

Standardization Capability to Competitiveness

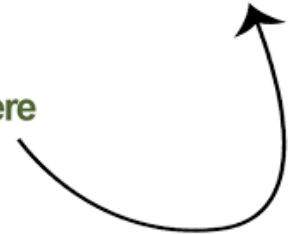
Case Study: Age Assurance Technology

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The StandICT Programme Context

- EU-funded initiative supporting European leadership in ICT standardisation
- Fellowship focused on ISO/IEC 27566-1 development
- Aim: create global framework for privacy-preserving, secure age assurance systems
- Although in support of the EU Digital Services Act; it had wider applicability to age assurance legislation globally
- Support regulators to prioritise risk, resources and responses
- Enable an innovative, creative, technology-neutral competitive market for age assurance solutions



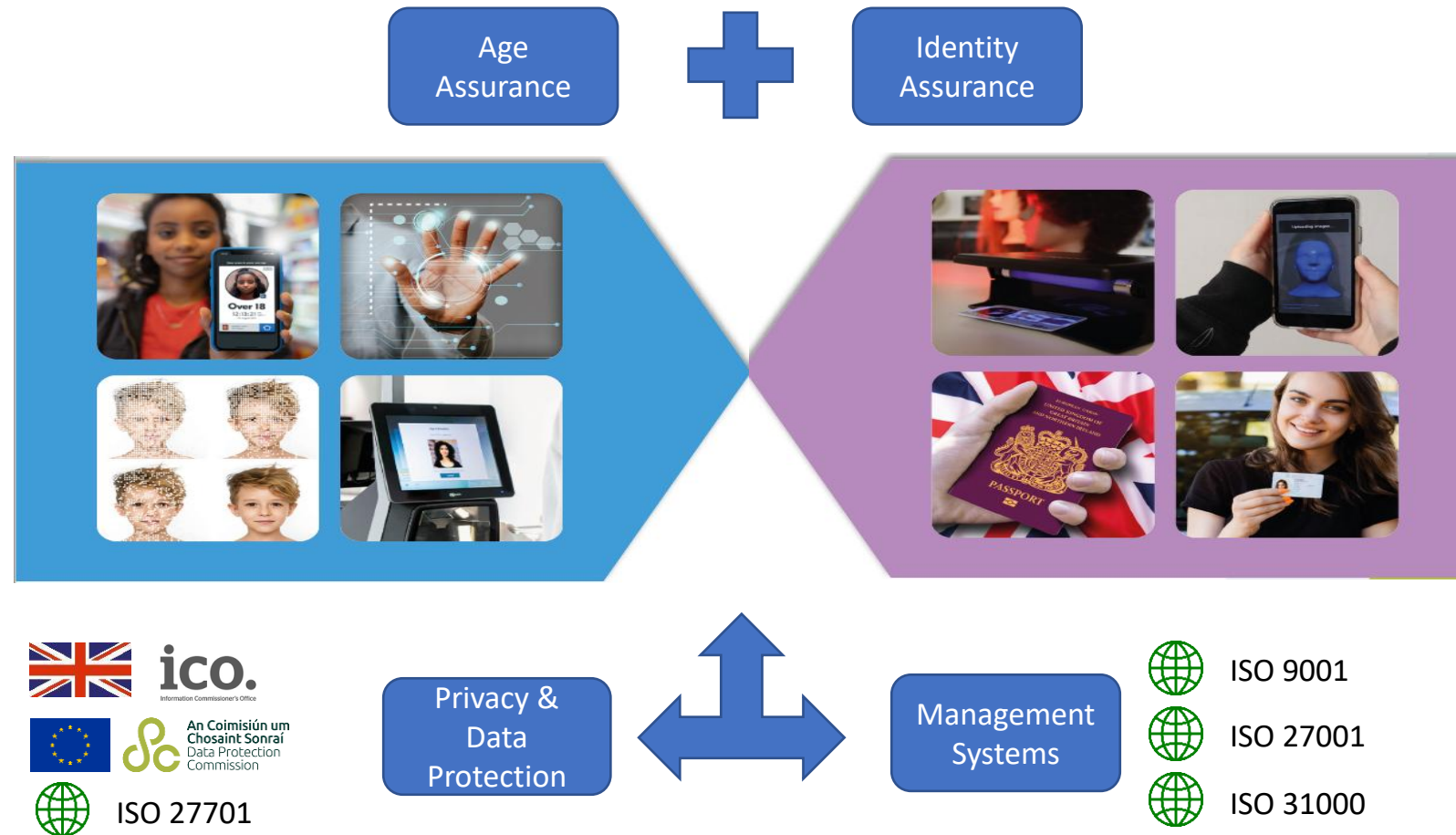
Be like...

