



# The core of identity security

Roles – What? Why? and How?

Steve Toole CISSP – Principal Solution Consultant



# Agenda

**Why roles?**

**Different approaches to building roles**

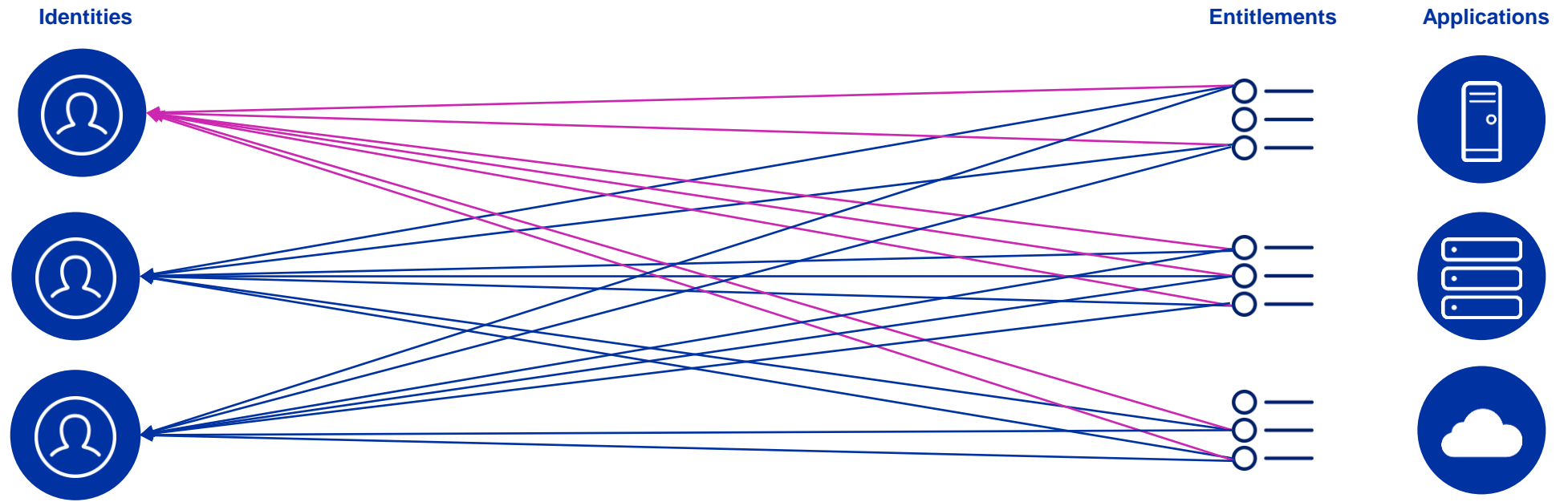
**Traditional role design project**

**Best practices**

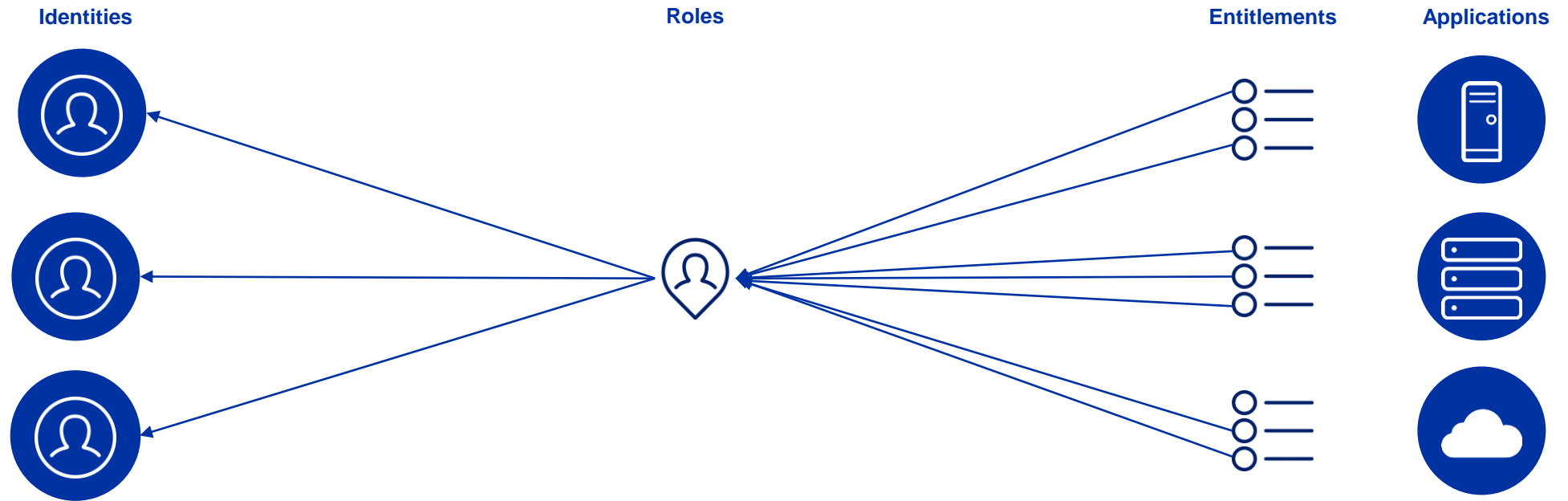
**How SailPoint can help**

# Why Roles ?

# Why Roles ?



# Why Roles ?





# Why Roles?

## **Productivity**

- Day 1 Access
- Increase User satisfaction
- Simplify access certifications

## **Reduce Overhead**

- Reduce manual effort
- Reduce end-user confusion
- Simplify your access
- Automation

## **Increase Security**

- Least-privileged access
- Access changes throughout a user's life cycle
- Automation of Joiner / Mover / Leaver events

# The Need for Roles – Provisioning

Roles ensure users have the right access to do their job automatically.



# The Need for Roles - Compliance

Do you **KNOW** who has access to what and  
if it is **APPROPRIATE**

And can you **PROVE** it?

