

# NS2024

---

POWER OF PARTNERSHIP



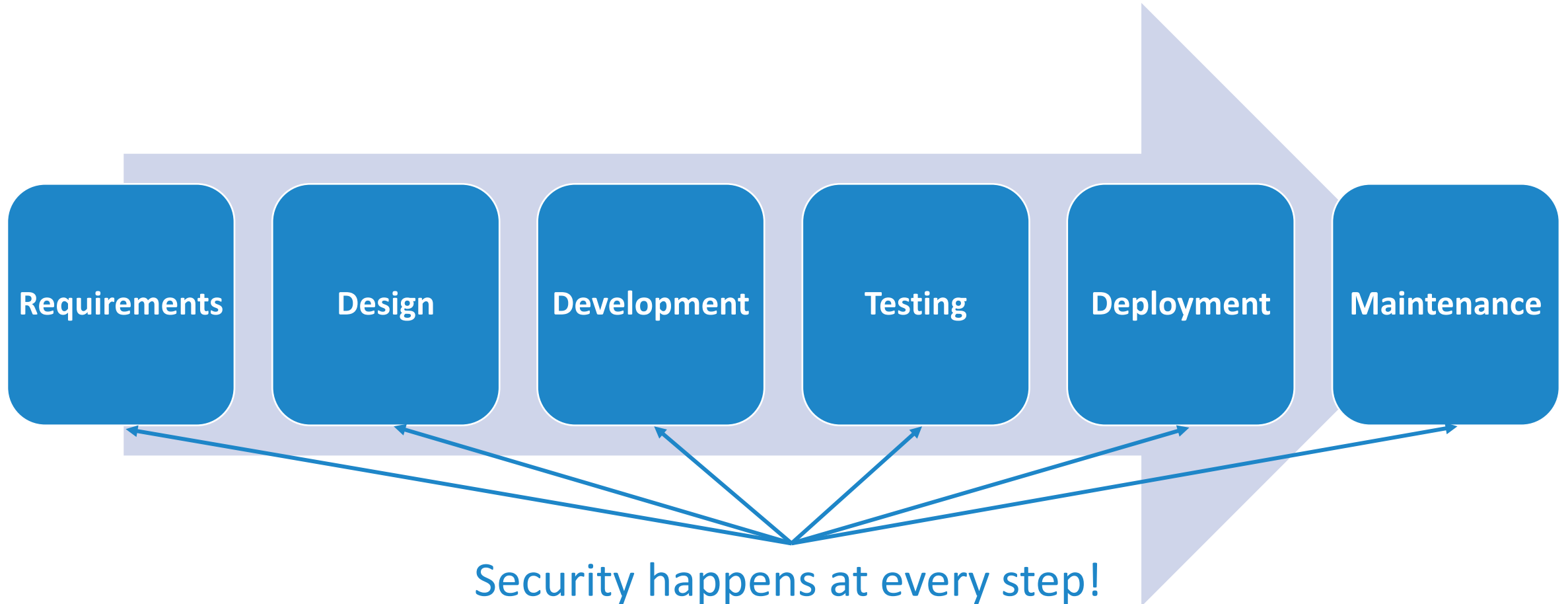
# Secure Coding 101

*Melanie Coggan*

*Software Engineer, Security Advocate*

**NS2024**  
POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

# When Does Security Happen?



# Secure Implementation Best Practices

## Security Coding Standards

Defines best practices

Helpful reference to developers

## Static Code Analysis

Can detect security issues

Can be set up to run on every check in

## Security Code Reviews

Performed by a person

Validates code against standards

# Secure Coding Standards in Niagara

|                           |                  |                       |                     |                         |                                 |
|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Access                    | Security Manager | Error Handling        | Auditing            | Logging                 | Injection                       |
| Authentication            | Authorization    | Input Validation      | Output Sanitization | Return Values           | Cookies                         |
| Protecting Sensitive Data | Passwords        | Third Party Libraries | Secure by Default   | Cryptographic Functions | Niagara-specific considerations |