...yeah, of course
I'm over 18!

Global Child Protection Online

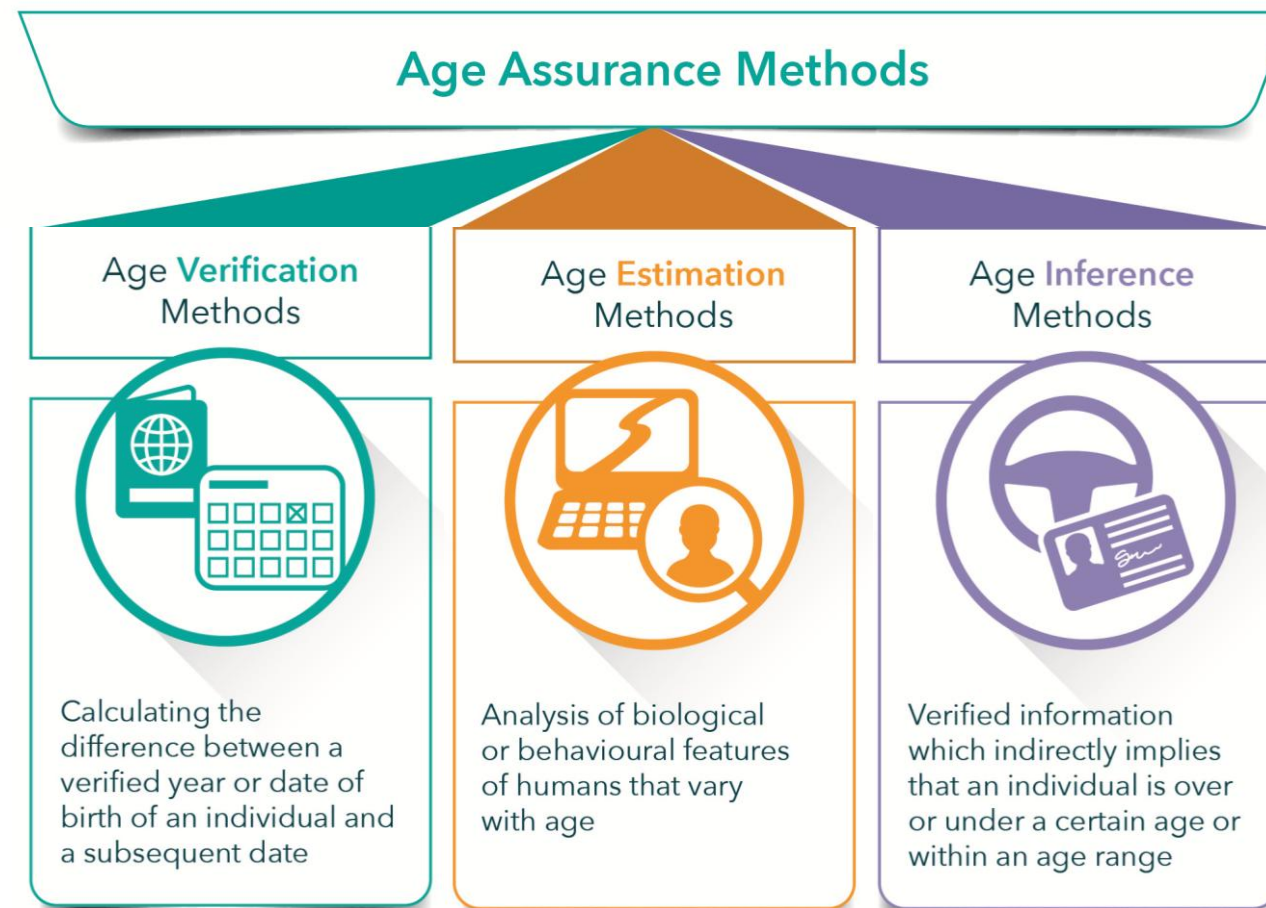
- Global roll out of age assurance requirements
- Governments everywhere have a shared ambition for a safer online experience for children
- It is about **enabling children** to enjoy safer online experiences, including social media, access to age-appropriate materials, games and entertainment and **reducing harm** to children
- It is distinct from Identity Assurance (and importantly so)
- Builds on previous work IEEE 2089.1, PAS 1296:2018, Conformity Assessment into a new Global Framework

