Before we begin…

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Exposure 26

May 21, 2026 | 1:45–2:15 PM ET

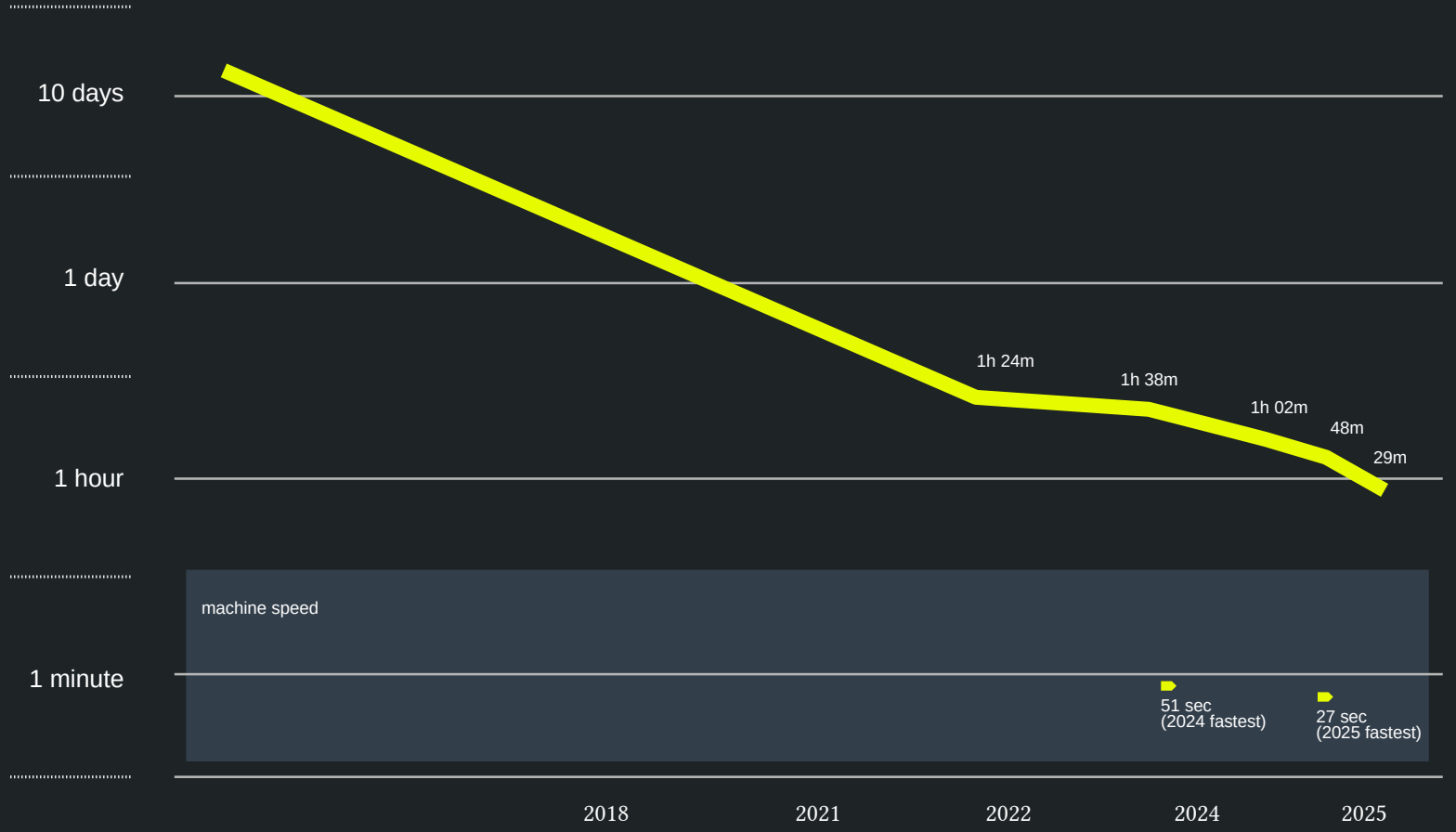
Rebuilding security teams for the AI era.

