



# Getting to Reasonable

## A Test for “Reasonable Security” Controls

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# Presenter



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- *Board Member of the **DoCRA Council** (“Duty of Care Risk Analysis”)*
- Founding Partner of **HALOCK Security Labs** (1996)
- CISSP since 2002
- ISO 27001 Auditor, CISA, PCI QSA
- Contributing author of the CIS® (Center for Internet Security) Risk Assessment Method ([CIS RAM](#))
- Litigation support for large cyber breaches
- On Retainer for several Office of Attorney Generals
- Over 25 years of experience in IT and Security
- University of Wisconsin with a B.S. in Computer Science

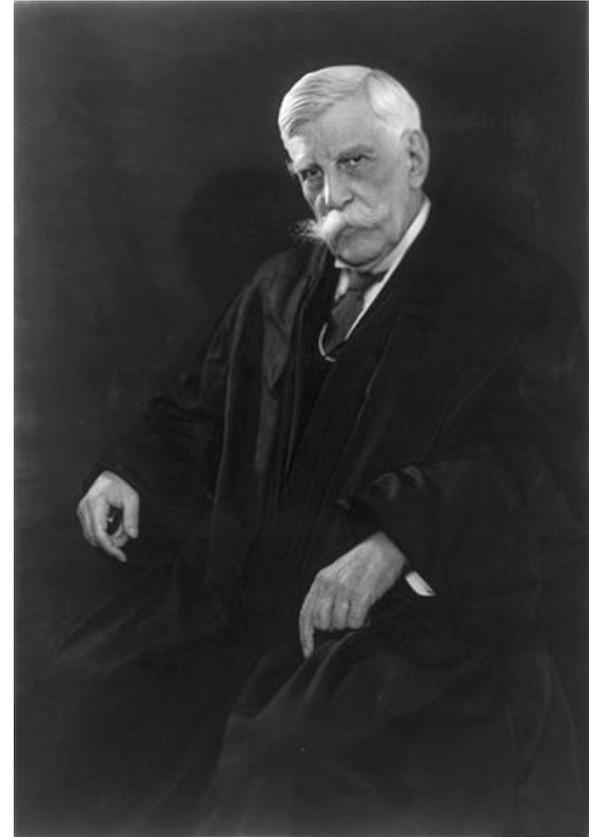
# The Breach

- If you are breached and your case goes to litigation, the judge will determine whether you had a “duty of care.”
- The legal concepts of “**duty of care**” and “due care” require that organizations demonstrate they used controls to ensure that risk was **reasonable** to the organization and **appropriate** to other interested parties at the time of the breach.

## The reasonable person...

“For society to function, a certain average of conduct, a sacrifice of individual peculiarities going beyond a certain point, is necessary to the general welfare.”

- Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.



# In Business We Call it **Duty of Care**

***Directors and Officers are expected to act like a reasonable prudent person.***

United States of America

v.

JOSEPH SULLIVAN



Joe Sullivan, former CISO of Uber

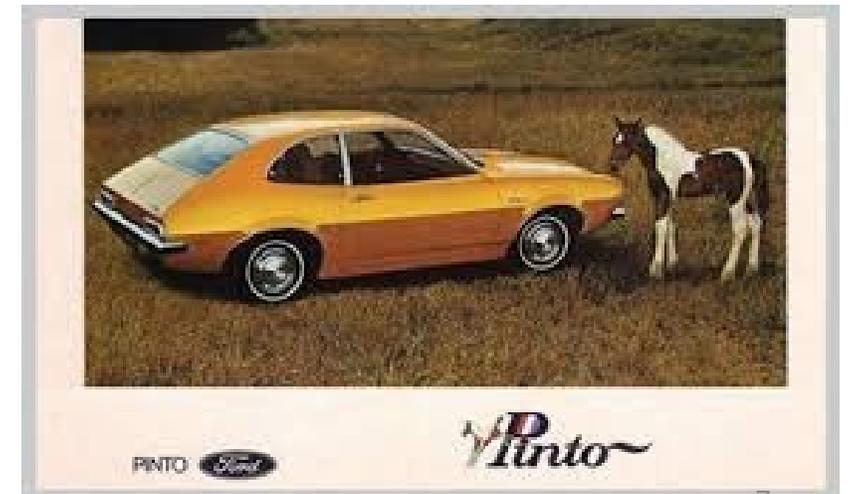
- Two felony counts
- Attempted to cover up a 2<sup>nd</sup> breach

Count One: Obstruction of Justice

Max. Penalties: 5 years in prison; \$250,000 fine; 3 years of supervised release; \$100 special assessment; restitution; forfeiture

# Product Negligence

***Must prove that the company had a duty of care and ignored it***



# The Problem

- Information security and privacy regulations use “reasonableness” as the standard of care
- Parties allege that the breached organization did not use reasonable security to protect consumer data.
- The definition of reasonable is not agreed-upon, and has been contested.

