are lengthy and often require maintenance window/downtime

Patches may not be available for older systems  
Sending vulnerable workloads with a dedicated IDPS signature set

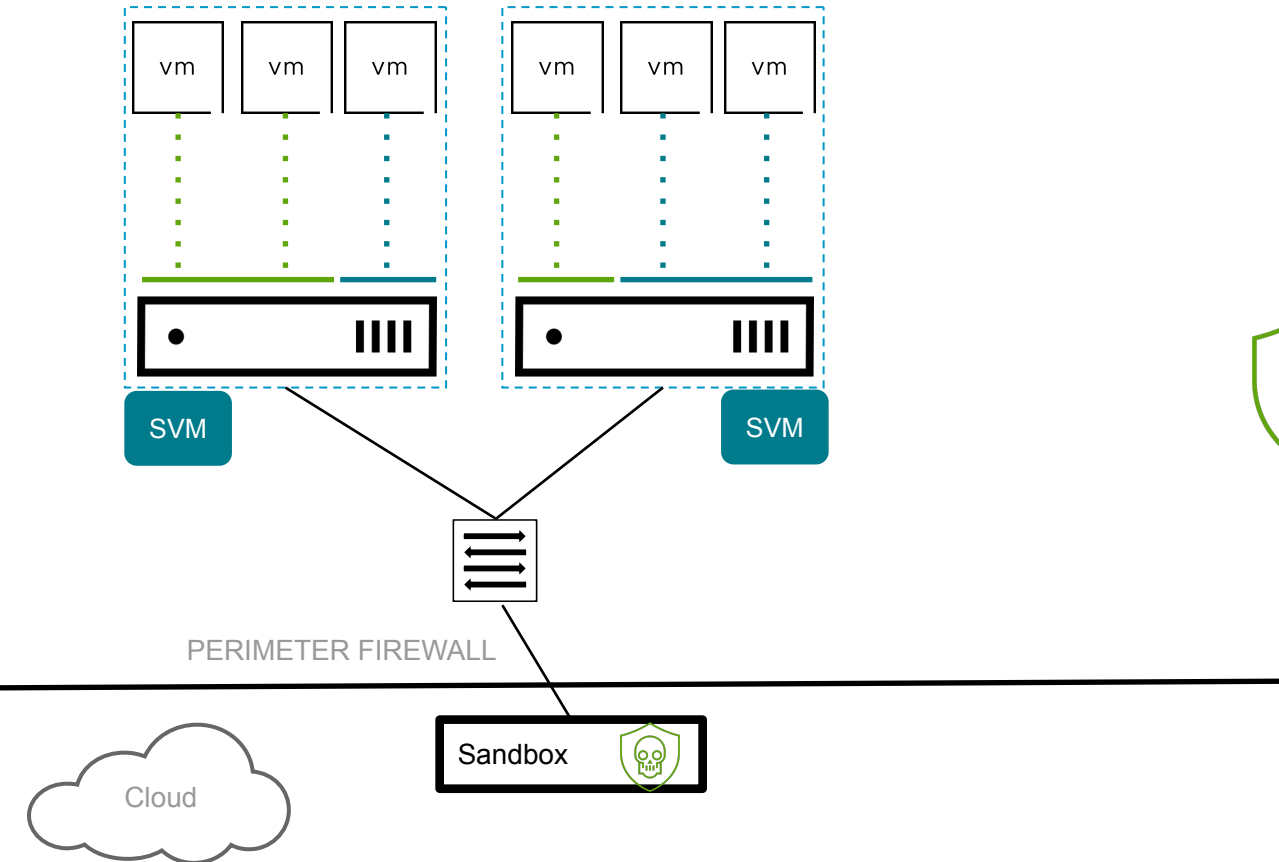
Protection regardless of where the attack comes from

Provides protection from network exploits until actual software patch is applied

### Virtual Patching

# Ransomware Protection & Threat Investigation within a VI WLD

## Distributed Malware Detection and Prevention



VMware NSX THREAT  
INTELLIGENCE CLOUD



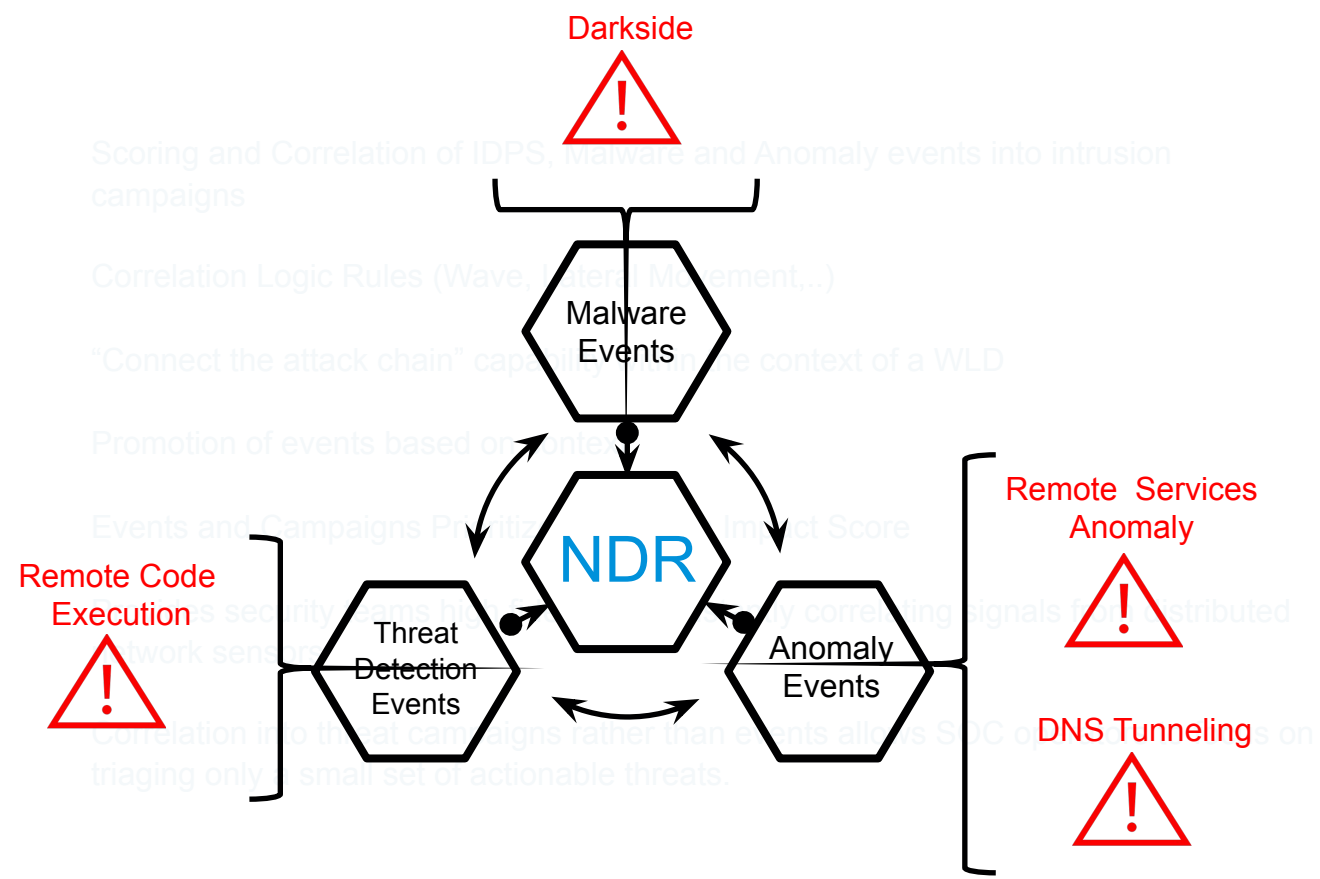
- ✓ Ability to analyze Files using Static and Dynamic techniques in the Data Center
- ✓ Can prevent known and unknown Malware from being executed in the Data Center
- ✓ Can be used even when Encryption or obfuscation is being used
- ✓ Uses Vmtools and Guest Introspection for file interception

