

It's not the AI in your Sovereignty it's the Sovereignty in your AI

Luke Beare | Cisco Splunk | Strategic Advisor



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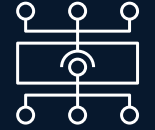
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Addressing AI Expectations

AI Adoption

Compare and Contrast AI and other IT trends



Internet

Mobile
Devices

AI

Cloud
Services

VM &
K8s

FOSS /
Linux

Compare and Contrast AI and other IT trends



Internet



Mobile
Devices



AI



Cloud
Services



VM &
K8s



FOSS /
Linux

Compare and Contrast AI and other IT trends

Internet

Mobile
Devices

AI

Cloud
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VM &
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FOSS /
Linux

Customer Facing

AI

Underpinning Systems

Compare and Contrast AI and other IT trends

Internet

Mobile
Devices

AI

Cloud
Services

VM &
K8s

FOSS /
Linux

Ideation

Business Case

POC

Development

Test

UAT

Production

Compare and Contrast AI and other IT trends

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Mobile
Devices

AI

Cloud
Services

VM &
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FOSS /
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Ideation

Business Case

POC

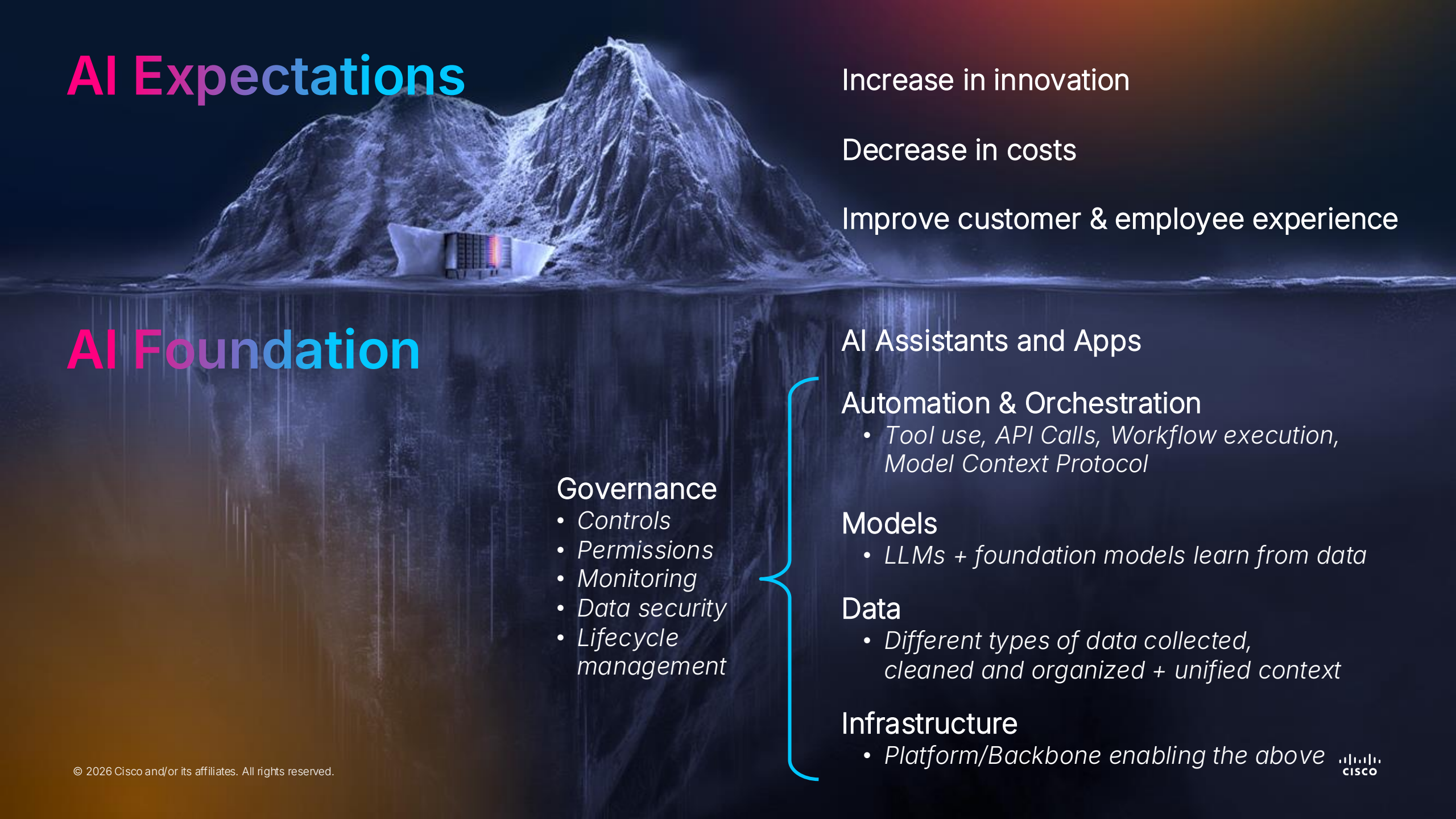
Development

Test

UAT

Production

AI Expectations

An iceberg floating in dark blue water. The tip of the iceberg, which is above the water line, is labeled 'AI Expectations'. The much larger part of the iceberg, which is submerged below the water line, is labeled 'AI Foundation'. A small, multi-story building with a red roof is visible on the waterline, partially submerged. The background is a dark, gradient blue.

