

Security Evolution Reflects Power Shifts, Not Technology Shifts

Modern security problems are no longer perimeter problems—they are access problems.

A recurring misconception in security is that threats evolve primarily because technology changes. In reality, the more fundamental driver is the **shift of power and access**. As access expands, scales, and decentralizes, the nature of security risk changes with it.

The chapter describes three major threat waves that illustrate this shift:

- **First wave:** Outsiders lacked access and relied on breaking in
- **Second wave:** Criminals gained scale through automation and coordination
- **Third wave:** Insiders, partners, and suppliers already possess legitimate access

This evolution reframes modern security. The core challenge is no longer defending a boundary, but **governing who has access, to what, under which conditions, and for how long**.

As access becomes more distributed—across people, systems, services, vendors, and automation—**governance becomes the primary security control**. Without strong access governance, every new connection quietly expands the attack surface.

The most critical security question today is no longer “How do we keep attackers out?” but rather “How do we control the power we have already distributed?”.

