The Quantum Threat (& Opportunity)

To Financial Services

Thursday, 18 July 2019

85 Gresham Street,

City Of London

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A Word From Our Chair

Michael Mainelli
Co-Chairman
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Established 2004

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Chatham House Rule

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What FS Club & Long Finance Do

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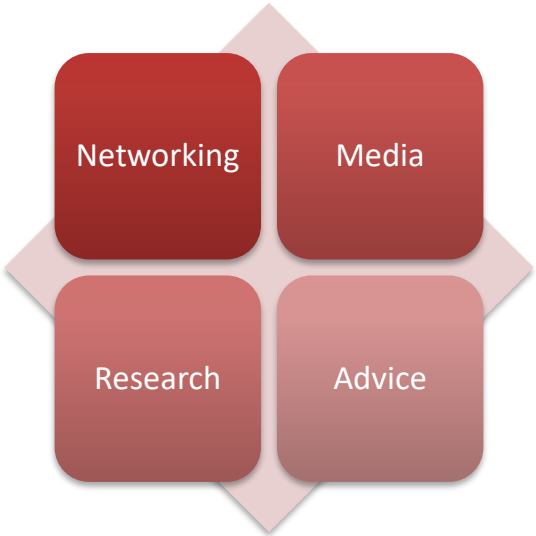

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Smart Centres Index:
The Environment For The
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Z/Yen Group


Capital Markets Innovations:
Institutional Trading Liquidity
Dr Robert Barnes, Chartered FCSI

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Corporate Actions: The Case Of The Missing Billions

Sander Eijkenduijn, CFO Scorpeo LLC
Andy Agathangelou, Founder, Transparency Task Force

Wednesday, 04 September 2019 18:00

Launch Of Global Financial Centres Index 26, Seoul

Monday, 09 September 2019

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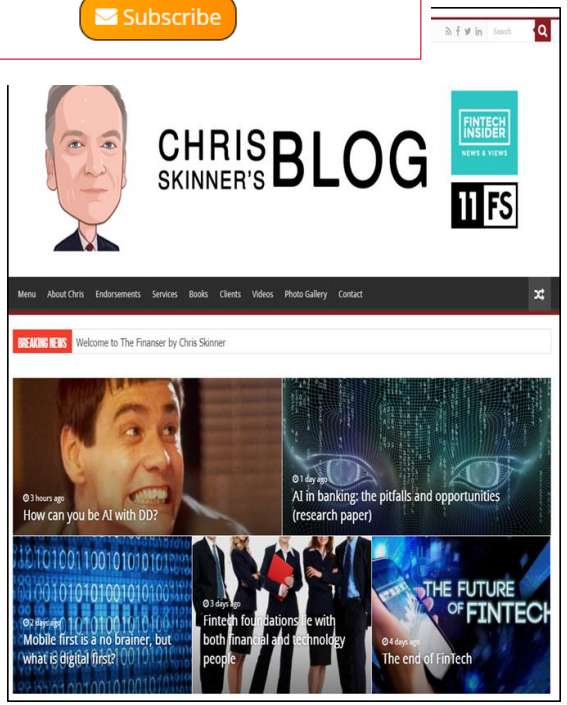
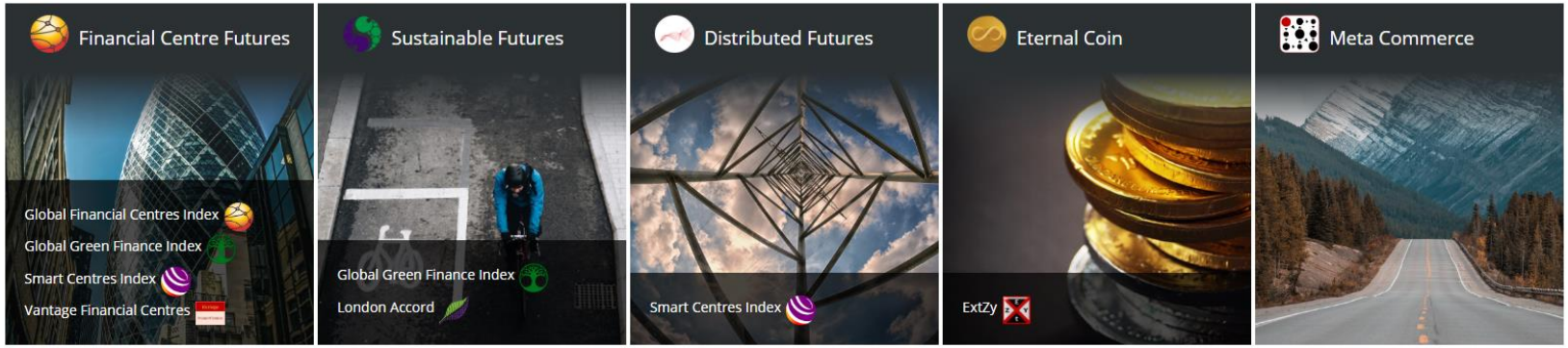
Financial Services Club Perspectives