From Alerts to Exposure

Track: From Exposure to Executive Action

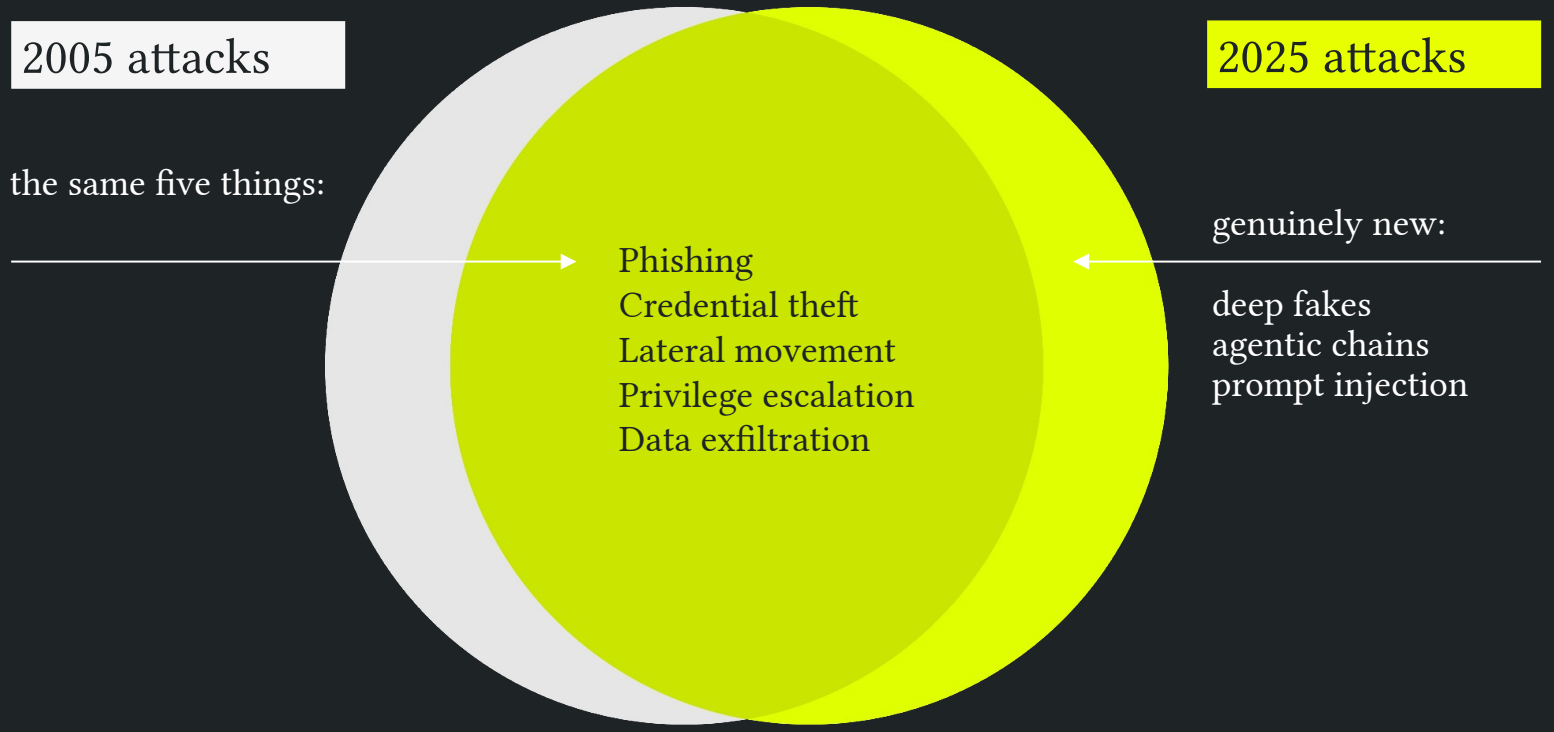
Attacker breakout time has collapsed.

Time from initial access to lateral movement, 2018 to 2025



Source: CrowdStrike Global Threat Reports, 2019–2026.

The shape of the attack has not changed. Only the speed has.

