


THREAT MODELLING

When you've never done it before



WHO AM I?

- ▶ Kade Morton
 - ▶ Security Consultant with Quantum Security
 - ▶ BA Criminology and Criminal Justice
 - ▶ Mentor Mozilla Open Leaders
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THIS IS THE STORY

- ▶ Of going from knowing nothing...
- ▶ To basic threat modelling
- ▶ This is the beginning but not the end



MOZILLA OPEN LEADERS

- ▶ <https://foundation.mozilla.org/en/opportunity/mozilla-open-leaders/>
- ▶ Mentees that have already been through OL are invited to be mentors
- ▶ You help mentees work through OL coursework
- ▶ Provide skills based assistance



WHO WAS I MENTORING?

- ▶ Asuntos del Sur
- ▶ ADS has the central objective of becoming a platform for deliberations and transformation actions to generate more democratic and inclusive societies in Latin America.



BASIC THREAT MODELLING

- ▶ Hacked together from Microsoft's STRIDE threat modelling approach
- ▶ Three questions:
 - ▶ What are you building?
 - ▶ What can go wrong? STRIDE
 - ▶ Spoofing of user identity
 - ▶ Tampering
 - ▶ Repudiation
 - ▶ Information disclosure
 - ▶ Denial of Service
 - ▶ Elevation of privileges
 - ▶ What are you going to do about it?



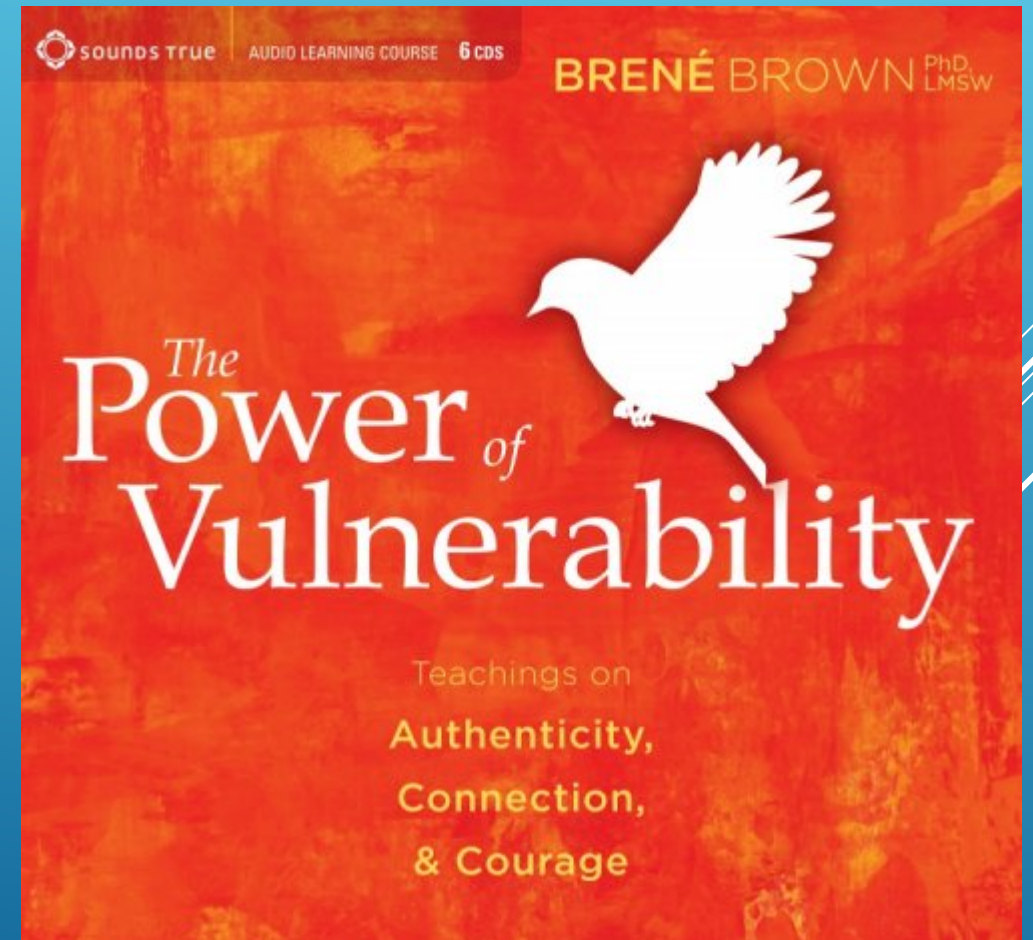
WHAT IS A RISK?

