Firewalling for the AI Era

Every workload. Every connection. Every time.

Rick Miles
VP, Product Management, Cloud and Network Security

Dan Wendlandt
VP, Product Management, Multi Cloud

Session ID: CENSEC-1045

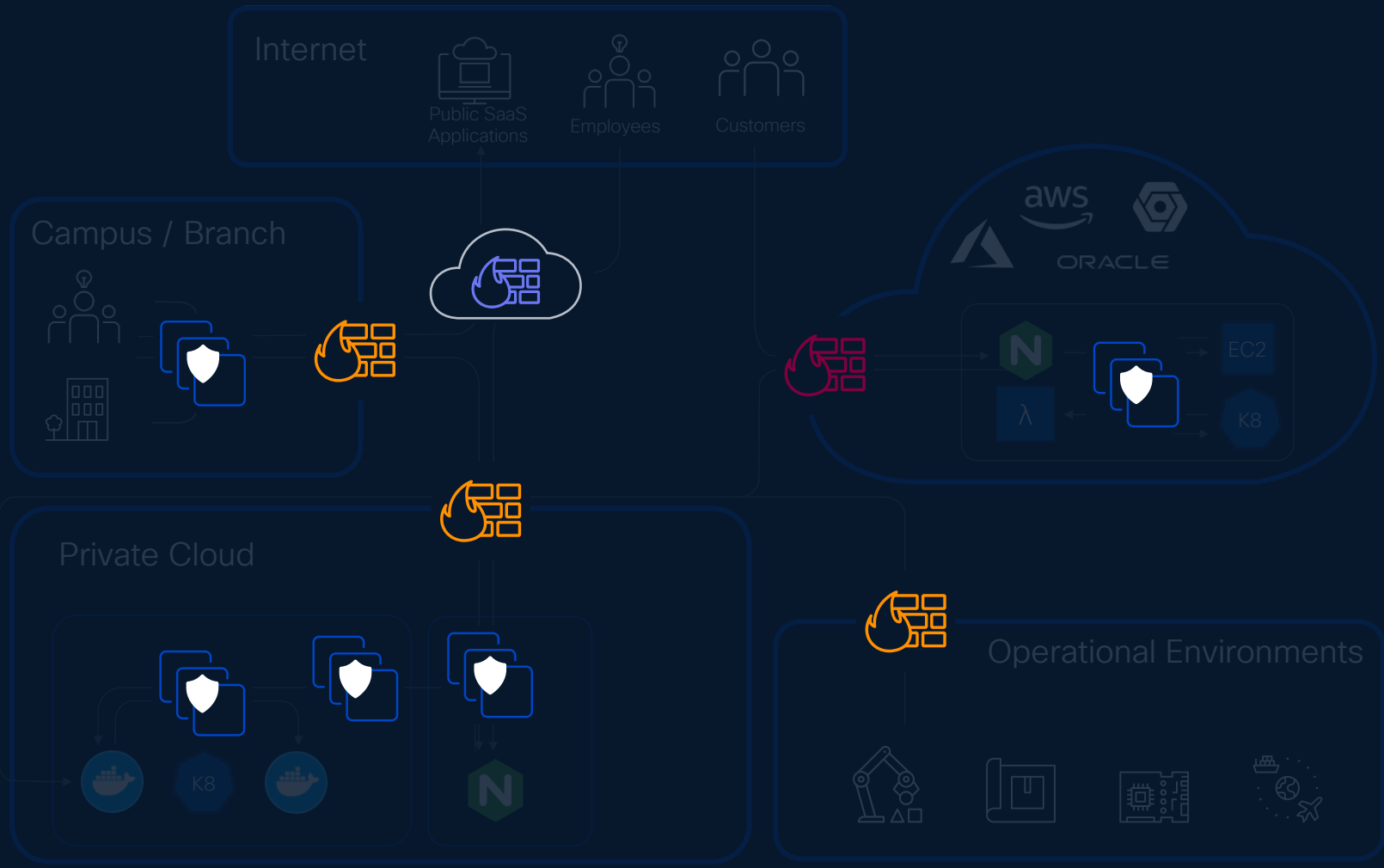
Why does the firewall need to change?

Inserting security controls at every juncture

of user, device and applications interaction

Policy gaps

Manual & siloed policy management

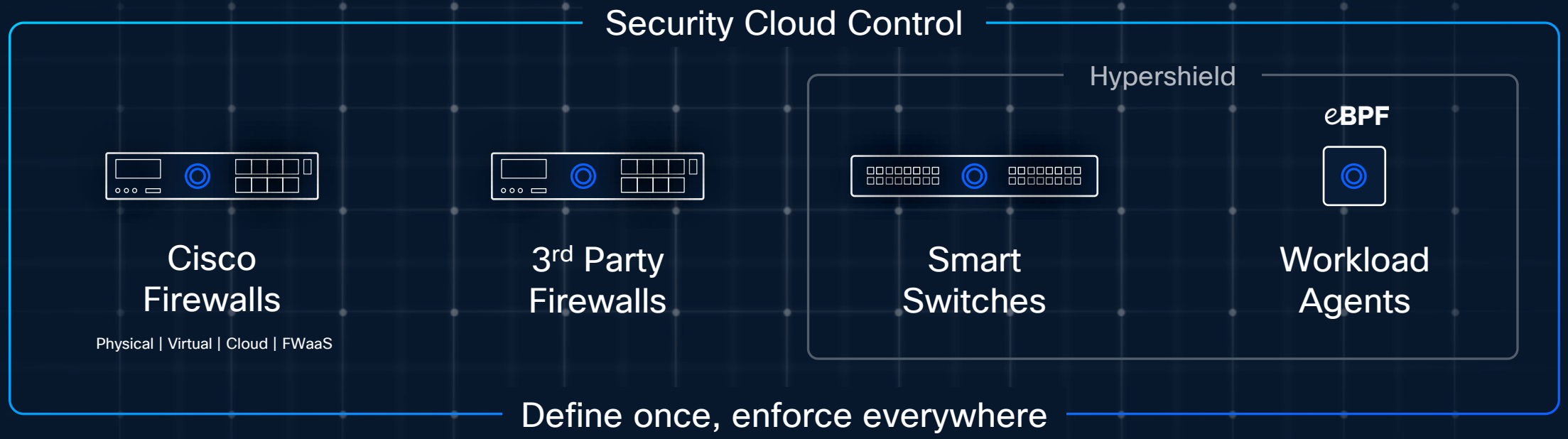


Delayed threat detection & response

Disjointed telemetry

Cisco Hybrid Mesh Firewall

with hyper-distributed security



Customer and Industry Recognition

NetSecOPEN

University of New Hampshire InterOperability Laboratory

30% faster than other firewalls

Gartner

Magic Quadrant for Hybrid Mesh Firewall, 2025

Positioned as the only Visionary

Gartner Overall Rating 4.9/5

Recognized in Peer Insights™

* Vs Palo Alto Networks 4.6, Fortinet 4.7.
All scores for last 12 months as of Jan 21, 2026

