National Cryptologic Foundation: Convening to Act

Insights: Accelerating Adoption of QRC at the C-Level

J.R. Rao IBM Fellow and CTO, Security Research

March 11, 2025



Agenda

- 01 Starting your quantum-safe journey
- 02 Identifying dependencies
- 03 Understanding your exposure
- 04 Navigating the quantum-safe transformation

Cryptography impacts everything

Cryptography touches every corner of the digital world

Internet protocols



Domain Name Service(DNS), Hyper-text Transfer Protocol (HTTP), Telnet, SFTP

Critical infrastructure



Code updates; Control systems- Oil pipelines, Electric grids; Carsystems,...

Blockchain applications



Coin wallets, Transactions, Authentication

Digital signature laws

ŕ	

EiDAS - PDF Advanced Electronic Signature – (PAdES), Advanced Electronic Signatures (AES), ...

Financial systems



Payment Systems: (EMV, SWIFT, Settlement Systems, FinTech, ...)

Enterprise applications



EMAIL – PGP, Identity Management PKI/LDAP/.., Virus scanning patterns, PKI Services



Our digital world depends on cryptography, which is used in trillions of transactions on billions of devices

Internet

Domain name system (DNS), Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTPS), Telnet, file transfer protocol (FTPS)

Digital signatures

Electronic identification and trust services (eIDAS), PDF advanced electronic signature (PAdES), advanced electronic signatures

Critical infrastructure

Code updates, control systems, car systems

Financial systems

Payment systems: EMV, CHAPS, Fedwire, TARGET2, EURO1 SWIFT, settlement systems

Blockchain

Wallets, transactions, authentication

Enterprise

Email: PGP, identity management, PKI, LDAP; virus scanning patterns; PKI services; bespoke applications

Systems have long update cycles



What will a cyber criminal be able to do?



IBM Quantum-Safe Readiness Index

The average quantum-safe readiness score: 21 out of 100



Measuring progress toward quantum-safe readiness

	Maximum 50	Maximum 33 Maximum 17
Average 10.43	Average 6.98	Average 3.32
21% complete Discovery	21% complete Observability	20% complete Transformation

IBM Institute of Business Value

- 14 indicators
- Grouped into the three categories



 Surveyed 565 CxOs across 15 countries and 13 industries: organizations with a minimum \$250 million in annual revenue

©2025 IBM Corporation

https://www.ibm.com/thought-leadership/institute-business-value/en-us/report/quantum-safe

Key Discussions with C-Suite

Lack of awareness

Weak or no data inventory



Legacy systems/processes



No budget for migration





No cryptography inventory No cryptography strategy



Enterprises operate with many dependencies

Cryptographic transformation begins with a clear understanding of business objectives, assets, and dependencies, coupled with a strong governance model.

Once we can understand the dependencies, we can assess the risk, prioritize vulnerabilities, and plan remediation actions accordingly.





How to manage cryptography transition? It's all about context!



Methodology and Technologies for Migration



Three Case Examples and Lessons Learned



Consortia

Quantum Safe leadership and collaboration

Consortia are critical for raising awareness, uniting ecosystems, and enabling the adoption of postquantum cryptography at scale.

We are working across industry, open-source, and government-based groups to serve our strategic market segments and to establish broad market credibility.



Key take aways

Quantum threatens our digital security

Quantum computers threaten current cryptography

The Quantum Threat is already **relevant today**

Cryptography is **difficult to replace**

Industry sectors and Governments recommend to act

New cryptographic algorithms have been developed and standardized

Nations have **incorporated quantum-safe** preparation into their national quantum strategies

The European Commission encourages member states to develop a **comprehensive strategy** for the adoption of Post-Quantum Cryptography Organizations should take a reusable approach

Organizations must **prioritize** their efforts to address the quantum threat.

A **risk framework** should be used to identify and prioritize areas of high risk.

A **central team** approach is required to manage the complexity.

Authorities should **re-use own experience** and **interaction with industry associations** to ultimately drive regulation and certifications.