# FTC Failed to Define Reasonable



- 2013 FTC files complaint against LabMD for failing to protect the security of consumers' personal data
- FTC alleges that “LabMD failed to provide reasonable and appropriate security for personal information.”
- 2014 House Committee hearing; “FTC doesn’t have a comprehensive information security program to refer to.”
- 2016 LabMD filed a petition for review
- June 2018 Federal appeals court reverses FTC order directing the now defunct LabMD to overhaul its data security program

# Something We Did Not Understand About Laws and Regulations

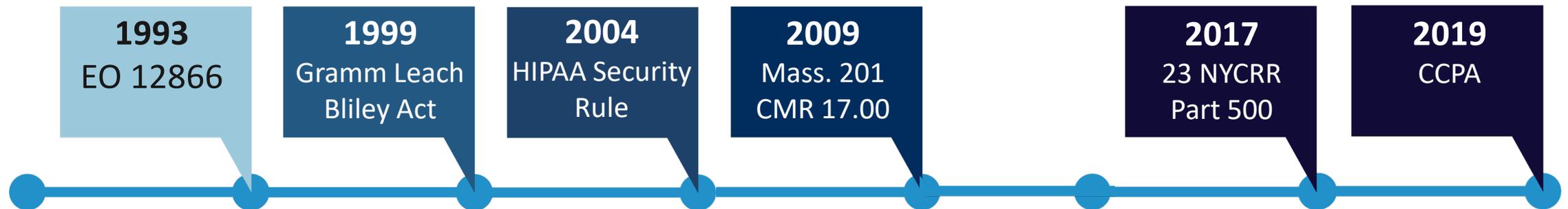


- United States laws and regulations were developed in an entrepreneurial society ...
- Laws and regulations needed to make sense to business
- ... or laws would cease to be relevant.
- So regulations changed to force business to be smarter about risk ...

# Regulations Are Business Friendly ... Seriously



- Ever since 1993, **Executive Order 12866** required the regulations *balance cost and benefit*.
- Controls must not cost more than the risk to others.
- That's why security regulations ask for “reasonable controls” and “risk analysis.”
- **But they failed to clearly define “reasonable” for organizations.**



# And then there is Healthcare.gov



# The Sedona Conference Working Group 11

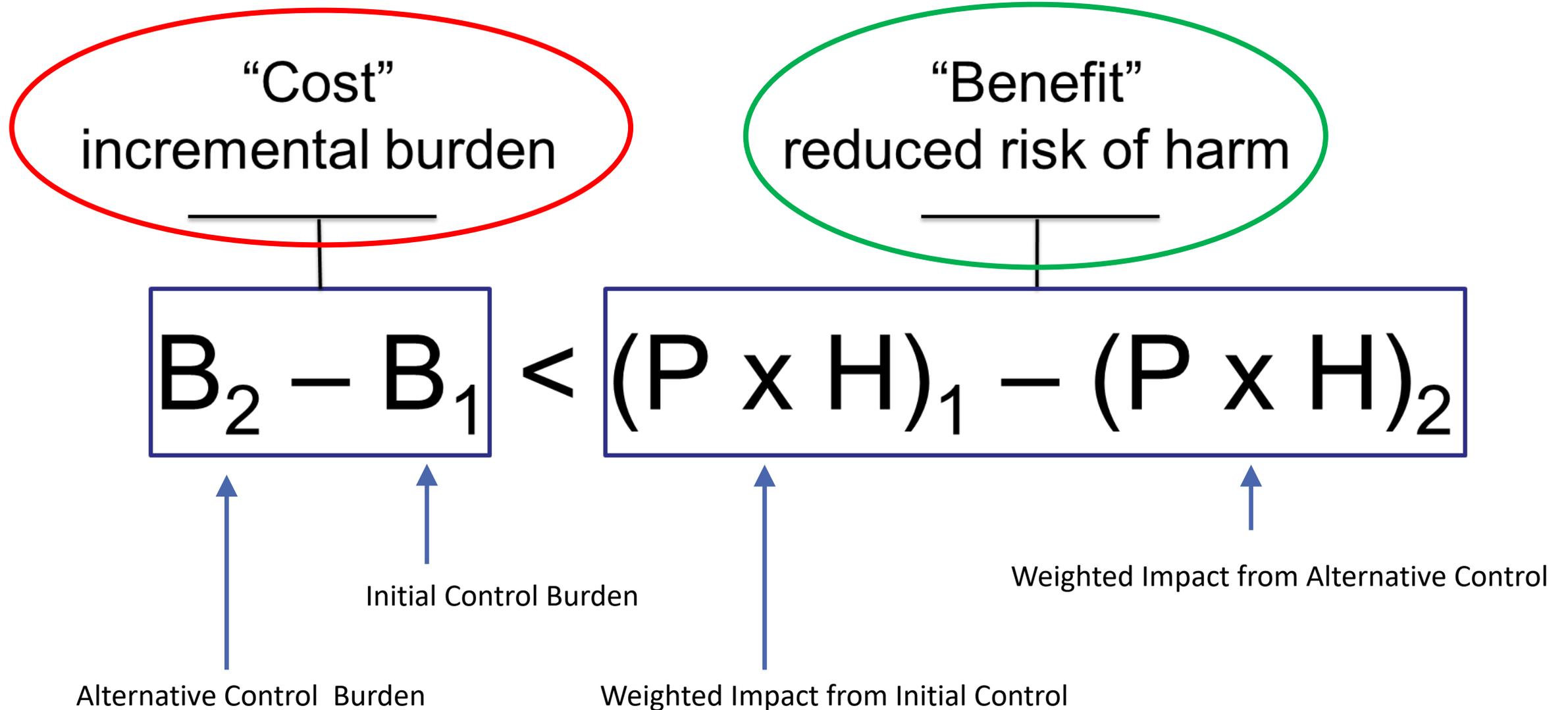
- The Sedona Conference is an influential legal think tank
- The mission of Working Group 11 is to identify and comment on trends in data security and privacy laws
- The research and published papers help organizations prepare for and respond to data breaches and ...
- Assist attorneys and judicial officers in resolving the questions of legal liability and damages

# Commentary on a Reasonable Security Test

Sedona Conference WG11 has published its  
**“Commentary on a Reasonable Security Test”**

- Download the paper: <https://thesedonaconference.org/node/9702>
- Commentary is open for public comment and suggestions through **November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020**
- Send comments to [comments@sedonaconference.org](mailto:comments@sedonaconference.org)

