INF3510 Information Security University of Oslo Spring 2011

Lecture 3

Risk Management and Business Continuity Planning



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Outline

Risk Management

- What is risk?
- What is risk management?
- Risk management practice
- Business Continuity Planning
 - Business contingency planning
 - Disaster Recovery

Documentation

- Risk Management standards and guidelines
 - ISO31000 (same as AS/NZS 4360) Risk Management
 - NIST SP800-30 Risk Management Guide for Information Technology Systems
 - ISO/IEC 27002 Section 4
- Business Continutity Planning guidelines
 - NISTSP800-34 Contingency Planning Guide for Information Technology Systems
 - ISO/IEC 27002 Section 14

What is risk?

- "The likelihood of a threat agent taking advantage of a vulnerability **and** the resulting business impact." (Harris, CISSP All-in-One Exam Guide, definitions).
- "The effect of uncertainty on objectives" (ISO31000 Risk Management)
 - Risk is often expressed in terms of a combination of the consequences of an event (including changes in circumstances) and the associated likelihood of occurrence.

 "The net mission impact considering (1) the probability that a particular threat-source will exercise (accidentally trigger or intentionally exploit) a particular vulnerability and (2) the resulting impact if this should occur" (NIST SP800-30 Risk Management Guide for Information Technology Systems).

What is risk?

Not defined explicitly in

- ISO/IEC 27002 (Risk assessment and risk management defined)
- ISO/IEC 27001 (Risk acceptance, risk analysis, risk assessment, risk evaluation, risk management and risk treatment defined
- but considered as "the combination of the likelihood (probability) of a threat occurrence, and its impact (consequence)".
- Risk is assessed as a function of three variables:
 - 1. the probability of threats (i.e. of threat agents trying to attack)
 - 2. the probability of vulnerabilities
 - 3. the potential impact to the business.
 - The two probabilities are sometimes combined and are also known as likelihood. If any of these variables approaches zero, the overall risk approaches zero.
 - (source: Wikipedia)

What is risk?



What is risk management?

- "the process of identifying, assessing and reducing the risk to an acceptable level and implementing the right mechanisms to maintain that level of risk"
 - Harris, CISSP Exam Guide, definitions
- "Coordinated activities to direct and control an organization with regard to risk."
 - ISO31000
 - "Coordinated activities to direct and control an organisation with regard to risk"
 - ISO/IEC 27002

Risk Management in the ISMS PDCA: Establish the ISMS (Plan)



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Risk Identification and Control

- Risk management: process of identifying and controlling risks facing an organization
- Risk identification: process of examining an organization's current information technology security situation
- Risk control: applying controls to reduce risks to an organization's data and information systems

An Overview of Risk Management

- Know yourself: identify, examine, and understand the information and systems currently in place
- Know the enemy: identify, examine, and understand threats facing the organization
- Responsibility of each community of interest within an organization to manage risks that are encountered



- Management, users, and information technology must all work together
 - Asset owners must participate in developing inventory lists
 - Users and experts must assist in identifying threats and vulnerabilities, and in determining likelihoods
 - Risk management experts must guide stakeholders through the risk assessment process
 - Security experts must assist in selecting controls
 - Management must review risk management process and approve controls

Risk Identification

- Assets are targets of various threat agents
- Risk management involves identifying organization's assets and identifying possible incidents caused by threat agents exploiting vulnerabilities
- Risk identification begins with identifying organization's assets and assessing their value



FIGURE 4-2 Components of Risk Identification

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Asset Identification, Valuation, and Prioritization

- Iterative process; begins with identification of assets, including all elements of an organization's system (people, procedures, data and information, software, hardware, networking)
- Assets are then classified and categorized

People, Procedures, and Data Asset Identification

- Human resources, documentation, and data information assets are more difficult to identify
- People with knowledge, experience, and good judgment should be assigned this task
- These assets should be recorded using reliable datahandling process

Hardware, Software, and Network Asset Identification

- What information attributes to track depends on:
 - Needs of organization/risk management efforts
 - Management needs of information security/information technology communities
- Asset attributes to be considered are: name; IP address; MAC address; element type; serial number; manufacturer name; model/part number; software version; physical or logical location; controlling entity

Information Asset Classification

- Many organizations and governments have data classification schemes (e.g., confidential, internal, public data)
- Classification of components must be specific to allow determination of priority levels
- Categories must be comprehensive and mutually exclusive

Information Asset Valuation

- Questions help develop criteria for asset valuation
- Which information asset:
 - is most critical to organization's success?
 - generates the most revenue/profitability?
 - would be most expensive to replace or protect?
 - would be the most embarrassing or cause greatest liability if revealed?