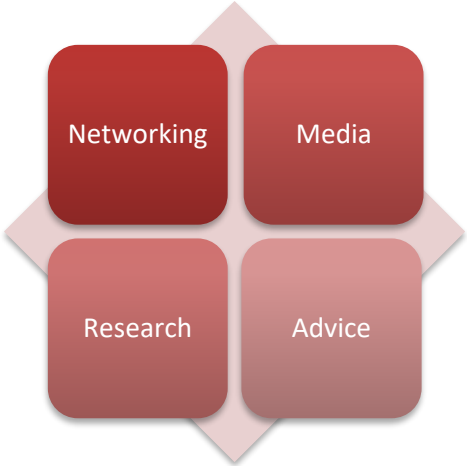


What Long Finance Does

“When would we know our financial system is working?”

This is the question underlying Long Finance’s goal to improve society’s understanding and use of finance over the long-term. In contrast to the short-termism that defines today’s economic views, the Long Finance time-frame is roughly 100 years.





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Recent Research

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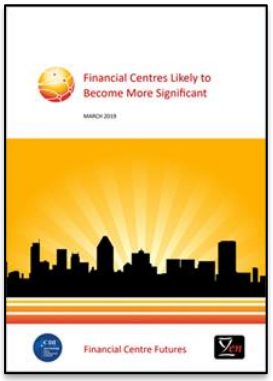
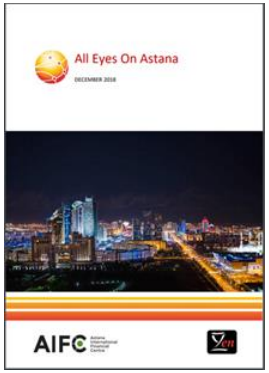
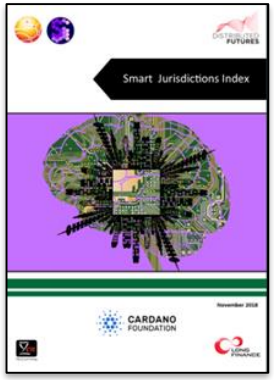
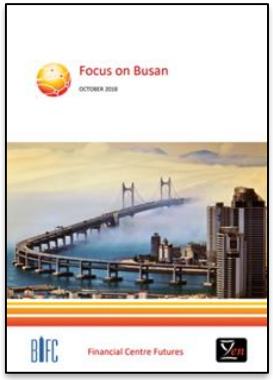
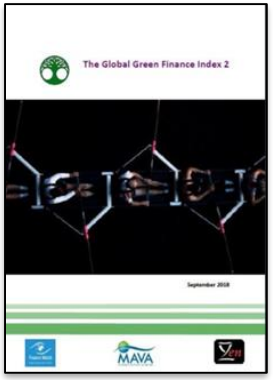
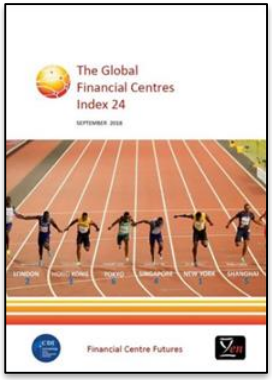