Roles enable better & more efficient  
governance reviews





# Different Approaches

# Different Approaches to Roles

## Enterprise

Business roles based on organisational hierarchies

RBAC strategy

## Use Case

Project scoped

Project aligned

RBAC not a goal

## Targeted

Bundles of access, groups of identities

Focus on targeted groups / areas

RBAC not the goal, at least initially

# Enterprise Approach

## Typical goals

Define roles for every job/position/worker in the company  
Cover 100% of all access they need

## Advantages

- all access is assigned automatically based on identity attributes – have everything they need from hour 1 in the job
- Supports joiners, movers, leavers
- Significantly reduce certifications

## Constraints

- Takes a long time to accomplish
- End up with more roles than actual workers!
- Companies are moving targets – imagine updating all those roles for every re-org, M&A, applications added /removed

# Use Case Approach

## Typical goals

Support a particular use case, i.e., assigning common birthright access as part of a joiner/new hire process

## Advantages

- Required access is assigned automatically
- Supports some differentiation (e.g., employees vs contractors)
- Workers get the foundational access they need from hour 1 in the job

## Constraints

- It only covers birthright access unless you combine it with another approach
- Need to request additional access

# Targeted Approach

## Typical goals

Define roles for a few specific groups with high turnover and high standardization (e.g., hotel clerks, cashiers at a store)

Cover 100% of all access they need

## Advantages

- When it's done, all access is assigned automatically based on identity attributes – have everything they need from hour 1 in the job
- Enforces standardization

## Constraints

- It only covers certain groups unless you combine it with another approach

# Traditional Role Design

# Role Design

Role design is the practice of strategically designing roles to improve the performance, efficiency, manageability and security of the organization

- **Job analysis** is the systematic analysis access required to complete the job function – what exactly does the job entails and the tasks it performs
- **Role definition** is concerned with defining the purpose and objectives of the role – automation, certification, birthright access, additional access
- **Qualification criteria** for assigning a role

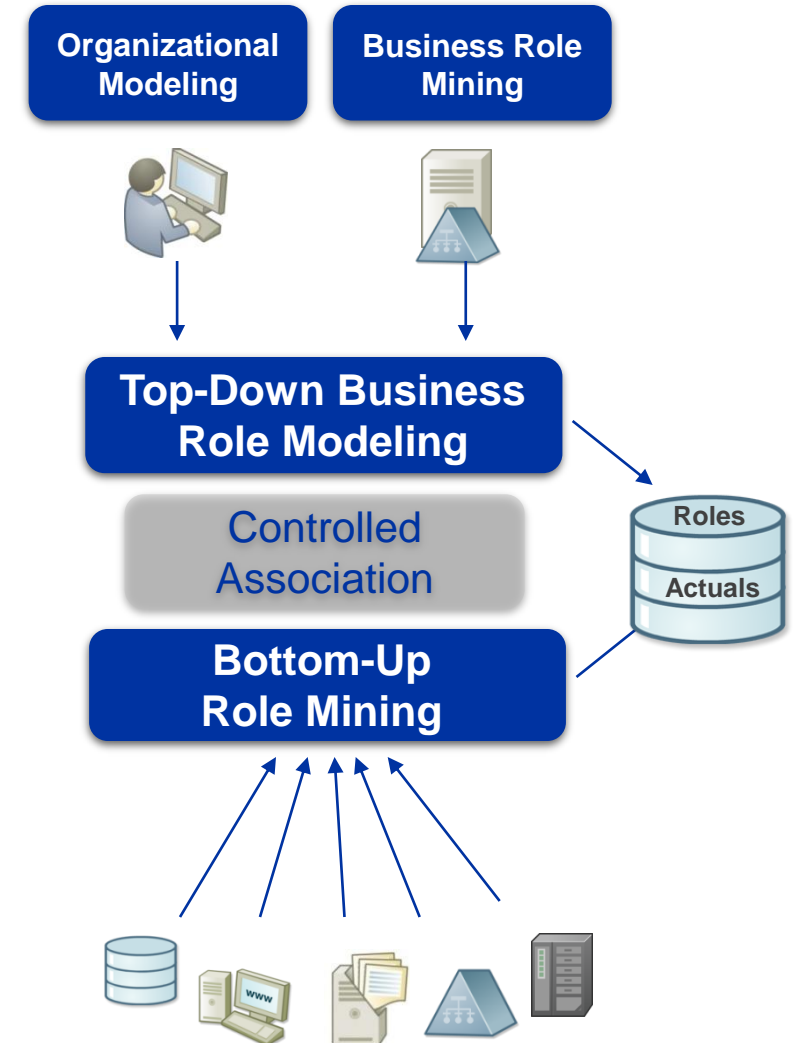
# Role Design Process

## Top-Down Business Role Modeling

- Capture via business analysis and organizational modeling

## Bottom-Up IT Role Modeling

- Driven by analysis and analytics-focused processes





# Top Down Analysis

- What business functions does each job perform?
- Which applications are required? What type of access is required for each application?
- How are accounts and access assigned for each application?
- Review HR job architecture, interview job holders, managers and application owners, conduct surveys, and observe people at work.

# Bottom Up Analysis

- Create a list of user access permissions for each application
- Start with a cleanup!
- Compare and group users together for each type of application access
- Compare and group user access across applications
- Identify common elements between users who have the same or similar access
- Provides better defined roles but more time consuming process