# Secure Implementation Best Practices

## Security Coding Standards

Defines best practices

Helpful reference to developers

## Static Code Analysis

Can detect security issues

Can be set up to run on every check in

## Security Code Reviews

Performed by a person

Validates code against standards

# Static Code Analysis: Picking a Tool

Programming language support

Build tool integration

Supported issues and findings

# Secure Implementation Best Practices

## Security Coding Standards

Defines best practices

Helpful reference to developers

## Static Code Analysis

Can detect security issues

Can be set up to run on every check in

## Security Code Reviews

Performed by a person

Validates code against standards

# Security Code Reviews

Performed by a security person

Catches things automated tools don't

Ensures security coding standards are met

Should be performed on all code

# Secure Implementation Best Practices

## Security Coding Standards

Defines best practices

Helpful reference to developers

## Static Code Analysis

Can detect security issues

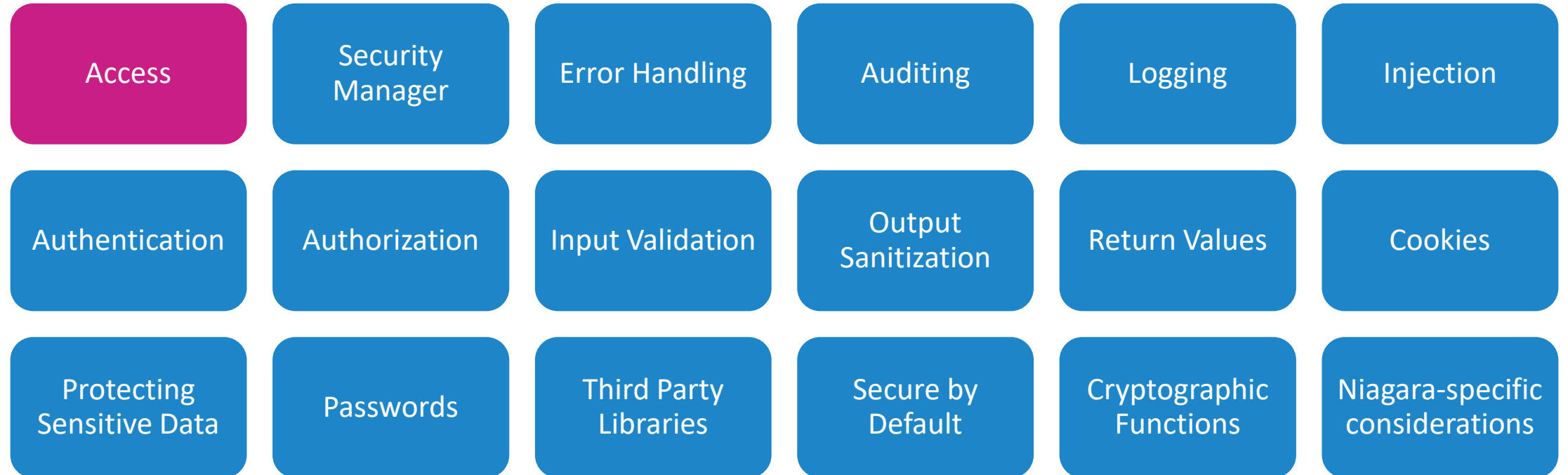
Can be set up to run on every check in

## Security Code Reviews

Performed by a person

Validates code against standards

# Example: Access



# Access Standards

Use access modifiers:

- private, package-private, protected, and public

Restrict access by default

Open access (with caution) if needed

# Example: Access

```
public static void fetchUserFullName(String user) throws ConfigException
{
    try
    {
        String apiKey = AccessController.doPrivileged((PrivilegedExceptionAction<String>()) ->
            new String(SecurityUtil.toHexChars(keyRing.getKey("summit2024.apiKey"))));
        fetchDataFromRemoteServer("userFullName", user, apiKey);
    }
    catch (PrivilegedActionException e)
    {
        throw new ConfigException(e.getException(), "Could not retrieve api key");
    }
}
```

