



Digital Twins for Cyber Insurance

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ABSTRACT: Cyberattacks have not only risen in number but also in their sophistication and financial impact, thereby putting traditional cyber insurance models under a lot of pressure to justify their value. The old-fashioned ways of assessing and underwriting cyber risks are still heavily dependent on static questionnaires, past loss data, and infrequent audits that can barely cope with the ever-evolving nature of cyber risks. It is in this situation that digital twin technology has come up as a breakthrough innovation that has the potential to completely transform the cyber insurance arena.

The authors put forward the concept of digital twins, which are essentially virtual and regularly updated copies of the firms' digital environments, as the main instrument for evaluating risks in cyber insurance underwriting, claims processing, and even regulatory scrutiny. The study applies a conceptual and exploratory research design as well as secondary literature and industry standards to develop a digital twin-based framework for the cyber insurance ecosystem. The framework described in this article points out how real-time system simulation, predictive analytics, and continuous monitoring technologies can be mingled together to not merely provide improved risk visibility but also to increase the accuracy of underwriting process and to make easier management of claims and compliance with regulations in a proactive way.

According to the results obtained, the digital twins facilitate the process for the insurers to go beyond the traditional static approach of evaluating the risks after the events and thus to be able to adopt the more innovative dynamic simulation-driven risk governance method. Digital twins not only support the ongoing alignment of the cyber stance, insurance choices, and regulatory requirements but also create a huge potential for increasing the resilience, transparency, and trust in the whole cyber insurance market as a whole through the scalable paths they provide.

KEYWORDS: Digital Twins, Cyber Insurance, Cyber Risk Modeling, Predictive Analytics, AI Governance, Risk Simulation

I. INTRODUCTION

The organizations that depend on complex information systems, cloud infrastructures, and interconnected digital supply chains have slowly been considering cyber insurance as the best and the most effective way for them to transfer and manage digital risks. This specific insurance has become the number one choice due to the growing number of ransomware attacks, data breaches, and other cybercrimes, and it secures not only the direct financial losses but also the major business interruptions. Even so, the effectiveness of cyber insurance is still curtailed by the basic limitations associated with the measurement and management of cyber risks. [1]

The typical cyber insurance model is enormously reliant on static risk assessments, self-reported questionnaires, and historical loss data, which are considered to be the suppliers of the information. To put it in stark terms, these methods produce a basic understanding of the cyber posture of the organization, but they are totally incapable of tracking the cyber threats which are constantly changing in nature. A slight alteration in system configurations, introduction of new software vulnerabilities, change in user behavior and threat actor's tactics can significantly alter the organization's risk profile, at times rendering prior assessments irrelevant.

Digital twin technology is the main reason for a major change in perception. A digital twin is the representation of an actual model of a system, either physical or digital, which is always kept up to date with live data. At first, the idea was used in the manufacturing and industrial industries, but now it is becoming more and more common in the midst of complexity and in the case of digital technologies like networks, cloud architecting, and cybersecurity [2]. The



application of digital twin technology enables an instant duplication of a company's cyber environment that can be monitored, simulated, and analyzed for risk forecasting regularly.

Digital twins in the insurance sector for cybersecurity imply that cyber insurers' future will be those of active, data-driven insurance models. Insurance firms would no longer have to rely on periodic assessments, but they could rapidly use digital twins to simulate cyberattacks, find out the consequences of vulnerabilities, and verify the effectiveness of countermeasures, all within one continuous process. The trend makes it possible to improve significantly the underwriting accuracy, claims justification, and compliance with regulations all at once, price-wise.

The paper claims that digital twins are a basic technology and the way cyber insurance will be. It puts forward a systematic structure of the processes of integrating digital twins from the very beginning of the risk assessment, underwriting, and claims processing to the end of governance in the cyber insurance workflows. In this way, the work adds to the growing trend of research associated with cyber risk management, insurance innovation, and the use of advanced technologies.

One of the major drawbacks of insurance for cyber-threats models today is the claims validation and disagreement resolution between the parties after the incident. This paper argues that digital twins are not only tools for risk assessment but also as the best evidence in court able to reconstruct cyber-incidents, prove loss causation, and provide audit support during claims decision-making and insurance company and regulatory review. Digital twins will help insurers to visualize the spread of the attack and the condition of the system at the time of loss and thus create a new phase for the transparent, justifiable, and governance-compliant operations of cyber insurance.