# The Solution: a test for reasonable security controls



# What is Burden?

$$B_1 < (P \times H)_1$$

- **Burden** is the reduction of any positive result that may be enjoyed by the defendant or covered entity.
  - Finances, efficiencies, corporate growth, strategic goals, etc.
- **Burden** includes “utility,” which may include any benefit that the conduct-at-risk created for others:
  - The public, other constituencies, even the plaintiffs.
- **Security controls** can encumber business and operations, harming multiple parties. The consequences of those burdens should be included in the test.

$$B_2 < (P \times H)_2$$

# What is Harm?

$$B_1 < (P \times H)_1$$

- Automobile Mfg has a faulty gas tank that results in **death** 100% after rear-end collision.
- Hospital gets hit with Ransomware and patient records are not accessible, person **dies**.
- Credit Card issuing bank has **card fraud liabilities** due to a retailer breach.
- Cloud platform is breached, and hundreds of businesses are vulnerable along with their **customers PII exposed**.
- Hospitality organization makes an acquisition and acquired organization is breached, **exposing millions of PII** records.

$$B_2 < (P \times H)_2$$

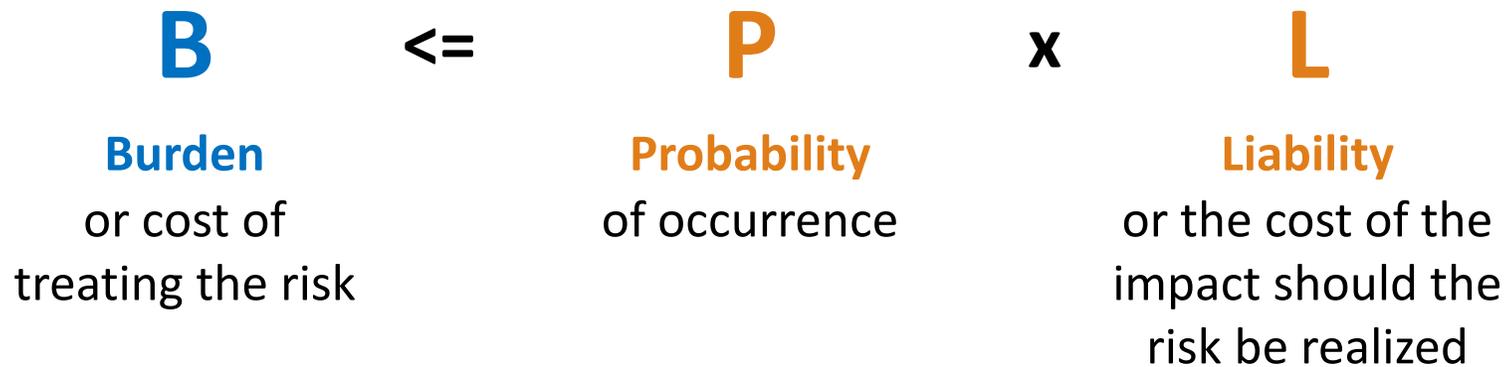
# When is the Test to be Applied?

- An adjudicator, or parties in a dispute, may use the test.
- A plaintiff or regulator would allege that a security control is not reasonable if an alternative control would have reduced the risk to others more than it would have burdened the defendant or covered entity.

# Conforms to the Calculus of Negligence

## Includes criteria for multifactor balancing tests:

- Costs of controls includes financial, utility, public good
- Liability includes probability and magnitude of harm to others
- Controls should not introduce other risks



# Injunctive Relief Orders use of “reasonable”

## Information Security Safeguards\*

7.1 As part of the Information Security Program, Orbitz shall include **risk management**, which at a minimum includes:

a. Documented criteria for reasonable safeguards that appropriately **protect Consumers while not being more burdensome to Orbitz than the risks they address**. These criteria shall include:

- i. **Obligations** owed to Consumers for protecting their Personal Information,
- ii. The **social utility** of Orbitz’s handling of Consumers’ Personal Information,
- iii. The **foreseeability and magnitude of harm** caused by security threats,
- iv. The **burden to Orbitz’s utility and objectives posed by safeguards**,
- v. The overall **public interest** in the proposed solution.



\*Orbitz December 13, 2019 Injunctive Relief (excerpt)



# What Judges and Regulators Look For\*

- Did you think through the likelihood of potential incidents?
- Did you think about the magnitude of harm that would come to others who could foreseeably have been harmed?
- Did you consider the value in engaging in the risk to begin with?  
Was it worth the risk to you and to others?
- What safeguards did you consider that could have reduced the likelihood and impact?
- Would those safeguards have been more costly than the risk?
- Would the safeguards have created other risks?

\* Questions vary by state



# Risk Assessments, may be used to assess reasonableness (if they have the criteria)

- Estimate the likelihood of potential incidents.
- Estimate the magnitude ***of harm that would come to yourself and others who could foreseeably be harmed.***
- Estimate the ***value in engaging in the risk*** to begin with.
- Design risk treatments that could reduce the likelihood and impact.
- Evaluate the ***burden of safeguards***
  - Ensure the safeguards would not be more costly than the risk.
  - Ensure that the safeguards would not create other risks.
- Create a definition of ***Acceptable Risk*** in plain language for all interested parties.