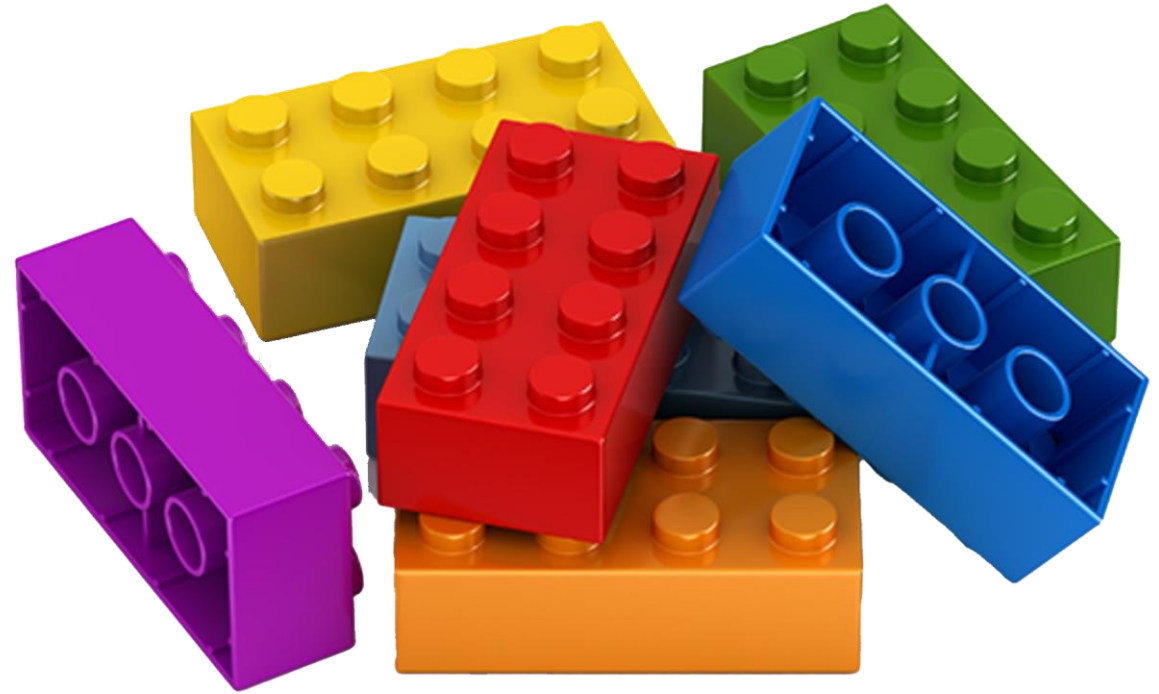
# Role Design Process

Step 1: Define Geographic Organization Structure

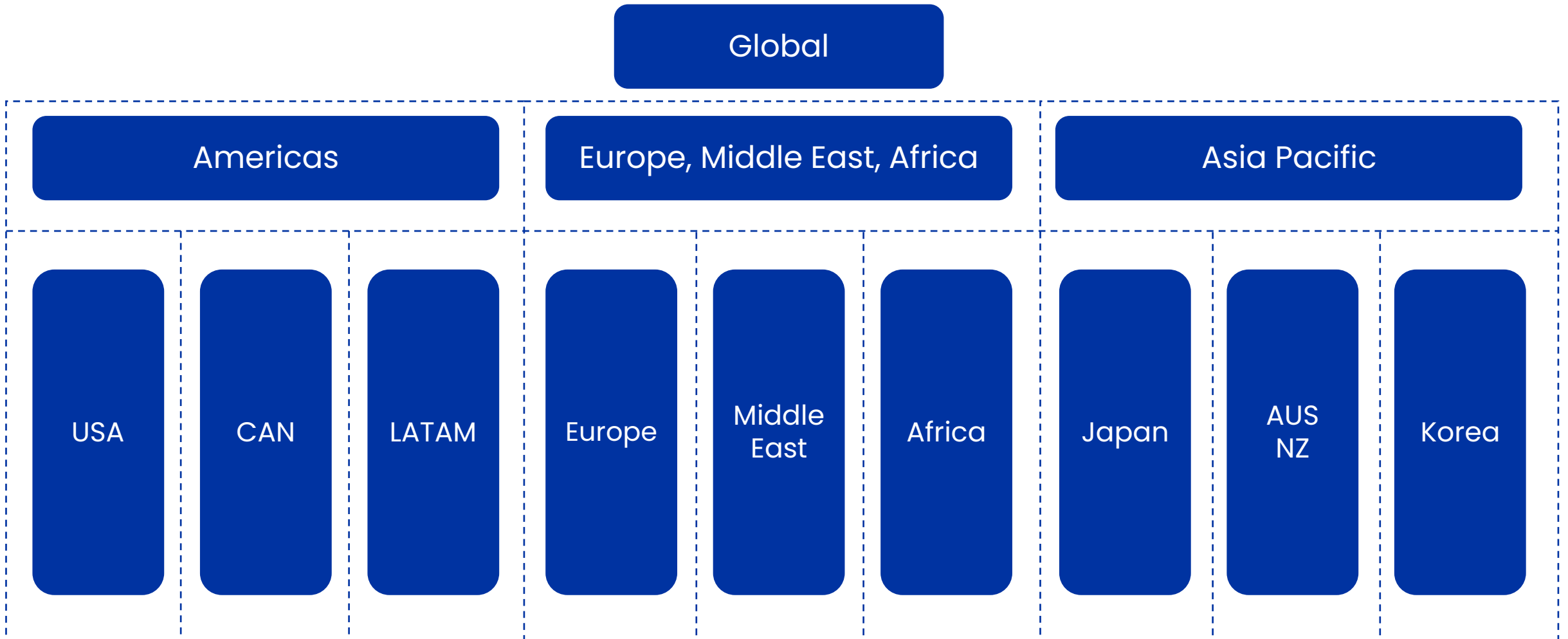
Step 2: Define Business Organization Structure

Step 3: Design Roles

Step 4: Implementation



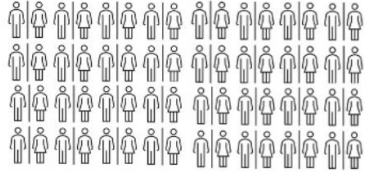
# Step 1 – Define Org Structure by Access



# Step 2 – Define Organization Structure

## Business Divisions

Do not NOT simply copy the HR structure which can change..



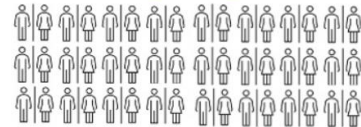
1. Product Management and Engineering
2. Sales and Marketing
3. Customer Services

In this example, there are 3 overarching divisions within in the organisation.

## Departments within Business Divisions

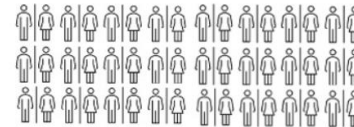
Do not NOT simply copy the HR structure which can change..

### Product Management and Engineering



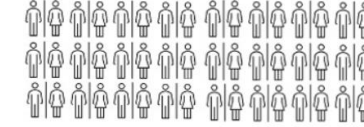
1. Product Management
2. Product Engineering

### Sales and Marketing



1. Sales
2. Marketing

### Customer Services



1. Professional Services
2. Support

## Job Functions with Departments

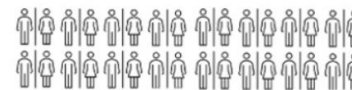
Do not NOT based these on Job Titles.  
Aim for Job Functions with ~10s+ people.

### Not Specified

Only define the Job Functions if access will widely vary.

In this example, there is no need for further granulation of the Product Management and Product Engineering roles. Do NOT get too specific.

### Sales



1. Sales Exec
2. Sales Engineering

In this example, the job functions are unique and will need very different access.

### Professional Services



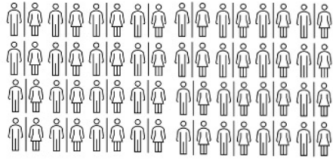
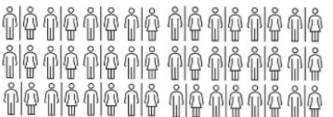



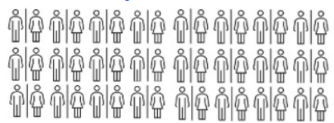














1. Project Management
2. Architects
3. Engineers

In this example, the job functions are unique and will need very different access.

Note: An identity could be all three!