Information Asset Prioritization

- Create weighting for each category based on the answers to questions
- Calculate relative importance of each asset using weighted factor analysis
- List the assets in order of importance using a weighted factor analysis worksheet

TABLE 4-2 Example of a Wei	ighted Factor An	alysis Worksheet		
Information asset	Criteria 1: impact to revenue	Criteria 2: impact to profitability	Criteria 3: public image impact	Weighted score
Criterion Weight (1-100) Must total 100	30	40	30	
EDI Document Set 1— Logistics BOL to outsourcer (outbound)	0.8	0.9	0.5	75
EDI Document Set 2— Supplier orders (outbound)	0.8	0.9	0.6	78
EDI Document Set 2— Supplier fulfillment advice (inbound)	0.4	0.5	0.3	41
Customer order via SSL (inbound)	1.0	1.0	1.0	100
Customer service request via e-mail (inbound)	0.4	0.4	0.9	55
Notes: EDI: Electronic Data Interch SSL: Secure Sockets Layer	ange			
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Data Classification and Management

- Variety of classification schemes used by corporate and military organizations
- Information owners responsible for classifying their information assets
- Information classifications must be reviewed periodically
- Most organizations do not need detailed level of classification used by military or federal agencies; however, organizations may need to classify data to provide protection

Incident / threat identification

- Realistic incidents / threats need investigation; unimportant incidents / threats are set aside
- Incident / threat assessment:
 - Which incidents/threats present danger to assets?
 - Which incidents/threats represent the most danger to information?
 - How much would it cost to recover from attack?
 - Which incidents/ threat are most expensive to prevent?

TABLE 4-3 Threats to Information Security

Threat	Example
Act of human error or failure	Accidents, employee mistakes
Compromises to intellectual property	Piracy, copyright infringement
Deliberate acts of espionage or trespass	Unauthorized access and data collection
Deliberate acts of information extortion	Blackmail for information disclosure
Deliberate acts of sabotage or vandalism	Destruction of systems or information
Deliberate acts of theft	Illegal confiscation of equipment or information
Deliberate software attacks	Viruses, worms, macros, denial of service
Forces of nature	Fire, flood, earthquake, lightning
Quality of service deviations from service providers	Power and WAN quality of service issues
Technical hardware failures or errors	Equipment failure
Technical software failures or errors	Bugs, code problems, unknown loopholes
Technological obsolescence	Antiquated or outdated technologies
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Vulnerability Identification

- Specific avenues threat agents can exploit to attack an information asset are called vulnerabilities
- Examine how each incident/threat could be perpetrated and list organization's assets and vulnerabilities
- Process works best when people with diverse backgrounds within organization work iteratively in a series of brainstorming sessions
- At end of risk identification process, list of assets and their vulnerabilities is achieved

Identifying risks

Incidents/Threats

- Password compromise
- •Web server hacked
- Logical bomb in SW
- •Trojan infects clients
- •Cryptanalysis of cipher
- •Brute force attack on key
- •Social engineering attacks
- •Operator error

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Vulnerabilities

- Low password strength
- •Poor user awareness
- •No or outdated antivirus
- •No source code control
- Poor user education
- •Weak cipher

• . . .