Increase in innovation

Decrease in costs

Improve customer & employee experience

AI Foundation

Governance

- Controls
- Permissions
- Monitoring
- Data security
- Lifecycle management

AI Assistants and Apps

Automation & Orchestration

- *Tool use, API Calls, Workflow execution, Model Context Protocol*

Models

- *LLMs + foundation models learn from data*

Data

- *Different types of data collected, cleaned and organized + unified context*

Infrastructure

- *Platform/Backbone enabling the above*

AI Expectations

Innovation

64% ↑

Cost

38% ↓

CX / EX

45% ↑

McKinsey State of AI 2025

AI Foundation

Governance

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McKinsey State of AI 2025

AI Foundation

Cisco AI Readiness Index 2025

AI
productivity
improvement

66%

AI
Infrastructure

32%

AI-ready
data

34%

AI
Governance

23%

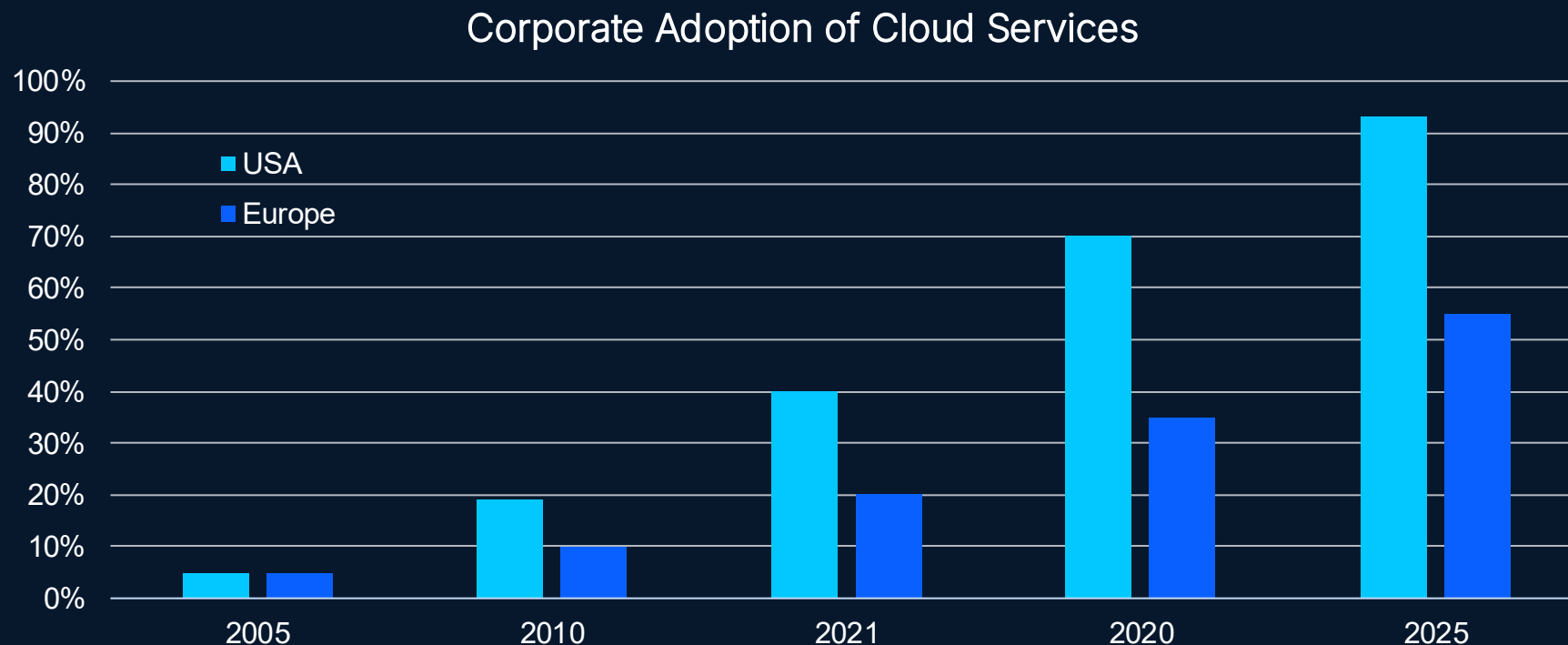
Processes
to scale AI
use cases

13%

AI as a Data Sovereignty question

Evolution of corporate cloud services

Europe lags USA



Apprehension

Adoption

Anxiety

From apprehension to anxiety

Apprehension

- Security
- Integration