Your computer files have been encrypted. \_



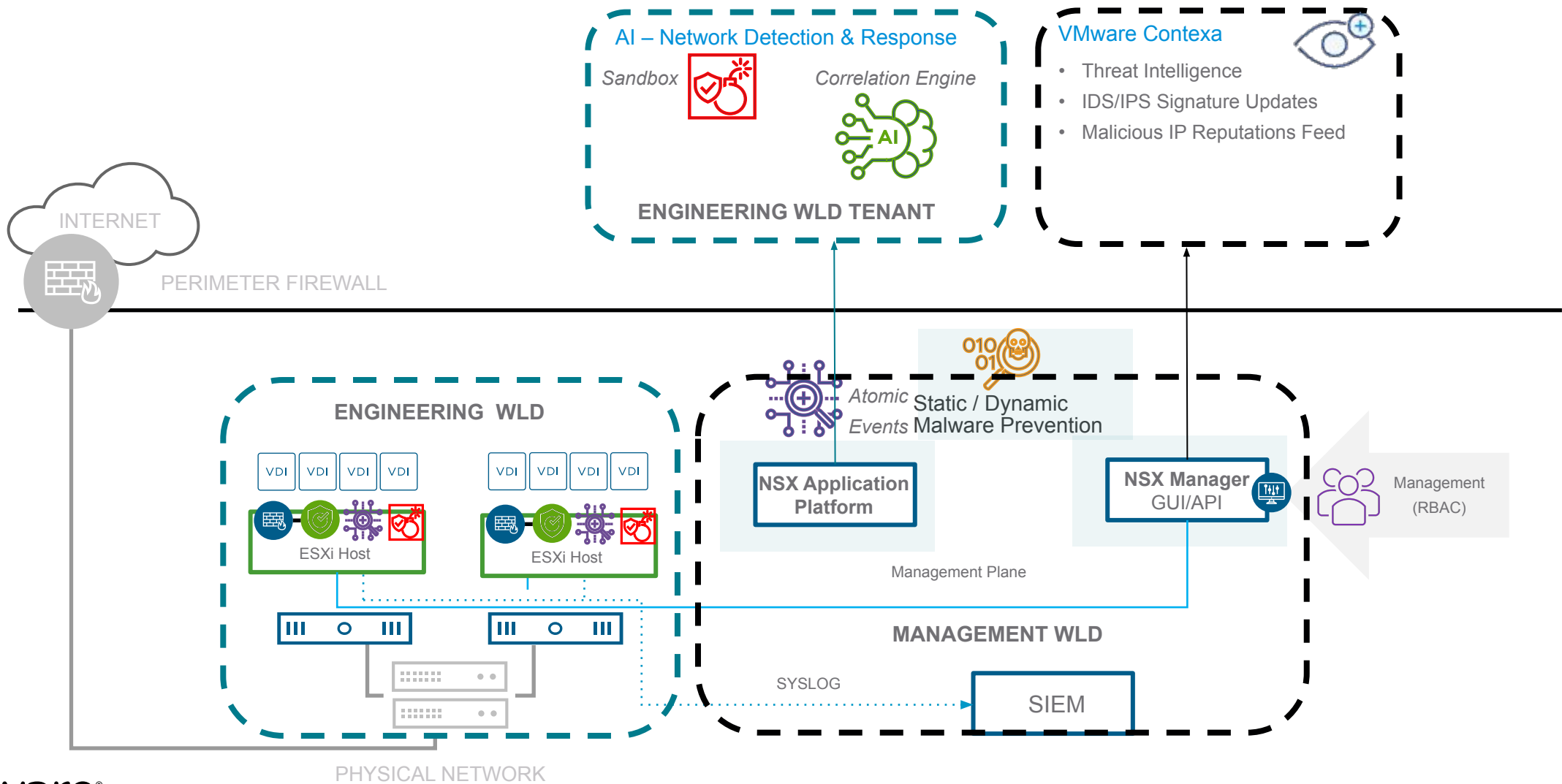
# Ransomware Protection & Threat Investigation within a VI WLD