# If It Does Not Make Sense to the Business, It Won't Make Sense to Judges

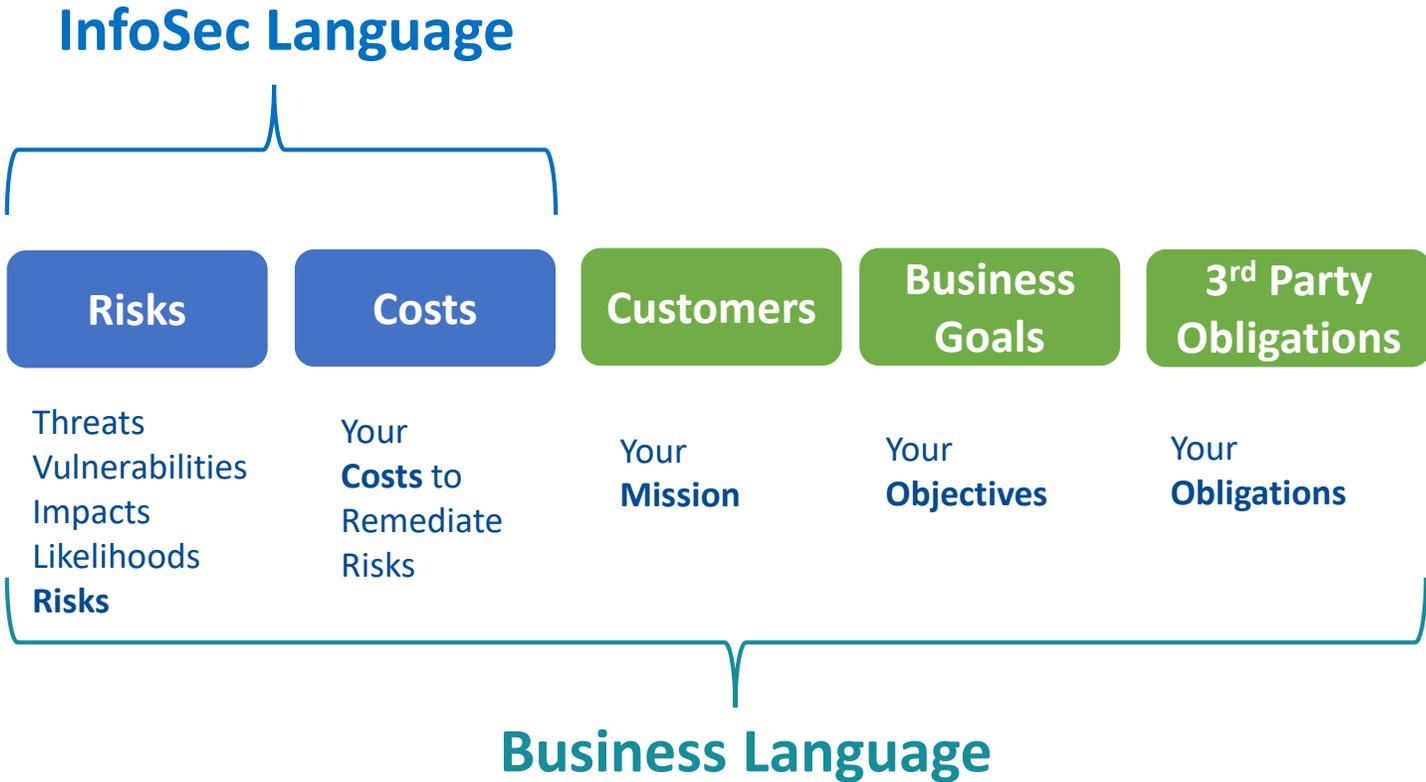
We have been speaking different languages.

## Information Security

speaks in risks and costs.

## Business

speaks in terms beyond risks and costs.



# What is the **Duty of Care Risk Analysis** (“**DoCRA**”) Standard?



A freely available standard for conducting risk assessments.



A method for demonstrating reasonableness.



Prevails in litigation and regulation.



Originally developed by HALOCK Security Labs to help clients establish a goal for “enough” security.

# DoCRA based Risk Assessments

- Legally defensible position by defining what is legally “reasonable”
- Repeatable Process to evaluate “invest” or “accept the risk” for risk mitigation
- Common language between InfoSec and business / regulators / legal system

# DoCRA Standard

## Use your current risk assessment method

NIST SP 800-30

ISO 27005

CIS RAM

RISK IT

FAIR

Applied Information Economics  
(Hubbard)