# Step 3 – Create Roles based on Geo & Business

Tip: Build this in a spreadsheet with Role Name, Description, Criteria and estimated number of members

	Location Roles	Location + Worker Type Roles	Location + Division Roles	Location + Department Roles	Location + Job Function Roles
Global	<p><b>Role</b> Global Criteria: Lifecycle Status = Active</p> 	<p><b>Role</b> Global – Permanent Workers Criteria: Lifecycle Status = Active &amp; Employment Type = Permanent</p> 	<p><b>Role</b> Global – Sales and Marketing Criteria: Lifecycle Status = Active &amp; Division = S&amp;M</p> 	<p><b>Role</b> Global – Sales Criteria: Lifecycle Status = Active &amp; Team = Sales</p> 	<p><b>Role</b> Global – Sales Engineering Criteria: Lifecycle Status = Active &amp; Job Role = Sales Engineering</p> 
EMEA	<p><b>Role</b> Region – EMEA Criteria: Lifecycle Status = Active &amp; Region = EMEA</p> 	<p><b>Role</b> Region – EMEA – Permanent Workers Criteria: Lifecycle Status = Active &amp; Region = EMEA &amp; Employment Type = Permanent</p> 	<p><b>Role</b> Region – EMEA – Sales and Marketing Criteria: Lifecycle Status = Active &amp; Region = EMEA &amp; Division = S&amp;M</p> 	<p><b>Role</b> Region – EMEA – Sales Criteria: Lifecycle Status = Active &amp; Region = EMEA &amp; Team = Sales</p> 	<p><b>Role</b> Region – EMEA – Sales Engineering Criteria: Lifecycle Status = Active &amp; Region = EMEA &amp; Job Role = Sales Engineering</p> 
Europe	<p><b>Role</b> Continent – Europe Criteria: Lifecycle Status = Active &amp; Continent = Europe</p> 	<p><b>Role</b> Continent – Europe – Permanent Workers Criteria: Lifecycle Status = Active &amp; &amp; Continent = Europe Employment Type = Permanent</p> 	<p><b>Role</b> Continent – Europe – Sales and Marketing Criteria: Lifecycle Status = Active &amp; Continent = Europe Division = S&amp;M</p> 	<p><b>Role</b> Continent – Europe – Sales Criteria: Lifecycle Status = Active &amp; Continent = Europe Team = Sales</p> 	<p><b>Role</b> Continent – Europe – Sales Engineering Criteria: Lifecycle Status = Active &amp; Continent = Europe Job Role = Sales Engineering</p> 
UK	<p><b>Role</b> Country – UK Criteria: Lifecycle Status = Active &amp; Country = UK</p> 	<p><b>Role</b> Country – UK – Permanent Workers Criteria: Lifecycle Status = Active &amp; Country = UK &amp; Employment Type = Permanent</p> 	<p><b>Role</b> Country – UK – Sales and Marketing Criteria: Lifecycle Status = Active &amp; Country = UK &amp; Division = S&amp;M</p> 	<p><b>Role</b> Country – UK – Sales Criteria: Lifecycle Status = Active &amp; Country = UK &amp; Team = Sales</p> 	<p><b>Role</b> Country – UK – Sales Engineering Criteria: Lifecycle Status = Active &amp; Country = UK &amp; Job Role = Sales Engineering</p> 



## Step 4 - Implementation

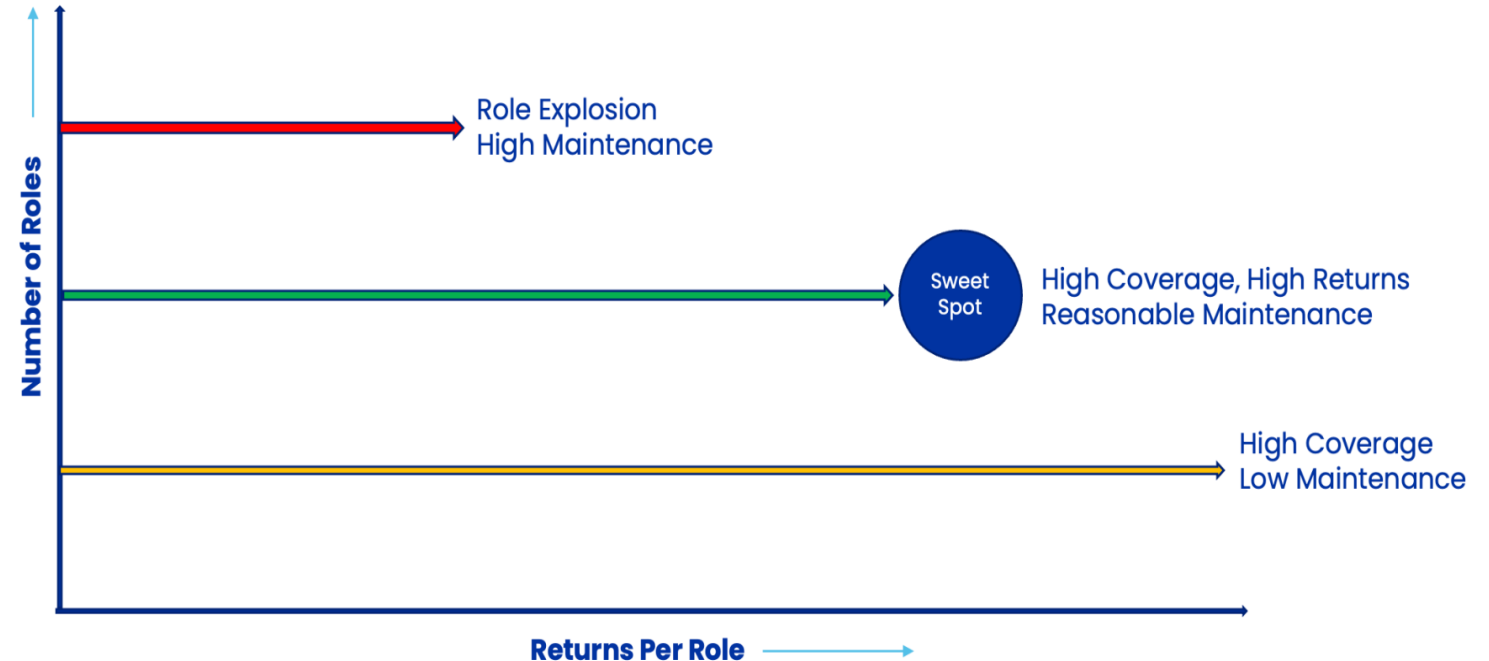
1. Review and approval of role composition – criteria and access
2. Create roles without entitlements to test automation and volumes
3. Attach entitlements to roles in a controlled rollout – monitor outcomes and adapt

# Best Practices



# Role Design Best Practices

- Avoid creating too many roles, especially where role membership is low
- More roles results in more maintenance
- Design roles for business functions
  - Span multiple systems
  - Avoid 'Business Title Roles'



# Role Project Best Practices

## General

- Look for groupings of user types
- Prevent role proliferation
- Enforce least privilege
- Define roles that are reusable

## High turnover or high use roles are a good way to start

- Bank tellers, seasonal employees, employee vs. contractor
- Don't attempt to "boil the ocean"

## Know your scope

- Simplify certifications? Access requests?
- Involve SME's who know the business



# Role Project Best Practices (cont.)

Build Roles Following Data Cleanup where possible

- HR Cleanup
- Active Directory Cleanup
- ERP Cleanup

Every business approaches roles differently

Roles are a program, not a project

- Too big, too fast is how role projects fail
- Roles have a lifecycle and should evolve
- Start small and familiar
- Can give key managers the capability to suggest roles as needed

Before inventing your own, consider default role models to start



# SailPoint Automated Role Design



# Barriers to Building Better Roles

---



We don't have the expertise to build a role program.