- Short cryptographic keys
- •Poor security usability



• Identify valid combinations of incident, vulnerability and asset impact

Assess risks

Types of analysis

- Qualitative
 - Uses descriptive scales. Example:
 - Impact level: Minor, moderate, major, catastrophic
 - Likelihood: Rare, unlikely, possible, likely, almost certain

Semi-quantitative

- Qualitative scales assigned numerical values
- Can be used in formulae for prioritization (with caution)

Quantitative

 Use numerical values for both consequence (e.g. \$\$\$) and likelihood (e.g. probability value)

Qualitative Risk Analysis Example

	Qualita	tive Impact level s	scale
		Impact Level	Description
ing Impact	Major	Major problems would occur and threaten the provision of important processes resulting in significant financial loss.	
	Moderate	Services would continue, but would need to be reviewed or changed.	
	creas	Minor	Effectiveness of services would be threatened but dealt with .
	5	Insignificant	Dealt with as a part of routine operations .

Qualitative Risk Analysis Example



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Qualitative Risk Analysis Example

C	Qualitative Risk Level: Combine likelihood & impact level Impact level						
		Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major		
po	High	М	н	Е	Е		
elihoo	Medium	L	М	н	E		
	Low	L	L	Μ	Н		
	Unlikely	N	L	L	М		
Legend E: extreme risk; immediate action required H: high risk; senior management attention needed M: moderate risk; management responsibility must be specified L: low risk; manage by routine procedures N: Negligible risk; To be ingored						1	

Quantitative Risk Analysis Example

Example quantitative risk analysis method

- Quantitative parameters
 - Asset Value (AV)
 - Estimated total value of asset
 - Exposure Factor (EF)
 - · Percentage of asset loss caused by threat occurrence
 - Single Loss Expectancy (SLE)
 - SLE = AV \times EF
 - Annualized Rate of Occurrence (ARO)
 - · Estimated frequency a threat will occur within a year
 - Annualised Loss Expectancy (ALE)
 - ALE = SLE \times ARO

Quantitative Risk Analysis Example

Example quantitative risk analysis

- Risk description
 - Asset: Public image (and trust)
 - Threat: Defacing web site through intrusion
 - Impact: Loss of image
- Parameter estimates
 - AV(public image) = \$1,000,000
 - EF(public image affected by defacing) = 0.05
 - SLE = $AV \times EF = $50,000$
 - ARO(defacing) = 2
 - ALE = SLE \times ARO = \$100,000
- Justifies spending up to \$100,000 p.a. on controls

Evaluate risks

- Compare
 - the level of risk found during risk analysis with
 - the established risk criteria
 - NOTE: Consider analysis and criteria on same basis qualitative or quantitative
- Output: prioritized list of risks for further action
 - Risks in low or acceptable risk categories, may be accepted without further treatment

Risk listing and ranking

Incident / Threat	Existing controls & vulnerabilities	Asset impact	Impact level	Likelihood description	Likelihood	Risk level
Compromise of user password	No control or enforcement of password strength	Deleted files, breach of confidentiality and integrity	MODE RATE	Will happen to 1 of 50 users every year	MEDIUM	HIGH
Virus infection on clients	Virus filter disabled on many clients	Compromise of clients	MODE RATE	Will happen to 1 in 100 clients every year	HIGH	EXTREME
Web server hacking and defacing	IDS, firewall, daily patching, but zero day exploits exist	Reputation	MINOR	Could happen once every year	LOW	LOW
Logical bomb planted by insider	No review of source code that goes into production.	Breach of integrity or loss of data	MAJOR	Could happen once every 10 years	UNLIKELY	MODE RATE

Risk ranking complexity

Incident / Threat	Existing controls & vulnerabilities	Asset impact	Impact level	Likelihood description	Likelihood	Risk level
Router Compromise	Password only	Intrusion and disruption	MODE RATE	Many times per year	HIGH	HIGH
Physical Destruction of Data Centre	None (not addressed in BCP)	Operations Disrupted for one month	MAJOR	Could happen once in 25 years	LOW	HIGH

 Not easy to prioritize risks of same level but with different impact levels and likelihood

ISO31000 / AS4360: Treat risks

Identifying options for risk treatment with positive outcomes

- Options include:
 - Actively seek an opportunity
 - Change the likelihood of opportunity to enhance the likelihood of beneficial outcome
 - Change the consequences to increase the extent of the gains
 - **Sharing** the opportunity
 - Retain the residual opportunity