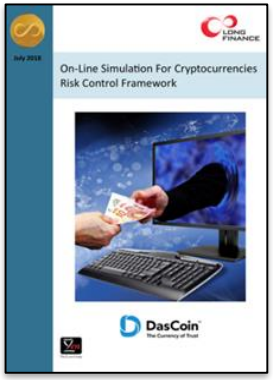


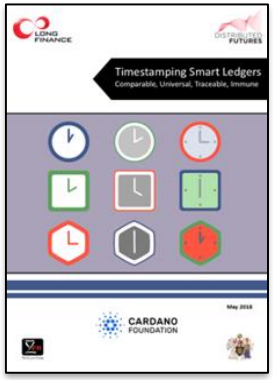


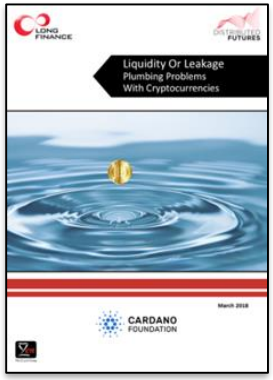




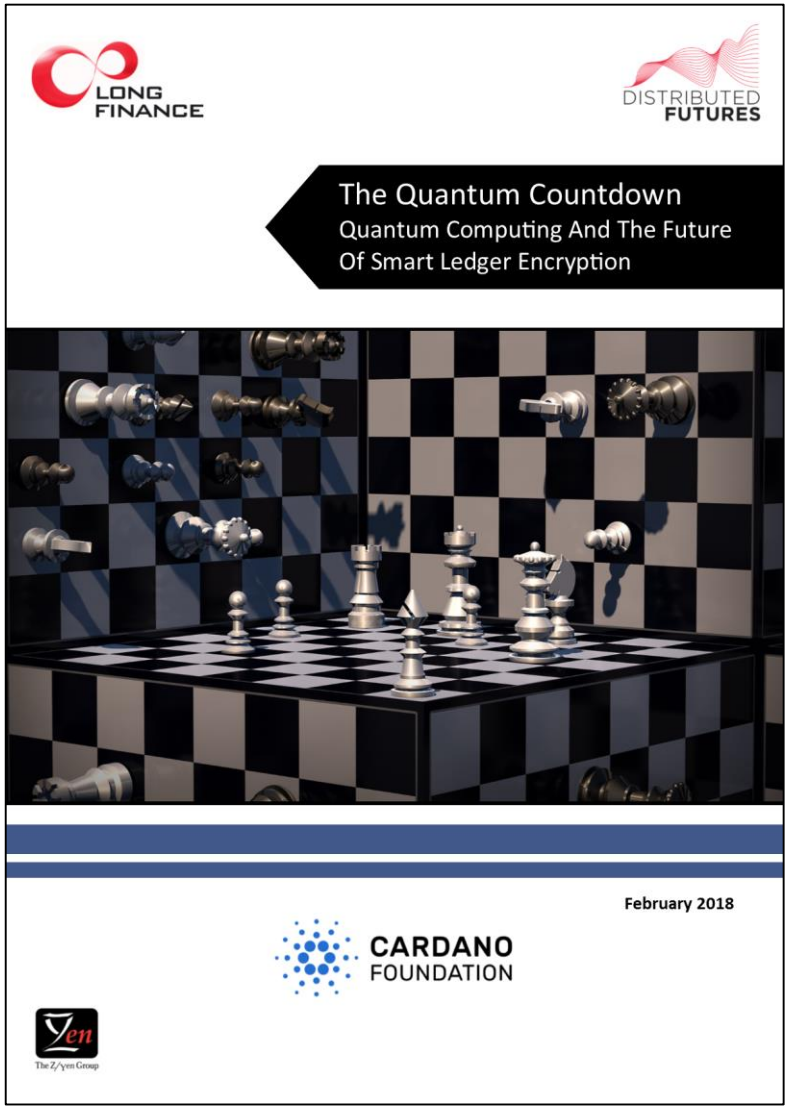








Our 2018 Report



Read The Report Here:
https://www.zyen.com/media/documents/Quantum_Countdown.pdf

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The Quantum Threat…

Maury Shenk
Managing Director
Lily Innovation

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The Post-Quantum Cryptography Problem

3 ***Large-scale*** 2 ***quantum computers*** would pose 4 ***a serious threat*** to the security of 1 ***public key cryptography***

So 6 ***what should affected entities do***, and 5 ***when***?