- Lack of Trust

Adoption

- 24/7 Monitoring
- Patch Schedule
- Strength in numbers

- At least as safe as OnPrem

Anxiety

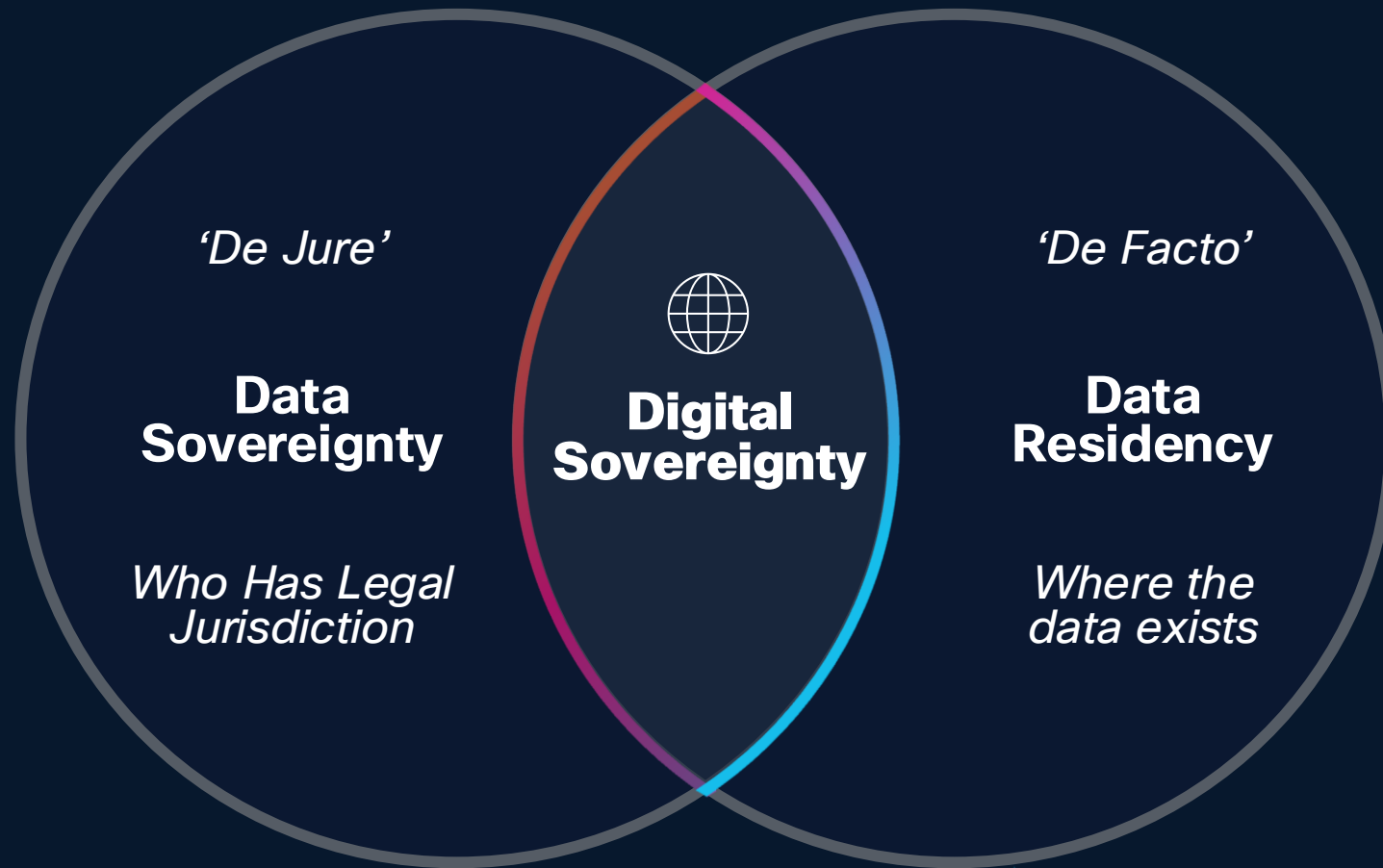
- Brexit
- US CLOUD Act
- Strait of Hormuz

- Who has access To MY data



**Digital
Sovereignty**

Data Sovereignty vs. Data Residency



Digital Sovereignty includes infrastructure, software and data

Regulatory Impact on Digital Sovereignty

European
Union



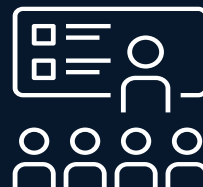
United
Kingdom



Middle
East



Balancing internal strategy with external regulations



Environmental &
Utilities

Infrastructure &
Connectivity

Staffing &
Skills

Processes &
Governance

SERVICE AVAILABILITY (WHEN)

TRADE-OFF

(WHERE) SOVEREIGN SECURITY

Planning your digital sovereignty response

Use Cases

Data Strategy

Execution

AI Expectations

Innovation

64% ↑

Cost

38% ↓

CX / EX

45% ↑

McKinsey State of AI 2025

AI Foundation

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AI
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34%

AI
Governance

23%

Processes
to scale AI
use cases

13%

Digital Sovereignty: internal, external view and roadmap

Evolution of Corporate Cloud Servies

Apprehension

- Security
- Integration
- Lack of Trust

Adoption

- 24/7 Monitoring
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Anxiety

- Brexit
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- Who has access To MY data



**Digital
Sovereignty**

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Regulatory Impact on Digital Sovereignty

European Union



GDPR

- Protection of Personal Data
- BDSG (Germany), Garante Privacy (Italy) & Loi Informatique et Libertés (France)

DORA & NIS2

- Operational Resilience for FSI & critical infrastructure

AI Act

- Regulation (EU) 2024/1689

United Kingdom



UK GDPR

Data Protection Act 2018

DORA & NIS2

- Not mandatory for UK but is required for EU trade.

Cyber Assessment Framework (CAF)

- Outcome-based tool for critical infrastructure resilience.

Middle East



"Sovereign-First" Strategy (KSA & UAE)

- KSA PDPL (Personal Data Protection Law)
- UAE Federal Law No. 45 (Data Protection);
- SAMA/CMA (Saudi financial regulations)

DORA & NIS2

- Relevant for EU trade.

