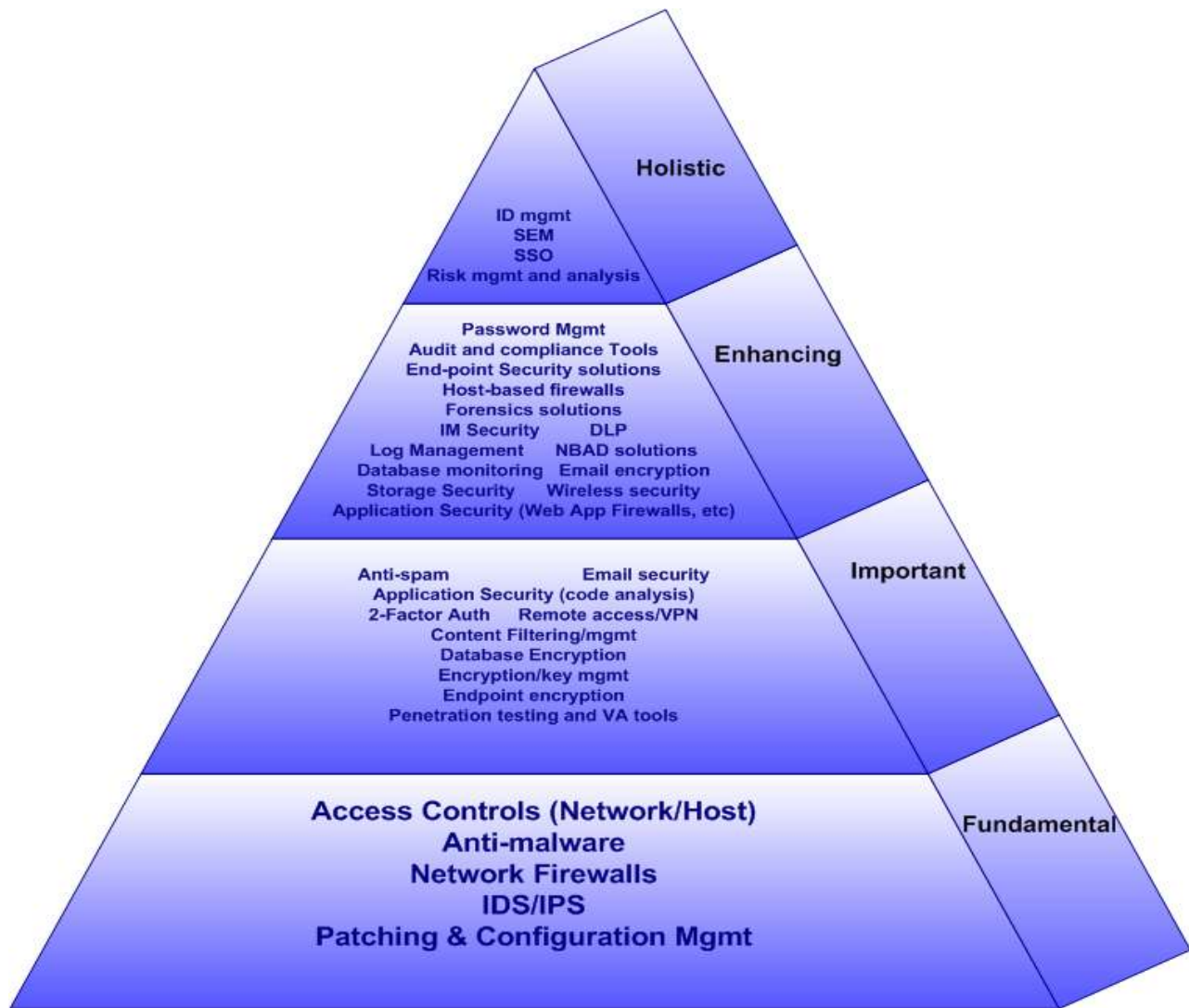


Information Technology Hierarchy of Needs

Abraham Maslow¹ first outlined a human's hierarchy of needs in 1943, defining the stages of growth that people go through in order to develop one's well-being. Depicted in a pyramid, the bottom level represents our fundamental survival requirements of food, water, shelter, etc., and the top defines the ultimate achievement of self-actualization. Maslow's ideology has been adjusted by Dave Shackelford² to map to the states of "well-being" that we want to achieve in Information Technology Security depicted in the pyramid below. Mr. Shackelford summarizes the information technology security needs into four key categories: Fundamental, Important, Enhancing and Holistic.



Where is your organization? Do you feel like you are constantly re-visiting the same challenges over and over? Or is it possible to reach a state of "security-actualization"?

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maslow's_hierarchy_of_needs

² Dave Shackelford is the founder of Voodoo Security and a SANS Instructor (<http://daveshackelford.com/>)