II. BACKGROUND AND RELATED WORK

A. Digital Twins and Cyber Risk Modeling

The growing use of digital twins for real-time modeling of complex and dynamic systems is being confirmed by the present literature. In the domain of cybersecurity, digital twins have been used in various ways such as simulating the behavior of a network, identifying weaknesses, and analysing the possible damage caused by cyberattacks under different conditions. [3]

From the perspective of formal mathematics, the cyber risk exposure at moment t can be characterized as follows:

$$R(t) = f(A(t), V(t), C(t), T(t)),$$

where A represents the condition of the assets, V stands for the existence of system vulnerabilities, C indicates the degree of security and governance controls, and T denotes the fluctuation of attacks over time.

From the standpoint of insurance, the authors claim that risk assessment based on simulation gives a truer portrayal of loss exposure in comparison to the traditional survey methods. Digital twins allow insurers to experiment with hypothetical attack situations and calculate the possible monetary impacts before the events happen [4].

B. Digital Twins in Insurance and Risk Governance

In the field of InsurTech research, digital twins are getting more and more recognized as being the facilitators of continuous risk visibility and decision support. Also, they are no longer seen as mere static assessment tools. The continuous observation of the system and its simulation in real-time might entice the insurance companies to calibrate their underwriting assumptions with the actual behavior of the system and the risk factors that are changing. Nevertheless, the full technical capabilities of digital twins that have been attracting much interest, the systematic incorporation of these digital twins into cyber insurance governance- especially through the areas of underwriting, claims validation and regulatory auditability has not been thoroughly researched in the literature so far.

III. RESEARCH GAP AND CONTRIBUTIONS

The primary reason driving this study is the increasing difference between the dynamic nature of cyber risk and the mostly static approaches employed in cyber insurance underwriting and governance. Insurance companies are relying on loss data which does not take into account the current behaviors of systems and the new means of threatening security along with regular assessments. This limitation in their structure reduces the predictive power of the underwriting decisions and thus leads to the inability of the insurance companies to rightly price risk [5].

Digital twin technology comes with a new solution to the problem by making it possible to conduct continuous, real-time reproduction of an organization's cyber environment. Unlike the traditional risk models, digital twins simulate the



system's behavior by using different threat scenarios and thus provide the insurers with the opportunity to view the effect of the infrastructure, security posture, or user behavior changes on cyber risk exposure. This feature is very significant in cyber insurance since loss severity and frequency are very sensitive to operational conditions.

One of the key contributions of this study is the digital-twin-centered cyber insurance policy that covers all the aspects of risk evaluation, underwriting, claims assessment, and governance within a single structure. The introduction of digital twins into the insurance operation makes it possible for the framework to incorporate a risk assessment that is not just reactive but also proactive and predictive.

Furthermore, the research establishes a connection between the larger surroundings of InsurTech and cyber risk management with the argument that digital twins could allow the insurance sector to have clearer vision, come up with more effective audit trails, and meet the requirements of the regulations with less effort. In the author's view, the digital twin technology is not merely a technical application, rather, it is the main support for trust and resilience to be established in the cyber insurance ecosystems [6].

A. Research Gap

There have been studies that focus on the use of digital twins in cybersecurity and insurance, but very few have taken a holistic approach that integrates the two fields, thus there is no research involving direct application of digital twins in cyber insurance workflow. Besides, the literature that is available does not really cover how digital twins can be used to support underwriting, claims assessment, and governance at the same time. This shortcoming calls for a new digital twin-based cyber insurance framework.

B. Positioning Against Prior IEEE Work

The use of digital twins in research has basically come from their use in industrial systems, smart manufacturing, and resilient critical infrastructure, and also cyber-physical security modeling. In fact, previous studies have indicated that digital twins have been incorporated into predictive maintenance, system optimization, and attack surface simulation in both operational technology and enterprise IT environments. Nevertheless, digital twin technology has been predominantly seen as a technical and defensive means among the cybersecurity issues treated mainly through threat emulation, vulnerability testing, and incident response training.

