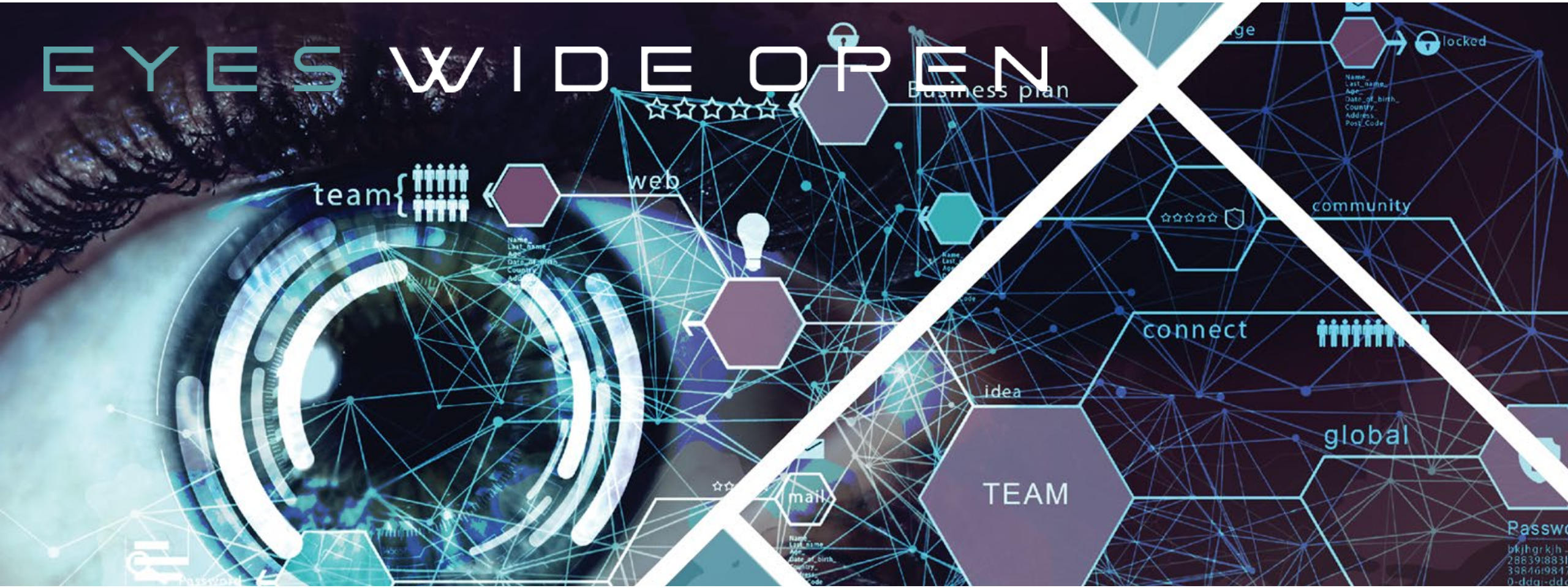
12TH ANNUAL LEADERSHIP EVENT

CYBER SECURITY SUMMIT

Security solutions through collaboration.™

TITLE SPONSOR

Island



Breaking into Cyber
A Tale of Two Careers

Jessa Gegax and William McCloskey

About Me

Information Security Testing Analyst at Surescripts

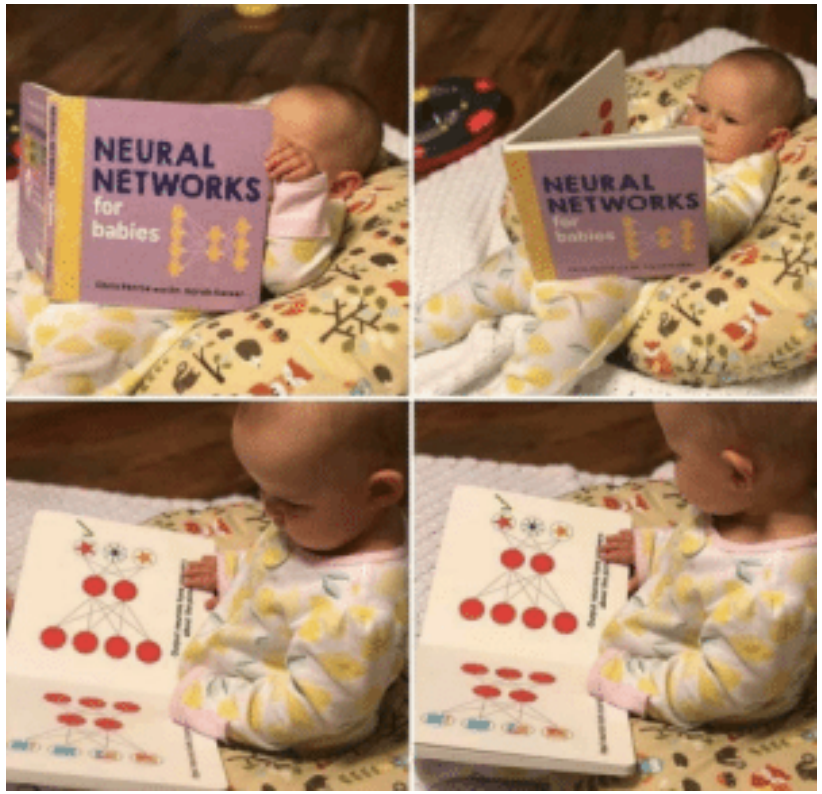
University of Wyoming Alumni with BS in Computer Science and minor in Environment and Natural Resources