- ▶ A risk is the “possibility of loss or injury”
- ▶ An **event** that causes loss or injury



WHAT IS A VULNERABILITY?

- ▶ A vulnerability is “an opening to attack or damage”
- ▶ An **intrinsic aspect** about something that enables loss or injury



WHAT IS A THREAT?

- ▶ A threat is “an indication of something impending”
- ▶ **Something/someone** might inflict loss or injury



WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU PUT ALL THAT TOGETHER?

- ▶ We may all die (event, risk) because we are malnourished (intrinsic aspect, vulnerability) and can't fight off the plague (something, threat)
- ▶ Our web app may disclose information about users (event, risk) because hackers (someone, threat) exploit the lack of sanitising entries to input fields (intrinsic aspect, vulnerability) in our web app



WHAT IS THREAT MODELLING AND WHY WOULD I WANT TO DO IT?

- ▶ Threat modelling: identifying the ways that something/someone can inflict loss or injury to us
- ▶ They will leverage vulnerabilities
- ▶ The event of loss and injury is the risk
- ▶ Why threat model? To put things in place to minimise the loss or injury

**STOP
INJURIES
BEFORE
THEY OCCUR**



REMEMBER! BASIC THREAT MODELLING

▶ Three questions:

▶ **What are you building?**

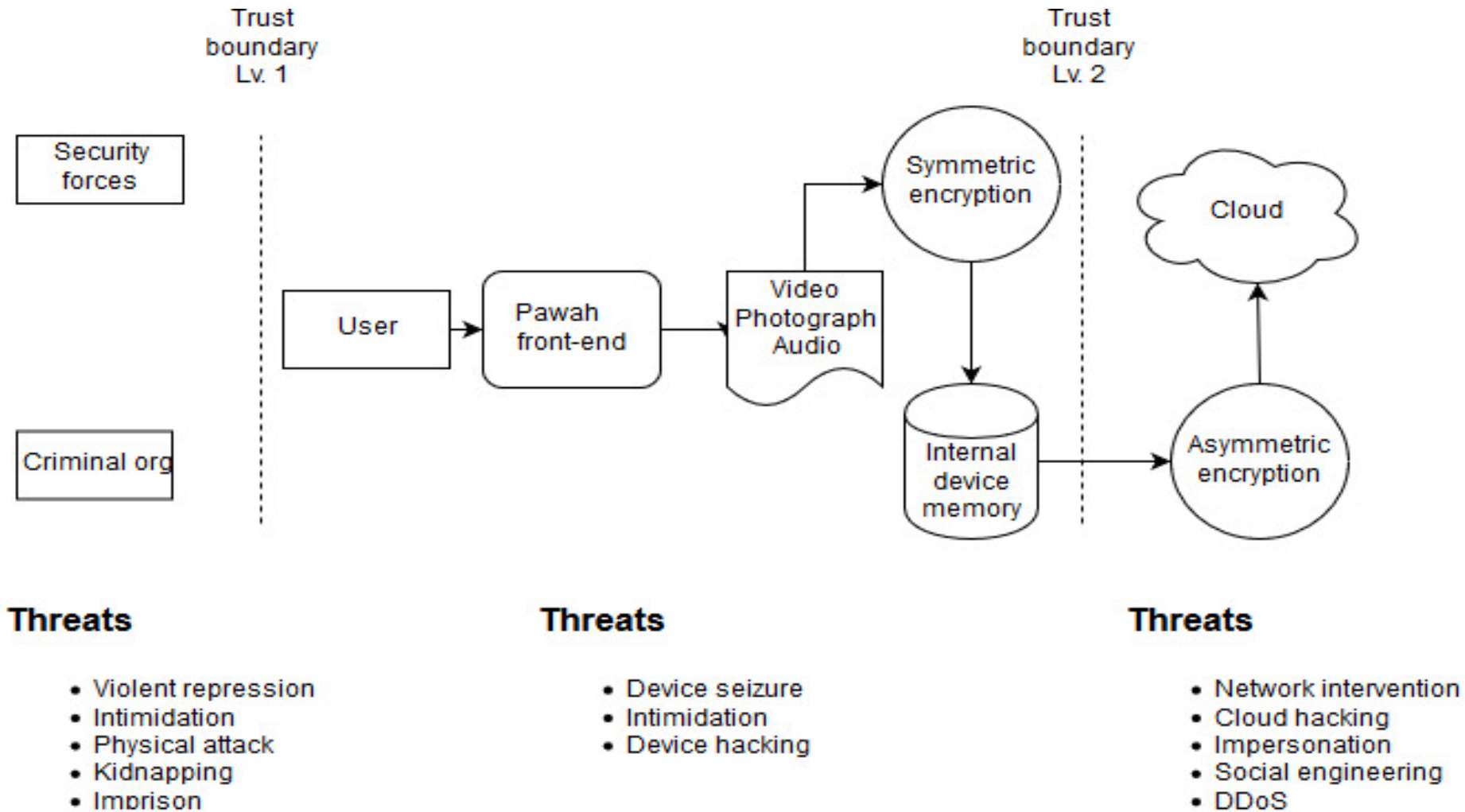
- ▶ What can go wrong?
- ▶ What are you going to do about it?