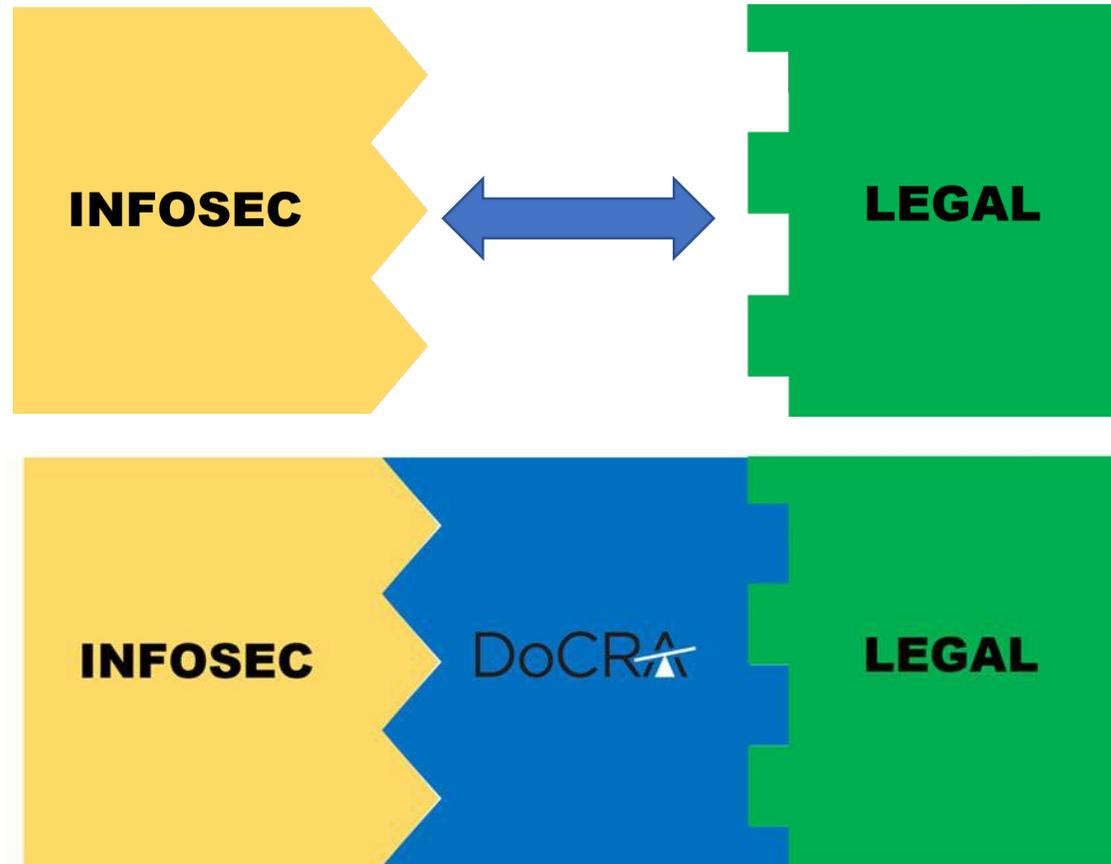
## Just follow these three principles

- Risk analysis **must consider the interests of all parties** that may be harmed by the risk.

- Risks must be reduced to a level that authorities and potentially affected parties would find **appropriate**.

- Safeguards must **not be more burdensome than the risks** they protect against.

# Solving The Communication Gap





# Basic Framework (DoCRA impact criteria)

	<u>Our Profit</u>	<b>Harm to us (objective)</b>	<u>Patient Privacy</u>	<b>Harm to others (obligation)</b>
<b><u>Negligible</u></b>	<i>Profit plan is unaffected.</i>		<i>No reputational or financial harm.</i>	
<b><u>Acceptable</u></b>	<i>Profit plan within planned variance.</i>		<i>Encrypted or unusable information cannot create harm.</i>	
<b><u>Unacceptable</u></b>	<i>Not profitable. Recoverable within the year.</i>		<i>Recoverable reputational or financial harm among few patients.</i>	
<b><u>High</u></b>	<i>Not profitable. Recoverable in multiple years.</i>		<i>Reputational or financial harm among many patients.</i>	
<b><u>Catastrophic</u></b>	<i>Cannot operate profitably.</i>		<i>Cannot protect patients from harm.</i>	

# Rexnord Impact Table

	Mission	Objectives	Obligations
	We work every day to be the leading global provider of high value, mission-critical solutions that help customers safely, reliably, and productively keep their goods and assets moving.	To be a leading marketer and world class manufacturer of power transmission, aerospace, and specialty components, products & systems and provide superior growth and command sustainable competitive advantage. To support annual operational and fiscal goals.	Personnel information. Customer information. Protect investor interests.
1. Negligible		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Targets set in strategic plans remain on target.</li> <li>Annual operational and fiscal goals remain on target.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CUI and customer information remains accessible only to approved parties.</li> <li>Personnel information remains accessible only to approved parties.</li> <li>Corporate value and stock prices are unaffected.</li> </ul>
2. Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We would not expect to see customer satisfaction surveys describe a negative perception.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic plans would be off target, but within planned variance.</li> <li>Annual operational and fiscal goals would be off target, but within planned variance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compromise of information assets may cause concern to customers but would not result in harm.</li> <li>Compromise of information assets may cause concern to personnel but would not result in harm.</li> <li>Compromise of information assets may cause concern to investors but would not result in harm.</li> </ul>
3. Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some customers would report that Rexnord could not help them safely, reliably, productively keep their goods and assets moving.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic plans or annual operational and fiscal goals would be off target and outside of planned variance.</li> <li>This would require countermeasures to recover.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least one customer would experience harm (financial, safety, etc.) as a result.</li> <li>A small set of personnel suffer harm such as identity theft, reputational damage, or financial harm.</li> <li>Company reputation or stock value would decrease short-term.</li> </ul>
4. High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Many customers would report that Rexnord could not help them safely, reliably, productively keep their goods and assets moving.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic plans or annual operational and fiscal goals would be severely off target, and would require material investment or lost opportunity to recover.</li> <li>Would result in Business Unit failure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple customers would experience harm (financial, safety, etc.) as a result.</li> <li>A material count of personnel suffer harm such as identity theft, reputational damage, or financial harm.</li> <li>Company reputation or stock value would decrease long-term.</li> </ul>
5. Catastrophic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rexnord would not be able to help customers safely, reliably, productively keep their goods and assets moving.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rexnord could not operate as a profitable organization.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multiple customers would experience significant harm (financial, safety including loss of life, etc.) as a result.</li> <li>Personnel suffering irreparable harm including loss of life.</li> <li>Company reputation or stock value would suffer permanent, terminal loss of value.</li> </ul>

Hmm, did C.I.A  
disappear?

To meet Due Care, define your **Purpose**:

- **Mission**: What makes the risk worth it for others?
- **Objectives**: What are your indicators of success?
- **Obligations**: What care do you owe others?