Building roles is a time-intensive, manual effort.



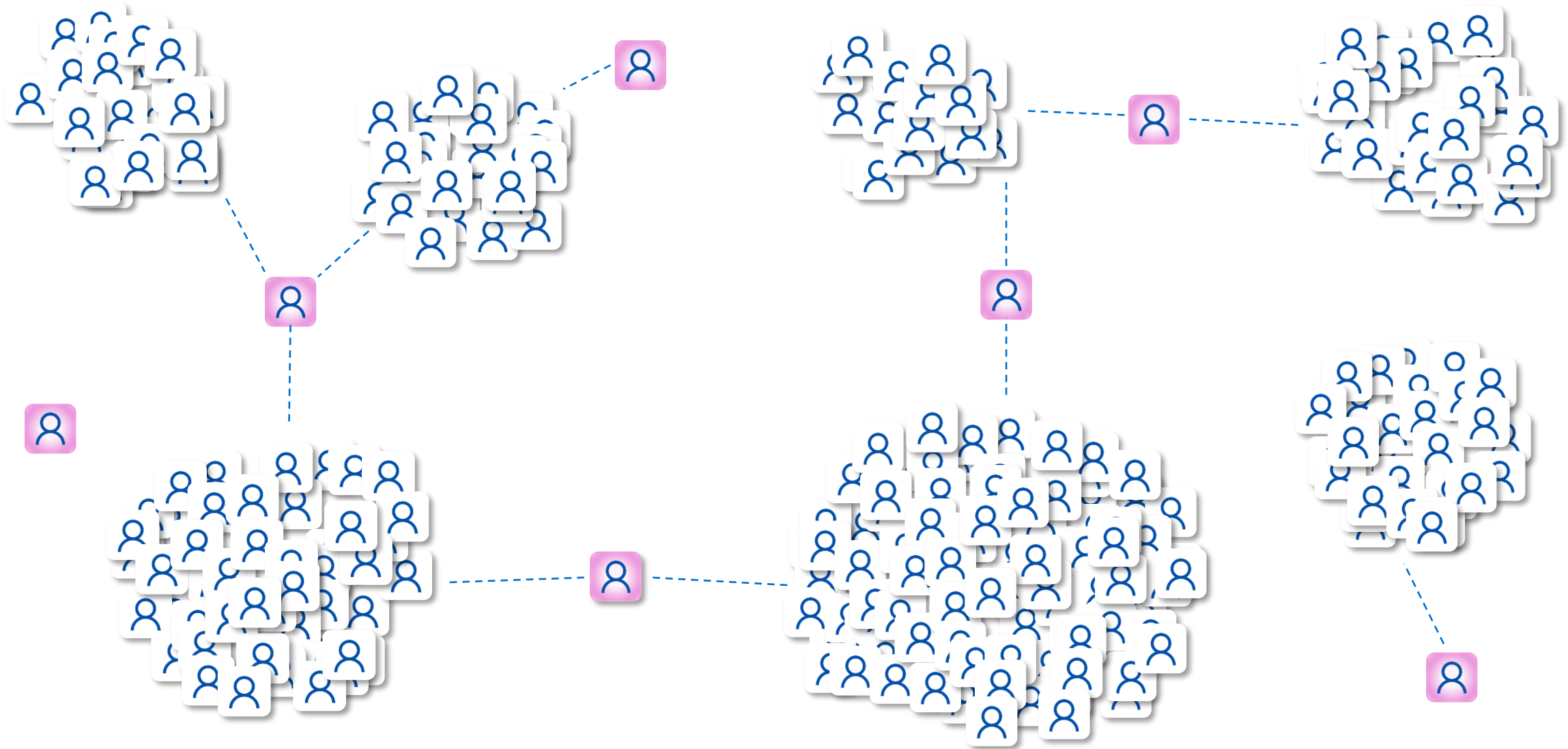
We can't provide the right-sized access and security for our users.

