

Security Engineering

Model-Driven Risk Analysis: The CORAS Approach

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Outline



- **What is Risk?**
- **What is CORAS?**
 - The CORAS approach
 - Central concepts
- **Steps of risk analysis in CORAS**
- **Tool support**
- **Summary**

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Recap: What is Risk? A potential problem



- **ISO Guide 73:2002**
 - Combination of the probability of an event and its (negative) consequences
- **A risk is a potential problem**
 - it might happen, or might not happen
- **Conceptual definition of risk**
 - Risk concerns future happenings
 - Risk involves change in mind, opinion, actions, places, etc.
 - Risk involves choice and the uncertainty that choice entails
- **Two characteristics of risk**
 - **Uncertainty** – the risk may or may not happen
 - there are no 100% risks (a 100% certainty risk is a constraint)
 - **Impact (or Loss)** – the potential problem becomes a reality and unwanted consequences or losses occur

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Recap: a Risk is Not an Issue...



- **Issues: *current* problems and/or challenges**
 - Present consequences
 - Can be "closed" by doing something now, within 30 days, 90 days, etc.
 - Solved by *Crisis Management*
- **Risks: *yet to happen***
 - Future consequences
 - Can be "closed" only after successful mitigations through avoidance, reduction (pre- or post), sharing (transferring), or retention
 - Solved by *Risk Management*

If it has already occurred, it's an issue, not a risk

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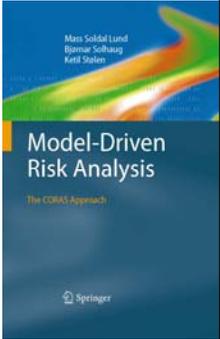
What is Risk Analysis?

- **Risk analysis tries to answer**
 - What can go wrong?
 - How likely is it to happen?
 - What the consequences of going wrong?
 - What opportunities I lose if decide to mitigate the risk?
- [T. Bedford and R. Cooke, Probabilistic Risk Analysis: Foundations and Methods, 2001]

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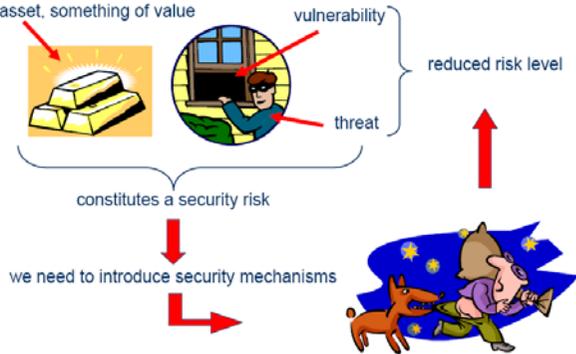
What is CORAS?

- **The CORAS approach:**
 - A language for risk modeling
 - A tool to support the risk analysis process
 - A method for risk analysis
 - A stepwise, structured and systematic process
 - Asset-driven
 - Concrete tasks with practical guidelines
 - Model-driven
 - Models as basis for and input to analysis tasks
 - Models for documentation of results
- Based on internationally established standards (ISO 31000)
- **Book:**
<http://www.springer.com/computer/swe/book/978-3-642-12322-1>



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Terms



asset, something of value

vulnerability

threat

reduced risk level

constitutes a security risk

we need to introduce security mechanisms

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CORAS Modeling Concepts

- **Party:**
 - An organization, company, person, group or other body on whose behalf a risk analysis is conducted
- **Asset:**
 - Something to which a party assigns value and hence for which the party requires protection
- **Unwanted incident:**
 - An event that harms or reduces the value of an asset
- **Vulnerability:**
 - A weakness, flaw or deficiency that opens for, or may be exploited by, a threat to cause harm to or reduce the value of an asset
- **Threat:**
 - A potential cause of an unwanted incident
- **Threat scenario:**
 - A chain or series of events that is initiated by a threat and that may lead to an unwanted incident
- **Treatment (Treatment Scenario):**
 - An appropriate measure to reduce risk level
- **Risk:**
 - The likelihood of an unwanted incident and its consequence for a specific asset



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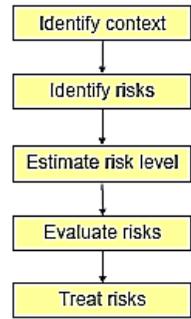
Risk modeling

- The CORAS language consists of five kinds of diagrams
 - Asset diagrams
 - Threat diagrams
 - Risk diagrams
 - Treatment diagrams
 - Treatment Overview diagrams
- Each kind of diagram supports specific steps of the risk analysis process

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The CORAS process

- Risk management process based on ISO 31000: Risk Management – Principles and Guidelines
- Provides processes and guidelines for risk analysis