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Balancing internal strategy with external regulations



Environmental & Utilities

Geographic Security

- Extreme heat, Floods, Earthquakes

HVAC Security

- Electricity, Water, Diesel (generator)



Infrastructure & Connectivity

Op Resilience

- Availability zones
- Performance

Networking

- Reliability, latency
- Inter-connectivity



Staffing & Skills

People

- Availability, Clearance, Churn

Skills

- Qualifications, Accreditations



Processes & Governance

Operations

- Process maturity
- Best practices

Audit

- Regulatory
- Verifiable

← SERVICE AVAILABILITY (WHERE)

TRADE-OFF

(WHERE) SOVEREIGN SECURITY →

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Planning your digital sovereignty response

Use Cases

- Do the regulations apply (to all of this)?
- Can we mitigate the risks?
- Have we addressed the trade-offs?
- Can we afford it?
- Does our business sovereignty integrate with the planned digital sovereignty?

Data Strategy

- Data sources
- Transport economics
- Data classification
- Standardisation and normalization
- Storage
- Access
- AI

Execution

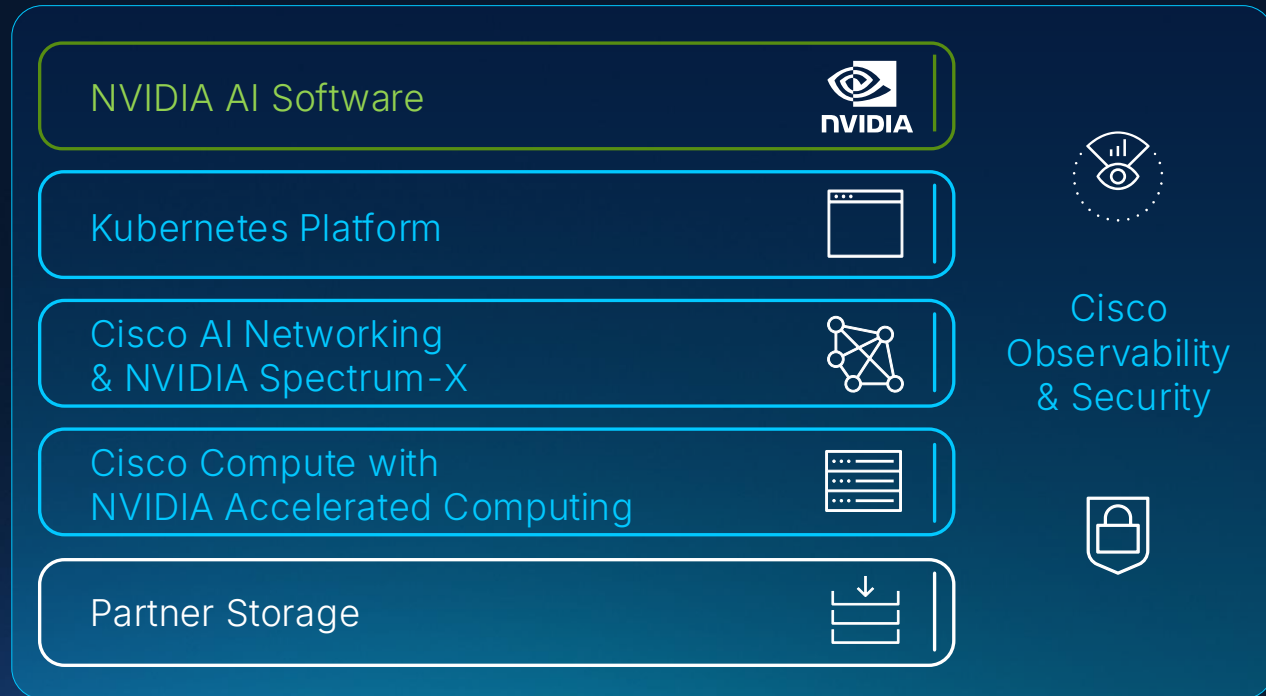
- Operational Resilience
- Security
- Observability
- Data Fabric
- Sovereign Critical Infrastructure