Threat Investigation with Network Detection & Response



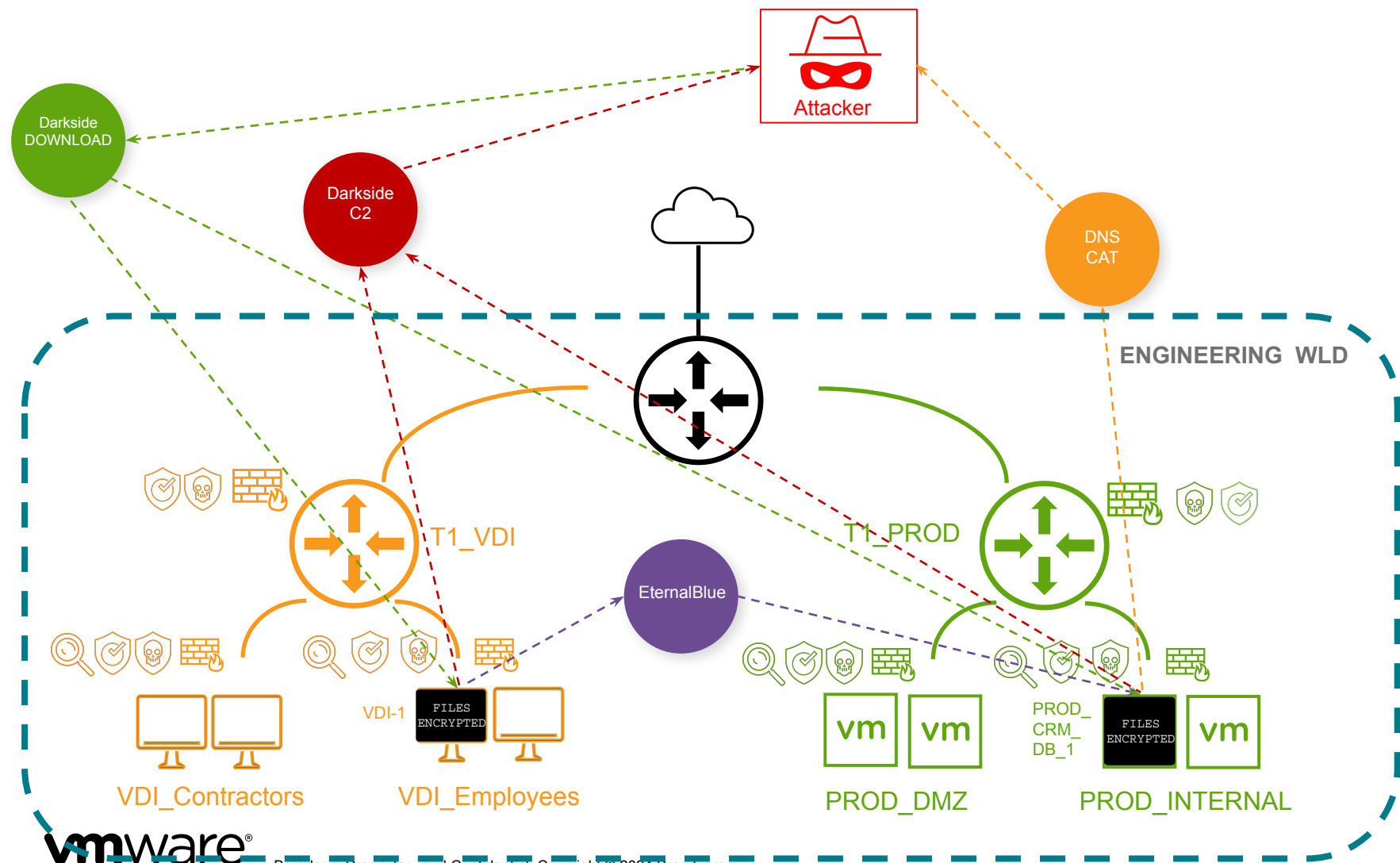
# Ransomware Protection & Threat Investigation within a VI WLD

## Threat Investigation with Network Detection & Response



# Ransomware Protection & Threat Investigation within a VI WLD

Demo



Attack Stages

- Delivery
- Exploitation
- Command and Control
- Credential Access
- Discovery
- Lateral Movement
- Collection
- Exfiltration