WHAT WAS ASUNTOS DEL SUR BUILDING?



- ▶ an app designed to defend the right to social protest
- ▶ ...an application that allows the confidential and comprehensive recording of evidence of acts of human rights violations so that they can be subsequently reported



Trust boundaries – data shifts environment

Boundary around the app on the phone and cloud storage

THIS IS ALL VERY HIGH LEVEL

- ▶ Need to go lower
 - ▶ Enumerate
 - ▶ Technology
 - ▶ Protocols
 - ▶ Functionality that can be abused (PIN reset)
 - ▶ Flesh out connected systems
 - ▶ Cloud storage
 - ▶ Spoiler alert: Code repository
 - ▶ Spoiler alert: Log server

"You can't just copy-paste pseudocode into a program and expect it to work"



REMEMBER! BASIC THREAT MODELLING

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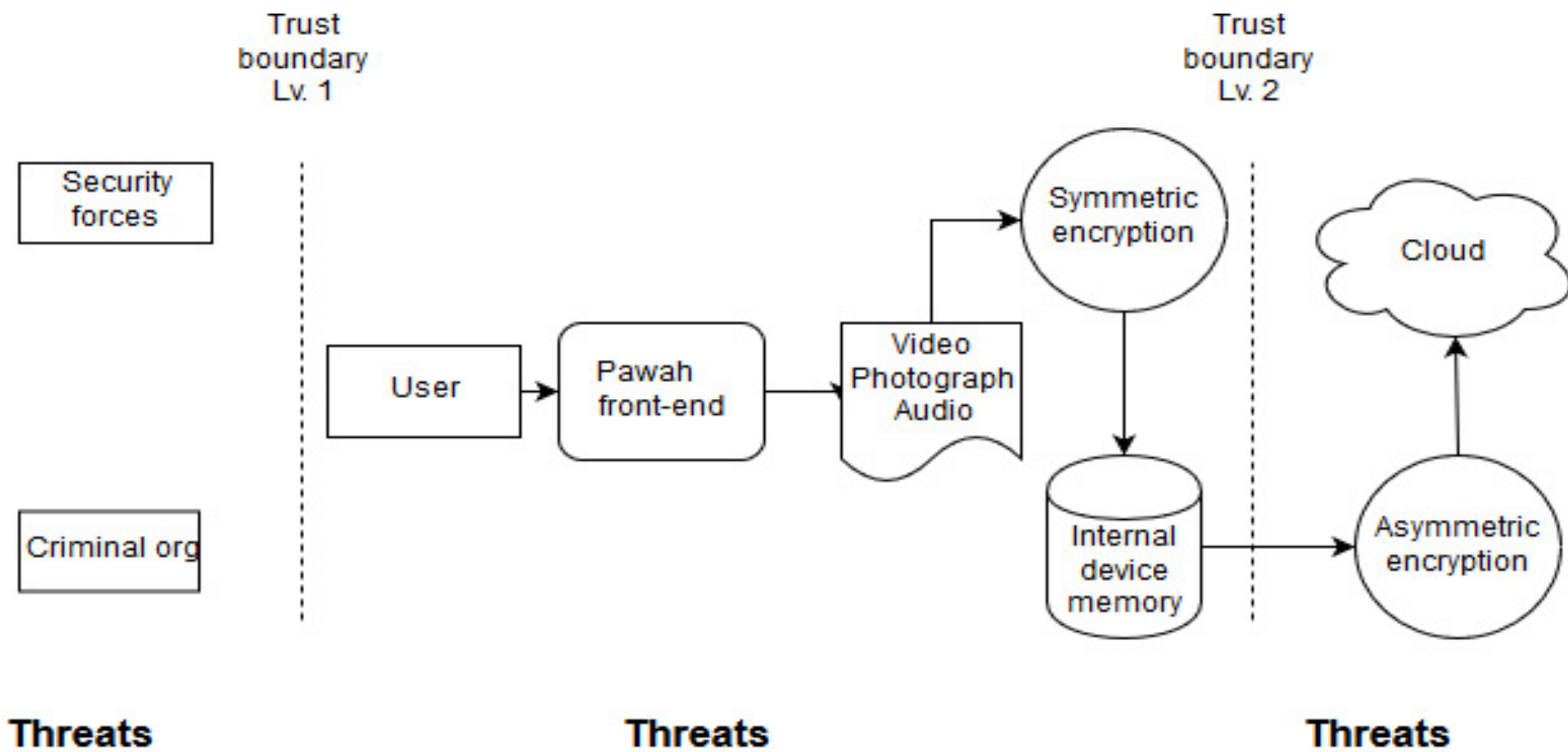
STRIDE