Age Assurance is not Identity Assurance



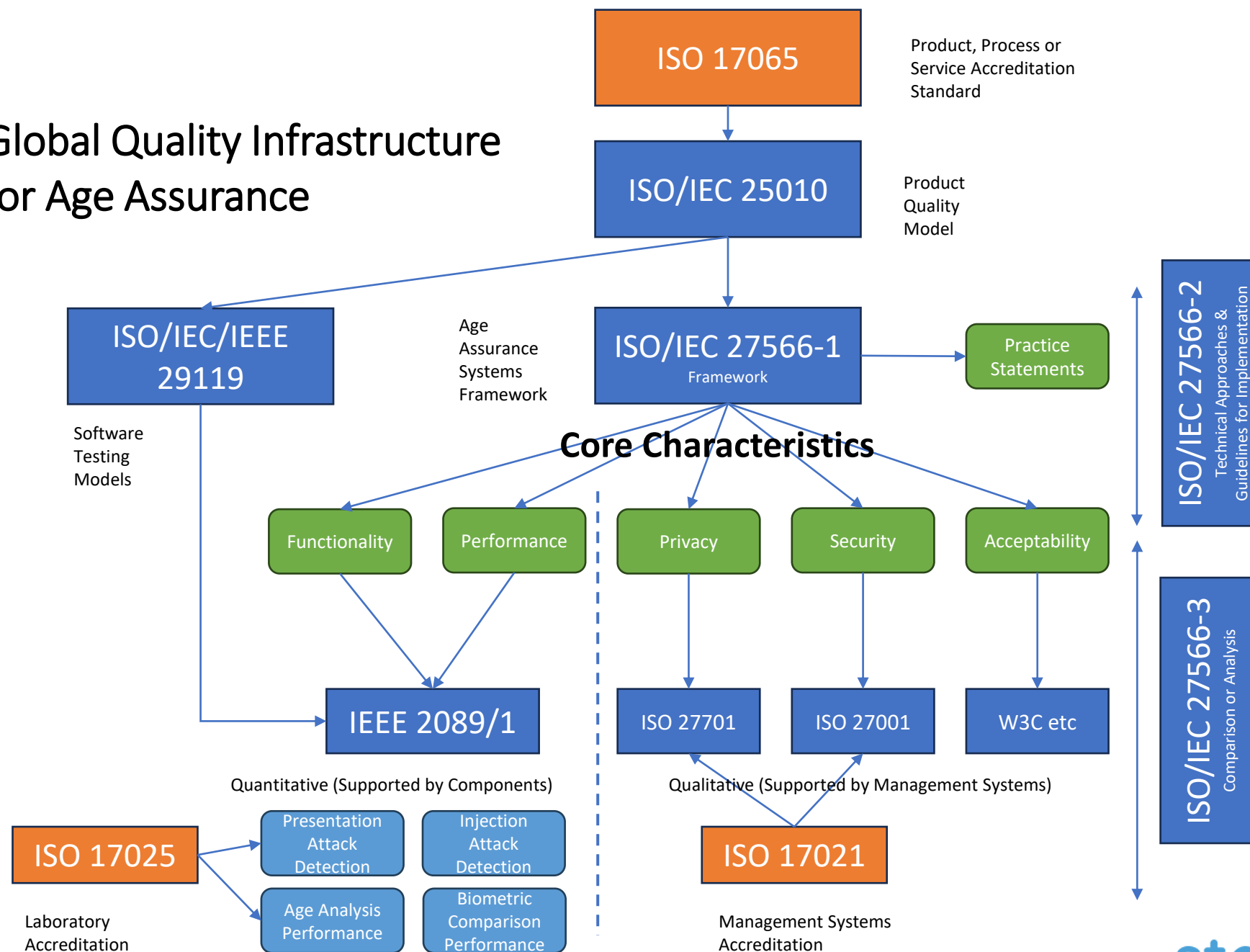
- Early solutions relied on government-issued IDs
- Creates privacy, inclusion, surveillance and interoperability barriers
- Limits creativity, innovation and SME participation
- Hinders competitive markets, technological development and user transparency