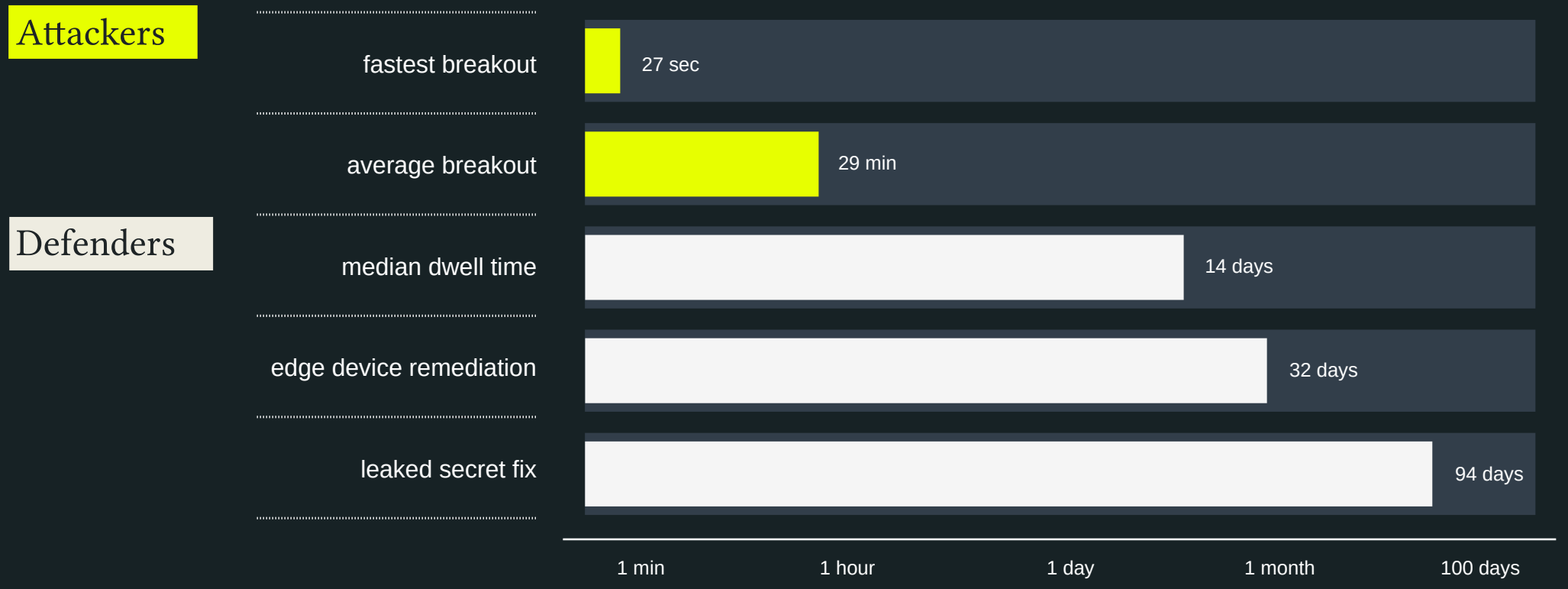


DBIR's top initial access vectors in 2025: stolen credentials (22%), exploitation (20%), phishing (15%). All three existed in 2005.

Source: Verizon Data Breach Investigations Report 2025

The gap is the vulvulnerability.

Attacker speed vs defender speed.
Log scale.



Organizational latency is the new vulnerability class.

Sources: CrowdStrike 2026 Global Threat Report · Mandiant M-Trends 2026 · Verizon 2025 DBIR.

At machine speed, human triage is a fatal bottleneck.

0.87

Macro F1 for incident triage in an offline evaluation.