# Demo

## VMware Firewall with Advanced Threat Prevention



# Security across Sites with NSX Federation

## Federation Use Cases

### NSX Federation Use Cases:

Operational simplicity

**Common policy configuration**

Global networking

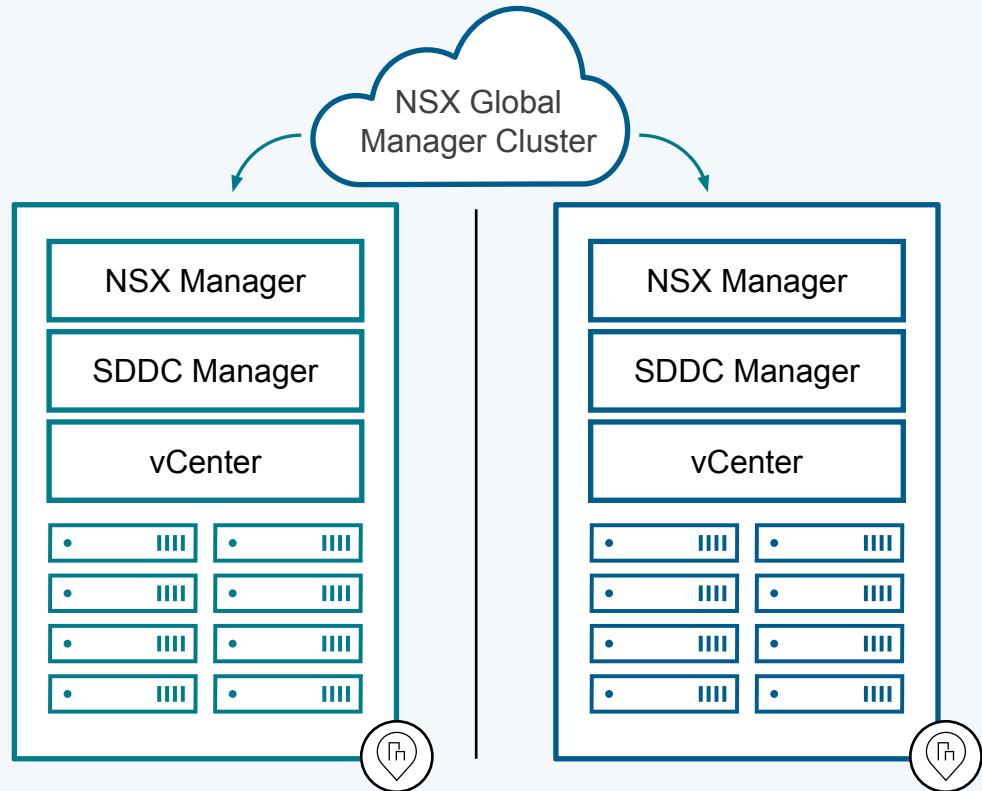
Simplified disaster recovery

### Additional features provided by NSX Global Manager:

Password management

Certificate management

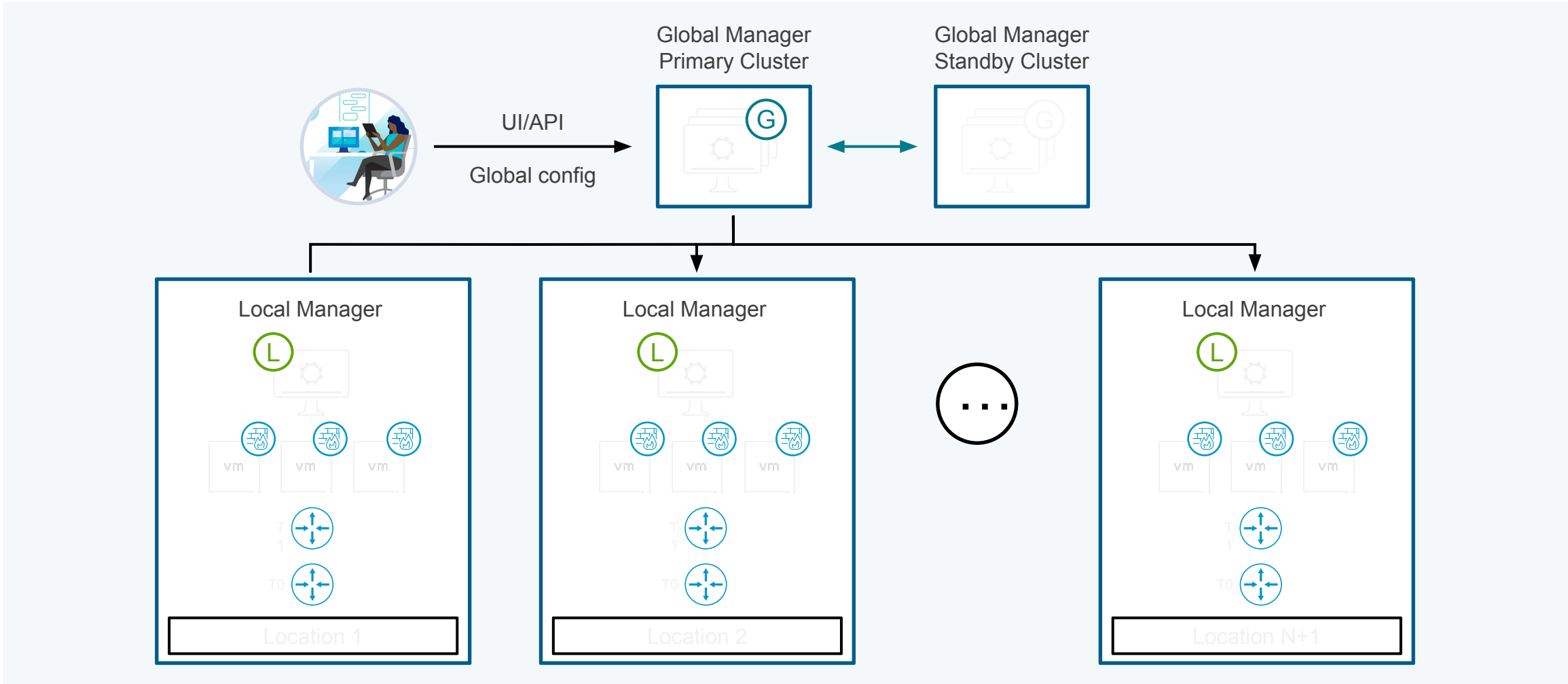
Backup and restore of  
Global Managers



NSX Federation Support is provided in Cloud Foundation as manual guidance

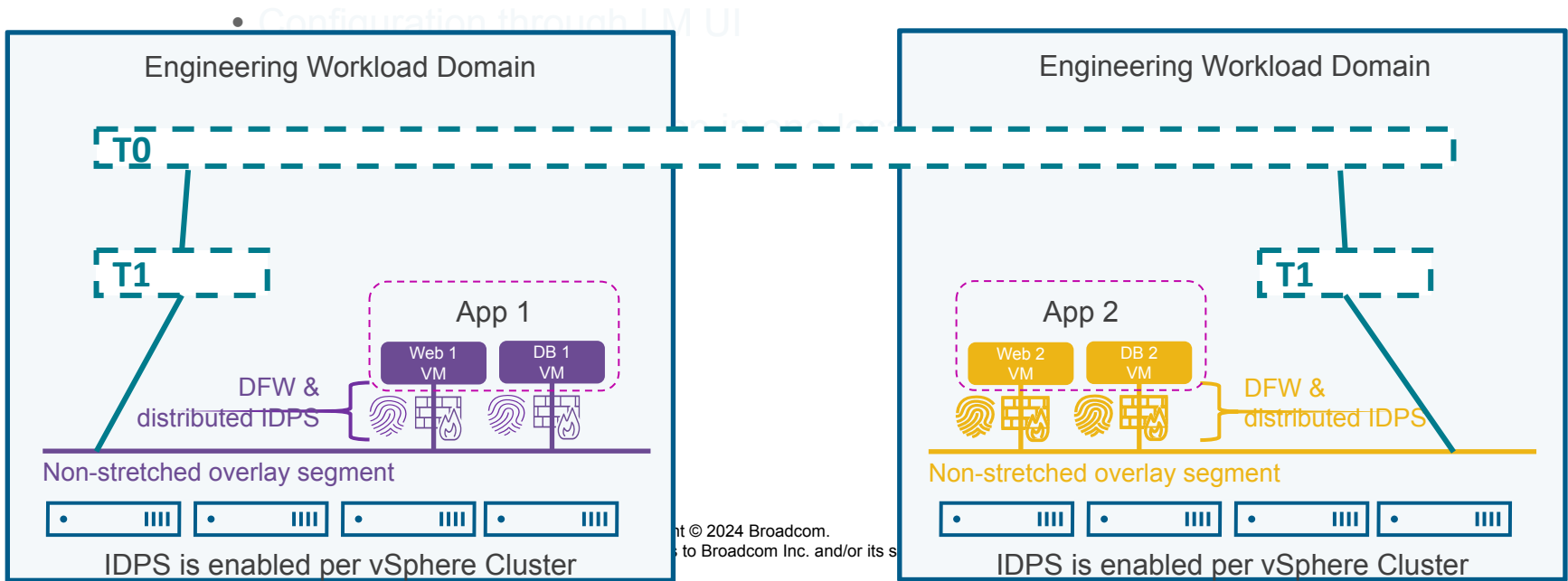
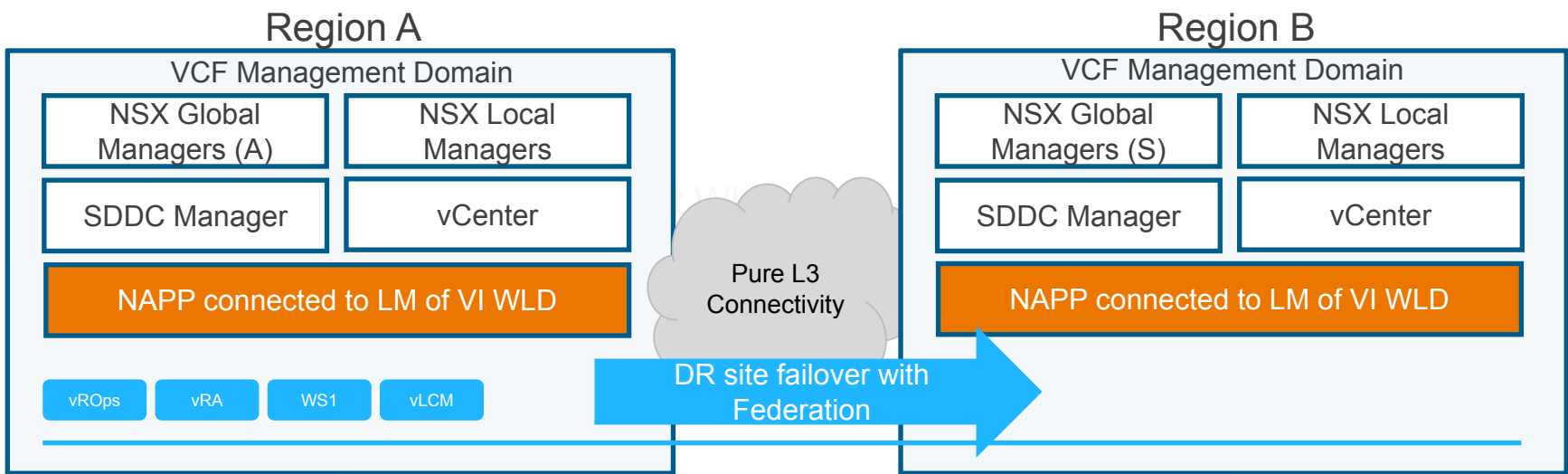
# Security across Sites with NSX Federation