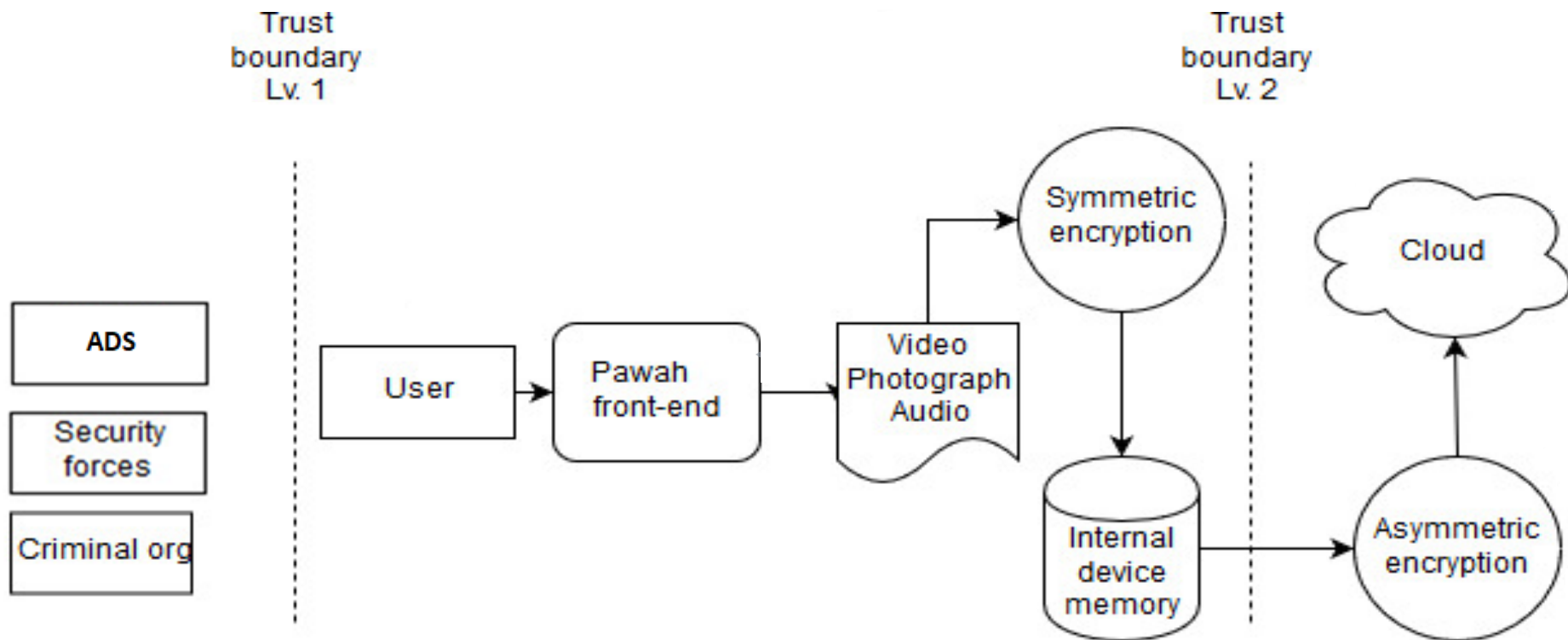
- ▶ Spoofing of User Identity
- ▶ Tampering
- ▶ Repudiation
- ▶ Information disclosure
- ▶ Denial of Service
- ▶ Elevation of privileges
 - ▶ Created by Microsoft
 - ▶ <https://web.archive.org/web/20070303103639/http://msdn.microsoft.com/msdnmag/issues/06/11/ThreatModeling/default.aspx>