ISO31000 / AS4360: Treat risks

Identifying options for risk treatment with negative outcomes

- Options include:
 - Avoid the risk
 - Reducing the likelihood of negative outcome by changing
 - the likelihood of the risk
 - the consequences
 - Sharing the risk
 - Retaining the risk
ISO31000 / AS4360: Treat risks

Assessing risk treatment options

- Assess based on the extent of risk reduction, and any additional benefits obtained
 - High risk levels may be acceptable if beneficial opportunities arise as a result of taking the risk
- Balance cost of implementing treatment option and benefits derived (proportionality principle)
 - Large risk reductions for low expenditure should be implemented

Risk treatment economy



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Identify Possible Controls

- For each threat and associated vulnerabilities that have residual risk, create preliminary list of control ideas
- Residual risk is risk that remains to information asset even after existing control has been applied

Access Controls

- Specifically address admission of a user into a trusted area of organization
- Access controls can be:
 - Mandatory access controls (MAC): give users and data owners limited control over access to information
 - Nondiscretionary controls: managed by central authority in organization; can be role-based or task-based
 - Discretionary access controls (DAC): implemented at discretion or option of data user

Documenting the Results of Risk Assessment

- Final summary comprised in ranked vulnerability risk worksheet
- Worksheet details asset, asset impact, vulnerability, vulnerability likelihood, and risk-rating factor
- Ranked vulnerability risk worksheet is initial working document for next step in risk management process: assessing and controlling risk

Risk Control Strategies

- Once ranked vulnerability risk worksheet complete, must choose one of four strategies to control each risk:
 - Apply safeguards (avoidance)
 - Transfer the risk (transference)
 - Reduce impact (mitigation)
 - Understand consequences and accept risk (acceptance)

Avoidance

- Attempts to prevent exploitation of the vulnerability
- Preferred approach; accomplished through countering threats, removing asset vulnerabilities, limiting asset access, and adding protective safeguards
- Three common methods of risk avoidance:
 - Application of policy
 - Training and education
 - Applying technology

Transference

- Control approach that attempts to shift risk to other assets, processes, or organizations
- If lacking, organization should hire individuals/firms that provide security management and administration expertise
- Organization may then transfer risk associated with management of complex systems to another organization experienced in dealing with those risks

Mitigation

- Attempts to reduce impact of vulnerability exploitation through planning and preparation
- Approach includes three types of plans:
 - Incident response plan (IRP)
 - Disaster recovery plan (DRP)
 - Business continuity plan (BCP)

Mitigation (continued)

- DRP is most common mitigation procedure
- The actions to take while incident is in progress is defined in IRP
- BCP encompasses continuation of business activities if catastrophic event occurs

Acceptance

- Doing nothing to protect a vulnerability and accepting the outcome of its exploitation
- Valid only when the particular function, service, information, or asset does not justify cost of protection
- Risk appetite describes the degree to which organization is willing to accept risk as trade-off to the expense of applying controls

Selecting a Risk Control Strategy

- Level of threat and value of asset play major role in selection of strategy
- Rules of thumb on strategy selection can be applied:
 - When a vulnerability exists
 - When a vulnerability can be exploited
 - When attacker's cost is less than potential gain
 - When potential loss is substantial



FIGURE 5-2 Risk Handling Decision Points⁷

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Feasibility Studies

- Before deciding on strategy, all information about economic/noneconomic consequences of vulnerability of information asset must be explored
- A number of ways exist to determine advantage of a specific control

Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA)

- Most common approach for deciding on information security controls is economic feasibility of implementation
- CBA is begun by evaluating worth of assets to be protected and the loss in value if those assets are compromised
- The formal process to document this is called cost benefit analysis or economic feasibility study

Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) (continued)

- Items that affect cost of a control or safeguard include: cost of development or acquisition; training fees; implementation cost; service costs; cost of maintenance
- Benefit is the value an organization realizes by using controls to prevent losses associated with a vulnerability
- Asset valuation is process of assigning financial value or worth to each information asset; there are many components to asset valuation

Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) (continued)

- Once value of assets is estimated, potential loss from exploitation of vulnerability is studied
- Process result is estimate of potential loss per risk
- Expected loss per risk stated in the following equation: Annualized loss expectancy (ALE) equals Single loss expectancy (SLE) TIMES Annualized rate of occurrence (ARO)
- SLE is equal to asset value times exposure factor (EF)

The Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) Formula

- CBA determines if alternative being evaluated is worth cost incurred to control vulnerability
- CBA most easily calculated using ALE from earlier assessments, before implementation of proposed control:

CBA = ALE(prior) - ALE(post) - ACS

- ALE(prior) is annualized loss expectancy of risk before implementation of control
- ALE(post) is estimated ALE based on control being in place for a period of time
- ACS is the annualized cost of the safeguard

Evaluation, Assessment, and Maintenance of Risk Controls

- Selection and implementation of control strategy is not end of process
- Strategy and accompanying controls must be monitored/reevaluated on ongoing basis to determine effectiveness and to calculate more accurately the estimated residual risk
- Process continues as long as organization continues to function

Business Continuity Planning

Business continuity management

- Establishes a strategic and operational framework to implement, proactively, an organization's resilience to disruption, interruption or loss in conducting its business.
- Defines procedures for the recovery of an organization's facilities in case of major incidents and disasters, so that the organization will be able to either maintain or quickly resume mission-critical functions
- Typically, BC management involves an analysis of critical business processes and continuity needs
- May also include a significant focus on disaster prevention

BCP Terminology

- Business Continuity Plan
 - Plan for restoring normal business functions after disruption
- Business Contingency Plan
 - Same as Business Continuity Plan
 - Contingency means "something unpredictable that can happen"
- Disaster Recovery
 - Restablishment of business functions after a desaster, possibly in temporary facilities

Business continuity management

- How common is BCM in 'the real world'?
- 2006 CCSS extract: Most commonly reported categories of computer security policies and procedures 2006 (2005, 2004):
 - Media backup procedures 95% (96%, 95%)
 - User access management 93% (97%, 94%)
 - External network access control procedures 78% (83%, 79%)
 - Documented operating procedures 76% (80%, 83%)
 - User responsibilities policies 72% (82%, 78%)
 - Controls against malicious software 66% (75%, 72%)
 - Monitoring system access and use 64% (72%, 68%)
 - Change control procedures 60% (82%, 75%)
 - Clock synchronisation policy 59% (59%, 43%)
 - Decommissioning equipment procedures 59% (65%, 40%)
 - System audit policy 58% (71%, 58%)
 - Business continuity management 54% (73%, 58%)
 - Incident management procedures 51% (67%, 64%)



Business Continuity Plan (BCP)



- The business continuity plan describes:
 - a sequence of actions
 - and the parties responsible for carrying them out
 - in response to disasters
 - in order to restore normal business operations as quickly as possible

BCP Development



Source: NIST Special Publication 800-34 Contingency Planning Guide for Information Technology Systems (p.14)



BCP Development and Output: NIST SP800-34, p.31

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BCP Development - BIA

- A Business Impact Analysis (BIA) is performed as part of the BCP development to identify the functions that in the event of a disaster or disruption, would cause the greatest financial or operational loss.
- Consider e.g.:
 - IT network support
 - Data processing
 - Accounting
 - Software development
 - Payroll

Customer support Order entry Production scheduling Purchasing Communications

BCP Development - BIA

- The MTD (Maximum Tolerable Downtime) is defined for each function in the event of disaster.
- Example:
 - Non-essential = 30 days
 - Normal = 7 days
 - Important = 72 hours
 - Urgent = 24 hours
 - Critical = minutes to hours

BCP Development - Alternative Sites



BCP Development – Strategy Selection

- Analyse alternative disaster recovery strategies
 - Choosing data and software backup facility
 - Choosing alternative site type and contract
 - Human resources
 - Insurance
 - Reciprocal and mutual aid agreements
 - Multiple processing centres
 - Data processing service bureaus

with respect to BIA, cost, restoration time and practicality

Data backup alternatives

- Full backup every time.
 - Takes long to make each backup
 - Simple to reinstall in one operation
- Differential backup: First a full backup, then at regular intervals backup changed files since last full backup
 - Time for differential backup increases linearly until new full backup.
 - Reinstall in two operations, first last full backup, then last differential
- Incremental backup: First full backup, then at regular intervals backup changed files since last incremental backup.
 - Time to make incremental backup always small.
 - Reinstallation is complex, first last full backup, then apply all subsequent incremental backups.