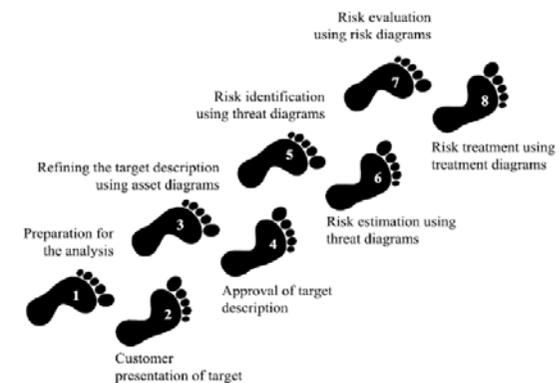


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graph TD
    A[Identify context] --> B[Identify risks]
    B --> C[Estimate risk level]
    C --> D[Evaluate risks]
    D --> E[Treat risks]
    
```

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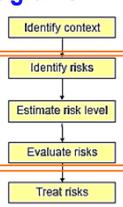
The eight steps of a CORAS risk analysis



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The eight steps of a CORAS risk analysis

1. Preparation for the analysis
2. Customer presentation of the target
3. Refining the target description using asset diagrams
4. Approval of the target description
5. Risk identification using threat diagrams
6. Risk estimation using threat diagrams
7. Risk evaluation using risk diagrams
8. Risk treatment using treatment diagrams



```

graph TD
    A[Identify context] --> B[Identify risks]
    B --> C[Estimate risk level]
    C --> D[Evaluate risks]
    D --> E[Treat risks]
    