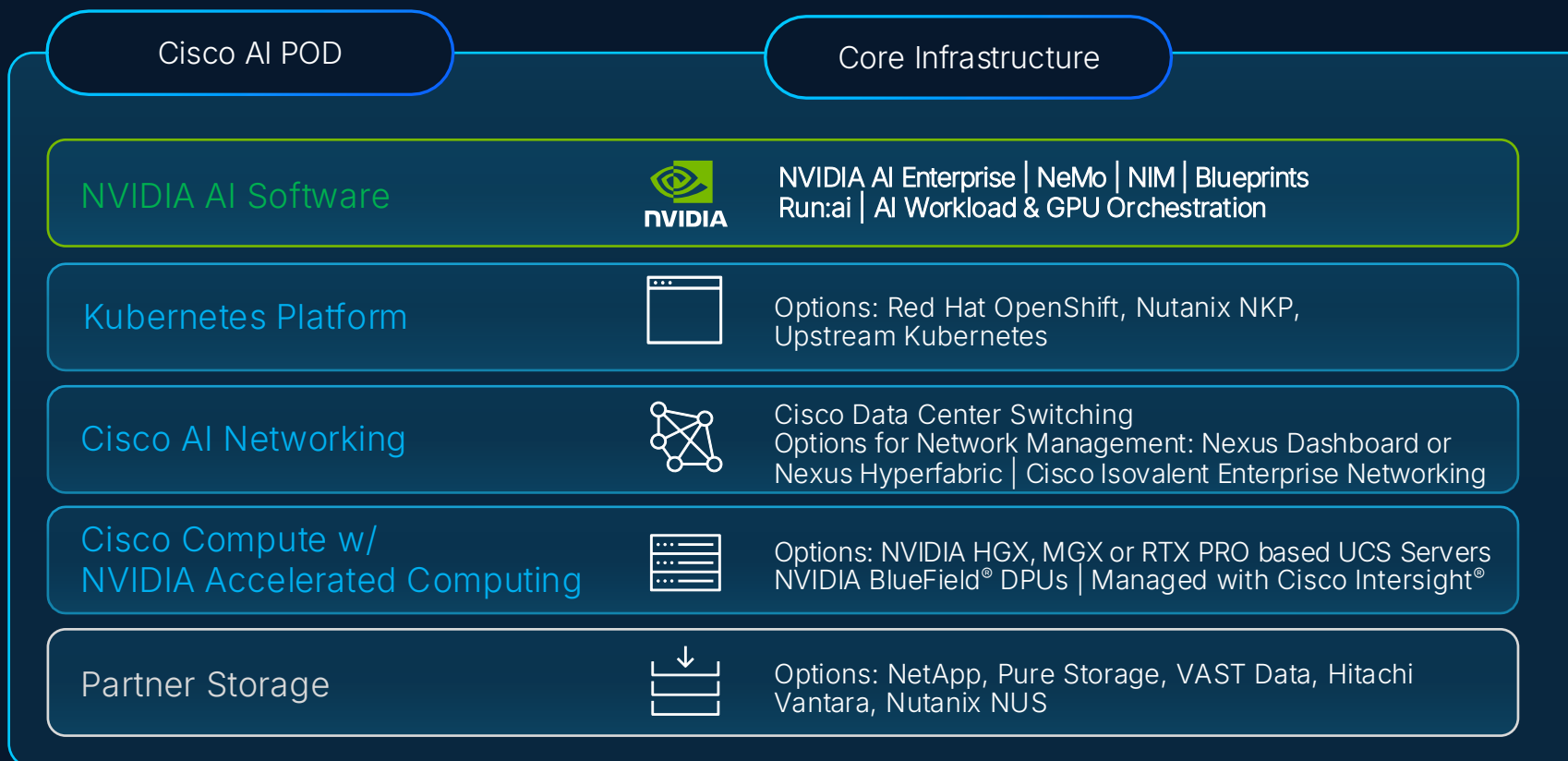
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Delivering on our Promises An Implementation Discussion

