



# AppSec in a World of Digital Transformation

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# Overview

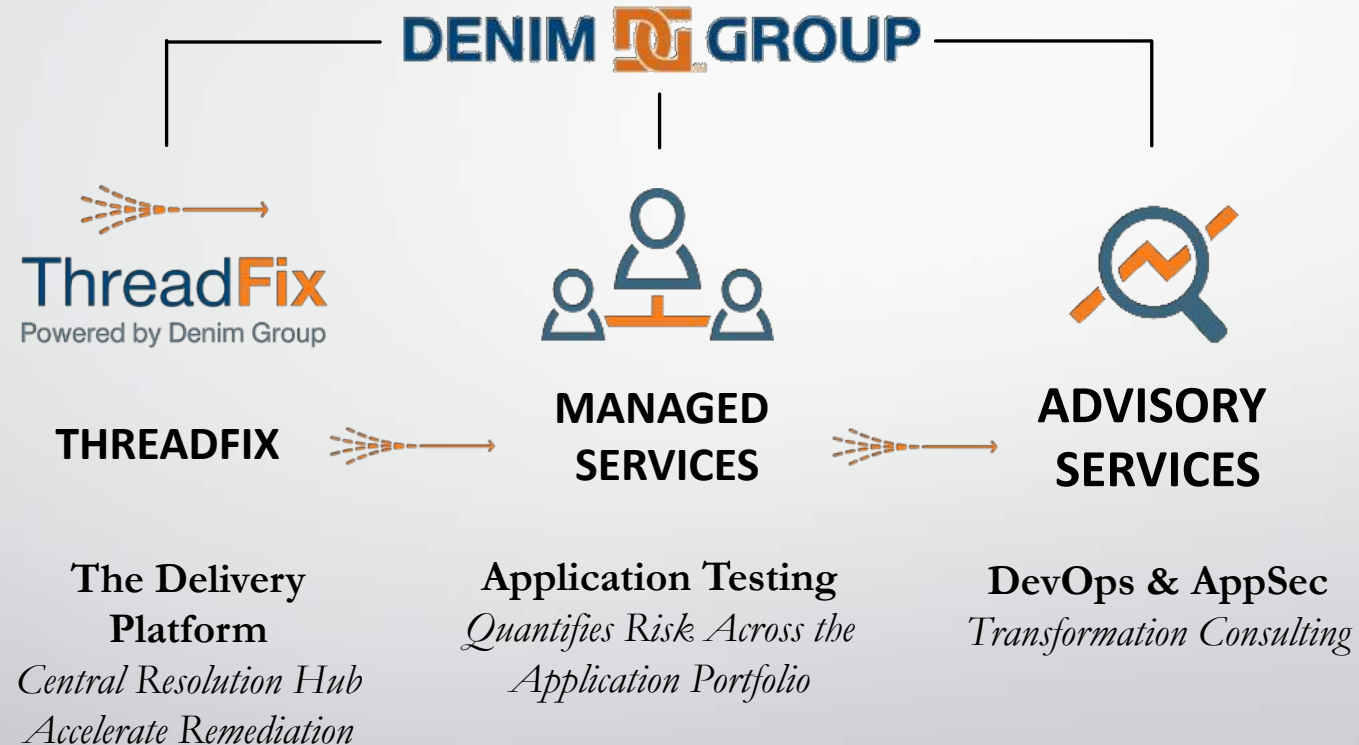
- Digital Transformation Defined (Ughhhh.....)
- The Business Imperative to Move Faster
- What This Means for You
- AppSec in a New World

# John's Background

- Application Security Enthusiast
- Helps CSO's and CISO's with AppSec Programs
- ISSA Distinguished Fellow
- Security Author and Speaker
- DG Principal, MBA, & Entrepreneur



# Denim Group Overview





# Disclosure Statement

I hate the term “digital transformation”



# Tale of Two Rental Car Experiences





# Story #1: Pleasant Customer Experience





## Story #2: Customer Dumpster Fire







# Story #2: Dumpster Fire Backend

Reservation System



Fleet Management System



Car



Me



# Digital Initiatives

- Business survival instinct in play
- Pressure to push products to services to the market faster with a better customer experience
  - Time to market beats many other considerations
- Heavy use of user behavior analytics to customize buying experience



