

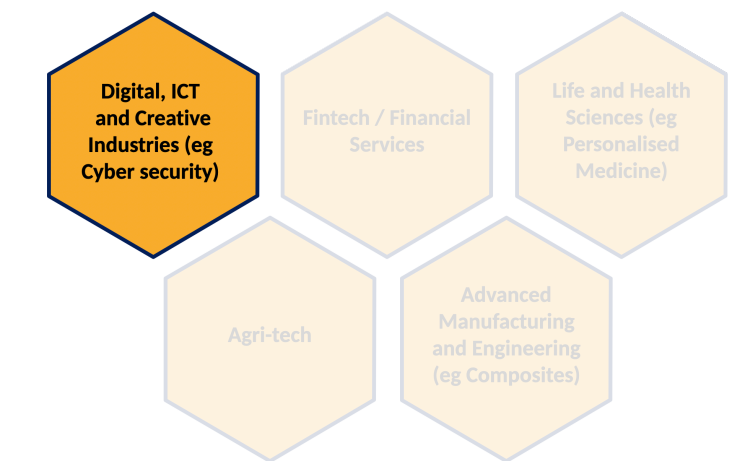
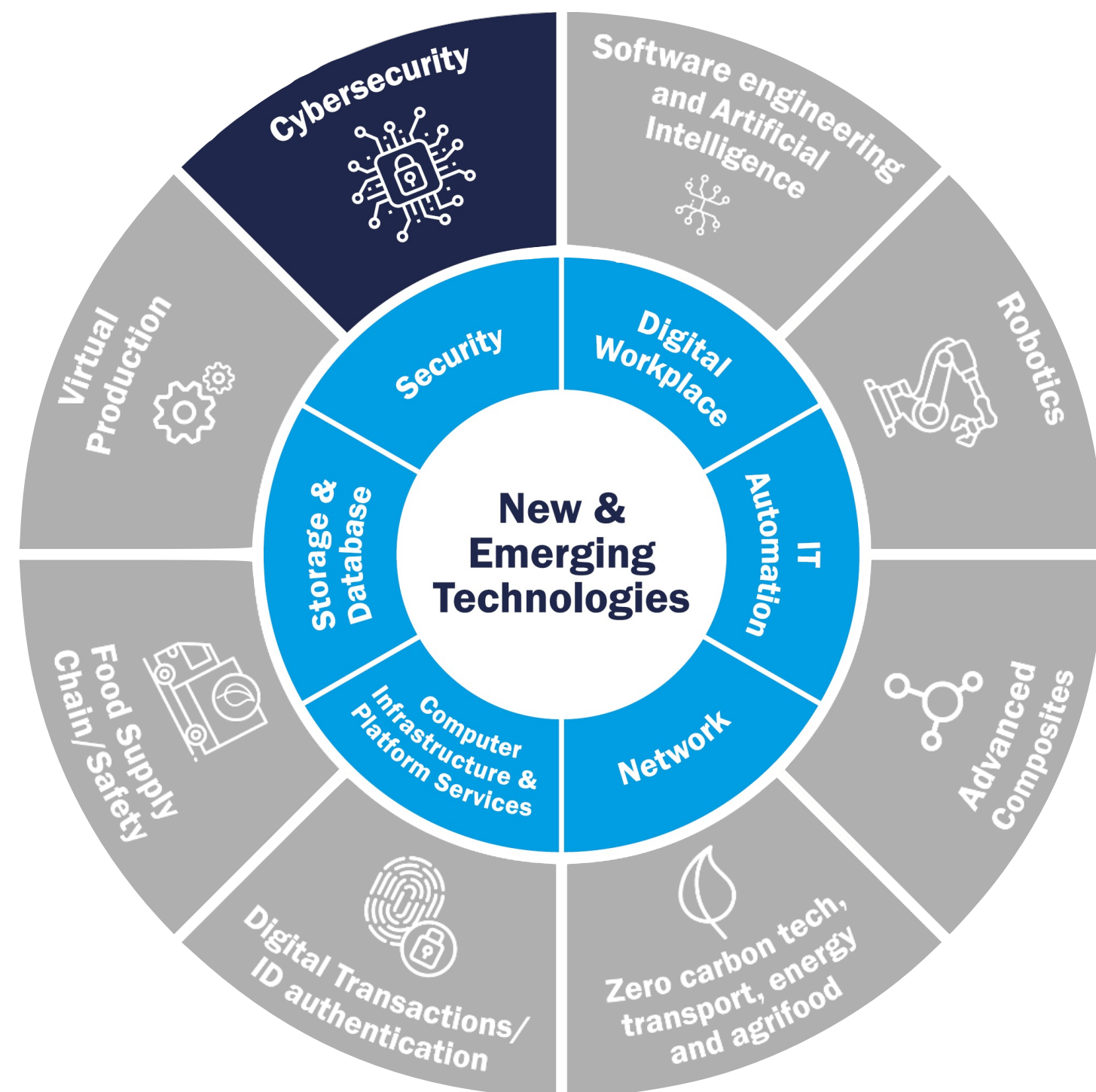
Sources	DCMS, Ipsos Mori	Date	March 2021		
Potential scale of impact	★★★★★	Certainty of outcome	★★★★☆		
		Impact horizon	H1	H2	H3

Demand for cyber professionals hugely outweighs supply. According to a 2021 report from the Government on cyber skills, two-thirds of cyber firms have faced problems with technical cybersecurity skills gaps, with a quarter saying that such skills gaps have prevented them from achieving business goals.

This needs to be fixed - we must inspire and educate the next generation of cyber leaders and highlight the benefits of embarking on a cybersecurity course. There needs to be a concerted effort to spotlight the plethora of potential career options that will be available to them - from security architects to information security analysts to data scientists.

We need courses that are focused on teaching young people the skills they need for a career in the sector, giving students a theoretical foundation in computer science, as well as practical and expert-level knowledge in a specialist area of the field which can range from network security to ethical hacking.

What's positive is that there is an appetite for change. For example, the [CyberFirst](#) program run by GCHQ's National Cyber Security Centre saw a 60% increase in the number of girls who applied for the summer cyber courses in 2020 compared with 2019. Moving forwards, we need to build on this and encourage more young people to build their interest from summer courses to degrees that prepare them for a career in the sector.



TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION

Demand for cyber professionals hugely outweighs the supply

