



19th June 2024 | 15Hatfields, London SE1 8DJ

Agenda for today:



SCAN ME



Welcome to the 2<sup>nd</sup> NHS Cyber Security Conference!



19th June 2024  
9am – 5:30pm  
15Hatfields, London



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## Chair Opening Address



**Bharat Thakrar**  
CISO, Security Lead - ISF



## Interview Session - Changing the Culture of an organisation



**Mike Culshaw**  
CTO - Pennine Care FT



**Barry Richardson**  
Head of Cyber Security and  
Information Security  
NHS Blood and Transplant





## Balancing innovation and cyber security Panel Discussion



**Mike Culshaw**  
CTO - Pennine Care  
FT



**Barry Richardson**  
Head of Cyber Security  
and Information Security  
NHS Blood and Transplant



**Andrei Hinodache**  
Cybersecurity Strategist  
& Community Leader  
Heimdal



**Main Sponsor...**

**THREATLOCKER**



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Speaking Now...



**Seamus Lennon**  
Vice President of Operations for EMEA  
ThreatLocker



# Refreshments & Networking



## Chair Morning Reflection



**Bharat Thakrar**  
CISO, Security Lead - ISF





## Case Study...





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Speaking Now...



**Michael Adjei**  
Director, Systems Engineering  
EMEA at Illumio





## Case Study...





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Speaking Now...



**Javvad Malik**

Lead Security Awareness Advocate  
KnowBe4





Speaking Now...



**Craig Kilgour**

Robotic Process Automation Lead  
NHS Arden & GEM Commissioning Support Unit

# Tackling weak passwords in active directory

Robotic Process Automation (RPA)

Craig Kilgour

NHS Arden & GEM CSU

[www.ardengemcsu.nhs.uk/rpa](http://www.ardengemcsu.nhs.uk/rpa)



# Cyber threats to healthcare

When NHS IT infrastructure is compromised, patient care is disrupted and delayed

The WannaCry  
ransomware attack in  
2017 cost the NHS  
**£92m**

Last year, in just 6 months,  
the NHS was hit with over  
**43,000**  
phishing emails



Last summer's ransomware  
attack, targeting software  
used for patient check-ins,  
medical notes and NHS 111  
services, took some systems  
**offline for four  
weeks**

The latest cyber-attack on  
London hospitals caused  
disruption that will take “many  
months” to resolve

Strong and varied passwords are one of the easiest ways to protect from cyber threats



# Understanding the extent of weak passwords



External security audits necessitated a comprehensive understanding of weak passwords across five Active Directory domains and 50,000 users.



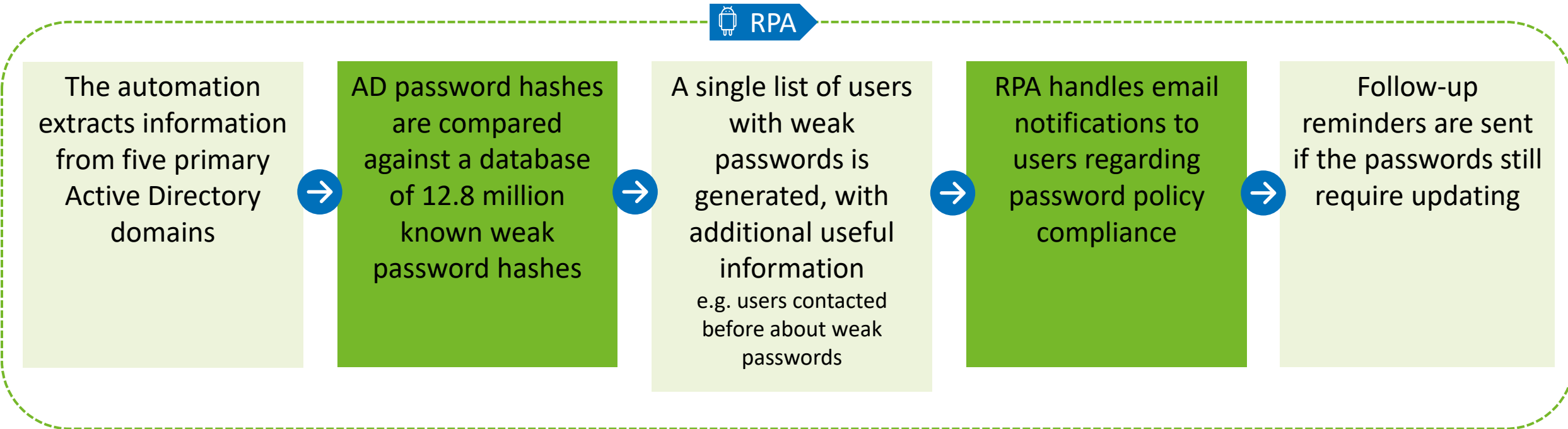
Compiling, monitoring and maintaining lists of users with weak passwords was complex and time-consuming.



