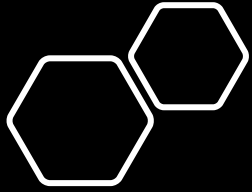
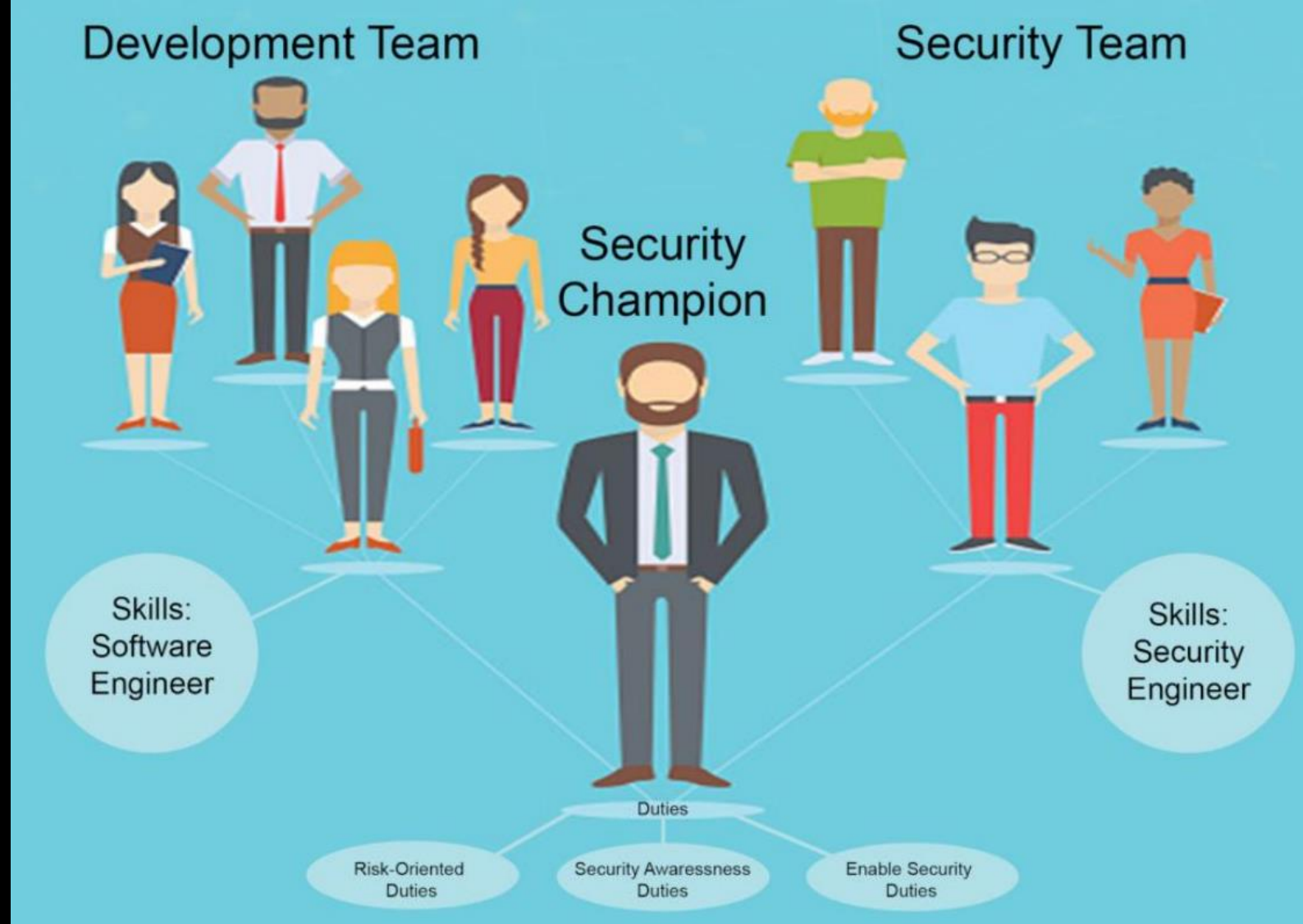


Maintaining a Security Champions Program



What is a security champions program?



A way to scale a security initiative by involving department members who don't have formal cybersecurity experience.

Why is the program needed?

- Developers view security as a blocker
- Developers don't understand AppSec
- AppSec doesn't always know the application
- AppSec is generally outnumbered

The honeymoon phase



Define the program



Get management buy-in



Identify & Onboard Champions



Secure all the code



Live a happy and rewarding life

Barriers

- Developers view security as a blocker!!!
- Developers don't understand AppSec!!!
- AppSec doesn't know the application!!!
- AppSec is generally outnumbered!!!



If it's not working... Pivot!

- Survey champions
- Meet individually monthly
- Adopt hands on training
- Partner to set goals for each champion
- Make them feel like they are special



What didn't work for us



Voluntelling developers to be a security champion



Security training courses



Setting expectations prior to starting the program

Set Maturity Goals



Where is our
current
maturity?

Where do we
want to be?

How to we
plan to get
there?

Value your champions

- Involve them in POCs
- Get their feedback regularly
- Connect them with strategic teams
- Recognize their contributions



When it works, it works!

- Developers started reaching out to us with questions
- Developers started asking about the program
- Developers start talking about security amongst themselves



The social element

Be honest with
your security
champions

Don't shame
them when
they are honest