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Symmetric Cryptography

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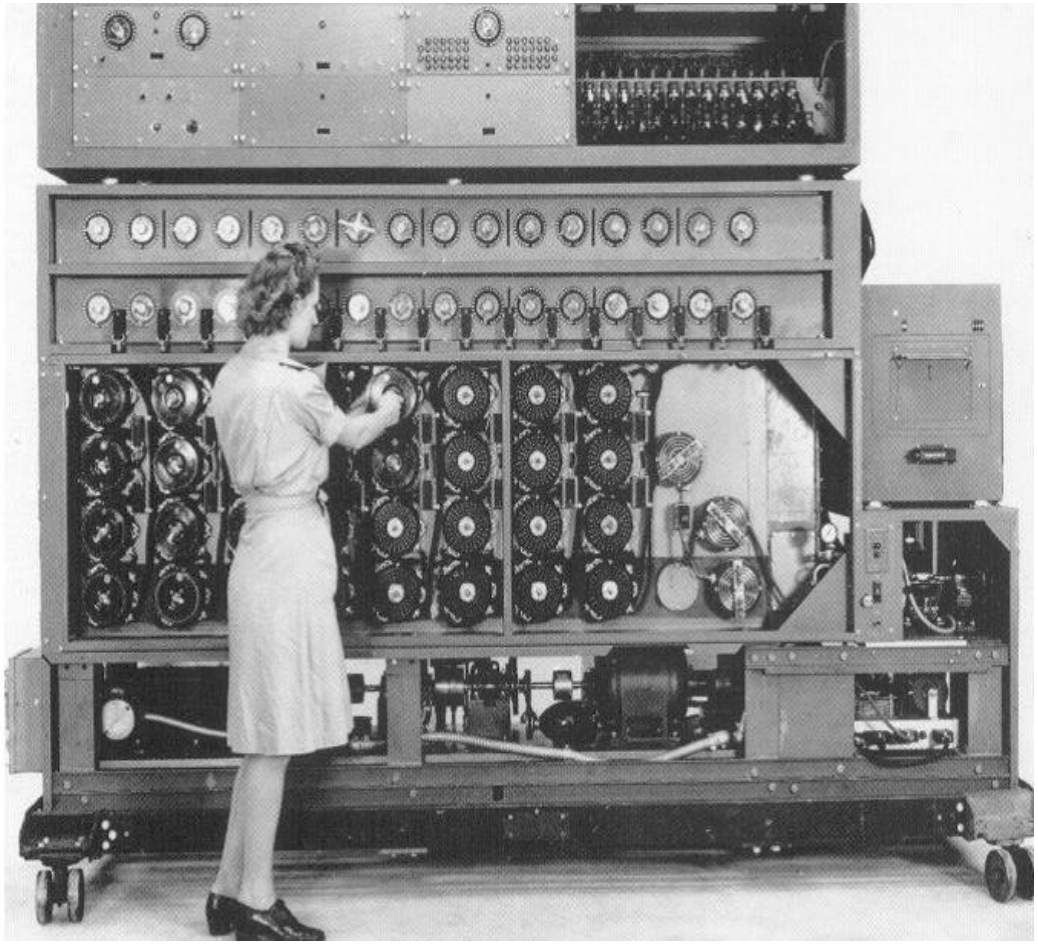
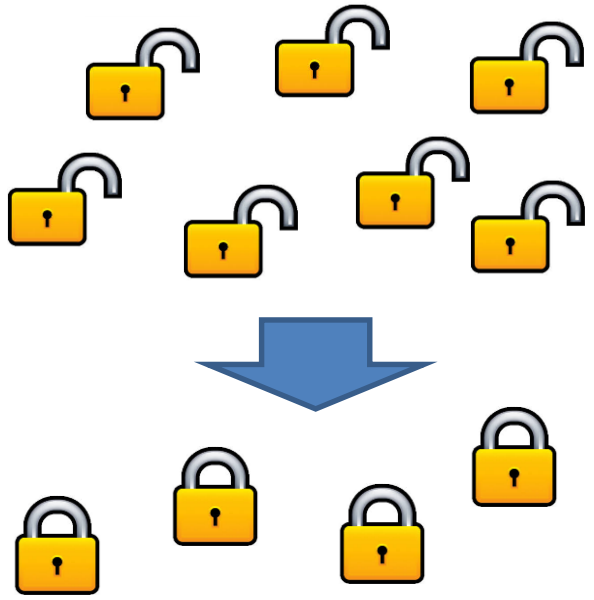


Public Key Cryptography

- Uses public and private keys for each communication, avoiding need for key exchange
- Based on problems that are "hard" in one direction (*eg* knapsack problem or integer factorisation)
- Secures many aspects of electronic communications and authentication