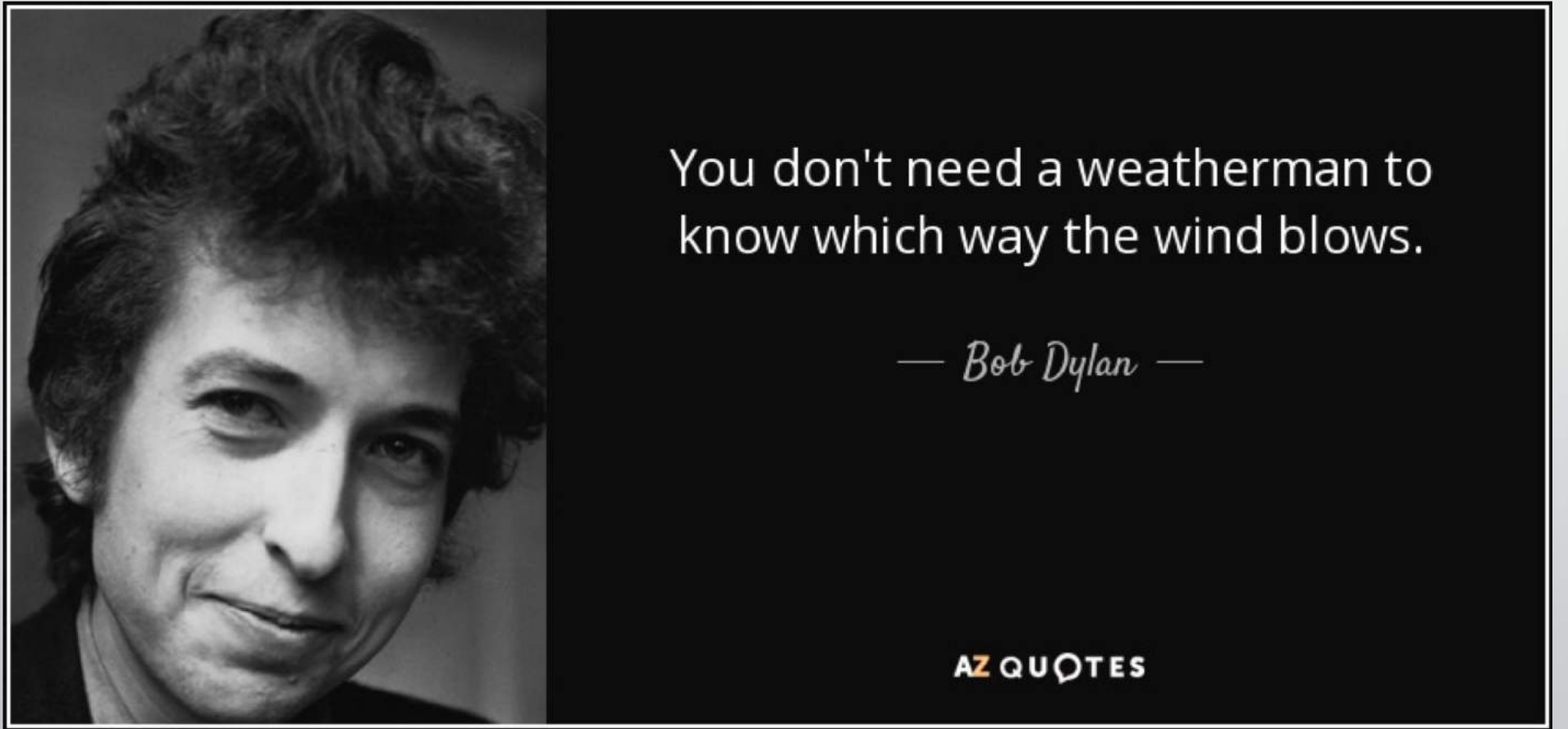
# What This Means for You

- Rollout of new features measured in days & weeks, not months
- Connected systems throughout the organization
- Organizational changes are accelerating
- Security might be a consideration, but time-to-market considerations are paramount



# Entire Tech Stack Changing

- Microservices
- Serverless Applications
- New(er) Languages & Frameworks
- All via CI/CD Pipelines