Uses the API key in a  
controlled way

# Example: Access

```
public static void fetchUserFullName(String user) throws ConfigException
{
    try
    {
        String apiKey = AccessController.doPrivileged((PrivilegedExceptionAction<String>()) ->
            new String(SecurityUtil.toHexChars(keyRing.getKey("summit2024.apiKey"))));
        fetchDataFromRemoteServer("userFullName", user, apiKey);
    }
    catch (PrivilegedActionException e)
    {
        throw new ConfigException(e.getException(), "Could not retrieve api key");
    }
}

public static void fetchUserCreationDate(String user) throws ConfigException
{
    try
    {
        String apiKey = AccessController.doPrivileged((PrivilegedExceptionAction<String>()) ->
            new String(SecurityUtil.toHexChars(keyRing.getKey("summit2024.apiKey"))));
        fetchDataFromRemoteServer("userCreationDate", user, apiKey);
    }
    catch (PrivilegedActionException e)
    {
        throw new ConfigException(e.getException(), "Could not retrieve api key");
    }
}
```

The API key is  
still used in a  
controlled way

# Example: Access

```
public static void fetchUserFullName_updated(String user) throws ConfigException
{
    fetchDataFromRemoteServer("userFullName", user, getApiKey());
}
```

```
public static void fetchUserCreationDate_updated(String user) throws ConfigException
{
    fetchDataFromRemoteServer("userCreationDate", user, getApiKey());
}
```

```
public class Utils
{
    static String getApiKey() throws ConfigException
    {
        try
        {
            return AccessController.doPrivileged((PrivilegedExceptionAction<String>>() ->
                new String(SecurityUtil.toHexChars(keyRing.getKey("summit2024.apiKey"))));
        }
        catch (PrivilegedActionException e)
        {
            throw new ConfigException(e.getException(), "Could not retrieve api key");
        }
    }
}
```

The API key is  
still protected

# Example: Access

```
public static void fetchUserFullName_updated(String user) throws ConfigException
{
    fetchDataFromRemoteServer("userFullName", user, getApiKey());
}
```

```
public static void fetchUserCreationDate_updated(String user) throws ConfigException
{
    fetchDataFromRemoteServer("userCreationDate", user, getApiKey());
}
```

```
public class Utils
```

```
{
    public static String getApiKey() throws ConfigException
    {
        try
        {
            return AccessController.doPrivileged((PrivilegedExceptionAction<String>>() ->
                new String(SecurityUtil.toHexChars(keyRing.getKey("summit2024.apiKey"))));
        }
        catch (PrivilegedActionException e)
        {
            throw new ConfigException(e.getException(), "Could not retrieve api key");
        }
    }
}
```