Technique	Sender Uses	Recipient Uses	Why It Works
Public key secure communication	Recipient's public key	Recipient's private key	Only recipient (using her private key) can read messages encrypted with her public key
Public key digital signature	Sender's private key	Sender's public key	Only sender can sign with her private key, and recipient can use the sender's public key to confirm signature

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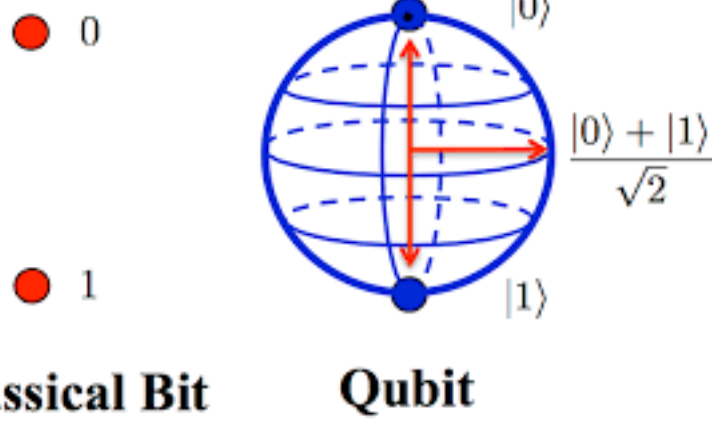
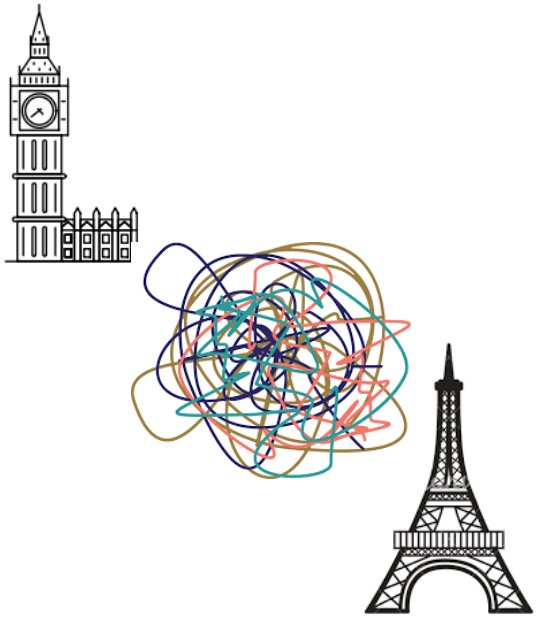
Quantum Phenomena



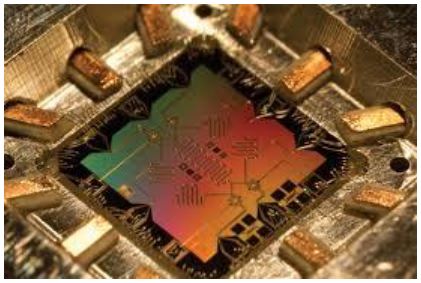


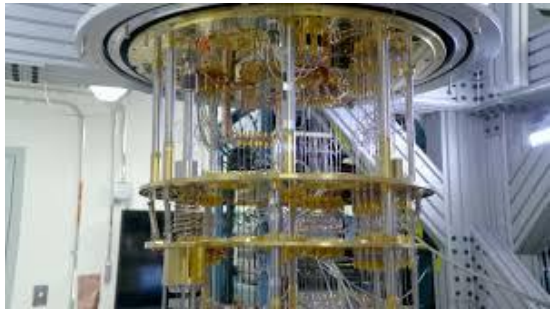
Superposition

Entanglement

Quantum Computers

- Proposed by Richard Feynman in 1981
- Progress with entangled qubits
  - 1998 – 2 (Oxford)
  - 2011 – 14 (academics in Austria and Canada)
  - 2018 – 72 (Google)
- Physical qubits (the numbers above)
  - Low-temperature devices showing quantum effects
  - Decoherence – ~100 microseconds for operational quantum computers
- Logical qubits (do not exist yet)
  - Stable computing devices
  - ~1000 - 10,000 physical qubits required for one logical qubit
  - 3000-5000 logical qubits required to attack current public key cryptography





The Post-Quantum Cryptography Problem

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So 6 ***what should affected entities do***, and 5 ***when***?