Manage multiple NSX Data Center environments



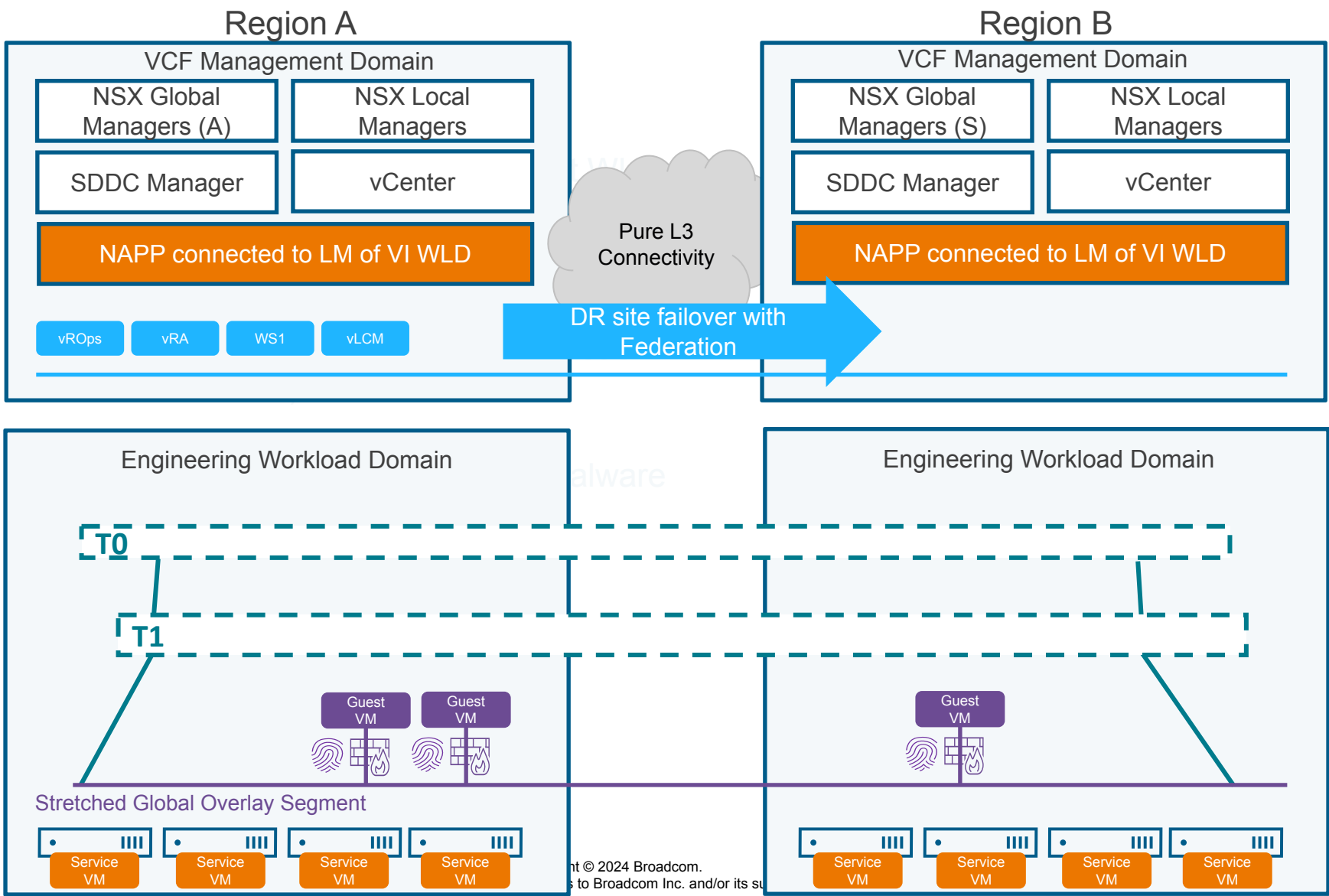
# Security across Sites with NSX Federation

## Security Intelligence / NDR – Recommended Deployment



# Security across Sites with NSX Federation

## Distributed Malware Prevention – Recommended Deployment



# Security across Sites with NSX Federation

Supported VMware Security Services with VCF 4.5, 5.0 and 5.1

## Feature

Security Intelligence for Visibility & Micro-Segmentation Planning

Supported from LM UI. NAPP on each location

- Local recommendations
- For best experience, use on non-stretched segments

Advanced Threat Prevention - Intrusion Detection and Prevention System (IDS/IPS) – Distributed and Gateway

Supported from LM UI. No NAPP Dependency

- IDS/IPS (classification-rules) using LM Groups
- Members of LM Group can be any LM object or GM segment

Advanced Threat Prevention - Network Traffic Analysis (NTA)

Supported from LM UI. NAPP on each location

Advanced Threat Prevention – Distributed Malware Detection and Prevention with Sandboxing \*

Supported from LM UI. NAPP on each location.  
*NSX 4.1.2 required*

Advanced Threat Prevention - Network Detection and Response (NDR)

