But, HOW do you set up a model and get data that you trust?

We use a method called Annual Loss Expected (ALE) versus Annual Loss Realized (ALR).

ALE, or the expected losses from security incidents, is influenced by the organization’s size, its geographical scope, the nature of its business, and its security posture. ALR captures the actual impact and cost of handling security incidents.

**Step 1**
FIND THE RIGHT BENCHMARK FOR ALE
We use Ponemon’s “Cost of Cyber Crime Study” and their cost framework

**Step 2**
ESTABLISH EQUIVALENT COMPONENTS FOR ALR
For us, there are 4 broad cost categories that will be impacted during a security incident:
- Operational costs
- Data loss
- Brand impact
- Profit impact

**Step 3**
COLLECT AND VALIDATE ALR DATA SOURCES
This starts with identifying the teams that own the data and building strong business partnerships with them

**Data Gathering**
Working with data owners and subject matter experts

**Data Preparation**
Transforming data into information and formats that work

**Data Understanding**
Using analytics to move data into 4 cost categories

**Step 4**
BUILD PROCESS AND TOOLS TO CAPTURE AND COMMUNICATE
Dashboards, discussions and deep dives help us prioritize investments, understand high-impact incidents and prepare for process and tool changes

Find out how we pull it all together, including some use cases, in the “Quantifying Security Incidents” whitepaper.