What is age assurance?



- Funding support from StandICT.eu 2026 enabled technical expertise to be released from private sector to lead the development of a global standard for age assurance
- It focussed on bringing EU-level trust and privacy principles to a global approach – without mandating GDPR compliance globally
- Promoted industry-led innovation-enabling, whilst being technology-neutral approaches

Global Quality Infrastructure for Age Assurance



CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

ACCS 1: 2025

Certification Scheme for Age Assurance Systems and Components

ACCS 1:2025 [CCC] v2025-1 – [Country] Supplemental Scheme Rules

Outcomes & Next Steps

- ISO/IEC FDIS 27566-1:2025 has been formally approved and will be published shortly
- A Certification Scheme has been developed and submitted to an IAF member body (UKAS) for approval
- Opportunity for individual supplementary certification requirements for localisation or specific contexts of use
- Opportunity for the deployment of age assurance in a privacy-preserving, secure and effective manner to protect children from online harm across the whole Tech Stack
- Significant skills and body of knowledge development as a part of the StandICT funding

Certification Scheme

Preparation

- Role(s) of the Applicant (Age Assurance Provider, Intermediary or Relying Party)
- Identification of the Component or System under Analysis
- System Scoping, including Certification Boundaries
- Desired Indicators of Effectiveness
- Preparation and Assessment of Practice Statements

Stage 1 (Product Owner Policies)

- Product Owner/ Applicant Assessment
- Document/ Policy Review of the Five Core Characteristics
 - Functionality
 - Performance
 - Privacy
 - Security
 - Acceptability
- Sources of Data
- Date Transposition
- Configuration Management
- Stage 2 Planning