The Quantum Threat

- The new math!
- Shor's algorithm
  - Discovered in 1994 at Bell Laboratories
  - Would allow a sufficiently powerful quantum computer to solve quickly the hard problems underlying the most common public key cryptography algorithms (including RSA, ECDSA, Diffie-Hellman)
    - RSA is commonly used for securing web connections
    - ECDSA is standard algorithm for blockchain signatures
    - "Sufficiently powerful" means about 3000-5000 logical qubits for RSA-2048
  - Prompted increased interest in quantum computers
- Grover's algorithm
  - Discovered in 1996 at Bell Laboratories
  - Provides quadratic speed-up for attacking symmetric cryptography and hash algorithms (used for authentication, including on blockchains)
- But there are good alternatives that avoid these threats

The Post-Quantum Cryptography Problem

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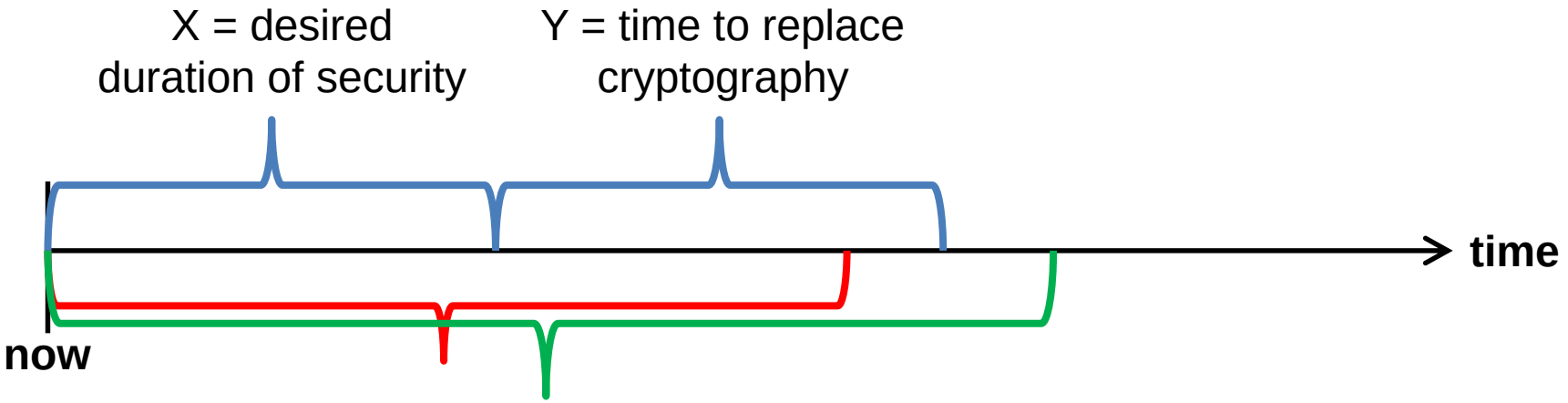
So 6 ***what should affected entities do***, and 5 ***when***?

The Mosca Inequality



- For each system:
  - If X + Y < Z, there is time to act
  - If X + Y > Z, it may already be too late to entirely avoid the post-quantum cryptography problem
- Some systems may fall into the second category, especially where X is very large – e.g. blockchain / Smart Ledgers, life insurance, bonds

The Post-Quantum Cryptography Problem

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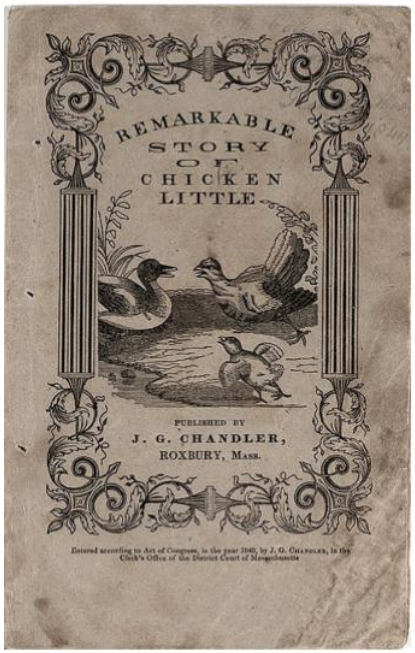
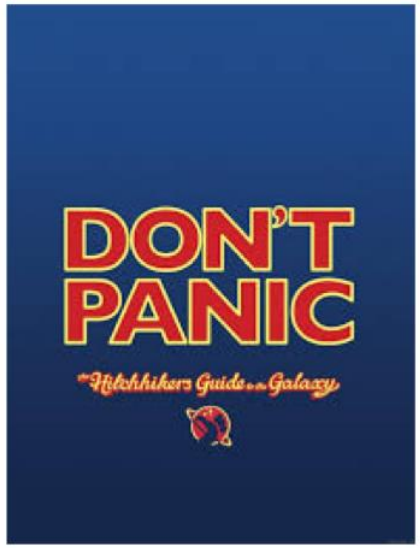
So 6 ***what should affected entities do***, and 5 ***when***?