Supported from LM UI. NAPP on each location.  
*NSX 4.1.2 required*

# Management WLD Security

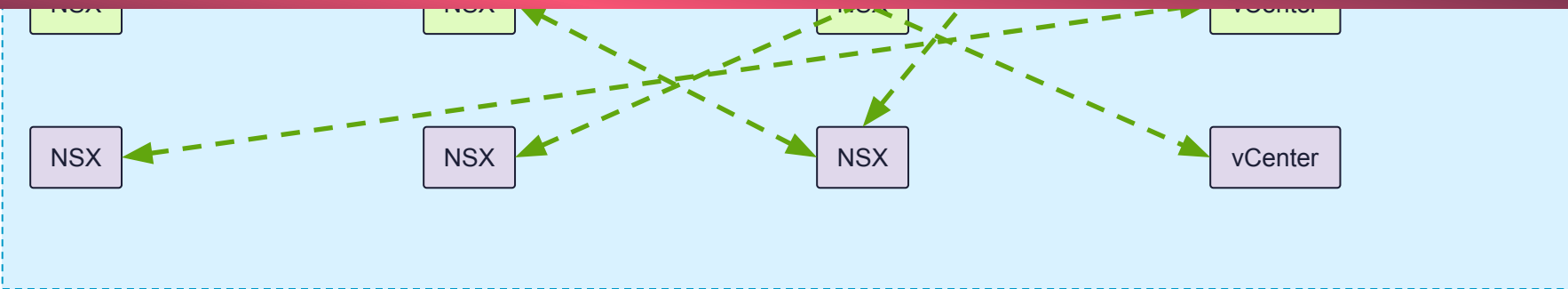
Default State

All traffic within the Management WLD is



Management Plane must be secured

Managers and vCenters are put on Management NSX Exclusion List and connected to vSphere dvpg



# Securing VCF with VMware Firewall

VI and MGMT WLDs

## Securing VI WLD

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Zero-Trust / Secure Apps with Security Intelligence and DFW

Ransomware Protection & Threat Investigation with NSX ATP

Secure Virtual WLD zones using the GFW or DFW

## Securing MGMT WLD

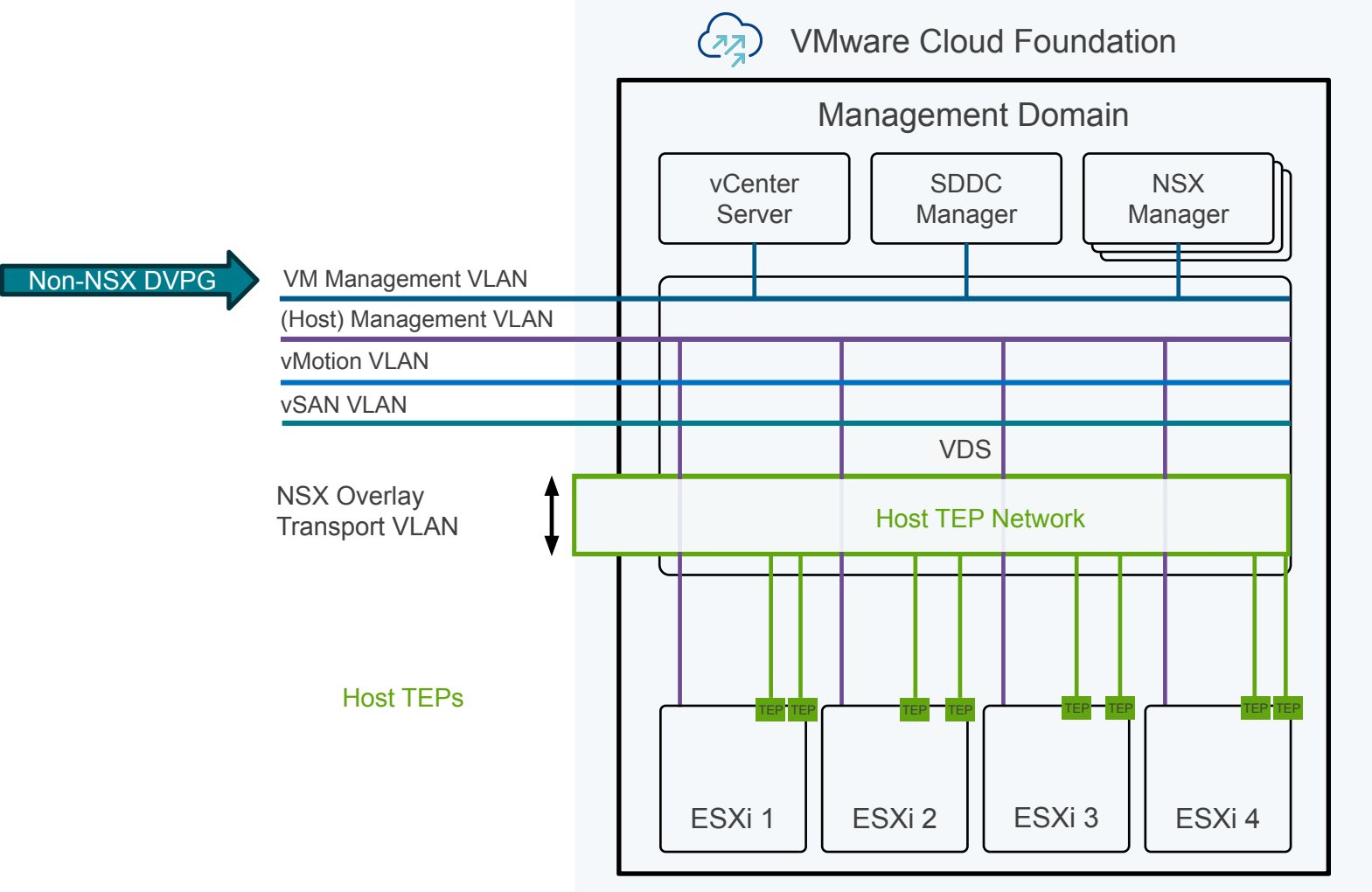
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Secure Infrastructure / Functional Segmentation using the Distributed Firewall