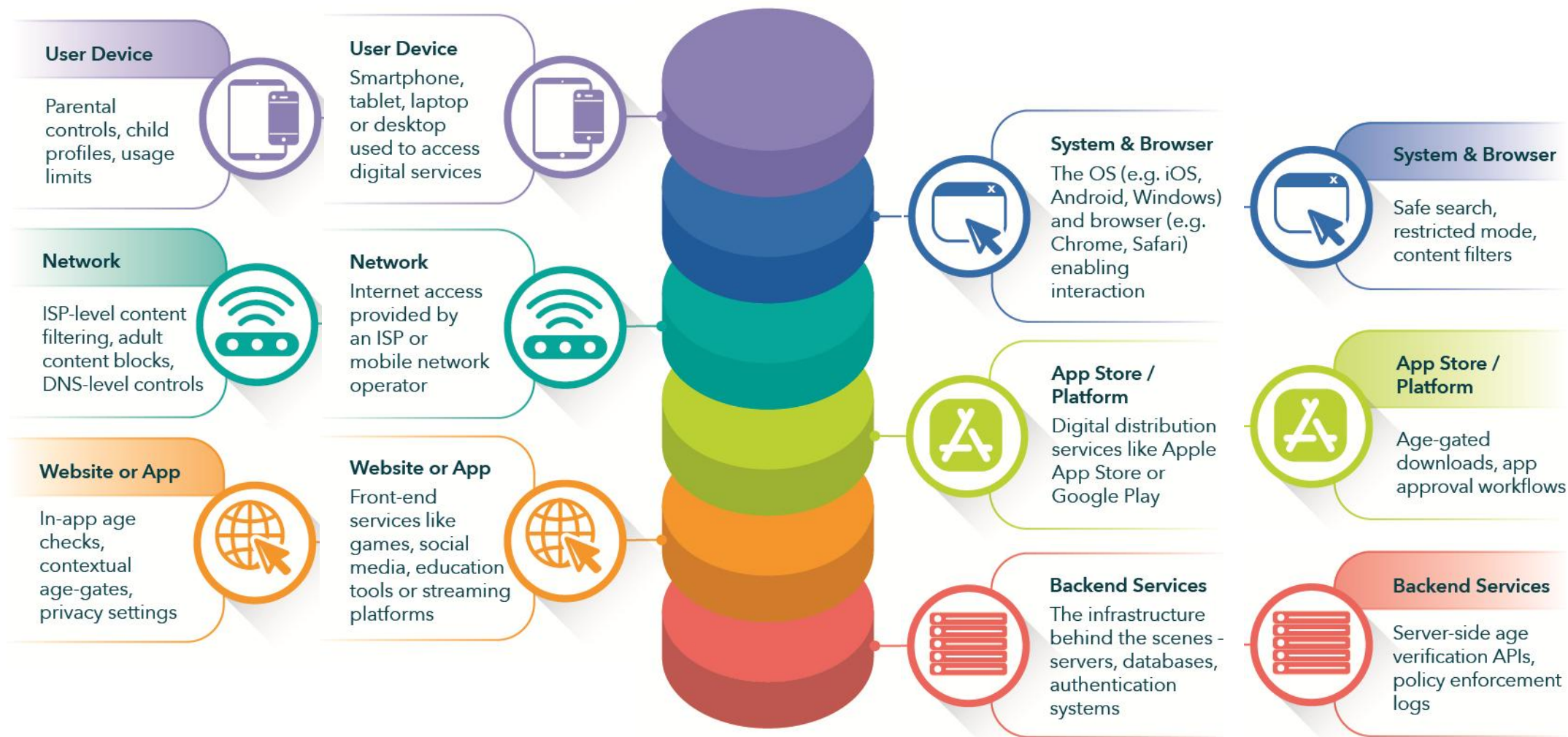
Stage 2 (Components and Context of Use)

- Component Selection
 - Required Indicators of Effectiveness
 - Selection of Test Approach (ISO 29119)
 - Age Verification
 - Age Estimation
 - Age Inference
- Approaches to Binding
- Analysis of Five Core Characteristics
- Jurisdictions
- Prior Accredited Certification

Evaluation Review & Certification Decision

- Scientific Review of Evaluation Tasks
- Evaluation Review
- Management of the Certification Mark
- Certification Decision
- Registry
- Addition to Monitoring Services (FREE)
- Applications for Additional/Updated Components
- Surveillance Audits (Annually)
- Recertification (3-yearly)

Tech Stack with Age Assurance Options



Opportunities for business to demonstrate conformity & regulators to prioritise resources



Source: United Kingdom Cabinet Office Regulator's Code



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