The API key is  
exposed

# Access in Niagara

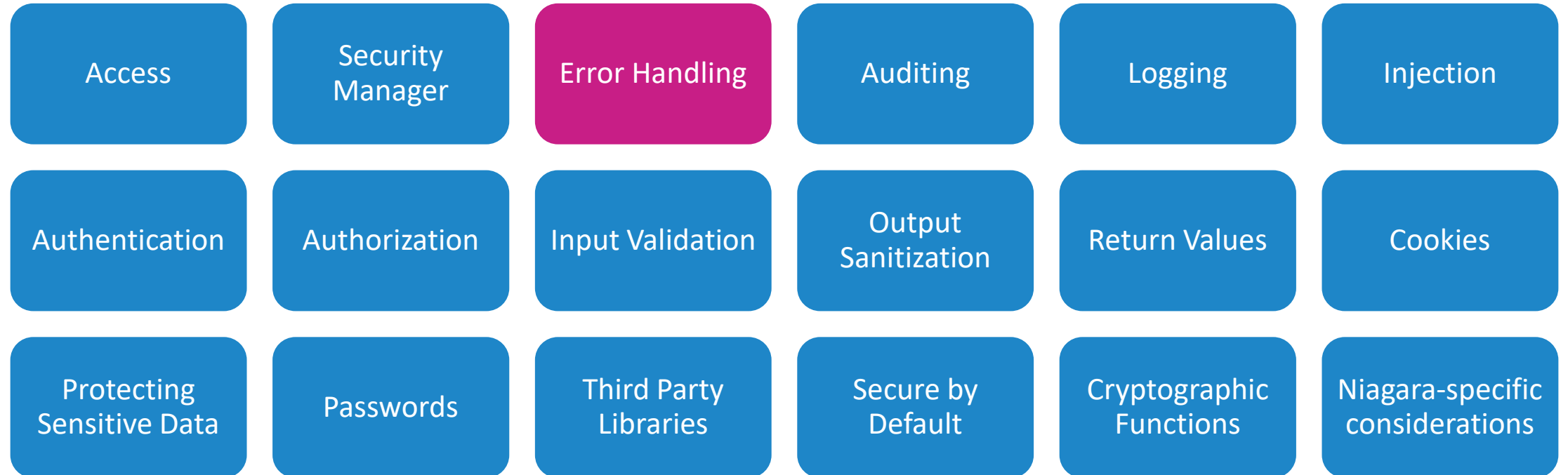
Slots are public

Flags are just UI hints

Use BPassword for sensitive data

Use IPropertyValidator to restrict user changes

# Example: Error Handling



# Error Handling: Client-Server

Helpful to users vs. helpful to attackers

~~Username not found.  
Invalid username/password combination.  
Incorrect password.~~



# Error Handling: Client-Server

Consider ALL responses

Account exists



Account does not exist



Discover valid  
accounts to  
attack

# Error Handling: Client-Server

Consider response timing

“Pass” vs. “Password10”

“Passwxxxxx” vs “Password10”

Discover the  
password one  
character at a  
time

Use `javax.baja.nre.util.SecurityUtil.equals()`  
or `javax.baja.security.BPassword.validate()`

# Error Handling: Client-Server

Applies after authentication

Resource exists

403 Not Found

Resource does not exist

404 Not Found

Discover  
Send the same response to the  
resources to  
client in both cases.  
attack

# Exception Handling

Do not expose sensitive information

Close resources – use try-with-resources

Restore state in multi-step operations

Fail secure

# Exception Handling: Fail Secure

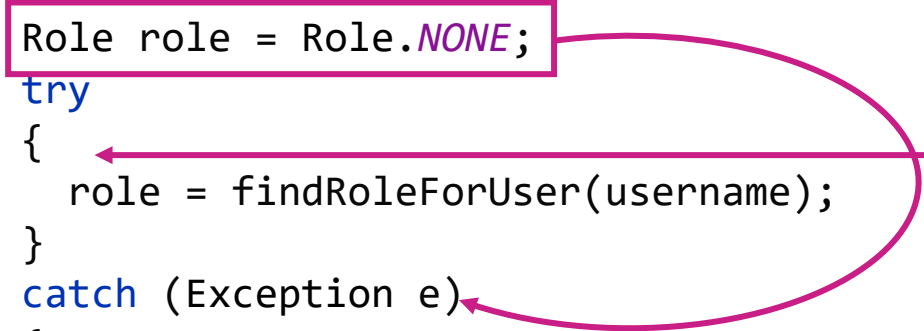
```
Role getUserRole(String username)
{
    Role role = Role.ADMIN;
    try
    {
        role = findRoleForUser(username);
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        // This should never happen
        log.warning("Could not find role for user: " + username);
    }
    return role;
}
```

If an exception occurs, role remains Role.ADMIN

# Exception Handling: Fail Secure

```
Role getUserRole(String username)
{
    Role role = Role.NONE;
    try
    {
        role = findRoleForUser(username);
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        // This should never happen
        log.warning("Could not find role for user: " + username);
    }
    return role;
}
```

If code is added that sets role, it still occurs, role remains Role.NONE, could end up in an incorrect state