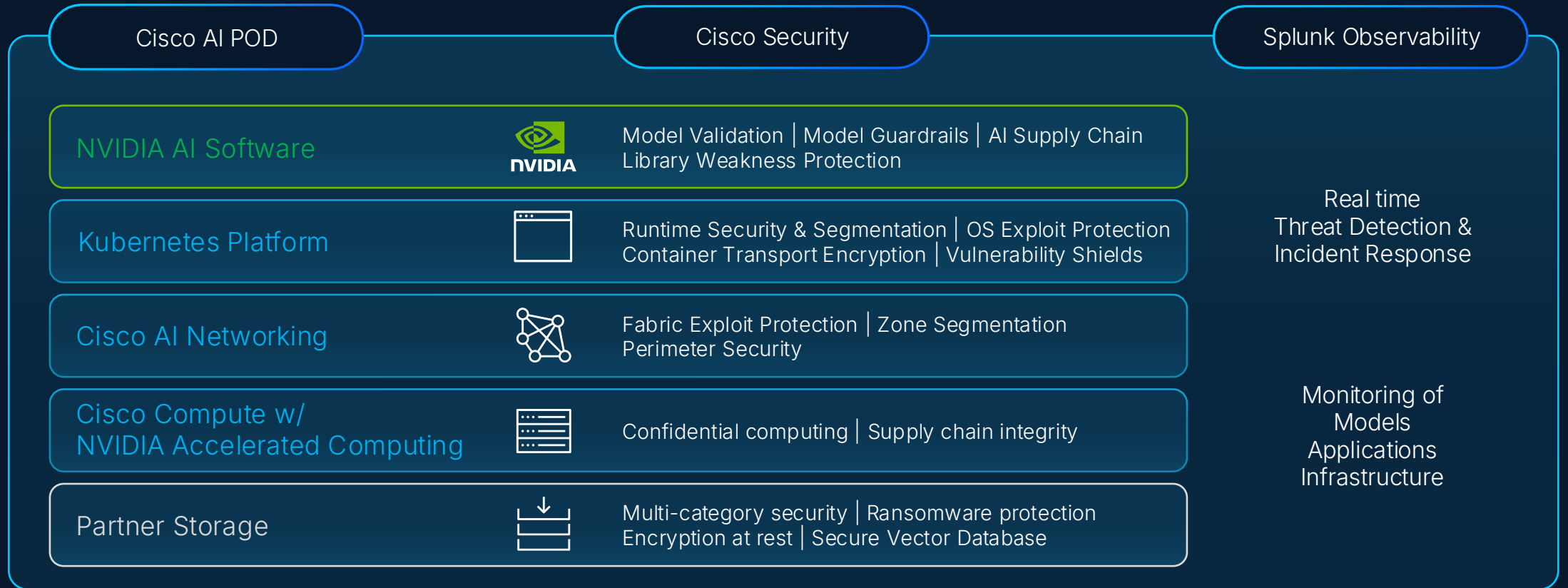
Cisco Secure AI Factory with NVIDIA



Core Infrastructure



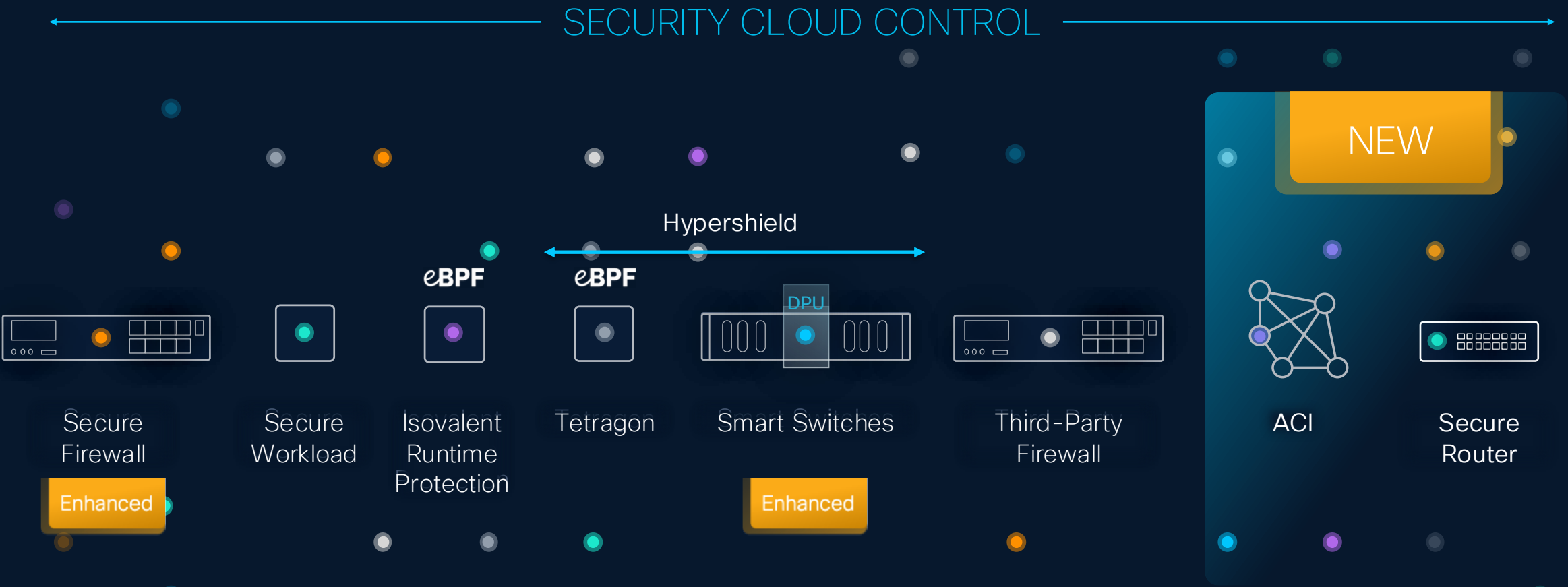
Core Security Capabilities



Core Offerings



Cisco Hybrid Mesh Firewall



Write policy once, enforce across multi-tenants

HMFW/Mesh Policy: Program once, enforce everywhere

Security Cloud Control

Search

← Policies

Create rule Draft Firewall-Policy-Update (Base revision: 319) B2B, B2C Policy HR Apps Access

Ticket ID: [Link ticket](#)

☒ Rule is enabled ☐ Logging: ON Time range

Name * ERP-to-HR app **Order *** 01 **Description (optional)** Controls traffic flowing from ERP to HR Application

☒ **Specify Access**
Specify which users and endpoints can access which resources. [Help](#)

2 Review Deployment and impact
Review rule impact and reachability across different segments of the network.

[+ Add Install targets](#) **Topology** List

The diagram illustrates a network topology for traffic flow. It starts with 'Public Cloud' containing an 'ERP' icon. A line connects 'ERP' to a 'Cloud Edge Firewall' icon. From there, the line goes to a 'DC-A Firewall' icon. Another line connects 'DC-A Firewall' to a 'DC-A-App vFirewall' icon. Finally, a line connects 'DC-A-App vFirewall' to an 'HR App' icon. The 'DC-A Firewall' and 'DC-A-App vFirewall' are both connected to a 'Data Center_A' box at the top. The 'DC-A-App vFirewall' is also connected to an 'App Zone' box, which contains the 'HR App' icon. The 'App Zone' box is connected back to the 'DC-A-App vFirewall'.

[Delete](#) [Revert changes](#) [Back](#) [Save](#)

Mesh Policy Engine intelligently understands your network topology to place the most effective policy on the relevant firewalls

1. Describe rule name and purpose
2. Define user and endpoint access
3. Deploy across network topology

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Dublin



London



Dublin | June 11 | The Westbury



London | June 17 | Kings Place, Kings Cross