YTT-200 Certified Yoga Instructor

How did I get into this career in the first place?

Cybersecurity experience I brought to my role

Undergraduate student research



Capture the Flag competitions

Joining CTFs for the prize money

Joining CTFs to learn

Who and what has helped me along my path to being a successful infosec professional

Networking!

- Professors
- Women in Cybersecurity (WiCyS)
- Conferences

Interpersonal Connections

- Friend and Colleague Support
- YTT-200 Teacher Training

My first few months in infosec!

Expectations vs. reality

- Cybersecurity community
- Corporate world

Challenges

- Impostor syndrome
- Work-life balance

Will McCloskey

Manager, Threat Management

About Me

Manager, Threat Management at Surescripts

13 years at Surescripts

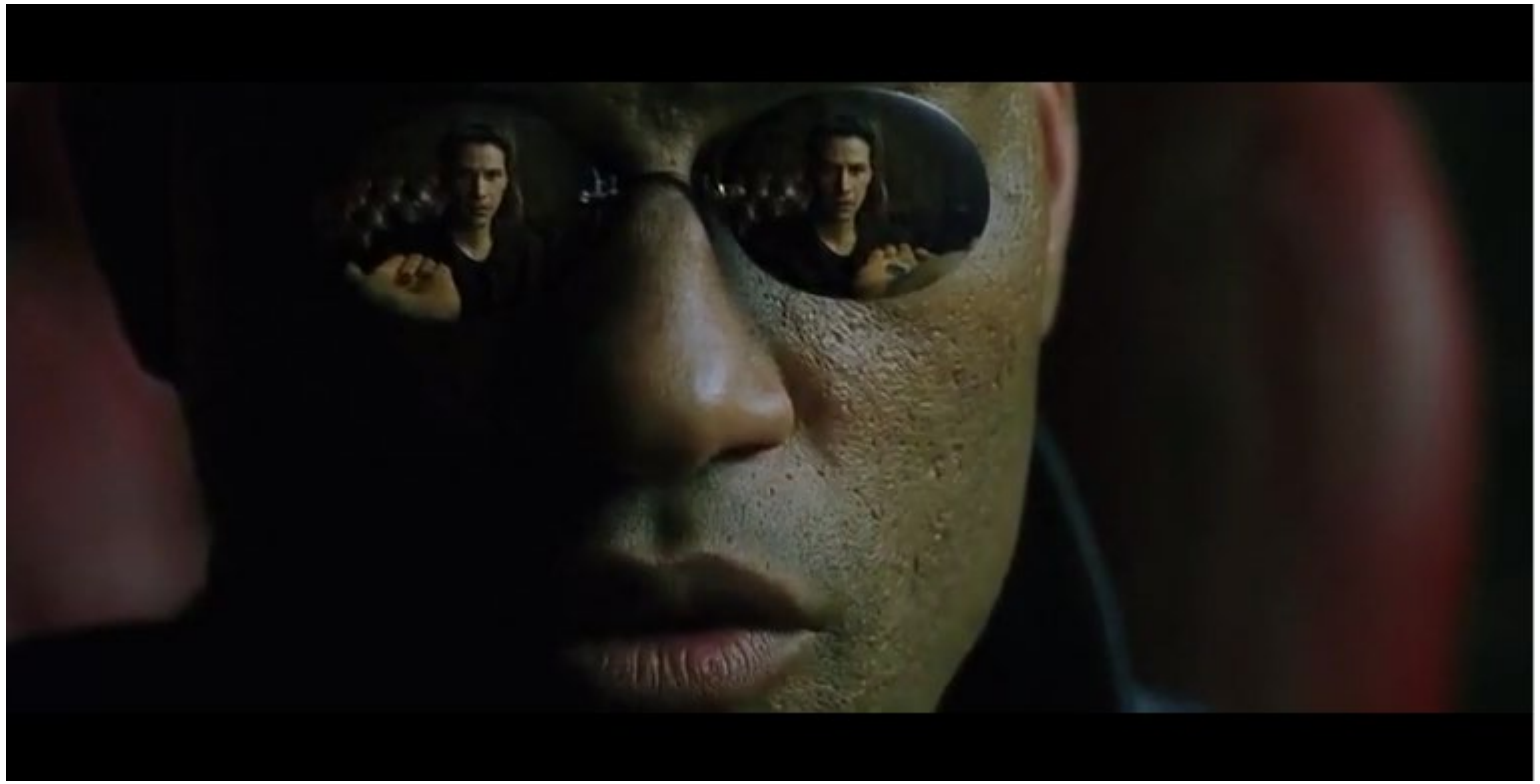
20 years working in multiple facets of IT,
Joined Surescripts InfoSec team in 2021