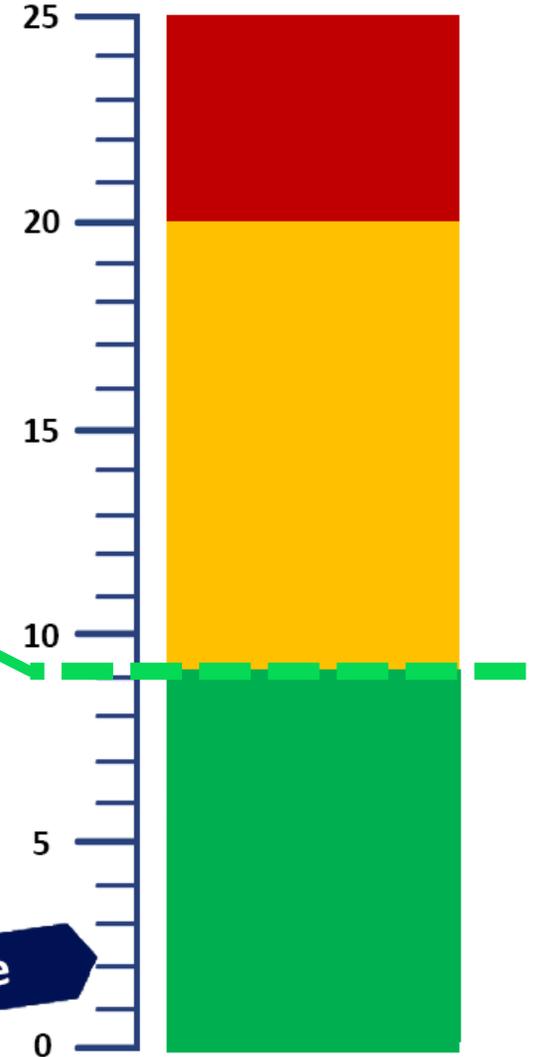
# Some Common Impact Criteria

Industry Example	Mission	Objectives	Obligations
Commercial Bank	Customer performance	Return on assets	Customer information
Nonprofit Healthcare	Health outcomes	Balanced budget	Patient privacy
University	Educate students	Five-year plan	Student financials
Manufacturer	Custom products	Profitability	Protect customer IP
Electrical generator	Provide power	Profitability	Public safety

# Defining Acceptable Risk

LIKELIHOOD	
1	Not possible
2	Not foreseeable
3	Foreseeable
4	Expected
5	Common

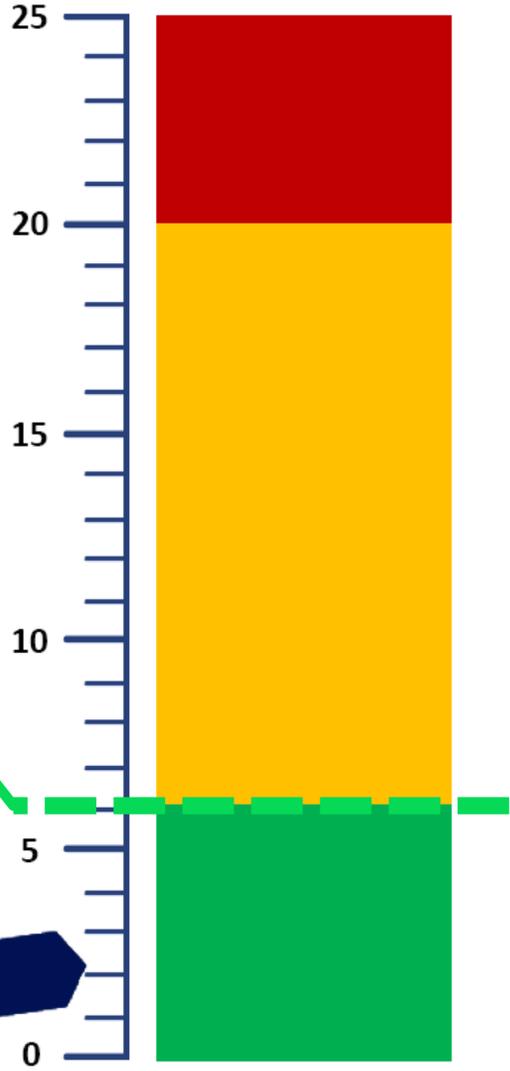
IMPACT	
1	Negligible
2	Acceptable
3	Unacceptable
4	High
5	Catastrophic