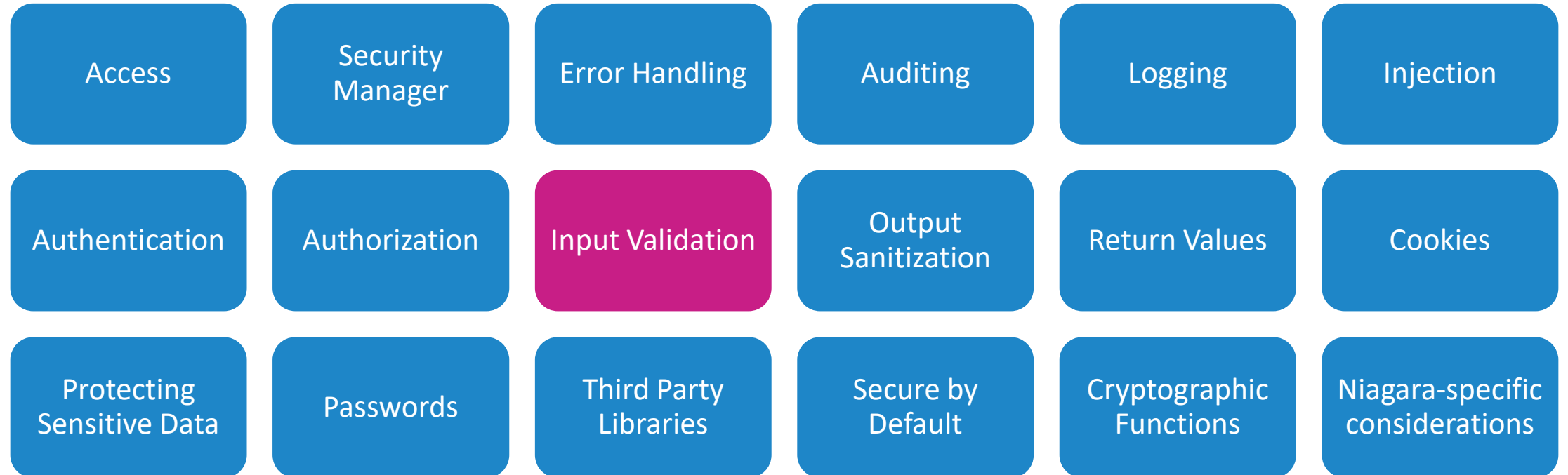


# Exception Handling: Fail Secure

```
Role getUserRole(String username)
{
    try
    {
        return findRoleForUser(username);
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        log.warning("Could not find role for user: " + username);
        return Role.NONE;
    }
}
```

Guaranteed to  
return Role.NONE

# Example: Input Validation



# Input Validation

Input is in expected format

Input is within expected parameters

Input is checked before using

Avoids unintended behavior

# Example: Input Validation

```
ResultSet getRecordsForDates(Connection connection, String username, UserInput userInput)
    throws SQLException
{
    String startDate = userInput.getStartDate();
    String endDate = userInput.getEndDate();

    String query = "SELECT * FROM records WHERE recordDate BETWEEN '" + startDate + "' AND '" +
        endDate + "' AND username='" + username + "'";
    try (Statement statement = connection.createStatement())
    {
        return statement.executeQuery(query);
    }
}
```

An attacker could set endDate to:

**2024-04-15' AND username='anotherUser' --**

And the query becomes:

**SELECT \* FROM records WHERE recordDate BETWEEN '2024-01-01'**  
**AND '2024-04-15' AND username='anotherUser' -- nothing after this matters**

# Example: Input Validation

## File Access

- `new File(baseDirectory, "../..escape/to/new/directory/ohNo")`

## Running an OS command

- `Runtime.getRuntime().exec(unintendedCommandInUserInput);`

## Building URLs

- `https://example.com/path?userInputParam=value1&badParam=value2`

# Example: Input Validation

```
ResultSet getRecordsForDates(Connection connection, String username, UserInput userInput)
    throws SQLException
{
    String startDate = userInput.getStartDate();
    String endDate = userInput.getEndDate();

    String query = "SELECT * FROM records WHERE recordDate BETWEEN ? AND ? AND username=?";
    try(PreparedStatement statement = connection.prepareStatement(query))
    {
        statement.setString(1, startDate);
        statement.setString(2, endDate);
        statement.setString(3, username);

        return statement.executeQuery();
    }
}
```

Each parameter is treated  
as an individual entity and  
cannot break out

# How to Validate Input: Allow Lists

Lists of allowed inputs

Can look at input as a whole

Can look at individual characters

# Allow List Example

```
static boolean isDayValid(String userInput)
{
    return VALID_DAYS.contains(userInput);
}

private static final List<String> VALID_DAYS = Collections.unmodifiableList(
    Arrays.asList("Mon", "Tue", "Wed", "Thu", "Fri", "Sat", "Sun"));
```

Great for small input sets!