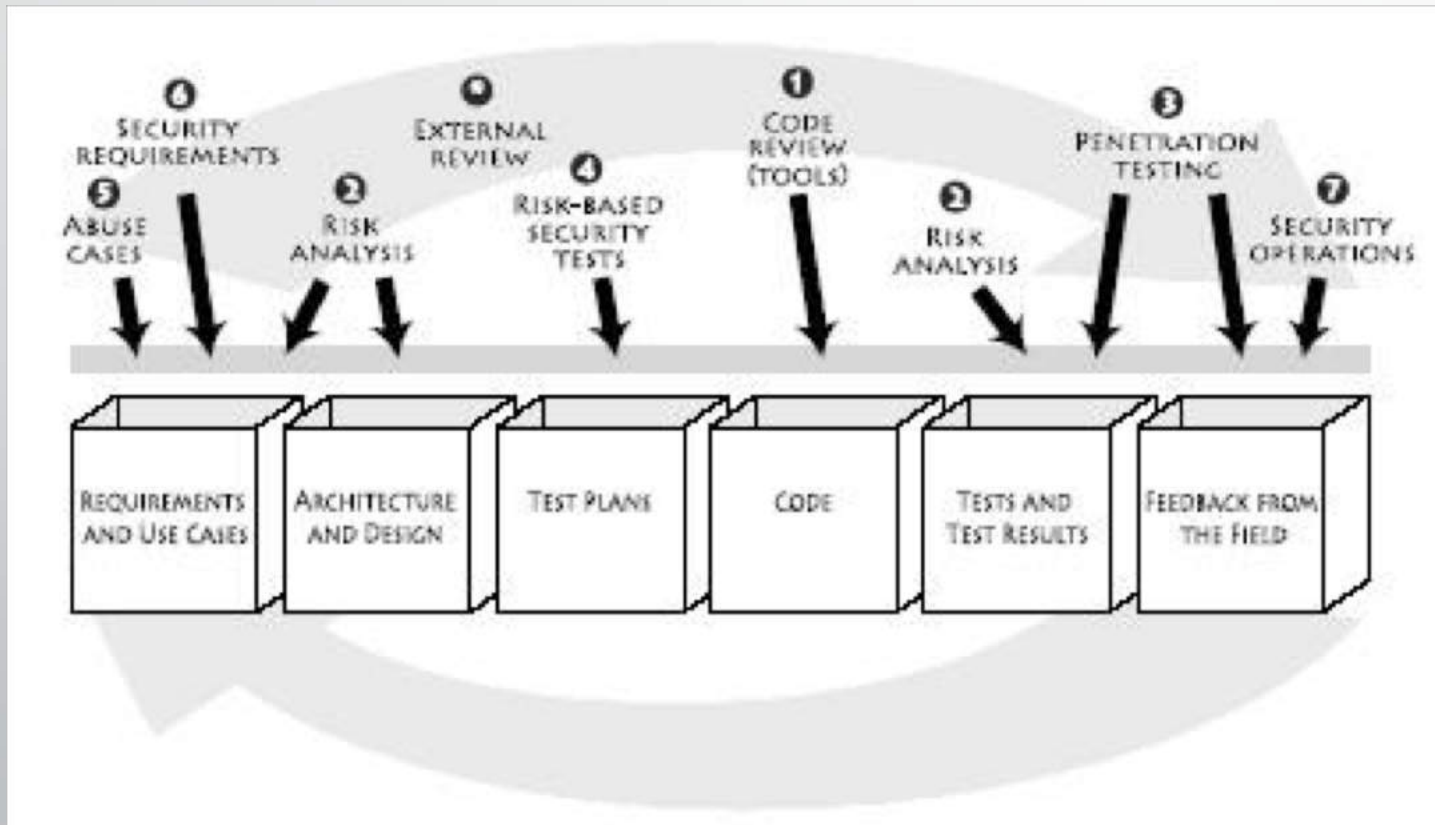
You don't need a weatherman to  
know which way the wind blows.

— *Bob Dylan* —

AZ QUOTES



# Seven Touchpoints for Software Security



Gary McGraw, PhD.



# One-Size-Fits-All Assembly Line AppSec





# Dirty Truth of AppSec

- Most appsec automation was optimized for web applications written in compiled languages
- Many WAFs are still pure layer 7 logging devices
- Automated scanning coverage was never great
- Most organizations never got near 100% testing coverage





# Don't Forget Legacy Processes & Practices

Cool new Tech ->  
Stack



< - Legacy Apps &  
Infrastructure



# Modernize Approach to Application Assessments

- Tune automation to technology stack you are implementing
- Beef up compensating approaches where automation comes up short
- Accelerate threat modeling
- Include as much testing in CI/CD pipeline as tolerated
- Worry more about trust
- Be mindful of where your app lands



# Provide AppDev Team with Security- Annotated Cloud Reference Architecture

- On-prem security controls no longer exists
  - Not all developers have got this memo!
- So where it lands matters
  - Assume mixture of on prem/off prem clouds
- Absent of prescriptive guidance, expect devs to “roll their own”

# Streamline Threat Modeling Practices



- Threat modeling guides future dev far more than testing
- Threat modeling might be more important as automated test coverage is sketchier
- Knowing trust boundaries more important given where app lands

# Help Dev Teams Build Pipelines with Security Baked in



- Understand trade-offs of time/depth of testing
  - Understand what you're getting and not getting
- Develop alternative dual-track testing models
- Iterative & tweak pipeline designs



# Key Takeaways

- **Digital Transformation + Tech Stack Change = AppSec reset**
- **This change represents an opportunity to further security interests**
- **If not you, you risk recreating the legacy problems you inherited**



Q&A + Wrap up

**@johnbdickson**