STRIDE - SPOOFING OF USER IDENTITY





Threats

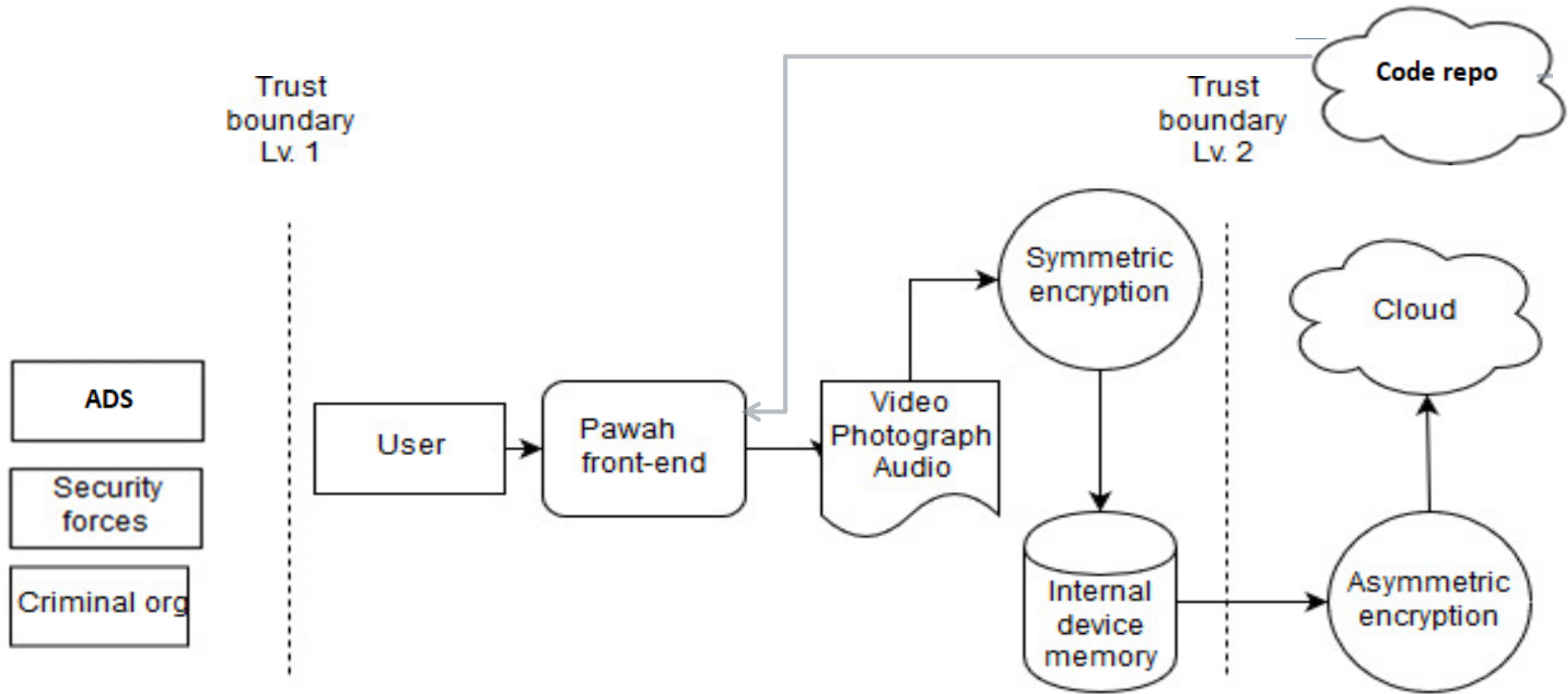
- External attacker impersonating user to access app
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Threats