# How to Validate Input: Regular Expressions

Pattern that input must match

Well-defined structure

Lots of different combinations

# Regular Expression Example

```
static boolean isValidSocialSecurityNumber(String userInput)
{
    return ssnPattern.matcher(userInput).matches();
}

private static final Pattern ssnPattern =
    Pattern.compile("^((?!666|000|9\\d{2})\\d{3})-(?!00)\\d{2}-(?!0{4})\\d{4}$");
```

Consider getting your  
regex from a trust source  
e.g. OWASP

[https://owasp.org/www-community/OWASP\\_Validation\\_Regex\\_Repository](https://owasp.org/www-community/OWASP_Validation_Regex_Repository)

# More Ways to Validate Input

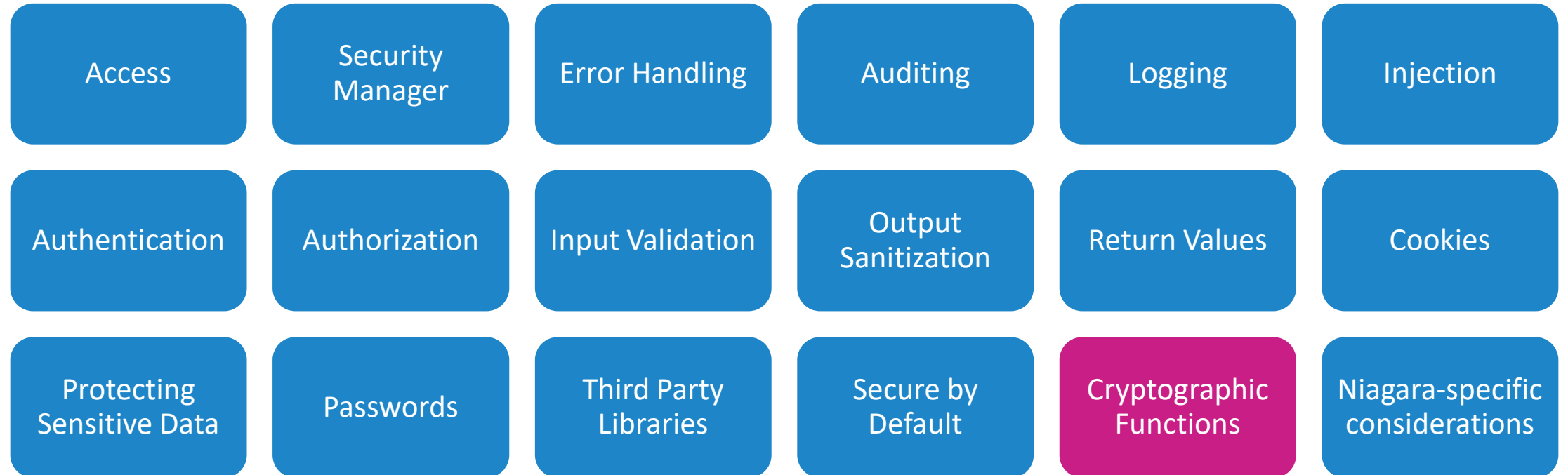
## Check input length

- Very quick to check
- Can be used before another more expensive check

## Semantic validation

- Checks meaning vs. format
- Even well-formed data can cause problems

# Example: Cryptographic Functions



# Example: Cryptographic Functions

Do not write your own crypto

Use modern, industry-standard algorithms

Properly manage secret keys

Use SecureRandom

# Using Cryptographic Functions

```
void useEncryption(byte[] bytesToEncrypt)
{
    byte[] initializationVector = generateInitializationVector();
    byte[] encryptedBytes = encrypt(bytesToEncrypt, initializationVector);
    // do something with encryptedBytes
}
```

```
private byte[] generateInitializationVector()
{
    SecureRandom secureRandom = new SecureRandom();
    byte[] iv = new byte[12];
    secureRandom.nextBytes(iv);
    return iv;
}
```

Uses SecureRandom

# Using Cryptographic Functions

```
void useEncryption(byte[] bytesToEncrypt)
{
    byte[] initializationVector = generateInitializationVector();
    byte[] encryptedBytes = encrypt(bytesToEncrypt, initializationVector);
    // do something with encryptedBytes
}
```

Uses integrated  
crypto provider

Uses industry  
standard  
algorithm

```
private byte[] encrypt(byte[] bytesToEncrypt, byte[] iv)
{
    try (SecretBytes encryptionKey = getEncryptionKey())
    {
        Cipher aesCipher = Cipher.getInstance("AES/GCM/NoPadding");
        AlgorithmParameterSpec parameterSpec = new GCMParameterSpec(128, iv);
        SecretKey secretKey = new SecretKeySpec(encryptionKey.get(), "AES");
        aesCipher.init(Cipher.ENCRYPT_MODE, secretKey, parameterSpec);
        return aesCipher.doFinal(bytesToEncrypt);
    }
    catch (Exception e)
    {
        throw new SecurityException("Could not encrypt bytes: " + e.getMessage());
    }
}
```