It required 70+ hours each month (spread across 4 employees) to complete this task.

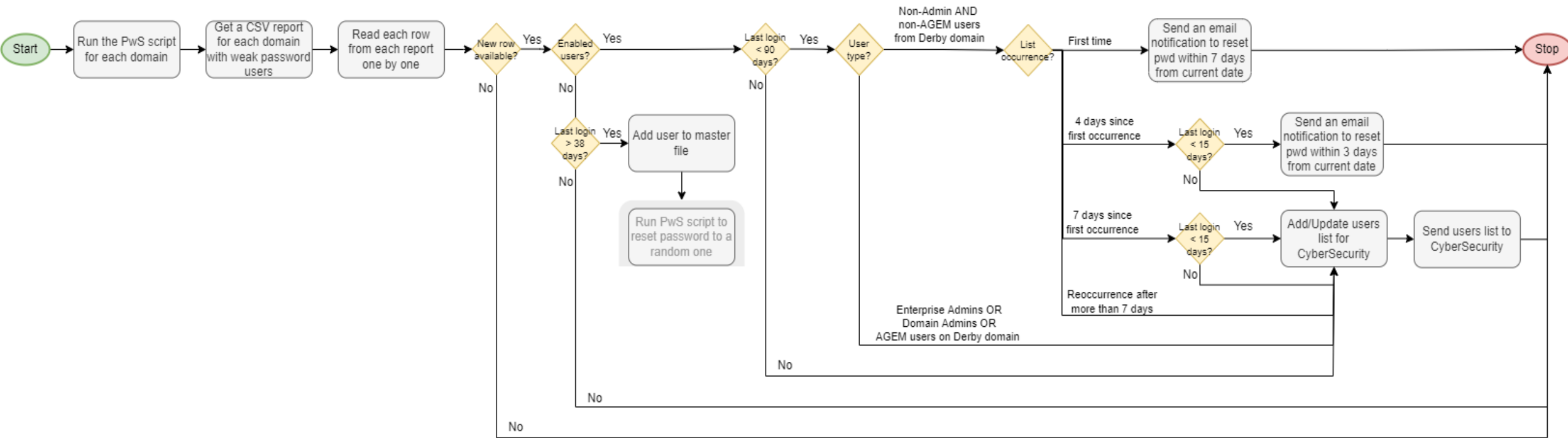
# Leveraging RPA

**Arden & GEM leveraged Robotic Process Automation (RPA) to streamline their process.**



*The process runs every 24 hours so that users can be sent further appropriate prompts, with non-compliance being escalated to the Cyber Security team after an agreed time period.*

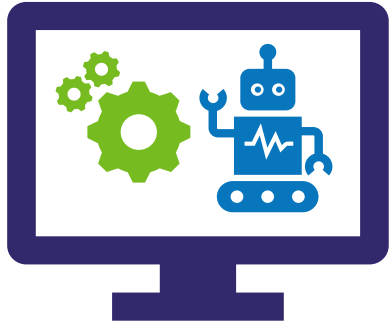
# RPA – Solution workflow





# Project outcomes

This process has significantly reduced weak passwords across Active Directory domains, enhancing security posture and audit readiness.