# Where do you start ?



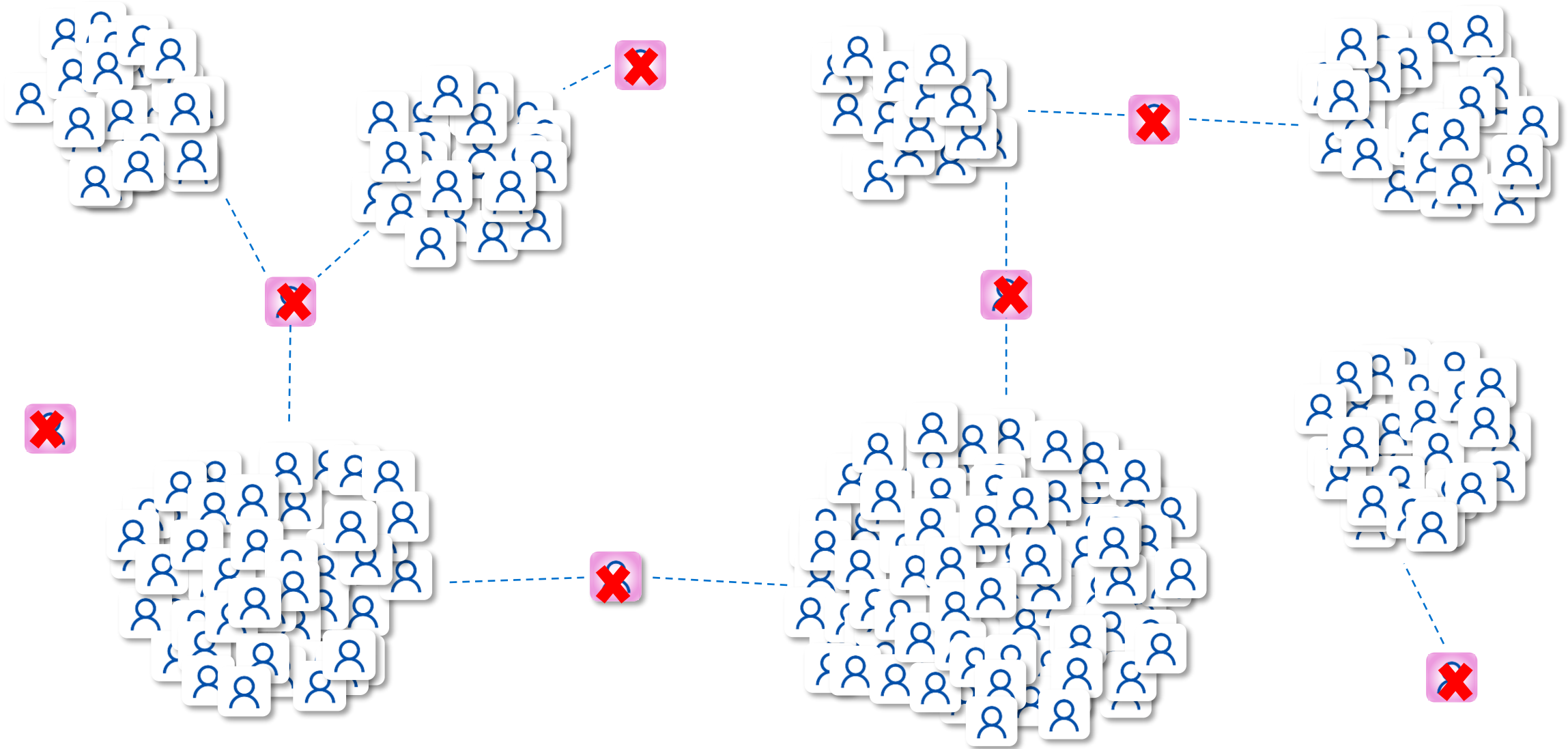


# Peer groups are key for identifying outliers

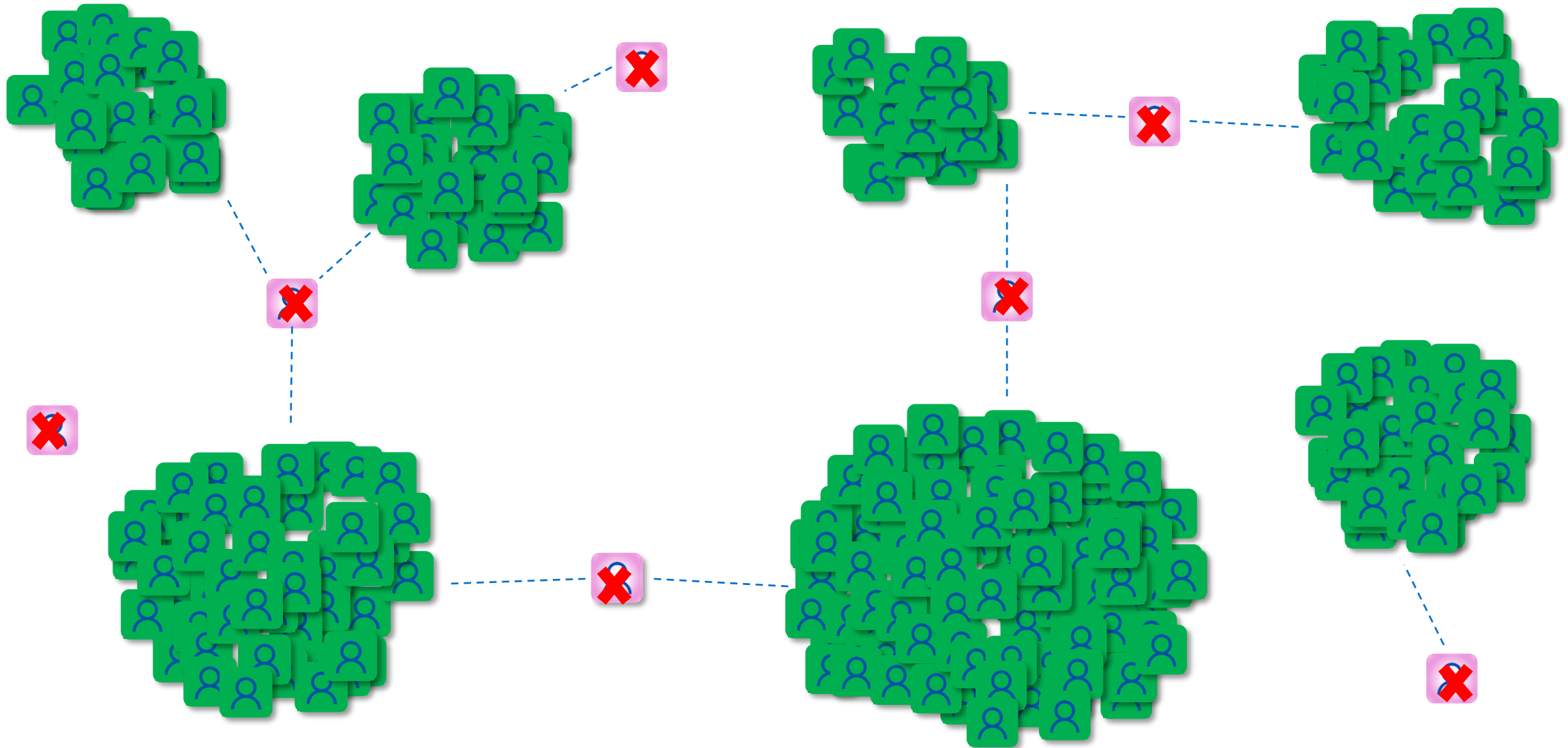




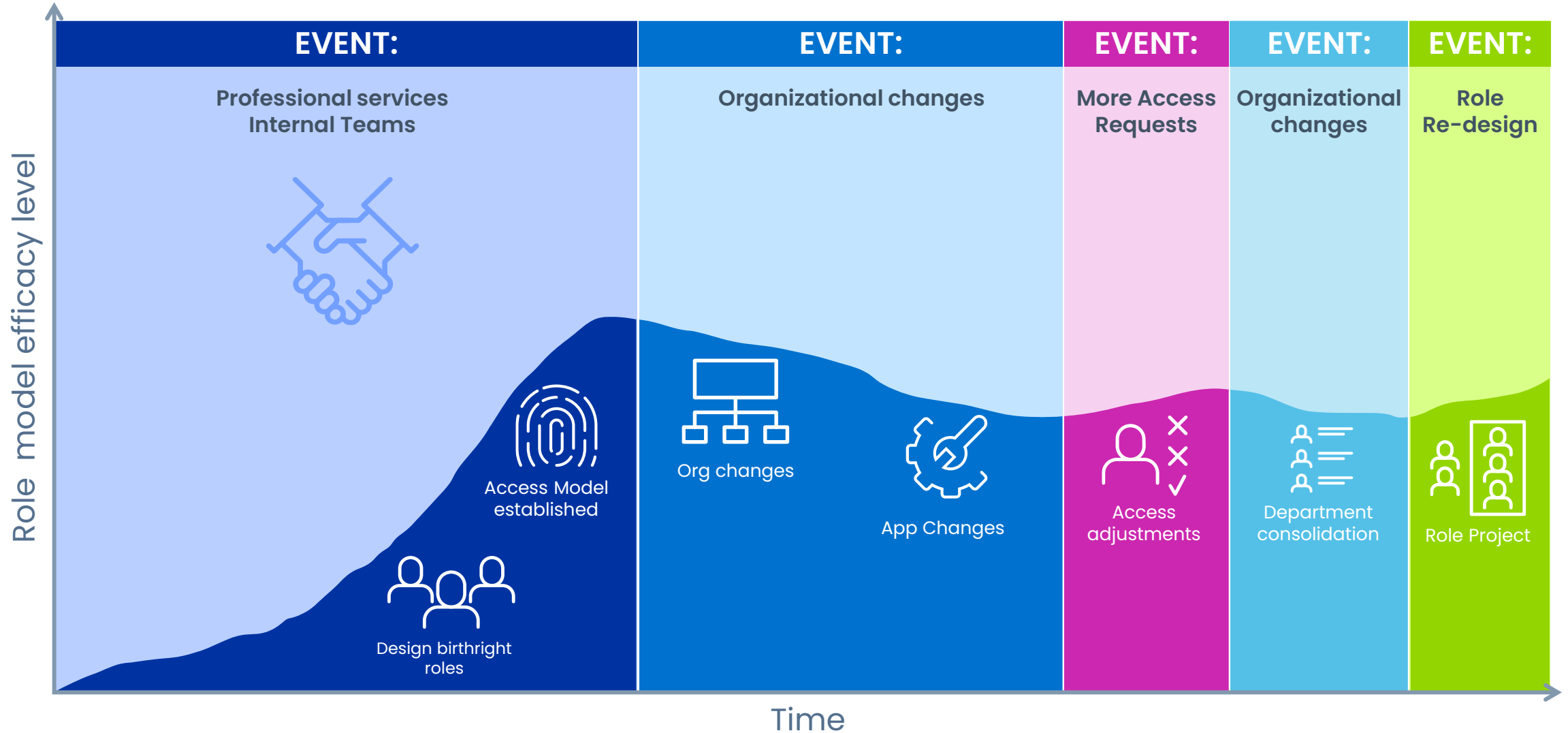
# Clean Up Outliers !!!!



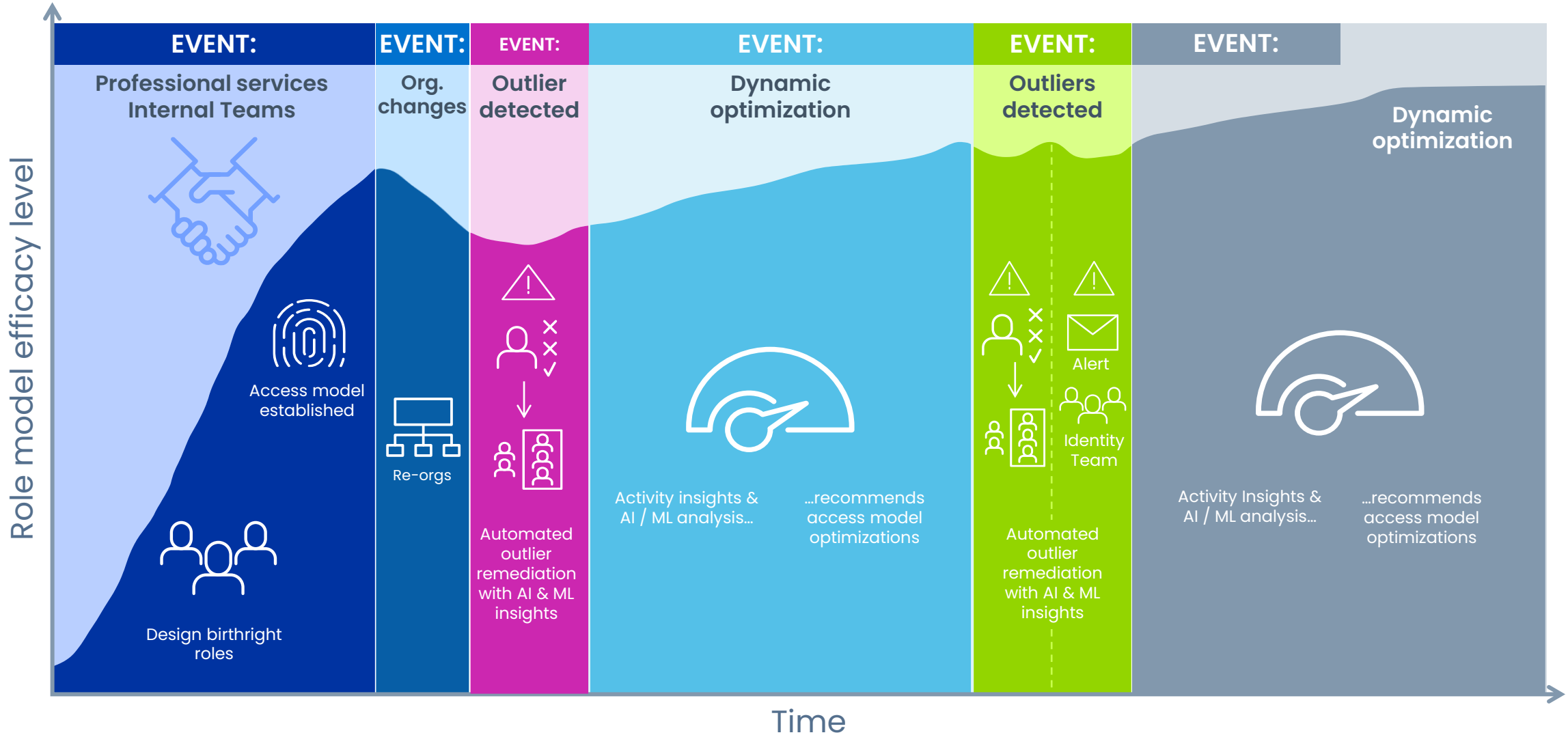
# Build Roles Automatically (and keep them up do date)



# Traditional Role Design



# Autonomous Identity Role Modeling



# Advanced Identity Capabilities

## Insights

- Access History
- Identity Outliers
- Access Intelligence Center

[← Back to Dashboard](#)

### Identity Outliers

Export

Search by Name



6 Results View Ignored (0)

**Janet Washington** ...

**Outlier Score: 67** 🕒 Detected as Outlier on Apr 11, 2024

Jobtitle: Payroll Manager      Location: London      Department: Accounting

[Create Certification](#)

**Martena Heath** ...

**Outlier Score: 66** 🕒 Detected as Outlier on Apr 11, 2024

Jobtitle: Call Center Manager      Location: London      Department: Call Center

[Create Certification](#)

**Kathleen Watson** ...

**Outlier Score: 63** 🕒 Detected as Outlier on Apr 1, 2024

Jobtitle: Financial Planning Analyst      Location: San Jose      Department: Finance

[Create Certification](#)

**Denise Hunt** ...

**Outlier Score: 63** 🕒 Detected as Outlier on Mar 26, 2024

Jobtitle: Treasury Analyst      Location: London      Department: Finance

[Create Certification](#)

**Crystal Schmidt** ...

**Outlier Score: 63** 🕒 Detected as Outlier on Apr 8, 2024

Jobtitle: Receiving Analyst      Location: Tokyo      Department: Inventory

[Create Certification](#)

# Advanced Identity Capabilities

## Insights

- Access History
- Identity Outliers
- Access Intelligence Center

## Recommendations

- Access Requests
- Certification
- Streamline access requests

Barrett.Cline

Exit Campaign

Roles (0 / 1) Access Profiles (0 / 3) **Entitlements (0 / 15)** Completed (0)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	Description	Flags	Account Name	Source	Cloud Enabled	Decision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Asset Management		+	Barrett.Cline	Global HR		
<input type="checkbox"/>	AssetMgmt-Box Folder		+	Barrett.Cline	Active Directory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	AssetMgmt-Folder		+	Barrett.Cline	Active Directory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	AssetMgmt-Franchises		+	Barrett.Cline	Active Directory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	AssetMgmt-Franchises-Africa		+	Barrett.Cline	Active Directory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	AssetMgmt-Franchises-Belgium		+	Barrett.Cline	Active Directory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	AssetMgmt-Franchises-France		+	Barrett.Cline	Active Directory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	AssetMgmt-Franchises-Germany		+	Barrett.Cline	Active Directory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	AssetMgmt-Franchises-Luxemb...		+	Barrett.Cline	Active Directory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	AssetMgmt-Franchises-Netherl...		+	Barrett.Cline	Active Directory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	AssetMgmt-Franchises-Scandin...		+	Barrett.Cline	Active Directory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	AssetMgmt-Franchises-UK		+	Barrett.Cline	Active Directory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Everyone	All users in your organization	+	Barrett.Cline@303.sailpointtechno...	Okta		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Everyone	All users in your organization	+	Barrett.Cline@303.sailpointtechno...	OktaIDN1		
<input type="checkbox"/>	SailPoint IdentityNow		+	Barrett.Cline@303.sailpointtechno...	Azure-AD		

**Not Recommended**

- 16% of identities with the same department have this access. This information had a high impact on the overall score.
- 60% of identities with the same job title have this access. This information had a low impact on the overall score.
- 75% of identities with the same peer group have this access. This information had a low impact on the overall score.



# Advanced Identity Capabilities

## Insights

- Access History
- Identity Outliers
- Access Intelligence Center

## Access Modeling

- Discover Common Access
- Discover Roles (RBAC)
- Role Insights

## Recommendations

- Access Requests
- Certification
- Streamline access requests



← Back to Role Insights

### Potential Role Results

Save Session

Session Criteria

Search by Attributes



2 Results



#### Potential Role - 5d0d16

Attributes ^

Identities: 3 (100% have similar access) Entitlements: 7

High Impact

Location	1 of 1	Department	1 of 1	Job Title	1 of 1
Atlanta	100%	Asset Management	100%	Intellectual Property Manager	100%

Work On This Role →

#### Potential Role - f0cbec

Attributes v

Identities: 4 (100% have similar access) Entitlements: 12

High Impact

Rows per page 50 1 - 2 of 2

Page 1 of 1



# Advanced Identity Capabilities

## Insights

- Access History
- Identity Outliers
- Access Intelligence Center

## Access Modeling

- Discover Common Access
- Discover Roles (RBAC)
- Role Insights

## Recommendations

- Access Requests
- Certification
- Streamline access requests

## Workflow

- Extensibility
- Customization
- Automated Orchestration

# Workflow Builder

The screenshot displays the Workflow Builder interface. At the top left, there is a '< Back' link. The main title is 'Certification Workflow for Manager Changes'. On the top right, there are 'Details' and a download icon, followed by 'Save' and 'Test workflow' buttons. The left sidebar contains a 'Search Steps' input field and three tabs: 'Triggers', 'Actions', and 'Operators'. Under the 'Triggers' tab, there are seven items, each with a 'Trigger' label and a three-dot menu icon: 'Cron', 'External Trigger', 'Identity Aggregation Completed', 'Identity Attributes Changed', 'Identity Created', 'Identity Deleted', and 'Saved Search Complete'. The central workspace is a grid with a 'Start' node at the top and a large box below it containing a lightbulb icon and the text 'Drop a trigger here to get started'. The right sidebar features a 'Welcome to the Workflow Builder!' heading, a diagram of a workflow node branching into two, and two paragraphs of introductory text. The first paragraph explains that workflows do work for you and that each instruction is a step or node. The second paragraph, under a 'Trigger' heading, explains that a trigger kicks off the workflow. The third paragraph, under an 'Action' heading, explains that actions are where the magic happens.

< Back

Certification Workflow for Manager Changes

Details ↓ Save Test workflow

Search Steps

Triggers Actions Operators

1-7 of 7 Steps < >

- Trigger Cron
- Trigger External Trigger
- Trigger Identity Aggregation Completed
- Trigger Identity Attributes Changed
- Trigger Identity Created
- Trigger Identity Deleted
- Trigger Saved Search Complete

Start

Drop a trigger here to get started

### Welcome to the Workflow Builder!

Workflows do work for you. To get started, choose when the workflow should run, what it should do, and when it should stop. Each new instruction is a step, sometimes called a node, and you can select them from the list on the left.

**Trigger**

Choose a trigger to kick off your workflow. Every time this trigger takes place, your workflow can take action.

**Action**

A workflow's actions are where the magic happens. This is the work it does every time the trigger takes place.

# Advanced Identity Capabilities

## Insights

- Access History
- Identity Outliers
- Access Intelligence Center

## Access Modeling

- Discover Common Access
- Discover Roles (RBAC)
- Role Insights

## Recommendations

- Access Requests
- Certification
- Streamline access requests

## Workflow

- Extensibility
- Customization
- Automated Orchestration



**Thank you!**