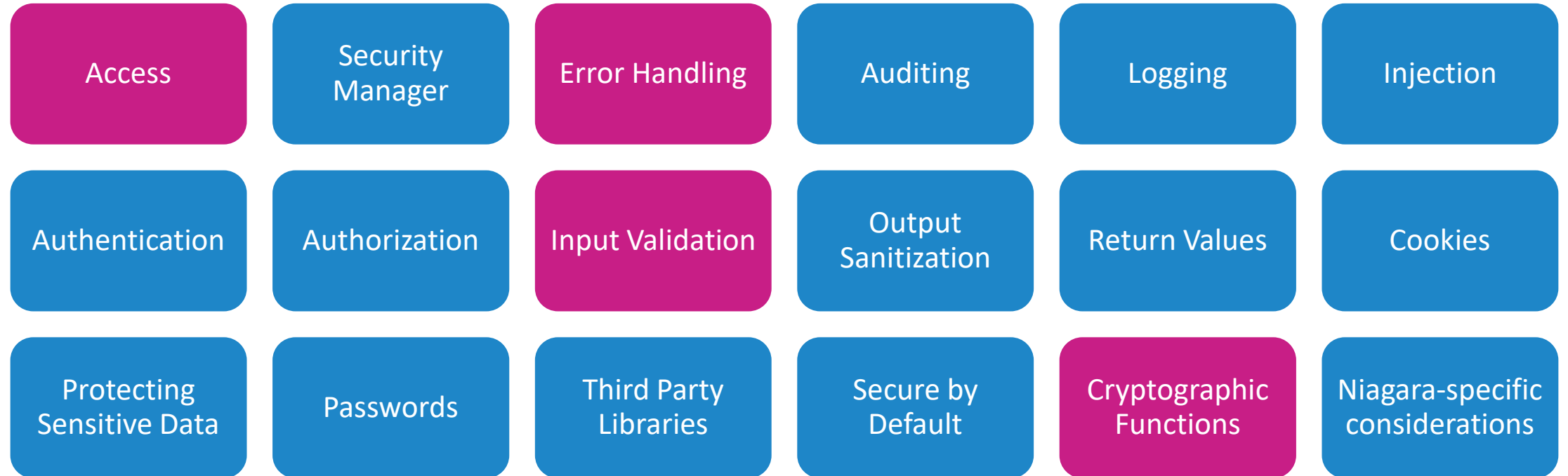
# Using Cryptographic Functions

```
private SecretBytes getEncryptionKey()
    throws Exception
{
    BPassword secretKeyPassword;
    if (getSecretKey().isNull())
    {
        KeyGenerator keyGen = KeyGenerator.getInstance("AES");
        SecretKey secretKey = keyGen.generateKey();
        secretKeyPassword = BPassword.make(SecurityUtil.toHexChars(secretKey.getEncoded()));
        setSecretKey(secretKeyPassword);
    }
    else
    {
        secretKeyPassword = getSecretKey();
    }

    return AccessController.doPrivileged((PrivilegedAction<SecretBytes>()) ->
        secretKeyPassword.getSecretChars().asSecretBytes());
}
```

Securely stores  
secret key in a  
BPassword slot

# Example: Cryptographic Functions



# Resources

- OWASP (Open Web Application Security Project)
  - <https://owasp.org/>
- SANS Institute
  - <https://www.sans.org/>
- CERT Secure Coding Standards
  - <https://wiki.sei.cmu.edu/confluence/display/seccode/SEI+CERT+Coding+Standards>
- Oracle's Java: The Secure Coding Guidelines
  - <https://www.oracle.com/java/technologies/javase/seccodeguide.html>
- List of Static Code Analysis Tools
  - [https://owasp.org/www-community/Source\\_Code\\_Analysis\\_Tools](https://owasp.org/www-community/Source_Code_Analysis_Tools)

**Any questions?**