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Threats

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Threats

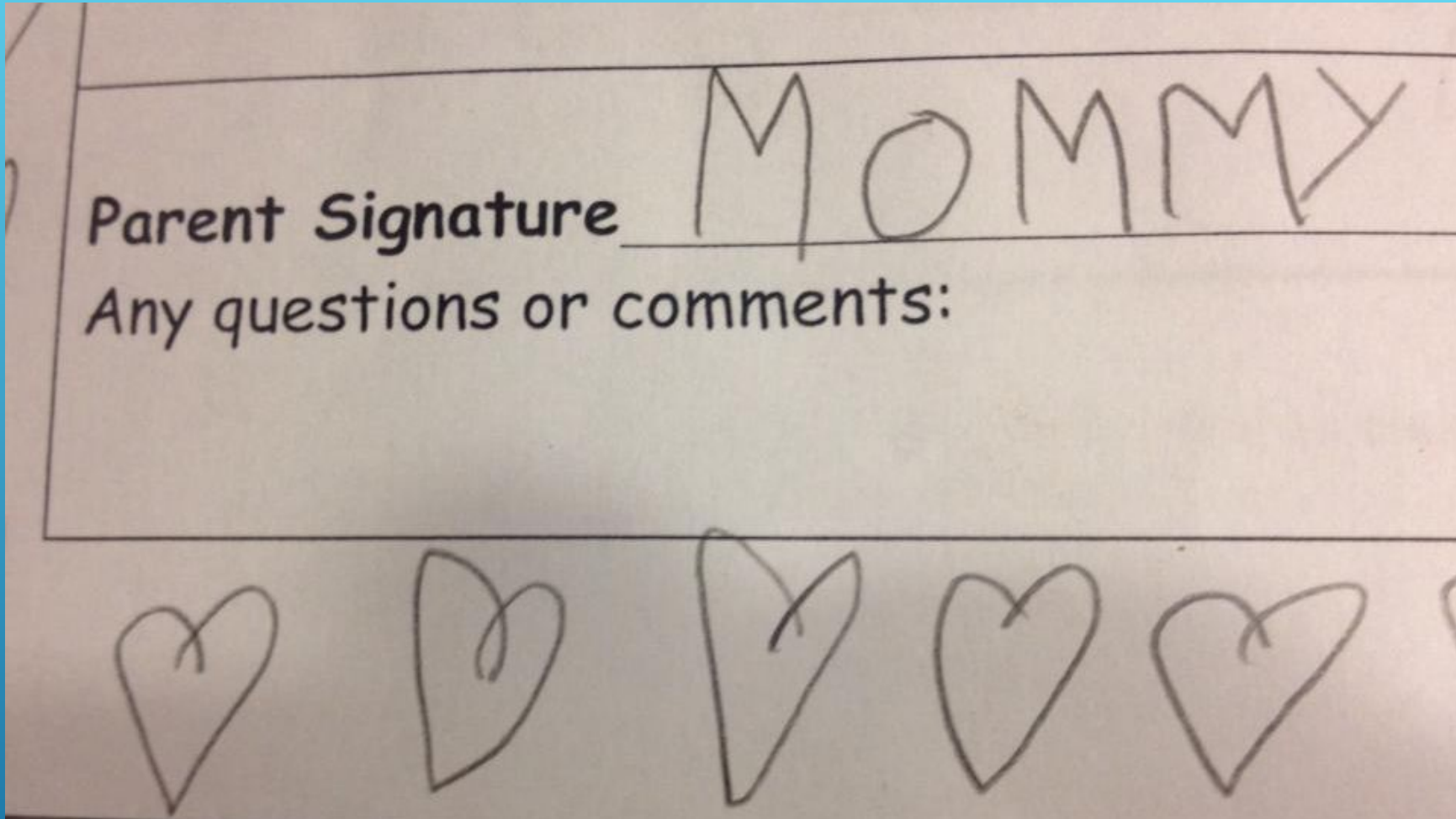
- External attacker impersonating user to access app
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Threats

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Threats

- External attacker impersonating staff to access code repository
- External attacker impersonating staff to access cloud storage
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STRIDE - TAMPERING