```

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Step 1: Preparation for the analysis



- **Objective: do the necessary initial preparations prior to the actual startup of the analysis**
- **Tasks:**
 - Contact the customer for the case study
 - Roughly setting the scope and focus

▶ 13

Example: Local Bank



- Local Bank is a private bank. Its business is to offer financial services in the banking domain for customers
- Local Bank has a web application and a online banking system
- Local Bank is using a database to manage the customer data such as: personal information, payment card(s), and so on
- Local Bank has decided it wants to do a risk analysis of the system
- Of particular concern for the management is:
 - The web application for customer
 - The online banking system that connects both the customer database and the web application

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Step 2: Customer presentation of the target



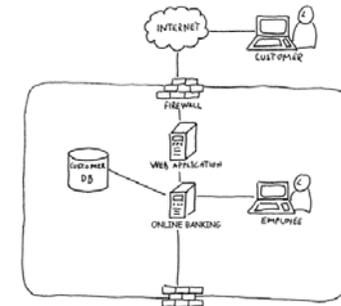
- **Objective: achieve an initial understanding of the target of risk analysis**
- **Tasks:**
 - Customer presentation on the target
 - Target to be understood by risk analysts
 - Set the focus of the analysis
- **Artifact to be produced:**
 - Description of the target:
 - The overall goals of the analysis
 - The target that wishes to have analyzed

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Example: Customer presentation on the target



- **Understand customer's goals and target:**
 - Of particular concern for the management is:
 - the web application that connects to both their customer database and their online banking.



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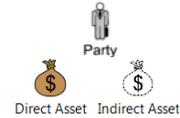
Step 3: Refining the target description using asset diagrams

- **Objective:** ensure a common and more precise understanding of the target analysis, including its scope, focus, and main assets
- **Task:**
 - The target is understood by the risk analysts
 - Identify the parties and assets
 - Conduct a high-level analysis:
 - The first threats, vulnerabilities, threat scenarios and unwanted incidents are identified.
- **Artifacts to be produced:**
 - Asset diagram
 - High-level analysis: preliminary list of Unwanted incidents

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Identify asset

- Identify involving party
 - An organization, company, person, group or other body on whose behalf a risk analysis is conducted
- Identify asset of each party intends to protect
 - Something to which a party assigns value and hence for which the party requires protection
 - The "THINGS" that are valuable
- Notions to be used in Asset Diagram



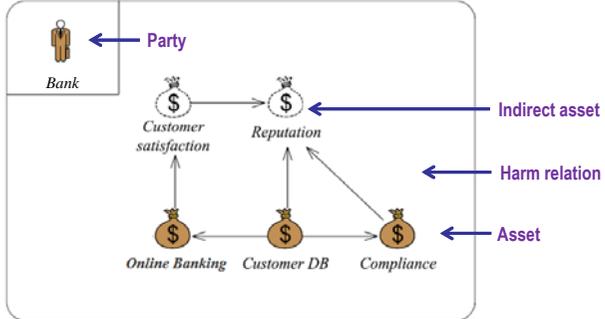
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Example: Identify Party and Asset

- **Party:**
 - Bank company??
- **Asset:**
 - Customer DB
 - Online banking
 - Compliance
 - Company reputation
 - Customer satisfaction

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Example: Asset diagram



- **Relations between assets**
 - Harm in one asset might harm also other assets.

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High level Risk analysis 

- Preliminary list of Unwanted Incidents

Who/ What is the cause?	How? What may happen? What does it harm?	What makes this possible?
...
.....

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High level Risk analysis 

- Preliminary list of Unwanted Incidents

Who/ What is the cause?	How? What may happen? What does it harm?	What makes this possible?
...
.....

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Two types of Threat 

- Threat**
 - A potential cause of an unwanted incident
- Deliberate**
 - Intent and method targeted at the intentional exploitation of a vulnerability
- Accidental**
 - A situation and method that may accidentally trigger a vulnerability

Common source of Threats 

- Human Threats**
 - Events either enabled or caused by human beings, including both unintentional acts (inadvertent data entry) and deliberate actions (unauthorized access)
- Natural Threats**
 - Floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, electrical storms, landslides, avalanches, etc.
- Environmental Threats**
 - Long-term power failure, pollution, chemicals, liquid leakage

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High level Risk analysis 

- Preliminary list of Unwanted Incidents**

 Who/ What is the cause?	 How? What may happen? What does it harm?	 What makes this possible?
.....
.....

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Threat Scenario and Unwanted Incident 

- Unwanted Incident**
 - An event that harms or reduces the value of an asset
- Threat Scenario**
 - A chain or series of events that is initiated by a threat and that may lead to an unwanted incident
- Event**
 - something that happens at a given place and time
 - case (a special set of circumstances)
 - it may rain in which case the picnic will be cancelled
 - a phenomenon located at a single point in space-time
 - the fundamental observational entity in relativity

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High level Risk analysis 

- Preliminary list of Unwanted Incidents**

 Who/ What is the cause?	 How? What may happen? What does it harm?	 What makes this possible?
.....
.....

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Vulnerability identification  

- Vulnerability**
 - A weakness, flaw or deficiency that opens for, or may be exploited by, a threat to cause harm to or reduce the value of an asset
- Where vulnerabilities are found?**
 - Hardware Configuration: Servers, Workstations, Routers, Switches, Firewalls...
 - Software Applications: How installed, Where installed, Rights granted...
 - IS Policies and Procedures: How complete, How up-to-date, How well known...
 - Humans: Procedures not being followed, Staff not being trained...

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High level Risk analysis



Who? What is the cause? How? What may happen? What does it harm? What makes this possible?

Hacker	Breaks into system and compromises integrity or confidentiality of databases	Use of web application and remote access; insufficient access control
Hacker	Attack compromises integrity or confidentiality of personal data causing loss of compliance with data protection laws	Use of web application and remote access; insufficient access control
Hacker	Introduces virus to the system that compromises integrity or confidentiality of databases	Insufficient virus protection
Hacker	DoS attack causes online store to go down	Use of web application; insufficient DoS attack prevention

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Example: High level Risk analysis



Who? What is the cause? How? What may happen? What does it harm? What makes this possible?