Electronic data backup

- Disk shadowing/mirroring: multiple disks have same data
 - Provides high availability and load sharing
 - Expensive in equipment and network usage
- Electronic Vaulting: Backup kept at remote site, modified files copied to backup in batch jobs
 - A form of backup that avoids manual handling of tapes and disks
- Electronic journaling: real-time transmission of transaction logs to remote site, which enables implementation of changes to database at remote site.

BCP Components

- Supporting information
 - Establish purpose, applicability and scope
 - System description and staff responsibilities
- Notification/Activation Phase
- Recovery Phase
- Reconstruction Phase
- Appendices
 - Contact information
 - SOPs and checklists
 - Equipment and system requirements lists

BCP Phases

- A security incident can vary in magnitude from minor incident to major disaster.
- Different sub-plans needed for different phases in the business continuity process.
 - Plan for activation phase
 - Plans for recovery phase
 - Plan for reconstitution phase

BCP Activation Phase Plan

- Actions to take immediately after incident
 - Procedures for contacting recovery teams
 - Assessment of damage to primary site facilities
 - Estimated outage time at primary site
 - Compare with predefined MTD and activation criteria
 - Notify BC management
 - Management declares a disaster if criteria are met
 - Start implementing BCP
- BCP activation responsibility
 - Only one person
 - CEO or other predefined role
 - Succession of responsibility must be predefined
BCP Recovery Phase Plans

- Evacuation and safety of personnel
 - Always first priority
- Notifying alternative sites
- Securing home site
- Activation of recovery teams
- Relocation to alternative sites
- Resumption of critical business functions
- Reviewing how the organisation will interface with external parties (customers, partners) from alternative site

BCP Reconstitution Phase Plan

- Plan for returning to normal operations at primary site
 - Repairing primary site, or prepare new site
 - Installing hardware and software
 - Testing business functions
 - Migrating business functions stepwise
 - Least critical functions first
 - Most critical functions last
 - Shutting down alternative site
 - Securing and removing sensitive data from alternative site

BCP Appendices

- Include
 - Contact information for key personnel
 - Call tree data
 - Contact information for vendors and alternative site providers
 - Including SLA and reciprocal agreements
 - Checklists for recovery processes
 - Equipment and systems requirement lists
 - Description of and directions to alternative site

BCP Testing

- Checklist test
 - Copies of the BCP distributed to departments for review
- Structured walk-through test
 - Representatives from each department come together to go through the plan
- Simulation test
 - All staff in operational and support functions come together to practice executing the BCP
- Parallel test
 - Business functions tested at alternative site
- Full interruption test
 - Business functions at primary site halted, and migrated to alternative site in accordance with the BCP

ISO/IEC 27002 Section 14

- **Objective:** To counteract interruptions to business activities and to protect critical business processes from the effects of major failures or disasters.
- A business continuity management process should be implemented to minimize the impact on the organization and recover from loss of information assets reduce the disruption caused by disasters and security failures ... to an acceptable level through a combination of preventative and recovery controls.

ISO/IEC 27002 Section 14

- There should be a managed process in place for developing and maintaining business continuity throughout the organisation. ...key elements of BCM include:
 - Understanding the risks in terms of likelihood and impact
 - Understanding the impact interruptions have on business
 - Considering the purchase of suitable insurance
 - Identifying additional preventive and mitigating controls
 - Formulating and documenting business continuity plans
 - Regular testing and updating of the plans and processes
 - Ensuring BCM is incorporated in organization's processes and structure

End of Lecture

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