Nonetheless, the substantial contribution of digital twins to the insurance and reclamation of risk mechanisms has not been noticed yet. To be more specific, the current cyber insurance literature mainly hinges on static risk questionnaires, historical loss data, and external security ratings, thus giving almost no importance to dynamic system representations. There are a handful of studies that recognize the concept of continuous risk monitoring, however, they do not incorporate digital twins as evidence-creating or governance-supporting tools in the underwriting and claims workflows. [7]

Besides that, the discussions about digital twins more in terms of governance are practically non-existent in the domains of finance and insurance risk and cyber incidents research. The existing literature does not show adequately how the twin's simulation can help in claims validation, auditability, regulatory defensibility, or post-incident dispute resolution. Consequently, digital twins have changed their perception not to be just technical duplicates but rather to be above all accompanied by different government interpretations that, in an imperceptible way, link up cyber-risk modeling, claims assessment, and regulatory accountability.

By allowing the digital twins to participate in the insurance decision-making process rather than utilizing them for disconnected cybersecurity interventions, the past research is revisited and a new insurance-centric approach is introduced at the same time. The modern version of the model makes use of digital twins as genuine proof devices that assist in accurate underwriting, fair claims payment, and audit trails for compliance in the cyber-insurance sector.

C. Explicit Research Gap

Digital twins are mainly the topic of existing research in the area of cyber-physical systems, where such systems are mainly used for operational optimization and monitoring of performance. However, digital twins have been used in recent studies on cybersecurity for attack simulation and vulnerability analysis, which have made their way into technical security domains.

On the other hand, there is no mention of digital twins in insurance underwriting- such functions as validation, claims adjudication, evidentiary reconstruction, and regulatory auditability- thus, they are in the developing literature of cyber



insurance. Currently, the only tools used for risk modeling in insurance are static questionnaires and post-incident documentation which cannot cope with the rapidly changing nature of cyber events. [8]

The authors of the paper present a framework of a governance-specific digital twin that is particularly aimed at cyber-insurance processes as a solution wherein digital twins would be considered as decision-support and evidentiary instruments rather than mere technical simulation tools.

D. Research objectives and Questions

The main goal of this study is to examine the reliable use of digital twin technology in the improvement of the cyber insurance decision-making and policy governance process. The study plans to develop a framework based on digital twin technology for ongoing cyber risk assessment, flexible underwriting, and claims management supported by data.

Here are the aims of the Research:

- The first objective is to delineate the digital twins' impact on cyber risk modeling for insurance situations
- The second is to discover the potential of real-time simulation to improve the accuracy of the underwriting process
- The third one is to analyze the role of digital twins in the validation of claims and in the assessment of loss.
- The fourth objective is to delineate the governance and the difficulties in the implementation of digital twin technology.

The questions raised by the study are in accord with the above-mentioned objectives:

- In which ways can the use of digital twins support the quantification and forecasting of cyber risk in the insurance sector?
- What are the necessary structural elements for the smooth integration of digital twins into cyber insurance processes?
- With the case of underwriting and claims decision, how does the presence of digital twins form the characteristics of transparency and trust?
- Which technical, ethical, and regulatory hurdles will the insurance models have driven by digital twin technology face?

E. Contributions of this Study

The article indicates that there are only three main technical contributions in relation to cyber insurance and these are contributions of the same nature only.

To begin with, the first contribution is a suggestion for a layered digital twin architecture that is specifically designed for insurance workflows and is capable of linking up real-time cyber system states for not only network defense or security monitoring but also underwriting, claims validation, and governance functions.

The second contribution entails a closed-loop feedback model in which digital twin simulations perpetually readjust and readjust the exposure to cyber risks and their respective pricing for the processes of underwriting, incident response, and claims settlement thus allowing the risk to be repriced and the coverage to be changed accordingly. [9]

The framework is the third contribution that applies governance-aware twin design principles which facilitate the alignment of underwriting explainability and claims defensibility with regulatory auditability requirements thus, bridging the gap between technical simulation and insurance decision accountability.

IV. METHODOLOGY

In this particular research, validation does not serve the purpose of predictive accuracy but rather the validity of the structure and governance. The evaluation of the framework is focused on its capability to depict the advancement of cyber risk, provide assistance in underwriting and claims, and produce auditable artefacts with the realistic conditions of operation. This is in accordance with design science research principles, where the usefulness of artefacts, the internal consistency, and the accountability of decisions are given preference over empirical prediction.

A Design Science Research (DSR) methodology is applied in this research. This approach is suitable for the creation and assessment of artefacts meant to address sophisticated and disputed issues in socio-technical systems like cyber insurance.