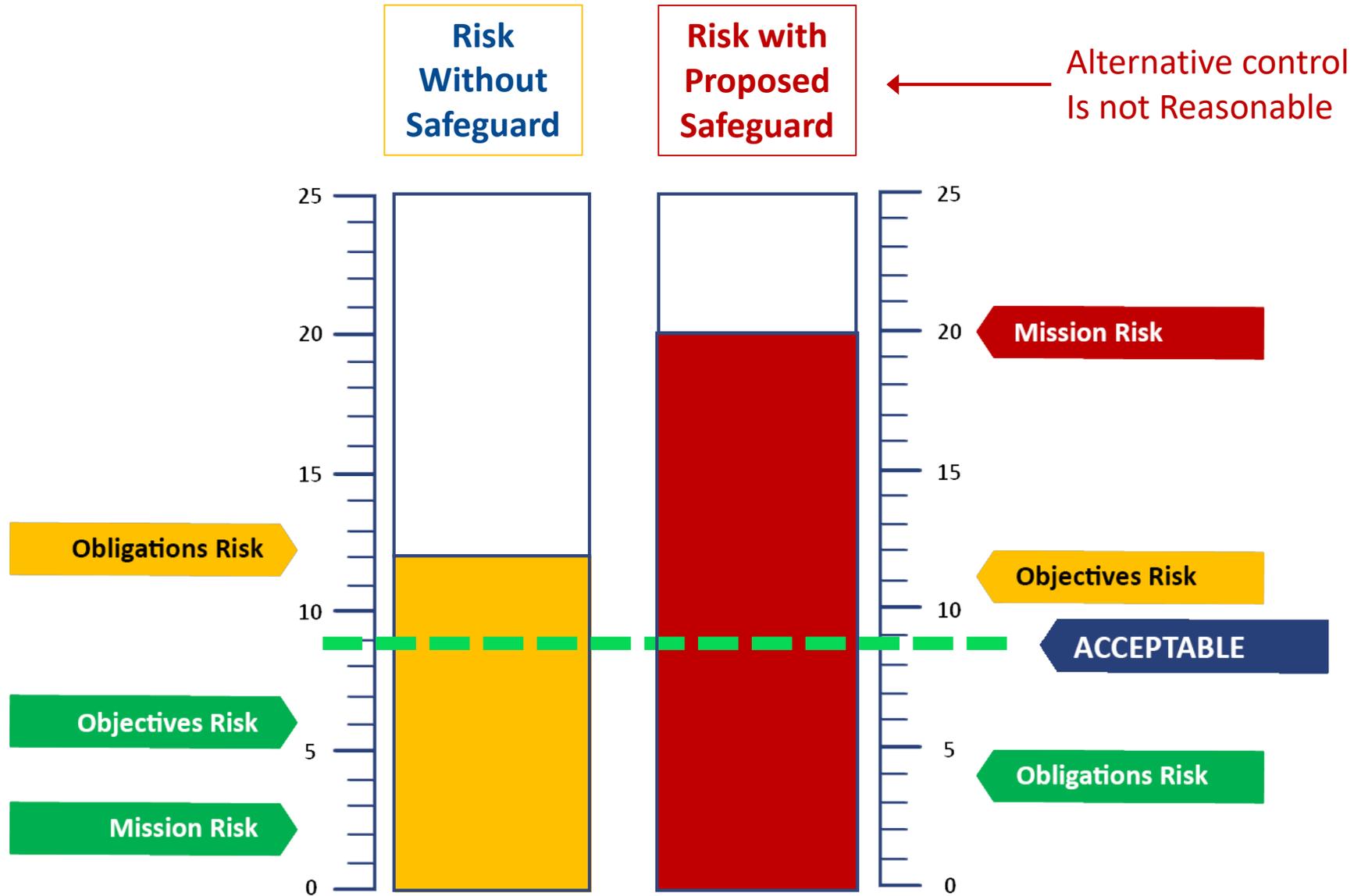
# Defining Acceptable Risk

LIKELIHOOD	
1	Not possible
2	Not foreseeable
3	Foreseeable
4	Expected
5	Common

IMPACT	
1	Negligible
2	Acceptable
3	Unacceptable
4	High
5	Catastrophic



Some Safeguards are NOT Reasonable



# Alternative control is unreasonable

“Cost”  
incremental burden

“Benefit”  
reduced risk of harm

$$B_2 - B_1 < (P \times H)_1 - (P \times H)_2$$

Incremental burden		Reduced risk
\$1,800,000	>	Between \$283,500 and \$1,620,000

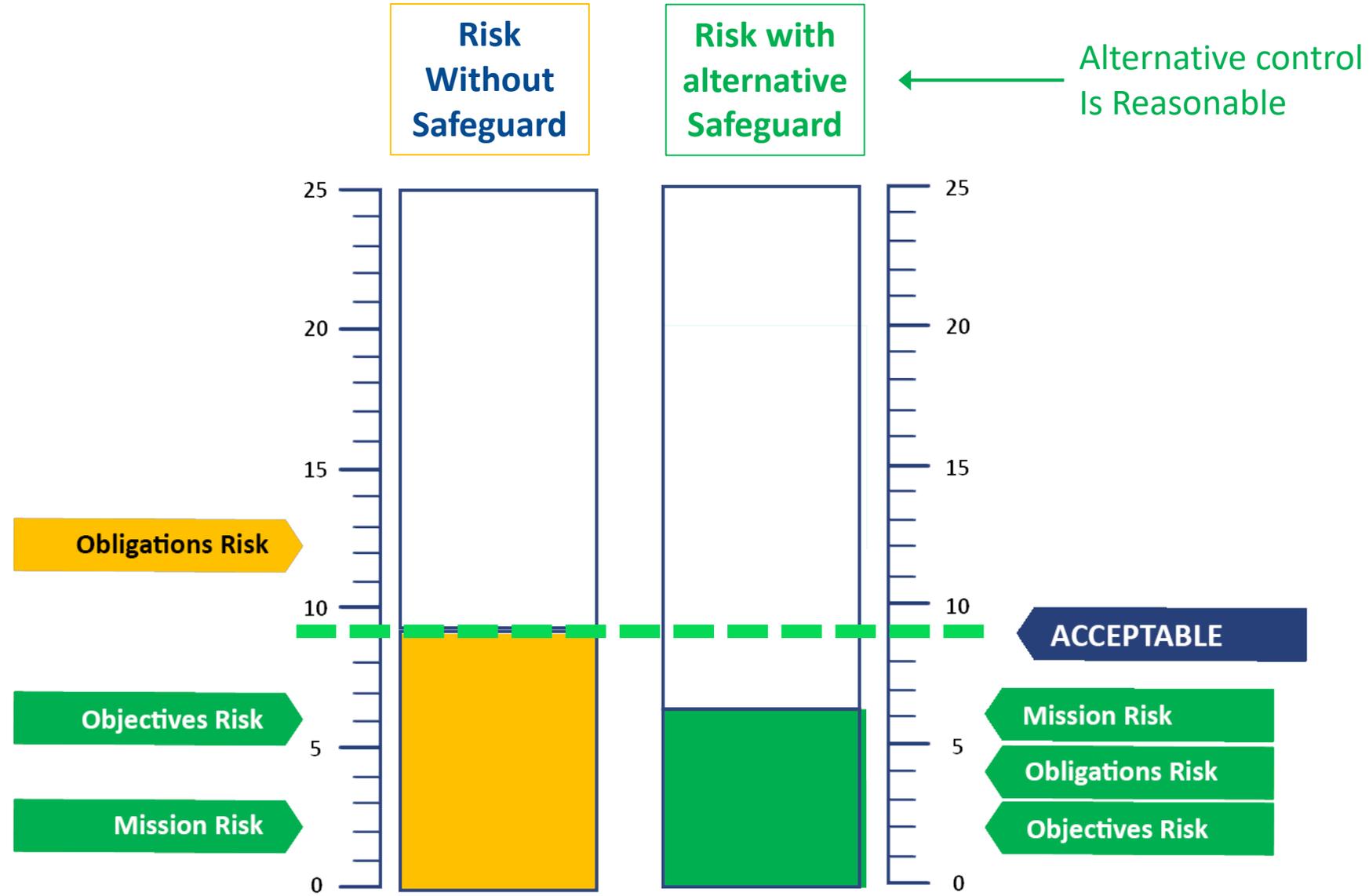
# But This is Not Always About Economics