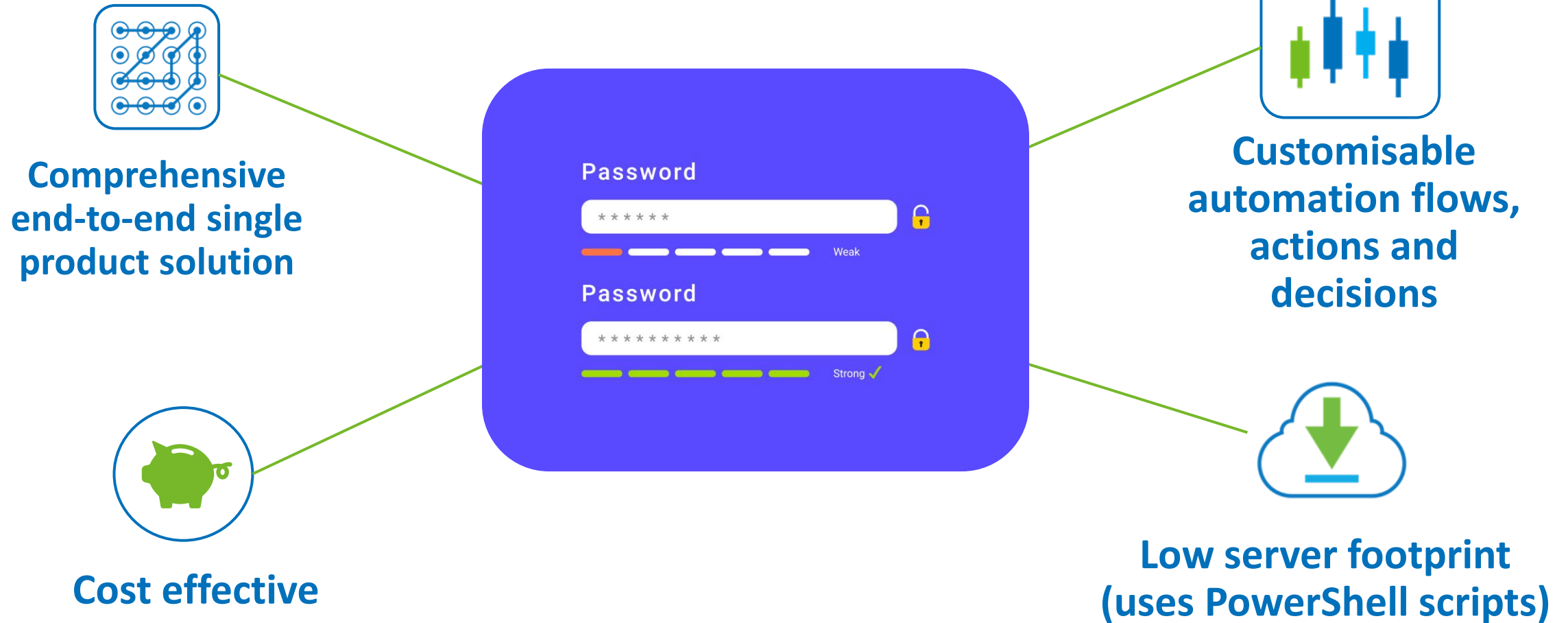
The process is fully auditable and transparent, with impressive results:

- + **77%** of users change their passwords after the first email
- + **18%** respond to the second email
- + **5%** require manual intervention by staff.

It has also freed up resources for more engaging tasks and provided customers with detailed statistics on Active Directory security.



# Why use RPA to crack the problem?



# Any questions?



Get in touch with us at:

 [www.ardengemcsu.nhs.uk](http://www.ardengemcsu.nhs.uk)

 @ardengem

 [contact.ardengem@nhs.net](mailto:contact.ardengem@nhs.net)





## Case Study...





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Speaking Now...



**Elliott Wilkes**  
CTO and Co-Founder  
Advanced Cyber Defence Systems





# Lunch & Networking



## Chair Afternoon Address



**Bharat Thakrar**  
CISO, Security Lead - ISF



## Case Study...







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Speaking Now...



**Anjay Mandalia**  
Principal SE - TXOne



Speaking Now...



**Bharat Thakrar**  
CISO, Security Lead - ISF





## Case Study...





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Speaking Now...



**Bebe Lees BSc.**

Psychology, Dip HRD, Author and Head of  
Communications - The Security Company Ltd.





## Cross Sector Analysis



**Gavin Stone**

Intelligence Officer. Mentor & Trainer. Body Language Expert. Media Talent & Public Speaker - Best Selling Author. Guest Host NBC Radio.



# Drinks and Networking



**Thank you for attending The 2nd NHS  
Cyber Security Conference!**



**Scan here to book onto our next NHS  
Cyber Security Conference in May!**