

Post-Quantum Cryptography.

Executive one-pager — the risk, the mandate, the ask.

COLUMN 01

The risk.

HNDL IS CURRENT, NOT FUTURE.

Quantum computers will break RSA and elliptic-curve cryptography. The risk begins now, not when a quantum computer arrives — adversaries are exfiltrating encrypted data today for future decryption (Harvest Now, Decrypt Later).

DOCUMENTED IN THREAT INTELLIGENCE.

Federal Reserve research (2025) documents HNDL-motivated collection in financial-services traffic. The pattern is in the public-record threat-intelligence corpus.

5-YEAR CONFIDENTIALITY THRESHOLD.

Any data the organization must keep confidential for more than five years is effectively at risk today — most strategic business information sits in that window.

COLUMN 02

The mandate.

FIPS 203 / 204 / 205 FINALIZED.

NIST published three replacement standards in August 2024 — ML-KEM for key establishment, ML-DSA and SLH-DSA for signatures. Standards stable; vendor adoption underway.

CNSA 2.0 — JANUARY 2027 PREFERRED.

NSA's algorithm suite requires National Security Systems to prefer PQC by January 2027 and disallow classical algorithms in 2030–2031. The procurement landscape is shaped by it.

CISA — JANUARY 2026 PROCUREMENT GUIDANCE.

CISA issued PQC procurement guidance in January 2026. Buying new network equipment without a PQC upgrade path is now a compliance risk, not a future concern.

COLUMN 03

The ask.

APPROVE A CRYPTOGRAPHIC INVENTORY SPRINT.

Scope: all internet-facing and high-trust systems. Named owner. Quarterly review cadence. The foundation of every other decision.

UPDATE PROCUREMENT LANGUAGE.

Require PQC readiness criteria in all new technology contracts from 2026 forward. Use the published RFP rubric.

ESTABLISH A TRANSITION OWNER.

Single accountable role reporting into the CIO / CISO line. Quarterly maturity review.

DEFER PROPRIETARY "QUANTUM-SAFE" PURCHASES.

Wait for FIPS-validated, NIST-aligned products from the existing vendor stack. Avoid bespoke replacement risk.

Standards are stable. Vendor readiness and compliance deadlines are not. Review quarterly.