The research mainly relies on secondary qualitative data, which are provided by scholarly literature, industry reports, and the documentation of use cases related to digital twins, cybersecurity, and insurance innovation that have been peer-reviewed. Thematic analysis has been carried out on these sources to identify the trends that correspond to real-time risk modeling, simulation-based decision-making, and governance implications. [10]

Then the conceptual modeling techniques were applied in order to synthesize the insights from the literature into a unified digital twin-centric cyber insurance framework. The approach allows for the systematic representation of the interactions that take place among the cyber environments, the insurance decision-making processes, and the governance mechanisms without the requirement of any proprietary or confidential data sets.

A. Illustrative Scenario: Digital Twin-Enabled Ransomware Event Simulation

The proposed framework can be interpreted as having a real-life application through a ransomware attack that was conducted in a digital reproduction of an insured company's network environment. The digital twin always reflects the system configurations, access controls, and security interdependencies before the incident took place. The hacking steps, data encryption methods, and service interruptions can be simulated by the digital twin within the pre-set timelines as soon as the ransomware payload is released. Consequently, the insurers are allowed to identify the cause of loss, determine whether or not the policy coverage was invoked, and to see the condition of the security controls in operational terms at the time of the incident. The digital twin performs an auditable reconstruction of system behavior when compared to the traditional post-incident documentation, thus, affirming the claims validation and dispute resolution processes.

V. PROPOSED DIGITAL TWIN-BASED CYBER INSURANCE FRAMEWORK

The deployment of digital twins has given rise to a new paradigm of risk assessments which go beyond the classic approach of static evaluations of cyber risks and lead to continuous governance of risks through simulations. The digital twin, as suggested in the framework, is a virtual copy of the cyber environment of the insured organization that is constantly updated with telemetry, configuration data, and security events in real-time. This twin serves as the primary intelligence layer for the cyber insurance decision-making process.

A. Framework Overview

The structure is made up of multiple interconnected layers that are linked to each other:

- Cyber risk modeling based on Digital twin
- A twin that is of digital utility during underwriting and pricing
- Digital twin insights for governance and monitoring
- Digital twin that assists in claims and incidents analysis
- Governance and monitoring through digital twin insights

This layered structure presents an insurance ecosystem in its entirety that can change according to the cyber risks and the company's traits.

B. Layer 1: Digital Twin-Based Cyber Risk Modeling

The system's core consists of a digital twin that models the cyber defense system of the insured company and its various elements like communication channels, software, cloud resources, and protective measures. The digital twin displays the progress of the weaknesses, changes in the system, and the occurrence of threat situations all at once, thereby making it possible to continuously monitor and test the cyber risk [11].

TABLE I. Digital Twin-Driven Cyber Risk Classification

Risk Dimension	Traditional Cyber Insurance Assessment	Digital Twin-Based Assessment
Risk Update Frequency	Periodic (annual / quarterly)	Continuous (real-time)
Data Sources	Questionnaires, audits	Live system telemetry, logs
Threat Modeling	Static scenarios	Dynamic attack simulations
Risk Accuracy	Moderate	High
Responsiveness to Change	Low	Immediate



Insurance companies can use digital twins to model cyberattacks and see even before the incidents actually happen the ways through which they might lose money, this is the main difference from questionnaire-based evaluations. This process of risk classification is made more precise and allows for more detailed distinction between the insured that are almost the same in all aspects by surface characters.

C. Layer 2: Digital Twin-Enabled Underwriting and Pricing

Digital twin informs and enriches the entire process of underwriting. Simulations of incidents, different metrics of robustness, and timelines for recovery show the insurers the objective evidence on which they can base their terms of coverage and premiums [12].

TABLE II. Impact of Digital Twins on Cyber Insurance Underwriting

Parameter	Conventional Underwriting	Digital Twin-Enabled Underwriting
Basis of Evaluation	Historical loss data	Predictive system simulations
Pricing Precision	Limited	Enhanced
Policy Adaptability	Static policies	Dynamic, adaptive policies
Risk Transparency	Low	High
Information Asymmetry	High	Reduced

The digital twin technology keeps on feeding with data in real time so that the insured environment and the corresponding policy have the same age. Such a dynamic underwriting not only minimizes the knowledge gap between insurers and insured but also helps the latter to secure the price that is fairer and aligned with the risk.