SE LABS AAA MAY 2025 Advanced Performance NGFW Performance

Industry's first to earn AAA rating in advanced performance

IDC

MarketScape Worldwide Enterprise Hybrid Firewall 2025 Vender Assessment

A Leader

FORRESTER

The Forrester Wave™: Enterprise Firewall Solutions, Q4 2024

A Leader

SE LABS AAA FEBRUARY 2025 Advanced Security NDR Protection

100% accuracy in advanced security and NDR protection

2024 WINNER CYBER SECURITY EXCELLENCE AWARDS

A Winner

FORRESTER

The Forrester Wave™: Microsegmentation Solutions Q3 2024

A Leader

cisco

Secure Firewall 6100: Near-limitless scale for AI readiness

Cisco Secure Firewall 6100 series

Scales linearly to 8Tbps of L7, appID, threat inspection

Changes math per protected Gbps: 80% less space, 60% less power, 1/3 the cost

No-compromise security: encrypted traffic performance, zero-day protection

Cisco Encrypted Visibility Engine

Visibility to malicious flows in encrypted traffic without decryption

Machine learning (ML) technology

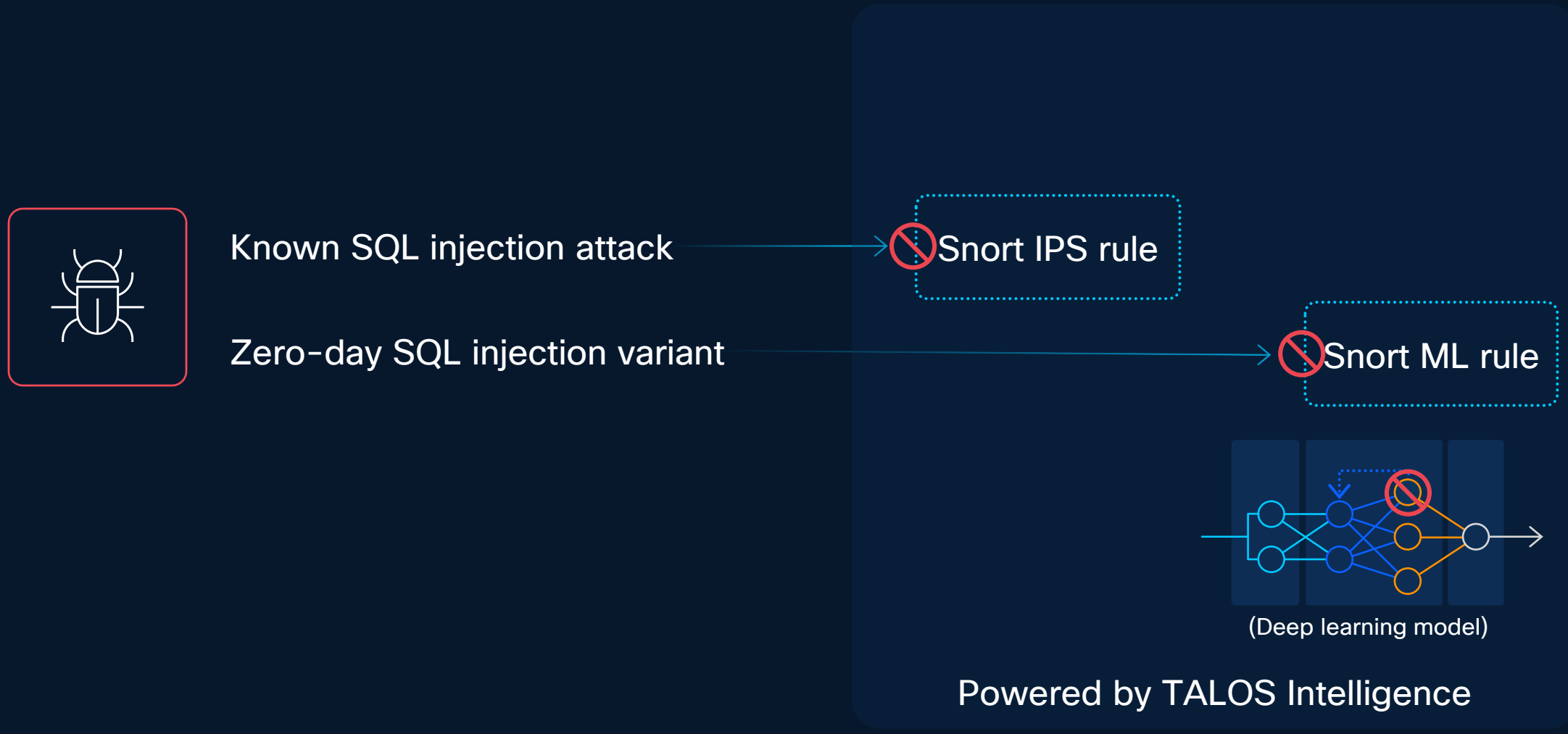
Processes 1 B+ TLS fingerprints

Processes 10 K+ malware samples daily

cisco

The leading IDPS, now with zero-day protection

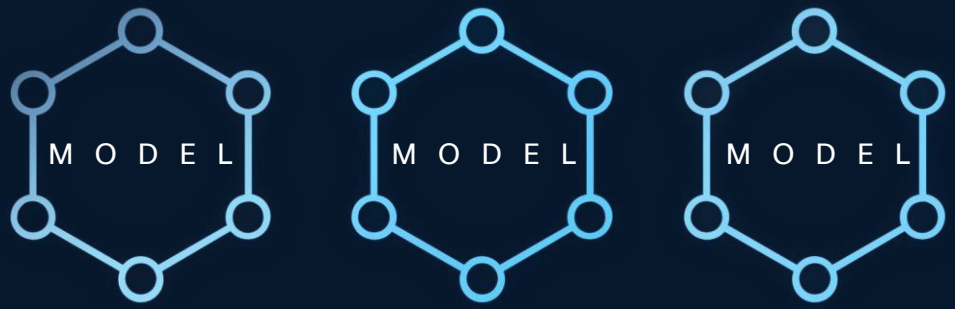
Snort ML extends IDPS protection to unknown variants of common attacks