Incremental burden		Reduced risk
\$1,800,000	>	Between \$283,500 and \$1,620,000

Risk is not always expressed in economic terms. Sometimes, we are comparing un-like things. DoCRA also lets us evaluate unlike things by using risk scores.

Incremental burden		Reduced risk
7	>	4

# Demonstrating Reasonable Safeguards



# *Alternative Control* is reasonable

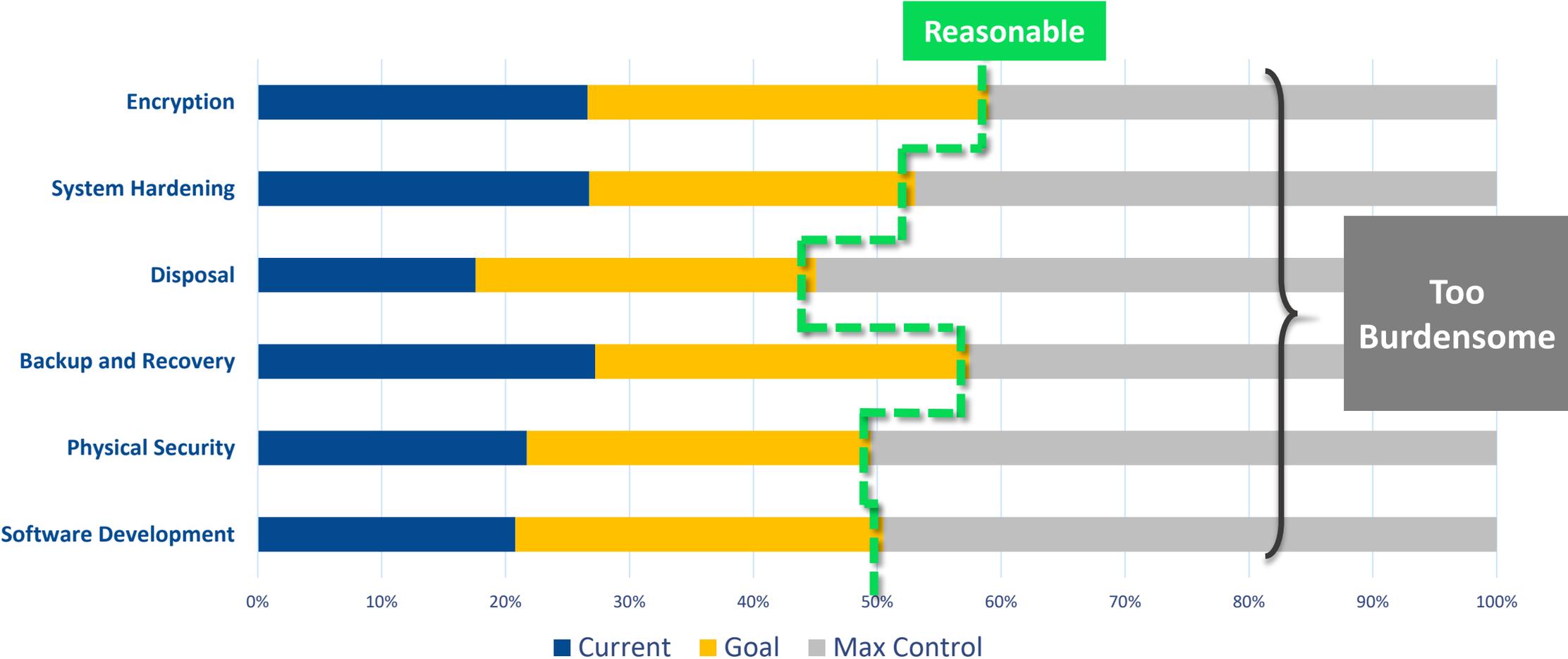
“Cost”  
incremental burden

“Benefit”  
reduced risk of harm

$$B_2 - B_1 < (P \times H)_1 - (P \times H)_2$$

Incremental burden		Reduced risk
\$46,300	<	Between \$77,700 and \$1,283,625

# Compliance through the lens of Reasonable



# Summary

- Organizations have a duty of care to protect data in the care.
- Organizations need to perform risk assessments.
- Reasonable controls can be applied through use of effective risk analysis based on [DoCRA](#).
- Free risk methods and tools available from the Center for Internet Security ([CIS RAM](#)).
- Use the **Reasonable Security** test to prioritize your actions.

# Helpful links

- <https://thesedonaconference.org/node/9702>
- [www.DoCRA.org](http://www.DoCRA.org)
- <https://learn.cisecurity.org/cis-ram>
- <https://www.halock.com/cis-ram-pages-210.php>

“Cost”  
incremental burden

“Benefit”  
reduced risk of harm

$$\boxed{B_2 - B_1} < \boxed{(P \times H)_1 - (P \times H)_2}$$

Thank You

**Terry Kurzynski**

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