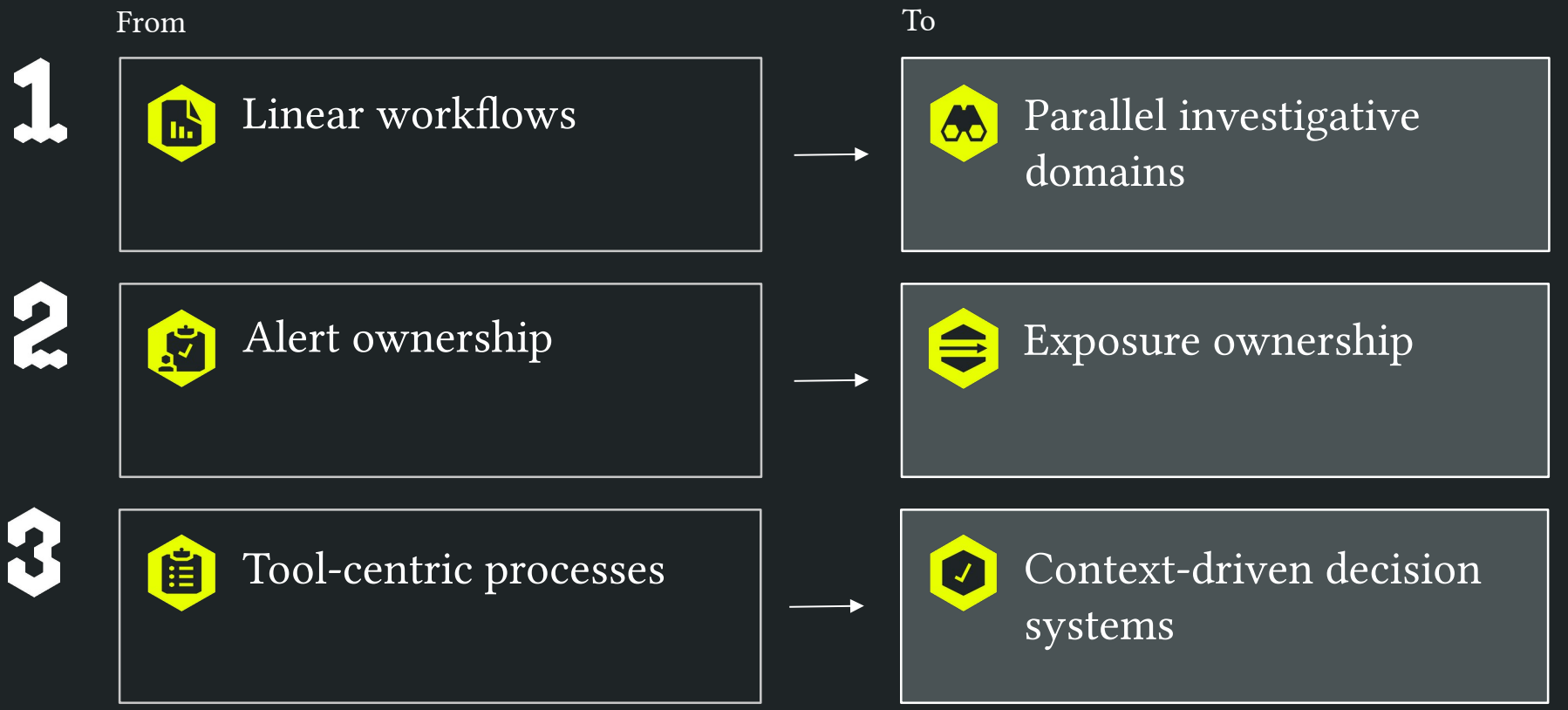
AI supports triage.

Decisions still need context.

Source: Freitas et al. (2024), Copilot Guided Response. Offline triage macro F1 = 0.87.

Three shifts. One operating model

From Alerts to Exposure



1

Linear → Parallel

Your SOC isn't going anywhere. What changes is who owns the cross-domain path.

Five exposure lanes. One owner each. Names on the org chart



Identity and access



Execution and runtime



Data movement



External attack surface



Automation and agents

Most of your risk isn't inside any tool.
It's in the gaps between the teams.

2

Alert ownership → Exposure ownership

Your SOC and the attacker are looking at different pictures of the same network.

Severity-based

- A list of CVEs
- Rank by severity
- Patch everything
- Theater

Path-based

- A graph of paths
- Rank by attack path
- Close top 10 paths
- Strategy

Patch everything is theater.
Path-based prioritization is strategy.

3

Tool-centric → Context-driven

83 security solutions

29 vendors

You don’t have one operating model.

You have 83.

Three responsibilities that exist somewhere, owned by no one specifically:

Who keeps the exposure model coherent across all the tools that disagree on what matters?

Who owns whether the automation is safe to run? Constraints, visibility, rollback.

Who decides when humans must be in the loop and when they shouldn't be?

Automation without rollback is just fragility with a faster clock.

Three responsibilities. No owner.

Owned by no one specifically in most organizations today.

1. Who keeps the exposure model coherent across all the tools that disagree on what matters?

2. Who owns whether the automation is safe to run? Constraints, visibility, rollback.

3. Who decides when humans must be in the loop, and when they shouldn't be?

The hardest meeting comes first

Five people in a room

One question

They will not agree.



Budget time for the agreement.

Don't budget time for the analysis.

The part most teams skip.

Not because it's hard.
Because it's invisible.



If you can't write down the rollback, pause the automation.

Your next board meeting won't ask "how many attacks did you stop?"

1. Where are we exposed.
2. Who owns it.
3. What would it cost.

Three questions. Fifty seconds. Defensible in a deposition.
The next move is yours. And it cannot be the last.

When governance is continuous, compliance becomes a receipt. Not a scramble.

Build the right operating model.
The audit, the regulator, the board update.
They all become outputs of the work, not interruptions to it.

AI is not taking control away from us.

Ambiguous ownership is.

Stay in touch.

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Thank you

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