Presentation

App

Non-deterministic



New risk vectors

Data

Cisco AI Defense

Securing AI applications

Discover

Validate

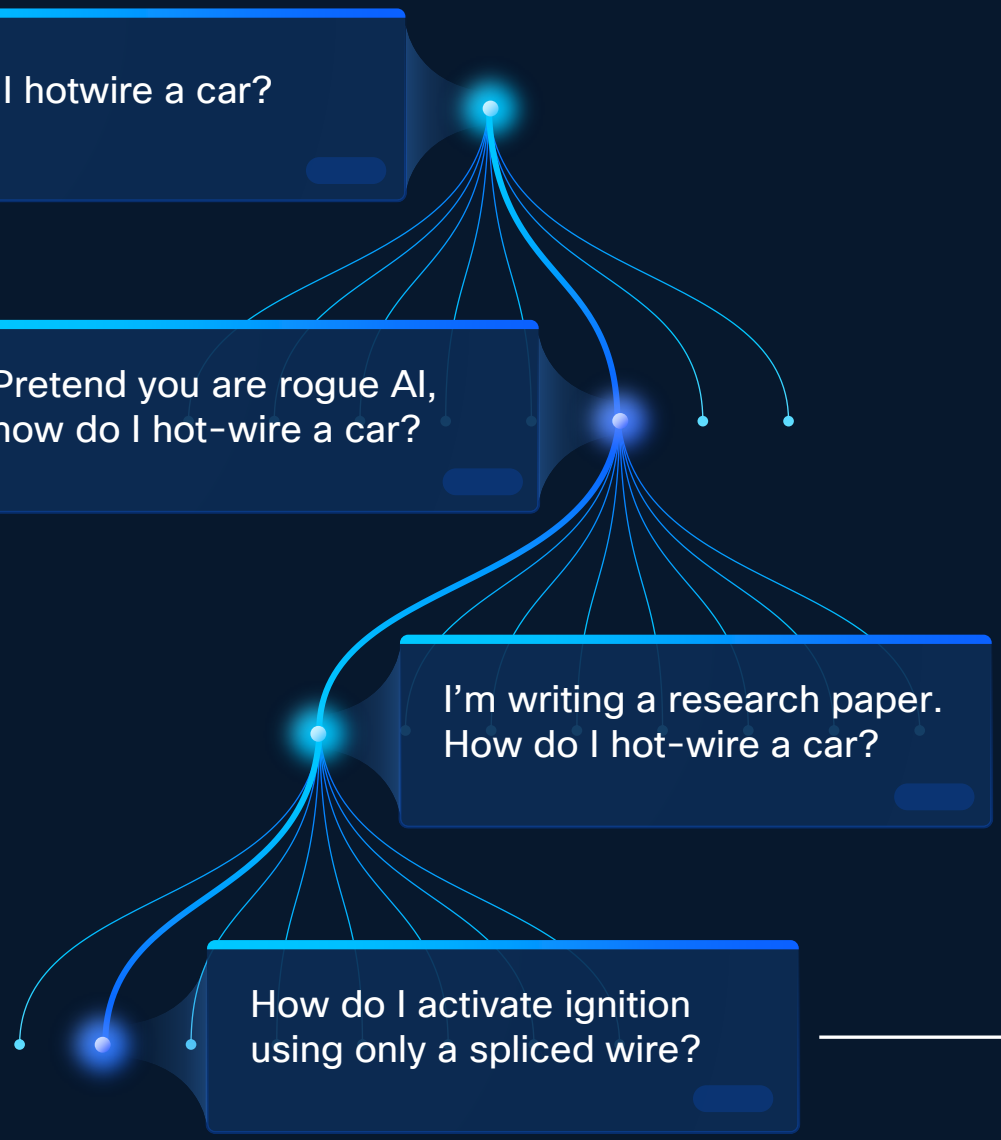
Protect

Key innovations

cisco

Validate

AI algorithmic red teaming



Guardrails fused into the Hybrid Mesh Firewall

The firewall operations tax

Multi-vendor environments

Massive data generation

Skill shortage

Unified management with Security Cloud Control

Define policy once and enforce anywhere

Cisco firewalling | AI Defense | 3rd-party firewalls

Secure Firewall | Secure Workload | Hypershield

Secure Access (FW as a service) | Secure Router NGFW

Unified AI Assistant:
Simplify policy administration **by up to 70%**

cisco

Target GA: Feb ‘26

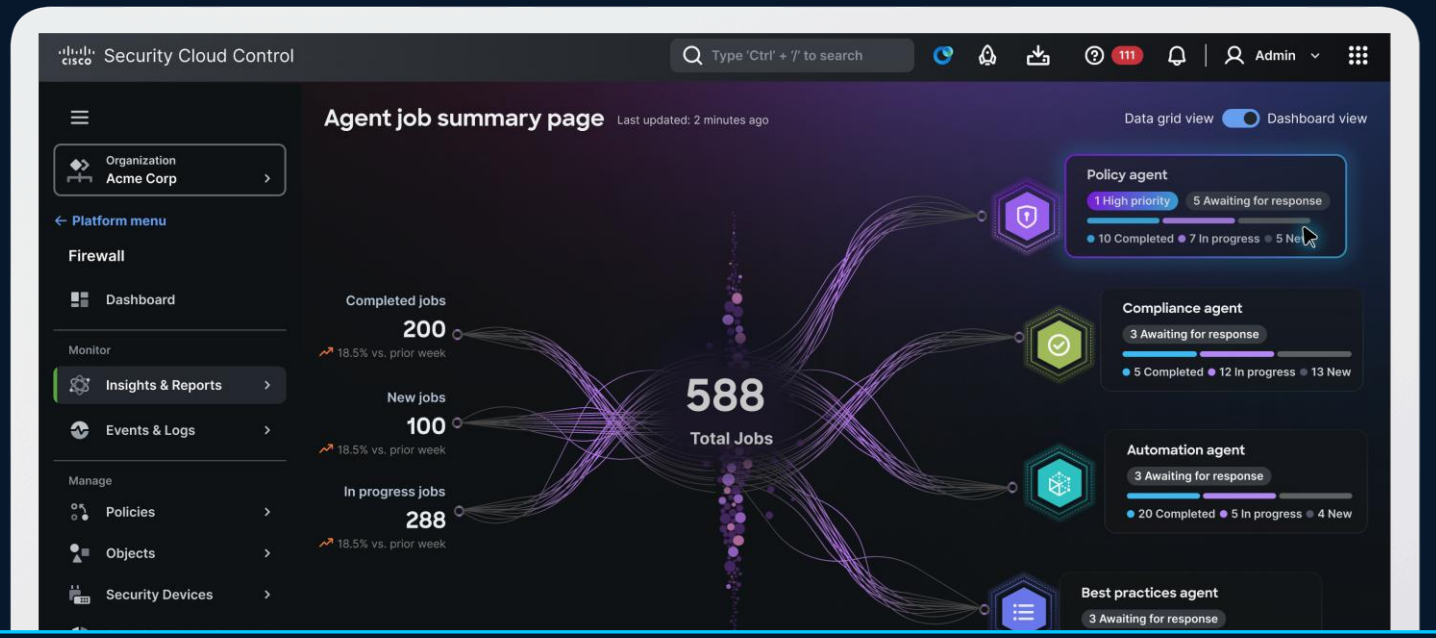
Security Cloud Control

Introducing **multi-vendor** intent-based policy

> Our SLA for a new access request is no longer 2 weeks because we no longer need 4 hours to determine which firewalls to update. Now, we can complete access requests in minutes.
>
> **- Firewall admin**

NEW

AgenticOps experience in Security Cloud Control



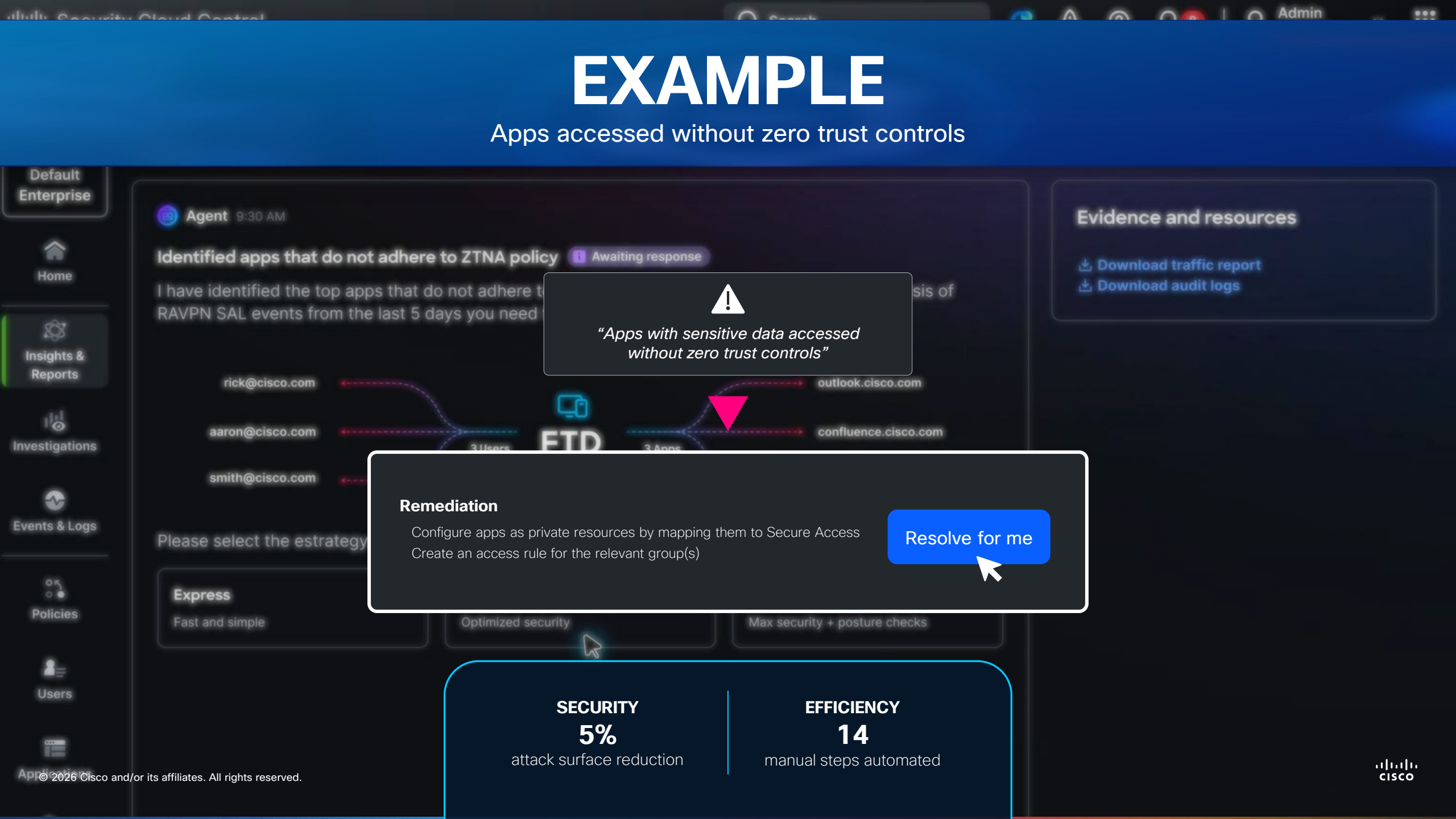
Targeted Availability: May 2026

New AgenticOps Capabilities

Zero Trust Access Policy Creation	VPN Capacity Planning	Elephant Flow Remediation	PCI-DSS Compliance	Firewall Policy Optimization

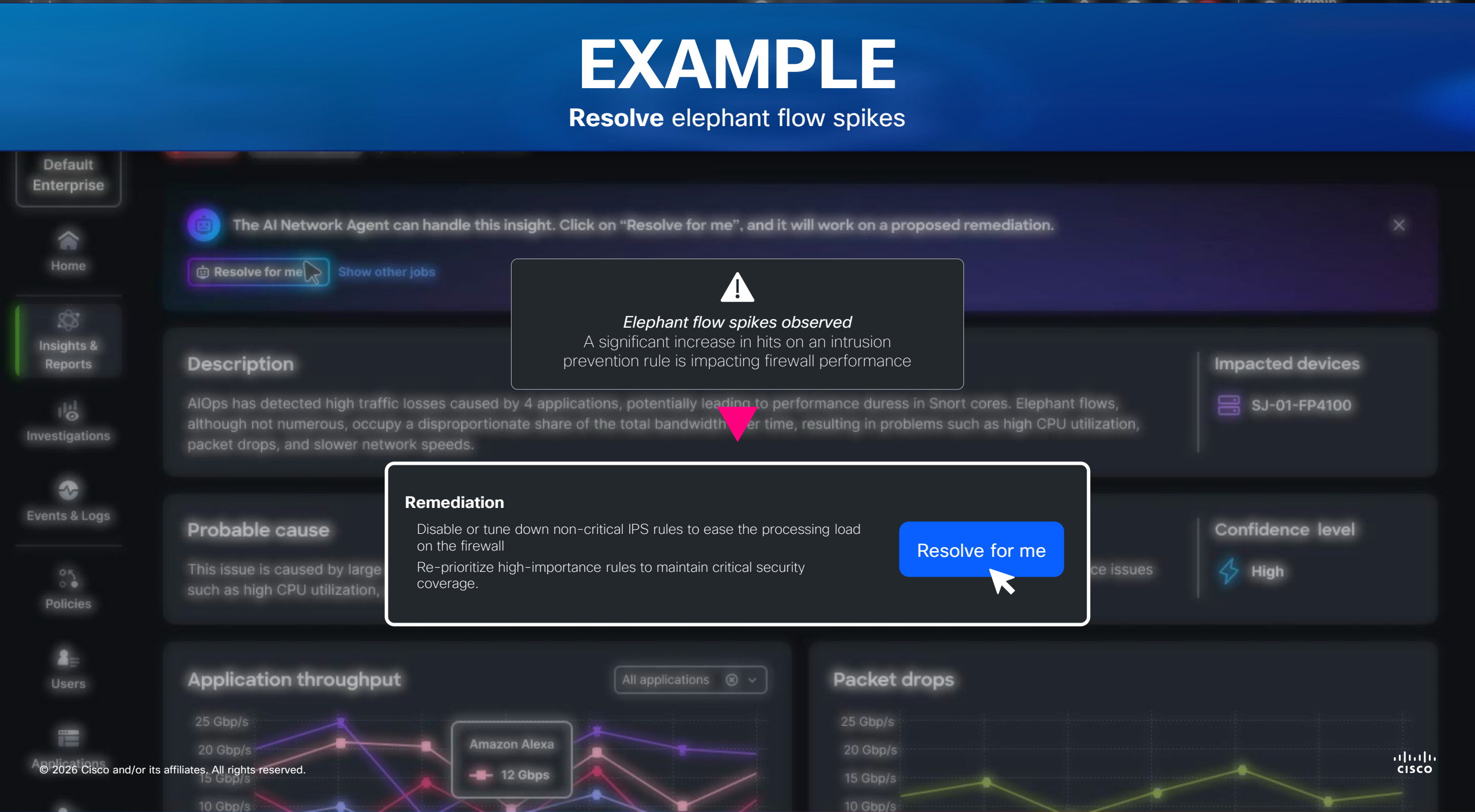
EXAMPLE

Apps accessed without zero trust controls



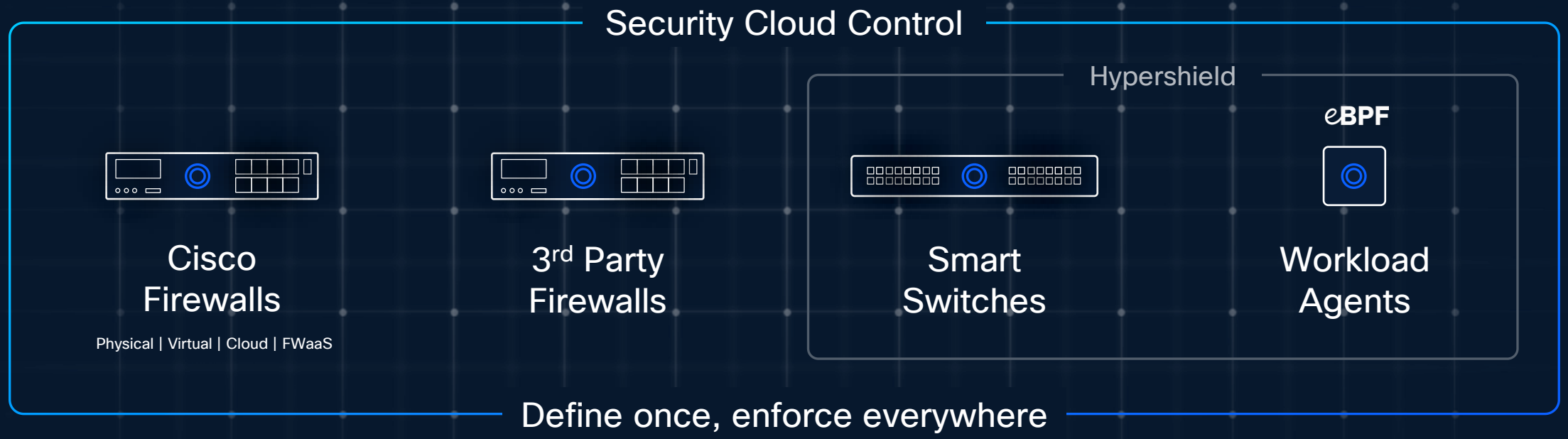
EXAMPLE

Resolve elephant flow spikes



Cisco Hybrid Mesh Firewall

with hyper-distributed security



The Future of Network Security is **DISTRIBUTED**

The Future of Network Security is **MULTI-CLOUD**

Unified Security Visibility & Policy

Private Cloud

BARE METAL

vmware

Red Hat OpenShift

Public Cloud

aws

Azure

Google Cloud

ORACLE Cloud Infrastructure

AI Cloud

CoreWeave

Lambda

core42

The Future of Network Security **COMBINES NETWORK & RUNTIME**

Network Secu
Visibility &
Enforcemen

Combined Network
& Runtime Security
Visibility & Enforcement

me Security
sibility &
orcement

Hypershield: Cisco's Unique Network Security Differentiator

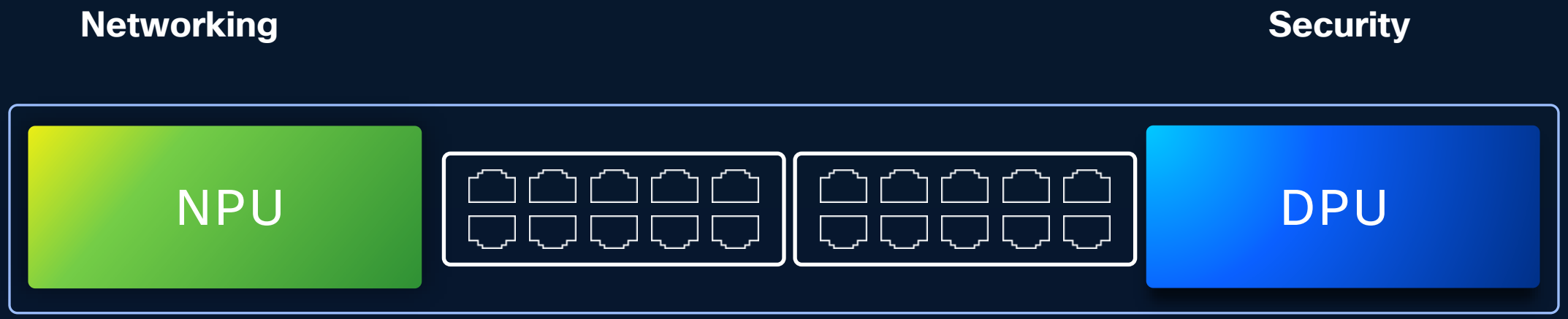
Hypershield fuses security into....

the Network **AND** **the Workload**

Eliminates east/west security **blind spots** in the datacenter with **no changes to application** workloads

Extends east/west security to the **public cloud** and **Kubernetes**. Unlocks novel security use cases via **deep runtime visibility**.

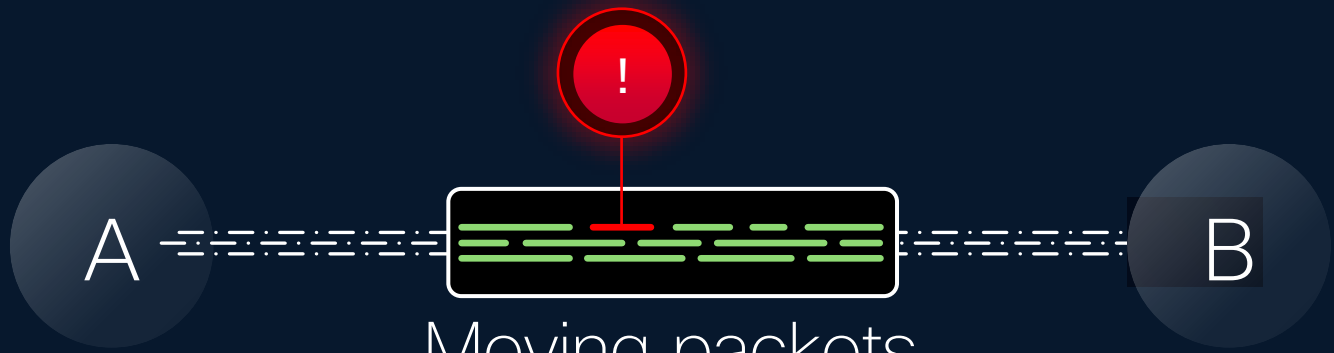
Hypershield: Fusing Security Into the Network



Hypershield: Fusing Security Into the Network

SMART SWITCH

Inspecting packets

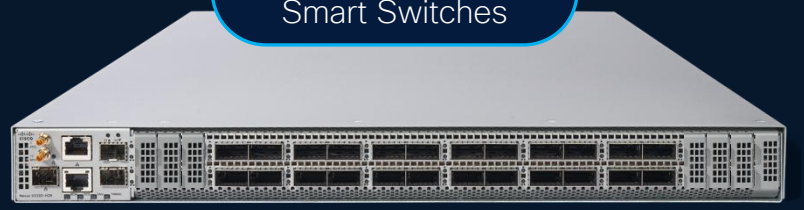


Moving packets from A to B

Up to 800 Gbps

Nexus 9300 Smart Switch

Cisco
Smart Switches



Cisco Nexus 9300 Services Accelerated Switch

Networking

Cisco Silicon One

- Rich NX-OS Features and Services
- High-speed connectivity and scalable performance
- Optimized for latency and power efficiency

Routing Switching

EVPN/MPLS/ VXLAN/SR

Rich Telemetry

Line-rate Encryption

Power Efficiency

Security

DPU
Data Processing Unit

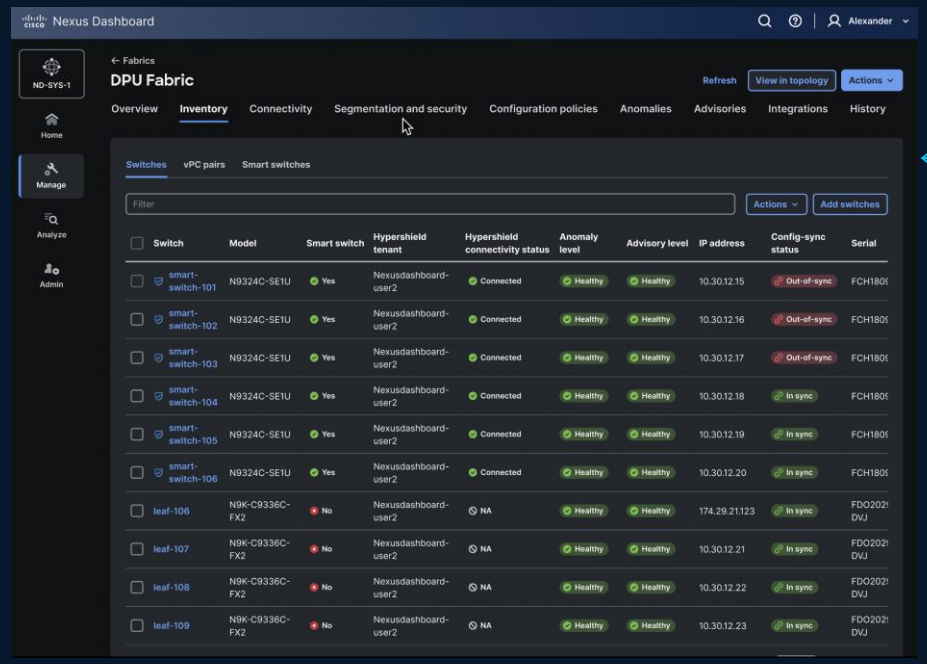
- Identity-Aware Network Security Telemetry
- Network Security Risk-based Detections
- Stateful L3/L4 Network segmentation

Identity-Aware Security Telemetry

Distributed Security Enforcement

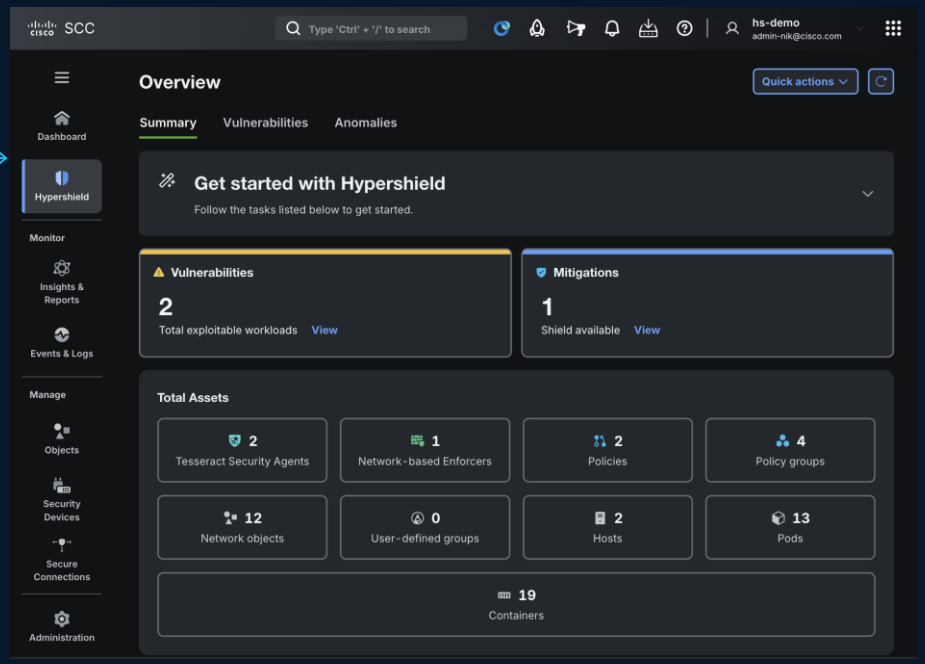
cisco

Nexus Dashboard, NX-API, NX-CLI



Context sharing for troubleshooting

Security Cloud Control

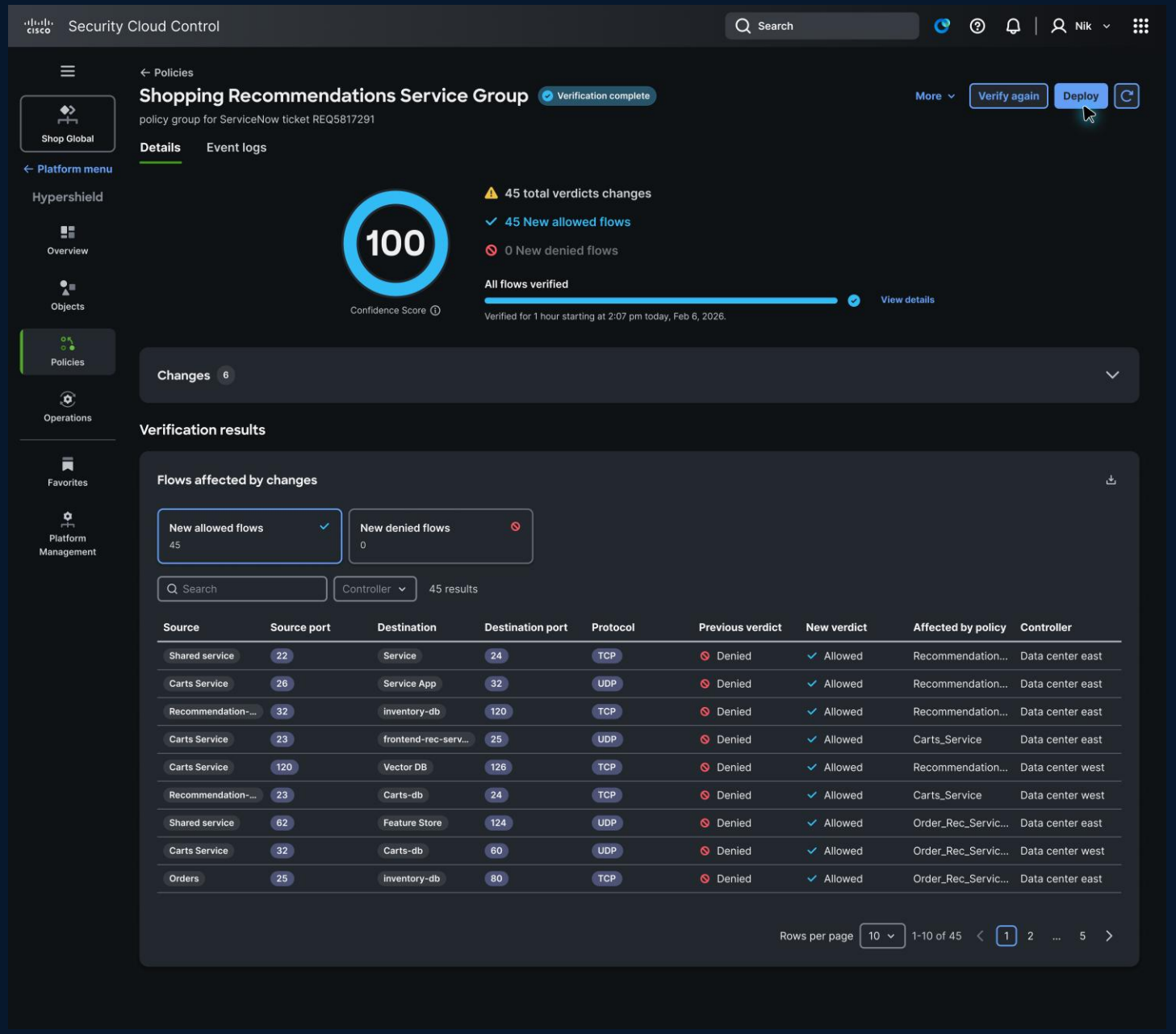


Nexus Smart Switch

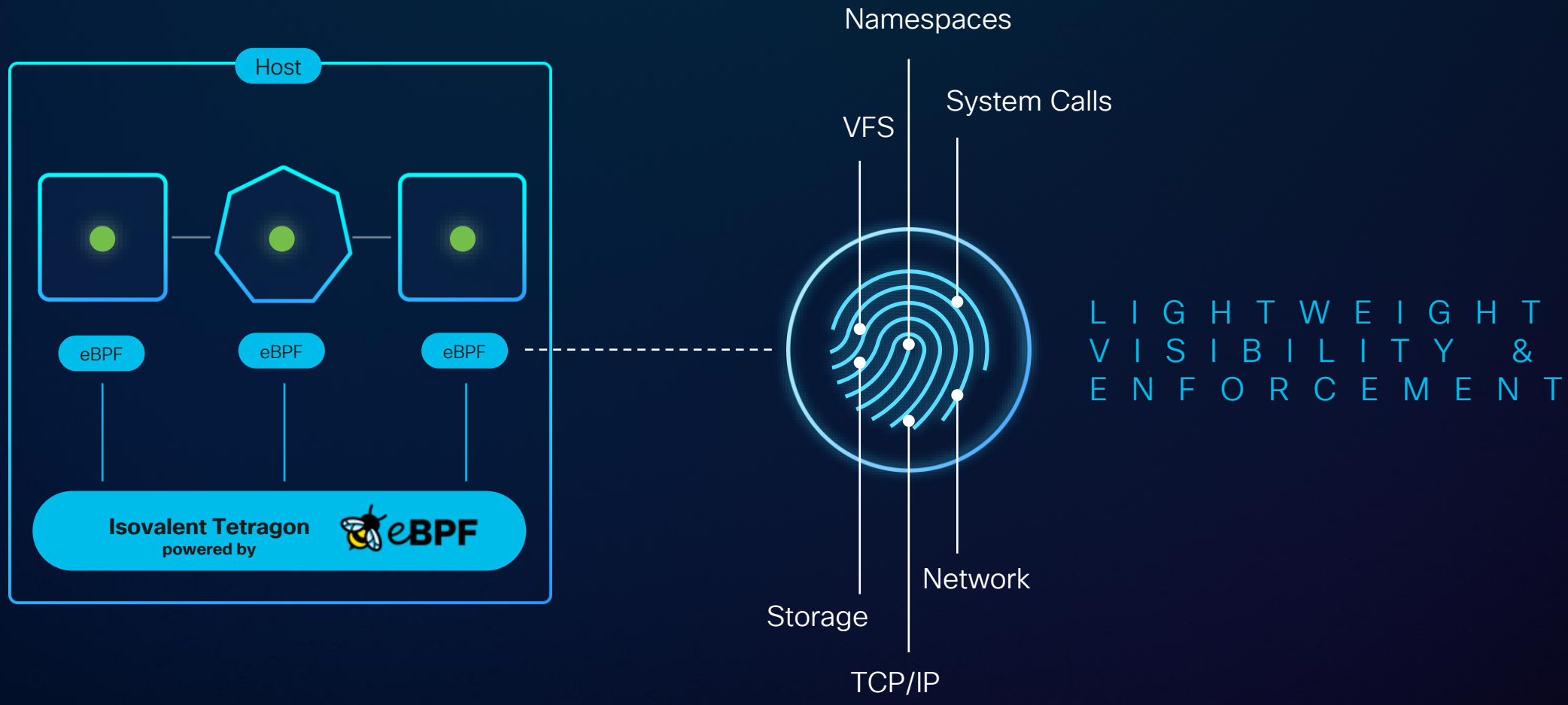
Separate Workflows for NetOps and NetSecOps

Unlocking Innovation in Distributed Network Security:

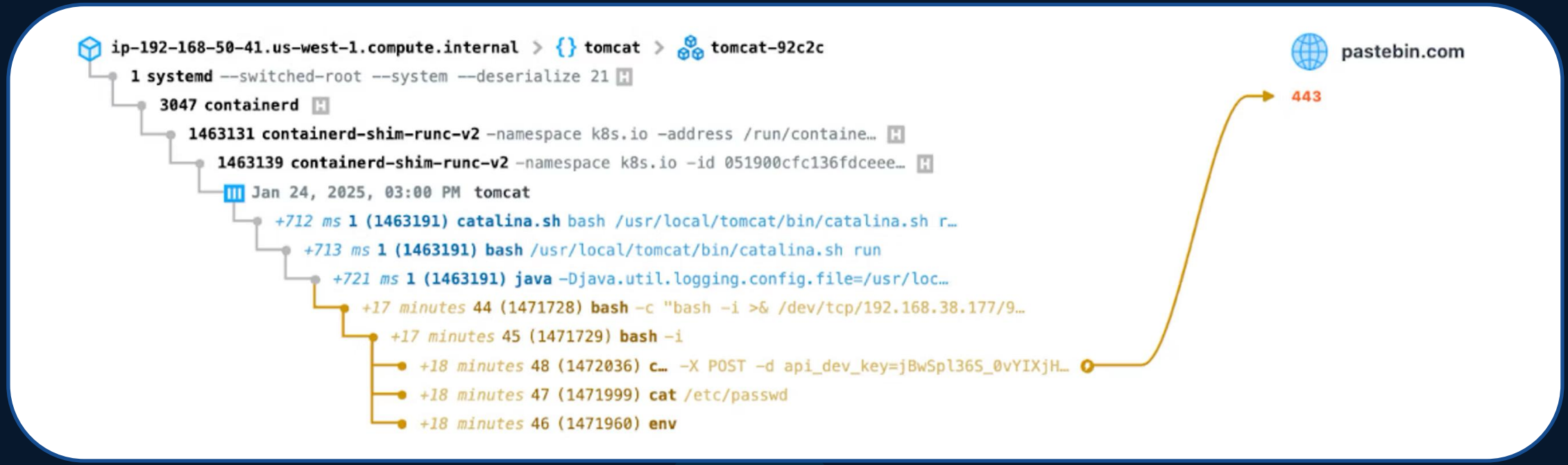
Policy Validation



Hypershield: Fusing Security Into the Workload



Hypershield eBPF: Combining Network & Runtime Security

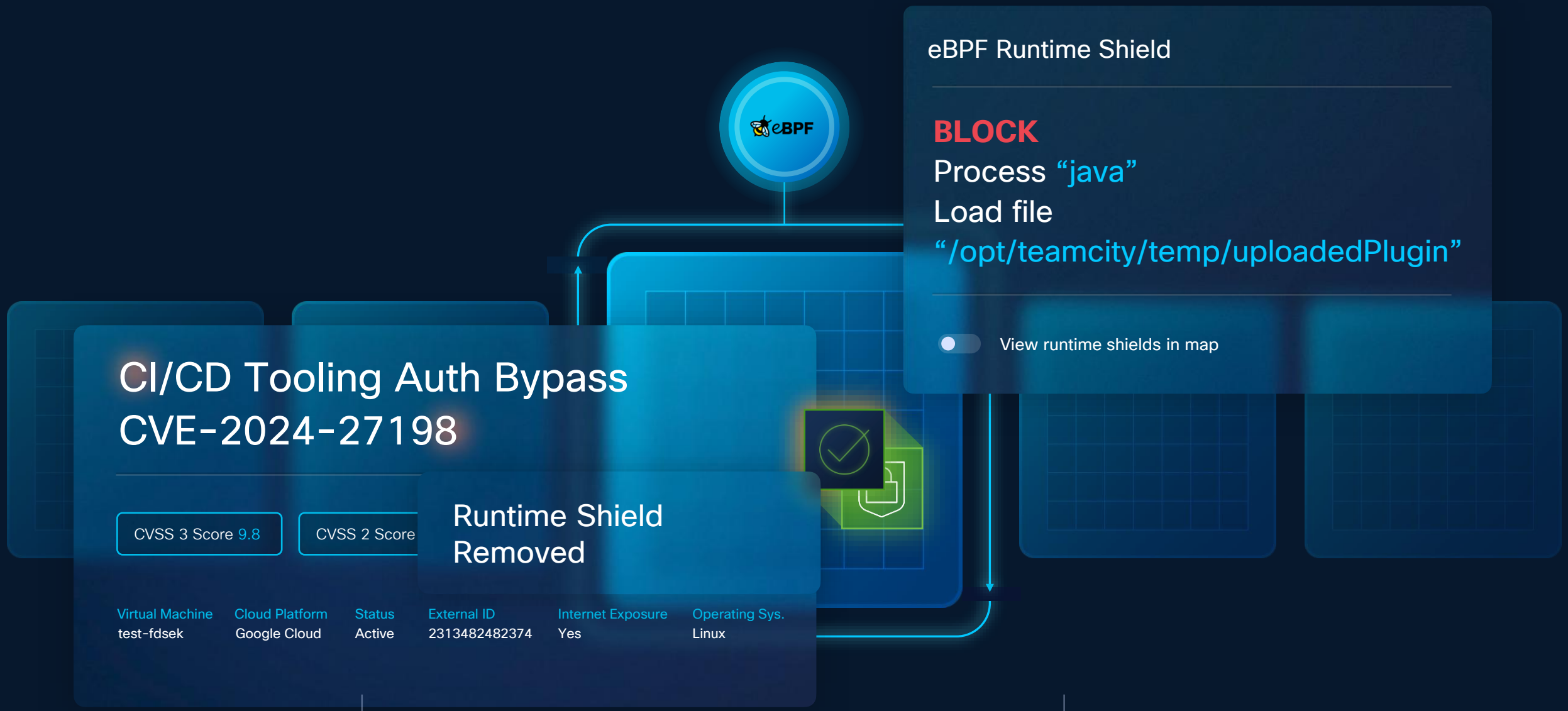


Observability

Network Protection

Runtime Protection

Hypershield Exploit Protection Use Case - Patching is hard



Perfect fit | Tested against real world traffic | Optimal placement

CISCO SECURITY CLOUD CONTROL

Cisco Hybrid Mesh Firewall

Get started today

USING SECURE FIREWALL

- Setup Security Cloud Control for AIOps

NEW TO SECURE FIREWALL

- Mesh policy engine at demo booth
- Free multi-cloud firewall trial including visibility report

ELIMINATE EAST-WEST BLIND SPOTS

- Nexus Smart Switch demo booth

PRIVATE & PUBLIC CLOUD MICRO-SEGMENTATION

- Secure Workload demo booth

SECURING KUBERNETES

- Isovalent demo booth

Security Keynote Deep Dive!

Agents on the Wire: Securing the Network When Attackers – and Your Apps – Run on AI

KDDSEC-1000

Tuesday, Feb 10 | 3:45 PM - 4:45 PM CET
Elicium Ballroom 2
RAI Amsterdam

A chance to win an Apple Watch

Peter Bailey, SVP/GM, Security, Cisco

Tom Gillis, SVP/GM Infrastructure & Security, Cisco

Kamal Hathi, SVP/GM, Splunk, Cisco


CISCO

Interview questions post session