System failure	Online banking goes down because of failure of web application or loss of network connection	Immature technology; loss of network connection
Employee of Bank	Collection and processing of personal data diverge from data protection laws	Lack of competence on data protection laws; insufficient routines for processing personal data
Employee of Bank	Sloppiness compromises integrity or confidentiality of databases	Lack of competence; work processes not aligned with policy

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Step 4: Approval of the target description



- **Objective:** decide a ranking of the assets; establish scales for estimating risks and criteria for evaluate risks
- **Tasks:**
 - **Define:**
 - Likelihood scale and its description
 - Consequence scale for each direct asset
 - Risk function is determined
 - Agree on Risk evaluation criteria
- **Artifacts to be produced:**
 - Likelihood and Consequence scales
 - Risk function
 - Risk evaluation criteria

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Define Likelihood scale



- **Likelihood:** the frequency or probability of something to occur
- **Example of Likelihood scale**

Likelihood	Description
Certain	Five times or more per year
Likely	Two to five times per year
Possible	Once a year
Unlikely	Less than once per year
Rare	Less than once per ten years

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Define Likelihood scale 

- Example of Likelihood scale**

Likelihood	Description
Rarely	A very low number of similar occurrences already on record; has occurred a very low number
Sometimes	A significant number of similar occurrences already on record; has occurred a significant
Regularly	Several similar occurrences on record; has occurred more than once
Often
...

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Define Consequence scale 

- Consequence: The impact of an unwanted incident on an asset in terms of harm or reduced asset value**
- Example of Consequence scale (for direct asset: Customer DB)**

Consequence	Description
Catastrophic	Range of [50%,100%] of records are affected
Serious	Range of [20%,50%] of records are affected
Moderate	Range of [10%,20%] of records are affected
Minor	Range of [1%,10%] of records are affected
Insignificant	Range of [0%,1%] of records are affected

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Define Consequence scale 

- Example of Consequence scale (for direct asset: Online Banking)**

Consequence	Description
Catastrophic	Downtime in range [1 week, ∞)
Serious	Downtime in range [1 day, 1 week)
Moderate	Downtime in range [1 hour, 1 day)
Minor	Downtime in range [1 minute, 1 hour)
Insignificant	Downtime in range [0, 1 minute)

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Define Consequence scale 

- Example of Consequence scale (for direct asset: Compliance)**

Consequence	Description
Catastrophic	Chief executive officer is sentenced to jail for more than 1 year
Serious	Chief executive officer is sentenced to jail for up to 1 year
Moderate	Claim for indemnification or compensation
Minor	Fine
Insignificant	Illegal data processing is ordered to cease

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Assess the Risk Level

- Likelihood x Impact = Risk level
- Prioritize in risk classes, concentrate on class "High"

Sample Risk Grid

Likelihood Factor	1	2	3	4	5
5	Low	Low	Medium	High	High
4	Low	Low	Medium	High	High
3	Low	Low	Medium	High	High
2	Low	Low	Medium	High	High
1	Low	Low	Medium	High	High
Consequence Factor	1	2	3	4	5

1 - Low 4 - Significant
 2 - Minor 5 - High
 3 - Moderate

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What is "Acceptable" Risk?

- Setting your agency's "risk appetite" is up to your Director and Senior Management
- Because elimination of all risks is impossible, we must use the **least-cost approach** and implement the **most appropriate controls** to decrease mission risk to an acceptable level, with **minimal adverse impact** on the organization's resources and mission

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Example: Risk Function and evaluation criteria

- Determine level of risk as a function of likelihood and consequence

Consequence/ Likelihood	Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Serious	Catastrophic
Rare	Acceptable	Acceptable	Monitor	Need to be treated	Need to be treated
Unlikely	Acceptable	Acceptable	Monitor	Need to be treated	Need to be treated
Possible	Acceptable	Acceptable	Monitor	Need to be treated	Need to be treated
Likely	Acceptable	Monitor	Monitor	Need to be treated	Need to be treated
Certain	Acceptable	Monitor	Need to be treated	Need to be treated	Need to be treated

Acceptable (Green)
 Monitor (Yellow)
 Need to be treated (Red)

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Example: Risk Function and evaluation criteria

- Determine level of risk as a function of likelihood and consequence

Consequence/ Likelihood	Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Serious	Catastrophic
Rare	Acceptable	Acceptable	Monitor	Monitor	Need to be treated
Unlikely	Acceptable	Acceptable	Monitor	Monitor	Need to be treated
Possible	Acceptable	Acceptable	Monitor	Need to be treated	Need to be treated
Likely	Acceptable	Monitor	Monitor	Need to be treated	Need to be treated
Certain	Acceptable	Monitor	Need to be treated	Need to be treated	Need to be treated

Acceptable (Green)
 Monitor (Yellow)
 Need to be treated (Red)

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Example: Risk Function and evaluation criteria

- Determine level of risk as a function of likelihood and consequence

Risk Function (Compliance)					
Consequence/Likelihood	Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Serious	Catastrophic
Rare	Acceptable	Acceptable	Monitor	Monitor	Monitor
Unlikely	Acceptable	Acceptable	Monitor	Monitor	Need to be treated
Possible	Acceptable	Monitor	Monitor	Monitor	Need to be treated
Likely	Acceptable	Monitor	Monitor	Need to be treated	Need to be treated
Certain	Acceptable	Monitor	Monitor	Need to be treated	Need to be treated

■ Acceptable
■ Monitor
■ Need to be treated

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Step 5: Risk Identification using Threat diagrams

- Objective:** Identify and document risks through the identification and documentation of unwanted incidents, threats, threat scenarios and vulnerabilities
- Tasks:**
 - Identify risk that might harm clients' assets
 - How a **threat** exploits a **vulnerability** to cause an **unwanted incident** that harms the client's **asset**
 - (proposed) Sub steps:
 - Identify Assets and Threats
 - Identify Unwanted Incidents
 - Identify Threat Scenarios
 - Identify Vulnerabilities
- Artifact to be produced:**
 - Threat diagram

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Step 5: Risk Identification using Threat diagrams

- Notions to be used in Threat Diagram

Threat (deliberate) Threat (accidental) Threat (non-human) