

# **Quantum Preparedness and Crypto Agility: Cyber Risks and Opportunities**

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# Agenda

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- Quantum vs. Digital
- Event Scenarios
- Quantum Development Trajectory
- Y2Q: Years to Quantum
- Quantum: Risk & Opportunities
- Possible Use Cases
- Key Considerations
- Transition to Quantum Urgency
- Quantum Preparedness Action Plan
- Crypto Agility Best Practices
- Key Takeaways

# Quantum Computing vs. Digital Computing

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## QUANTUM

- New approach in computing
- Quantum physics principles
- Quantum bits = qubits
- Qubit can store zeros AND ones
- Any combination of both zero and one  
SIMULTANEOUSLY = superposition
- Solving VERY complex problems
- Significant number of paths simultaneously

## DIGITAL

- Classical approach to computing
- Built on bits
- Bit = unit of information that can store  
EITHER a zero OR a one
- Solving problems with multiple variables
- A new calculation every time a variable  
changes
- Each calculation is a single path to a  
single result

# Quantum Computing: Stark Performance Difference

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2019 announcement by Google re solving a complex problem

**QUANTUM**

200 seconds



**1,577,847,600**

**DIGITAL**

10,000 years

OR

315,569,529,000 seconds

# Quantum Computing: Possible Scenarios

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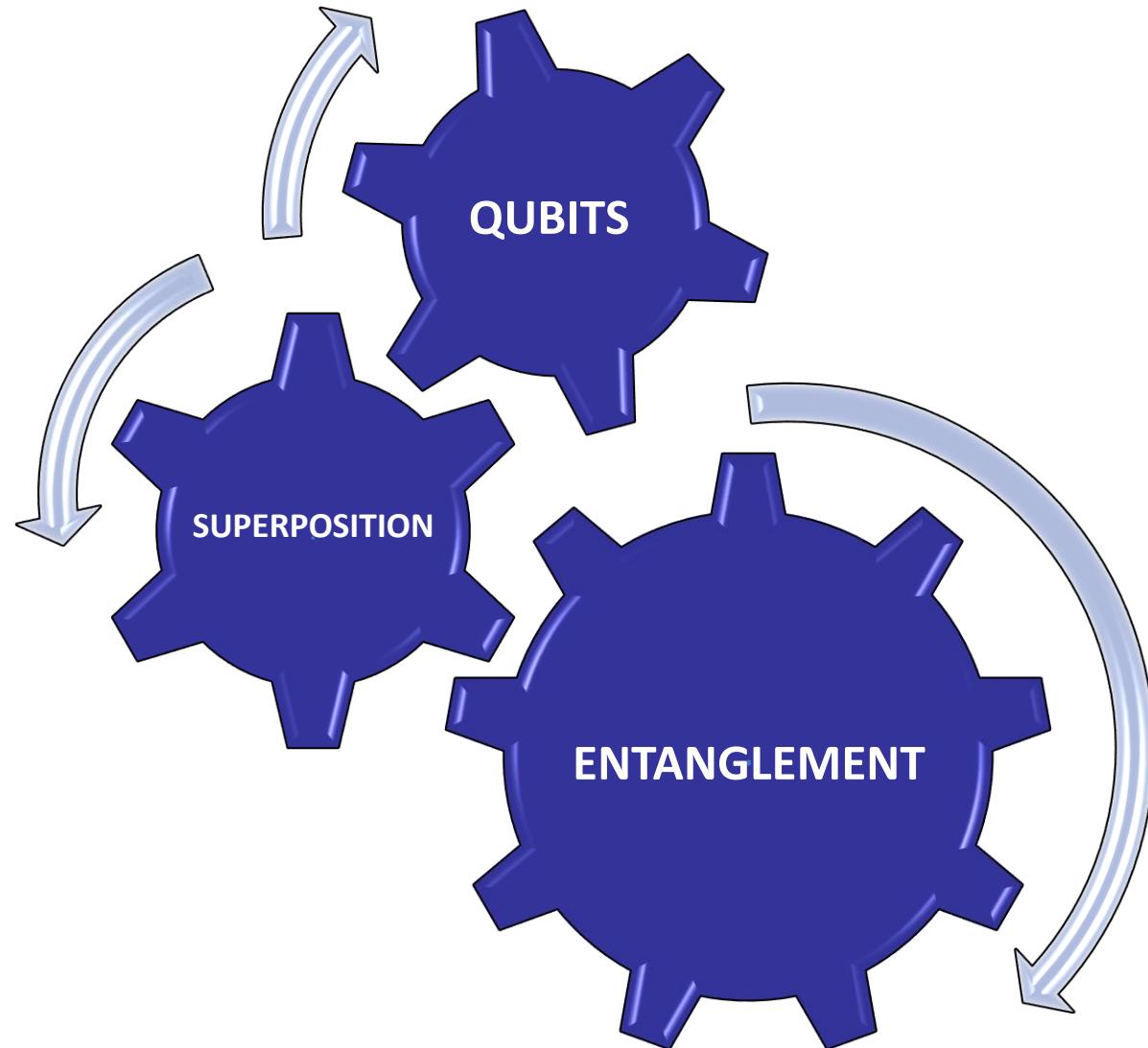
**IF**

**?**

**WHEN**

# Quantum Computing: Key Concepts Accelerating Timeline

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## **QUBITS**

Quantum information encoded by qubits for quantum computers to process

## **SUPERPOSITION**

As qubits are combined, representation of complex problems becomes easier than classical digital computing methods

## **ENTANGLEMENT**

By creating correlation between two qubits, entanglement solves complex problems quicker than supercomputers

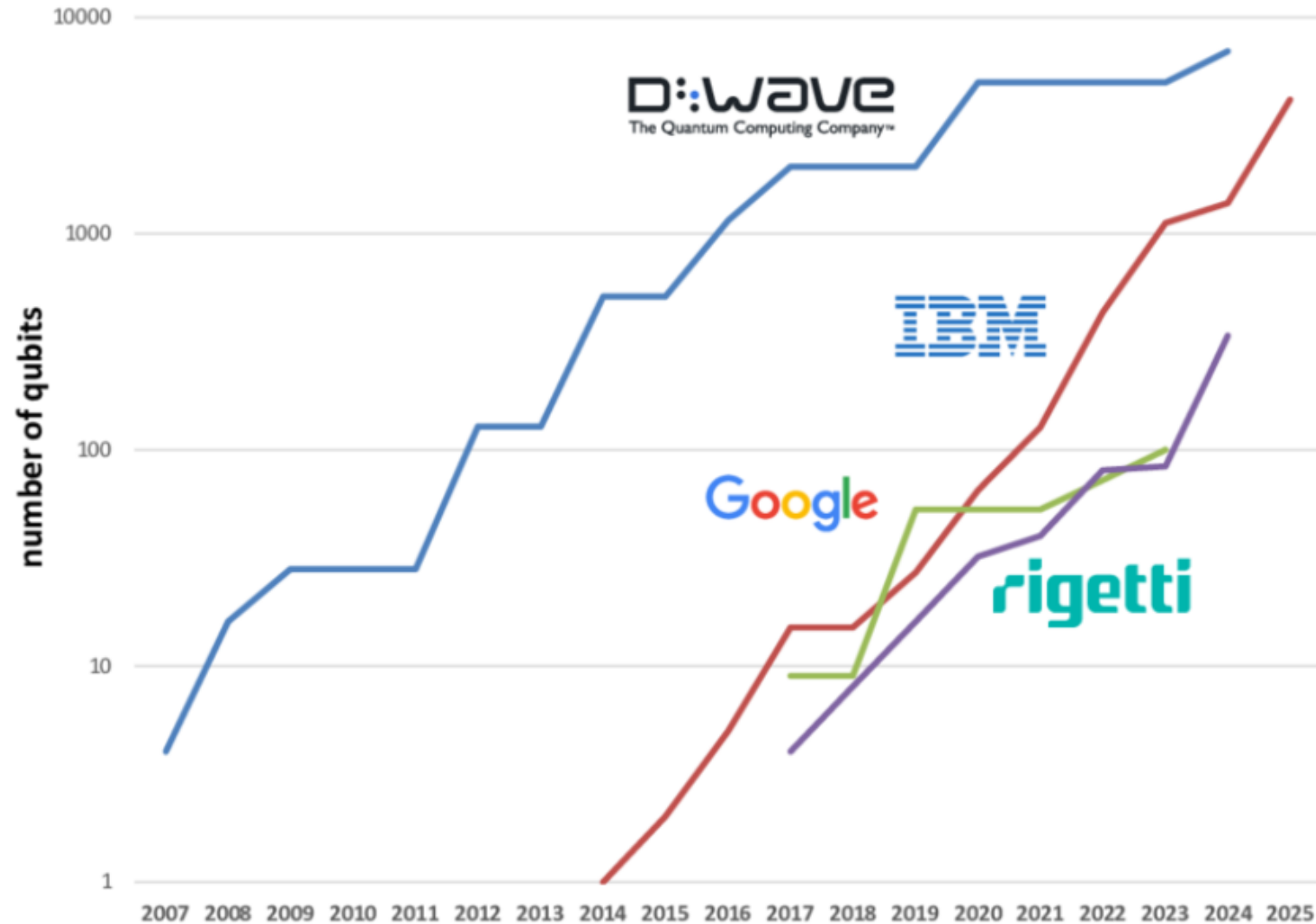
# Quantum Computing: Significant Investment Growth Recently

Total Quantum Investment by Stage; in \$ millions



Source: [The Quantum Insider Intelligence Platform](#)

# Quantum Computing: Remarkable Growth of Achieved Qubits



(cc) Olivier Ezratty, 2023



# Quantum Computing: Clear Trajectory

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# Quantum Computing: Y2Q Timeline TBD

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**~15 years**

- 2,048 RSA bit encryption key length - 2016 NIST recommendation
- 8 hrs to factoring 2,048 bit RSA integers using only 20 million physical qubits
- Plans to build quantum computer with 1 million physical qubits by 2030
- Recently discovered topological quantum - more stable and more scalable

# Quantum Computing: Risks & Opportunities

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Difficult to build & require unique components, expensive tech and massive cooling

## **POTENTIAL ERRORS**

Depending on the nature of qubits and quantum mechanics, errors are possible

## **TARGETED TASKS**

Quantum computers have the potential to find revolutionary solutions, but only in specific areas and for specific tasks

## **SPEED**

Quantum computers are so fast that classical digital computers can never match

## **SOLUTION POTENTIAL**

No matter how complex the problem is, quantum computing allows

## **SOLUTION COMPLEXITY**

Given the complexity and speed that quantum computing can achieve, quantum computers can run complex simulations

# Quantum Computing: Potential Use Cases

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**ENCRYPTION**

**DATA ANALYTICS**

**PATTERN MATCHING**

**DECISION OPTIMIZATION**

**FORECASTING &  
PREDICTIONS**

**CYBERSECURITY**

**RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT**

**AVIATION & AEROSPACE**

**AUTOMOTIVE**

**CYBER THREATS**

# Quantum Computing: Key Considerations to Crypto Agility

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- Encrypted data stolen
- May still be unencrypted for now
- Quantum computing decryption is a matter of time

**LOOMING  
THREAT**

- Quantum-secure takes time: multi-step journey
- Data
- Tooling
- Infrastructure
- Policies
- Training

**PREPARATION  
JOURNEY**

- Canada: Guidance on becoming cryptographically agile - [ITSAP.40.018](#) (05'22), Preparing your organization for the quantum threat to cryptography - [ITSAP.00.017](#) (02'21)
- US: the Quantum Computing Cybersecurity Preparedness Act is Law H.R. 7535 (12.22.2022)
- Encouragement to adopt technology protecting against quantum computing attacks

**QUANTUM  
LAW**

# Transition to Quantum: Urgency Drivers

## 2032 - fundamental cryptography disruption

- **10-15 year-life span data at risk:** 'harvest now, decrypt later' exfiltration / breaches on the rise
- Healthcare, financial services, government - most targeted sectors & at highest risk
- **Fraudulent** updates, authentication, decryption, alteration, extortion, counterfeiting **attacks**
- NIST-selected **CRYSTALS-Kyber vulnerabilities**

## Transition to Quantum - holistic approach and significant investment required

- Quantum-vulnerable encryption risk & threat assessment, strategy, C-BoM, data / systems management, algorithms interoperability
- Greater **regulatory scrutiny** and standardization requirements in development
- **Solution to complexity** requires significant time & efforts

## High risk and anticipation, yet ... low activity

- **2030 Quantum to become mainstream:** 62% organization in Canada and 78% in the US
- **Quantum disruption** and decryption of today's data only a **matter of time:** 60% in Canada and 73% in the US
- **Need better quantum preparedness** and data resilience: 62% in Canada and 81% in the US
- 95% - Quantum relevance to and **impact to data security is assessed as 'High'**
- 65% - own **data at risk** 'High' or 'Very High'
- 25% - quantum resilience currently addressed in the risk management strategy

# Quantum Computing: Crypto Agility Journey Components

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**Central 'Organization':** governance, tools, guidance

**Crypto Policies:** enterprise-wide awareness & requirements

**Shared Responsibility:** collaboration & delegation

**Procurement Policy:** crypto agility go forward

**New IT Change Management Policies:**

- Ongoing inventory maintenance,
- Configuration change management

**New Frameworks:**

- Incident response
- Software layer for APIs
- Application development
- Secure update mechanisms

**Inventory:** products that use cryptography and C-BoM

**Transition Plan:** non-agile products / legacy cryptography to upgrade to crypto agile products

**Recommended Standardized Crypto Algorithms:**

[ITSP.40.111](#) and [ITSP.40.062](#)

**Crypto Algorithms Validation** under [Cryptographic Module Validation Program](#)

**Crypto Products Vendor / 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Review:**

- Support for crypto agility
- Software / firmware upgrade policies
- Required crypto agility updates

# Quantum Computing: Crypto Agility Best Practices

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## **CENTRALIZED VISIBILITY**

Cryptography products, algorithms, roles: where, what, how and who. 'Shadow' cryptography in scope

## **OWNERSHIP**

Appropriate teams / groups and suitable duties

## **ACTIVE RESPONSIBILITY**

Awareness. Agreement. Operationalization.

## **COMPLIANCE**

Defined accountability. Industry practices.  
Legislative guidance. Corporate standards.

## **DATA GOVERNANCE**

Comprehensive current meta data. Clear scope: sensitive, confidential, business, personal, etc.

## **SUPPLIERS**

Contracts. Provisions. Disclosures. Roadmaps.  
SLA's. Standards. Audits.

## **RESOURCING**

Sufficient & knowledgeable. Crypto experience. Training.  
IT risk management leverage, cyber governance & assurance

## **VULNERABILITIES**

Full lifecycle management and proper SLA's

## **THE LATEST**

Crypto techniques, algorithms, technology. High bits sizes.

## **HARDWARE**

Updates, upgrades and patches  
OR switch

## **MONITORING & REPORTING**

Products and roles. Crypto libraries, keys, key mgmt. systems.  
Ongoing ownership tracking. Maintenance. Reporting.

## **AUTOMATION**

Where suitable: management and replacement tracking



# Quantum Computing: Key Takeaways for Quantum-Proof

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- **QUANTUM: WHEN, NOT IF**
- **PREPARATION IS KEY**
- **NEED TIME**
- **PARTNERSHIP IS SUCCESS**



**Questions?**

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