How did I get into this career in the first place?

Started at a young age

- Broke my fair share of technology growing up
- Found my passions were all based around technology
- Let me passion drive my career
- After years of general IT, found myself always coming back to InfoSec

Making the transition to InfoSec



The first few months

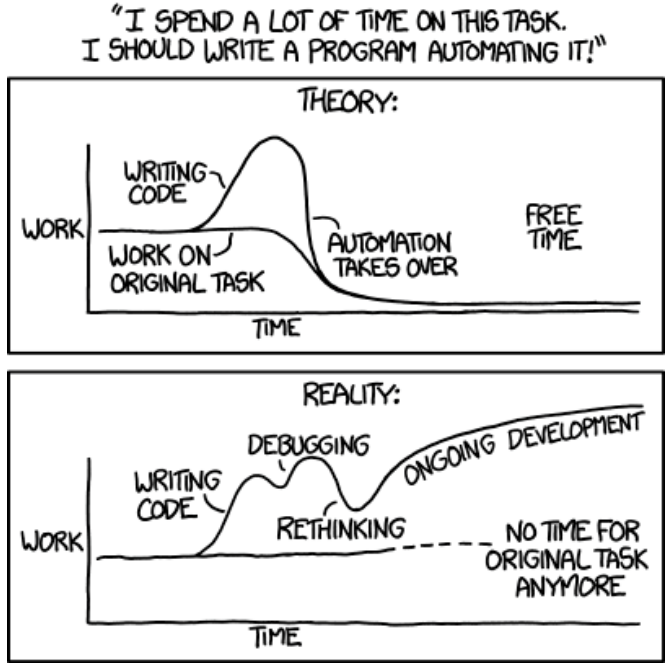
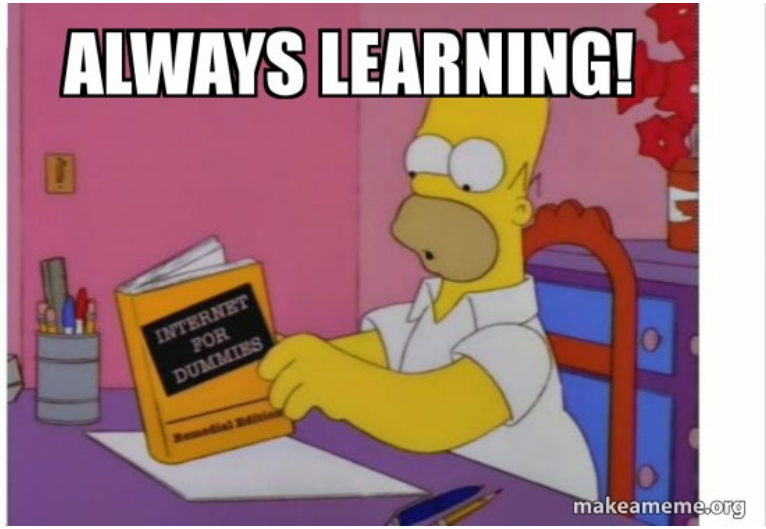
- A whole new view of what I though I knew
- Impostor syndrome round 2
- Overwhelmed with sense of scale and severity of the risks and threats
- Learning to trust my skills all over again
- Finding my balance

What's next?

Where do I see my work headed in the next year and beyond…

Finding my focus, What can we fix and how do we defend against everything else

Automation will be a key to success



Continued education and learning is key. The mouse traps won't get better on their own