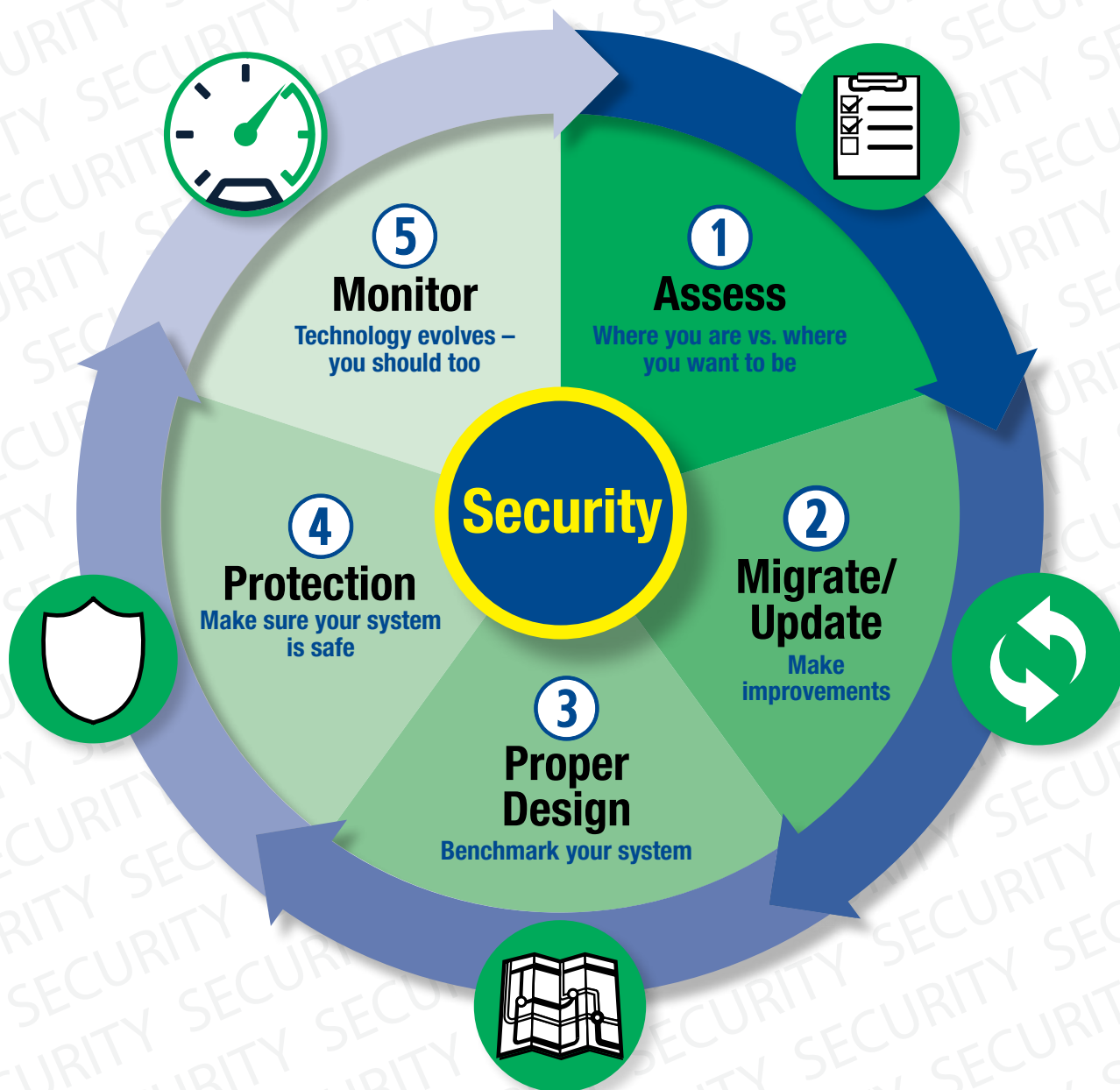


Most of you have heard of the Internet of Things (IoT) and the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT). You might think of it as a fad, but it's here to stay – and it will transform how you do business.

IIoT is the explosion of the number of smart devices that are interconnected via the Internet. This wave of technology, and the two-way communication it provides, enables companies to

come up with game-changing ways to take advantage of access to more information. The biggest gains are expected in the industrial sector: the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT).

A lot of people are talking about WHY you should take advantage of IIoT. It's growing at a tremendous rate and offers great potential for business. But not many are discussing HOW to go about it. You can get started with just five simple steps, as outlined in this checklist.



Just remember: Security lies at the heart of every step in the process. You must review and understand your security needs as you implement each step.



1 Assess

Start with an assessment. Consider your goals. The end result is an accurate map of your network's infrastructure, which will be used as a baseline.



2 Migrate or Update

Step two depends on your specific network. If your network isn't already running on Ethernet, you should develop a phased plan to migrate your technology. If you have an Ethernet infrastructure in place, focus on updates to your network.



3 Proper Design

A few ways to do this include finding ways to use more of what you already have; reviewing your network "map" to make sure everything is segmented properly into zones and conduits; consider using wireless technology to advance your network; and look for ideas outside of your own industry for inspiration.



4 Protect

Make sure your system is protected. Start with a risk and vulnerability assessment to help prioritize what to protect first. The best way to tackle security is to take a layered approach and build security measures in each level of the network, including the device level. If you have limited resources or budgets, focus on protecting your businesses' most critical assets first.



5 Monitor

Make sure to set up ongoing monitoring and troubleshooting, with alert mechanisms built in. With real-time tools in place, you'll know what's happening on your network and you can take advantage of opportunities or prevent any issues.