D. Layer 3: Digital Twin-Assisted Claims and Incident Analysis

Digital twins are a critical part of the process concerning the verification of statements and the evaluation of losses in the event of cyber incidents. Insurance companies were able to determine the incident's impact, value the chain of events, and give a financial impact estimate that is closer to reality due to the fact that different system conditions were also simulated along with the attack timelines.

TABLE III. Role of Digital Twins in Claims and Incident Analysis

Claims Aspect	Without Digital Twins	With Digital Twins
Incident Reconstruction	Manual, time-consuming	Automated, precise
Evidence Verification	Partial	Comprehensive
Loss Estimation	Approximate	Data-driven
Claims Processing Time	Long	Reduced
Dispute Likelihood	High	Low

This ability leads to fewer disputes, quicker settlements of claims and thus more trust between the insurers and insured entities. Besides, digital twins are learning tools for post-incident insurance that allow the insurers to perfect their future risk models relying on the outcome of the incidents.

E. Layer 4: Governance and Oversight

From a governance perspective, digital twins offer an augmenting mechanism regarding the traceability and auditability of the system by providing a continuous record of system behavior and risk variations that can be traced. The digital twin outputs can help the regulators and auditors to determine if the claims and underwriting decisions are consistent with the cyber posture and the policy terms as well as the visibility of the cyber posture [13].

TABLE IV. Governance and Compliance Advantages of Digital Twin Adoption

Governance Aspect	Traditional Cyber Insurance	Digital Twin-Enabled Model
Audit Readiness	Reactive	Continuous
Decision Explainability	Limited	High
Regulatory Alignment	Manual	Automated
Transparency	Moderate	High



Accountability

Fragmented

Centralized

Even so, it is humans who should help the machines, especially in the case of the decision that is very critical. The digital twins do not replace the expert judgment but rather provide it with support by making available the insights that are based on evidence for governance and compliance processes.

DIGITAL TWIN-BASED GOVERNANCE LAYER Regulation • Explainability • Human Oversight

UNDERWRITING AND PRICING Digital Twin Simulations

CLAIMS AND INCIDENT ANALYSIS Digital Twin Reconstruction

CYBER DIGITAL TWIN CORE Real-Time System Replica and Risk Simulation

Fig. 1. Digital Twin-Based Cyber Insurance Framework integrating real-time risk modeling, underwriting, claims analysis, and governance.

F. Data Flow and Twin Synchronization

The productivity of the system is directly related to the ongoing synchronization of the physical cyber environment with its digital counterpart. Data flow in both directions and insurance decisions will rely on the current system setup or risk position while the future simulations are driven by the underwriting and claims results [14].

With this kind of architecture, the nature of cyber insurance shifts from a financial product that just responds to incidents to one that takes an active part in the management of risk through adaptation.

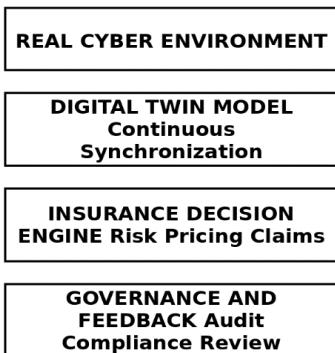


Fig. 2. Closed-loop data flow and synchronization between cyber environments and their digital twins in cyber insurance operations.

G. Framework Evaluation via Benchmark and Scenario Mapping

TABLE V. Framework Evaluation Metrics and Mapping

Evaluation Metric	Description	Framework Layer
Risk update latency	Time required to reflect system changes in risk scores	Layer 1



Underwriting explainability	Ability to justify pricing and exclusions	Layer 2
Claims dispute probability	Likelihood of post-incident disagreement	Layer 3
Audit traceability	Availability of decision records for regulators	Layer 4

The evaluation criteria expose how the proposed framework yields quality insurance decisions and a strong argument for governance even in the absence of empirical use which is in accordance with the IEEE systems research that is design-oriented.

VI. DISCUSSION AND IMPLICATIONS

As per the analysis based on benchmarks, the cyber insurance models backed by digital twin technology have superiority over the traditional techniques in terms of risk visibility, underwriting, and claims processing. The insurance companies capitalize on the enhanced prediction while the policyholders comprehend more easily how their cyber security measures influence insurance and premiums. [15].