Don’t Panic

- Is this like the Y2K problem? – but no certain deadline
- Maybe more like climate change? – uncertainty as to timing and impacts

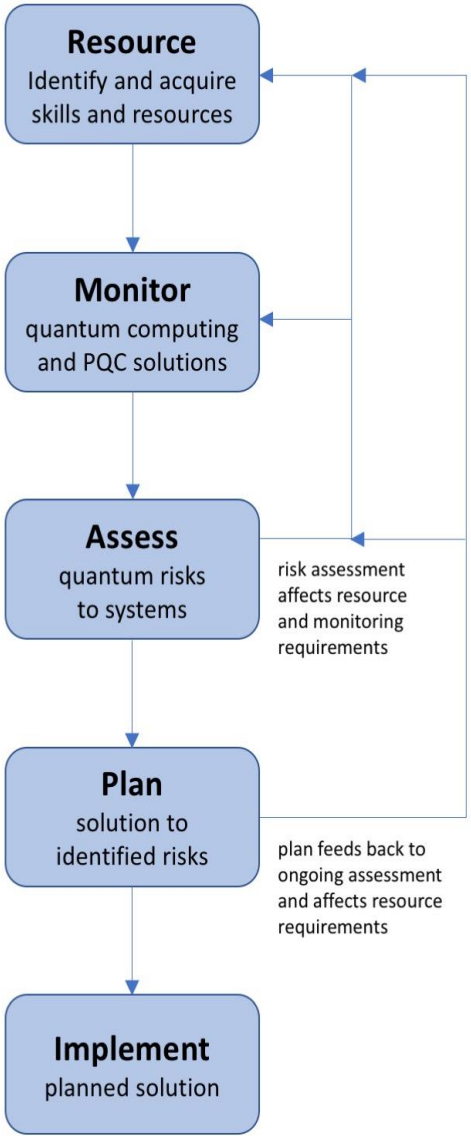




Good Solutions Exist or Are Coming

- EU PQCRYPTO recommendations (2015)
- US National Institute of Standards and Technology competition (launched 2016)
  - 69 Round 1 submissions in early 2018
  - Round 2 candidates announced Feb. 2019 – 17 public key confidentiality algorithms and 9 digital signature algorithms
  - Originally expected to conclude around 2022
- Promising families of quantum-resistant algorithms
  - Lattice
  - Signature-based
  - Code-based
  - Multivariate
  - Supersingular elliptic curve isogeny

A Programme of Action



- An obvious conclusion?
  - New systems should be quantum resistant from the start, to avoid risks (and costs of re-engineering)
  - But many new systems are not taking this approach, including because most familiar / off-the-shelf components are not quantum-resistant

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The Quantum Threat…

Panel Discussion

Maury Shenk
Managing Director
Lily Innovation

Michael Mainelli
Co-Chairman
FS Club

Henry Price
Imperial College
London

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Questions, Comments & Answers(?)

Forthcoming Events...

Building Robust Investment Strategies

Andrew Craig, Founder, Plain English Finance
Roderick Collins, Director, Solent Systematic Investment Strategies
Wednesday, 14 August 2019 12:00

Corporate Actions: The Case Of The Missing Billions

Sander Eijkenduijn, CFO Scorpeo LLC

Wednesday, 04 September 2019 18:00

Central Bank Independence & The Future Of The Euro

Professor Panicos Demetriades

Thursday, 03 October 2019 18:00
Pewterers' Hall, The Worshipful Company of Pewterers, Pewterers' Hall, Oat Lane, London

Identity: What's Needed For The City?

Hugh Morris, CEO, ChainZy

Thursday, 17 October 2019 18:00
Pewterers' Hall, The Worshipful Company of Pewterers, Pewterers' Hall, Oat Lane, London

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Thank You!

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