Visibility and Analytics with Security Intelligence

# Management WLD Security

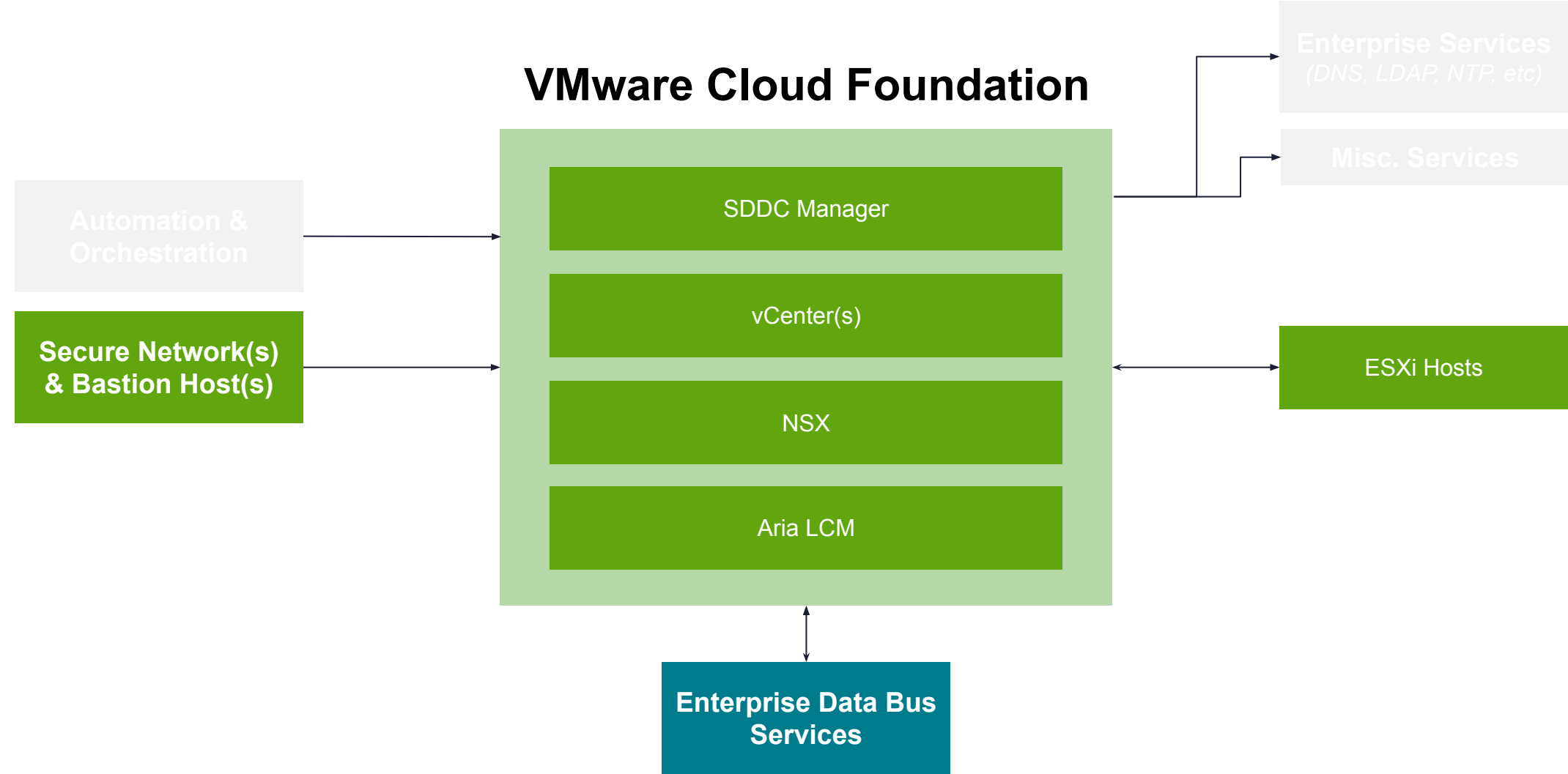
Functional Segmentation: Out of the box VCF MGMT WLD Networking