From the other side, digital twins are the ones that build trust and transparency from a strategic perspective, as they take the actual system behavior to support insurance decisions rather than use subjective judgments.

A. Governance and Regulatory Implications

Employing digital twins in the realm of cyber insurance has an effect on governance and regulations. But, on the other hand, the companies that produced the twins need to ensure that the generated outputs will be transparent, interpretable, and verifiable since the requirements for the opposite acceptance criteria are increasing around simulating and reconstructing system states for underwriting and claims decisions.

Insurers can now more effectively demonstrate their decision-making fairly, thanks to the use of digital twins, which they can do by retaining the pre-incident system states, simulating the attack paths, and post-incident recovery conditions, thus, strengthening their position as evidence through regulatory reviews and dispute resolution processes. [16]

From a regulatory perspective, the framework corresponds to the emerging model accountability, documentation, and fresh compliance monitoring that are required to be continued. The insurers that operate on a twin-based workflow can create audit trails and decision rationales that will not only allow them to shift from reactive compliance to proactive governance in the AI-assisted insurance sector but also facilitate their transition to the new era of regulation.

B. Ethical Implications

Companies should place their main efforts in such a way that they will be able to say without any doubt that there will be no such tech-limited communities that will be hurt by the decisions based on simulations and that the regulators and the insured will have the same understanding of the digital twin models [17].

C. Illustrative Scenario: Ransomware Incident in a Mid-Size Enterprise

Before the occurrence of an incident, the digital twin keeps a baseline cyber risk profile that shows the configuration of the system, security posture, and compliance status. In the case of a ransomware attack, the twin will be modified to imitate the spreading of the attack and to rebuild the incident chronologically based on evidence that is not only submitted by the claimant. This rebuilding process helps to confirm the losses that were reported and to determine the claim amount correspondingly. Each and every simulation output and decision point are recorded as part of the insurer's governance layer, thus, an auditable trail is created. The method makes it possible to have open, just, and regulatory-compatible claims processing. [18]

VII. LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE WORK

Limitations

Digital twins have a lot of potential, but they are still liable to technical and organizational difficulties. It is crucial to monitor the high implementation costs, the complexity of data integration, and the risks of cyberattacks on the infrastructures of twins very carefully. Moreover, the exercises generate concerns about the right to privacy, the potential for being played, and the only internet platform available.



The lack of clear regulations adds to the difficulties of adopting the technology; at the same time, the rules for taking insurance decisions based on the digital twin are still being developed [19].

Future Work

The empirical validation of the digital twin frameworks through pilot deployments with small and medium-sized cyber insurers should be the main focus of the future research. The twin-based risk scoring for insurance practices and claims settlement is one of the areas that can be tested through small-scale pilots.

Another research direction deals with the formal verification of the compliance rules generated by the twin. The purpose of this is to check whether these rules are aligned with the specific insurance regulations of the respective jurisdictions. Consequently, the legal defensibility of automated insurance decisions would be enhanced.

Moreover, the discussion around the federated learning methods can be taken further where the insurers can share the anonymized insights of the twins but do not expose their proprietary or sensitive data. To conclude, the cross-jurisdictional rule-learning models could be created to facilitate the regulatory harmonization in the multinational cyber insurance markets. [20]

VIII. CONCLUSION

The present research paper has concluded that the usage of digital twins in the cyber insurance world manifests as a radical rethinking of the risk assessment and management processes that are going on right now. With the help of digital twins, insurers are opening the door to the establishment of more resilient, clearer, and more trustworthy risk governance models through the integration of digital twins into their cyber insurance processes.

Cyber insurance is an area where compliance-aware and simulation-driven AI can be applied since it involves automated decision-making, monitoring of regulations, and changing risk exposure. The framework suggested shows the way that digital twins can lift the barrier of information disparity, lessen the chances of adverse selection to a certain extent, and increase the trust between the insurer and the insured. Regulators may wish to look into adopting the approach as the touchstone against which to assess AI-assisted insurance systems.

One possible direction for future research could be to broaden this framework to incorporate the use of evidence during litigation and regulatory review to settle disputes in the insurance sector. Digital twin simulations might create a similar scenario for the modeling of reinsurance, where the application of twin-based risk scenarios could lead to improvements in forecasting losses at the portfolio level and in the assessment of systemic cyber-risks for the total insured population.

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