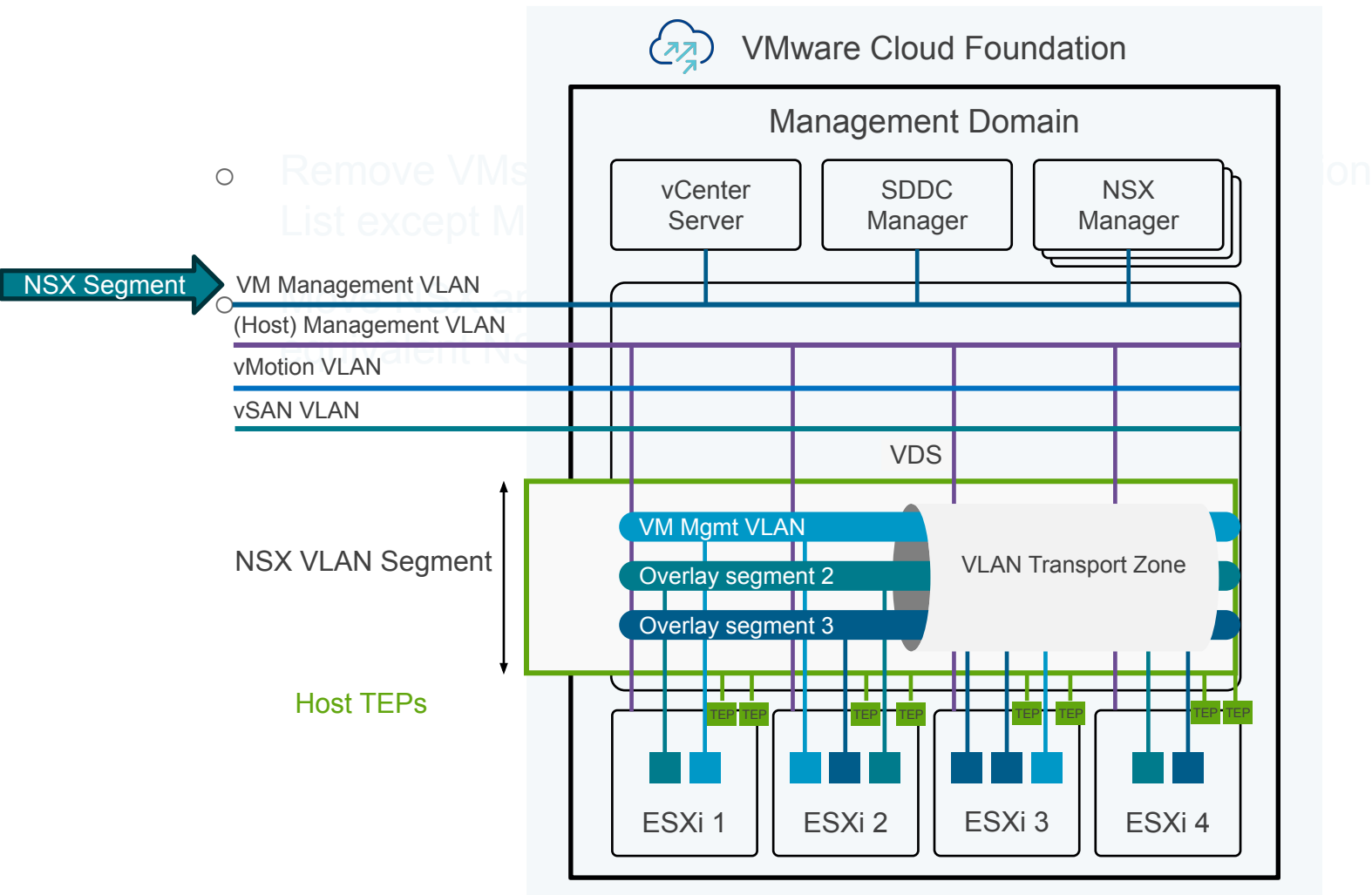
# Management WLD Security

Functional Segmentation: Example System Communication



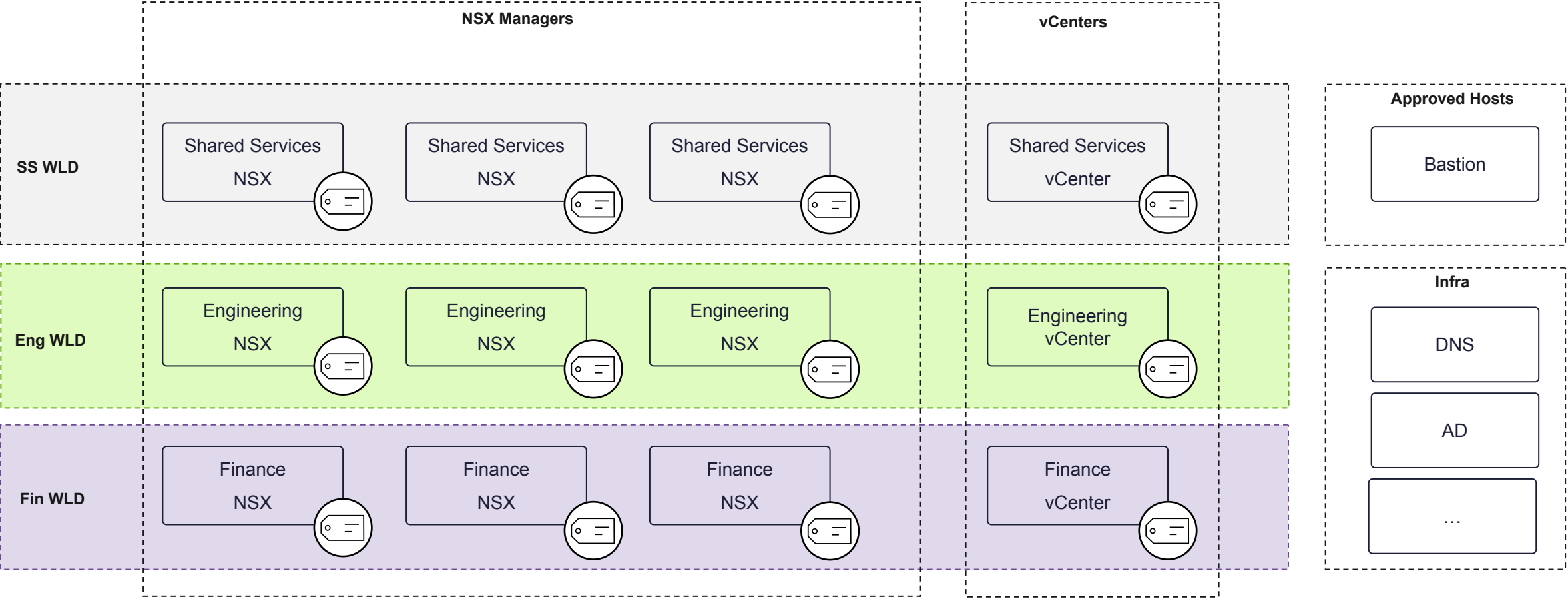
# Management WLD Security

## Functional Segmentation: Pre-Requisites



# Management WLD Security

Functional Segmentation: Create NSX Groups and Tag VMs



# Management WLD Security

Functional Segmentation: Define the security policy

- Start with a macro-segmentation policy
  - Allow vCenters to vCenters Linked Mode
  - Allow NSX Managers to NSX Managers within a WLD
  - Allow Bastion hosts to vCenters and NSX Managers
  - Enable Logging with log-tags
- Deepen the security policy
  - Increase granularity (micro-segmentation) based on logs or Security Intelligence
  - Use L7 App-ID
- Use <https://ports.esp.vmware.com> as a reference

# Management WLD Security

## Functional Segmentation: Define the security policy

ETHERNET (1)EMERGENCY (0)INFRASTRUCTURE (3)ENVIRONMENT (12)APPLICATION (13)

+ ADD POLICY+ ADD RULECLONEUNDODELETED...8 Unpublished ChangesFilter by Cluster

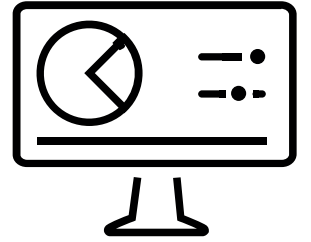
	Name	ID	Sources	Destinations	Services	Context Profiles	Applied To	Action	
⋮	Secure Jump Hosts	(4)		Applied To	DFW				⌚⚙️
⋮	Access to SDDC Manager		t3_secure_jumphosts	nadc_mod2_fab3_vcf1_sddc	prod.svc.HTTPS prod.svc.SSH	None	nadc_mod2_fab3_vcf1...	Allow	⬆️⚙️✉️
⋮	Access to vCenter		t3_secure_jumphosts	nadc_mod2_fab3_vcf1_vc	prod.svc.HTTPS prod.svc.SSH	None	nadc_mod2_fab3_vcf1...	Allow	⬆️⚙️✉️
⋮	Access to NSX Manager		t3_secure_jumphosts	nadc_mod2_fab3_vcf1_nsxt	prod.svc.HTTPS prod.svc.SSH	None	nadc_mod2_fab3_vcf1...	Allow	⬆️⚙️✉️
⋮	SDDC Management Logging		Any	nadc_mod2_fab3_vcf1_sddc	Any	None	nadc_mod2_fab3_vcf1...	Allow	⬆️⚙️✉️
⋮	vCenter to ESXi	(2)		Applied To	DFW				⌚⚙️
⋮	vCenter Management		nadc_mod2_fab3_vcf1_vc	nadc_mod2_fab3_vcf1_esxi	prod.svc.esxi_mgmt prod.svc.HTTPS prod.svc.SSH	None	nadc_mod2_fab3_vcf1...	Allow	⬆️⚙️✉️
⋮	vCenter Management Logging		nadc_mod2_fab3_vcf1_vc	nadc_mod2_fab3_vcf1_esxi	Any	None	nadc_mod2_fab3_vcf1...	Allow	⬆️⚙️✉️

logging/audit > deny

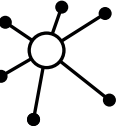
secure/trusted traffic

# Management WLD Security

## Visibility and Analytics



- Deploy NAPP and NSX Intelligence in the management WLD
- Use NAPP Automation Appliance for a quick and simple deployment (Multi-WLD support)
- Analyze traffic patterns
- Use the recommendation engine
- Leverage NSX Network Traffic Analysis to detect any suspicious management traffic



# Demo

## WLD Security with VMware Firewall



# Thank You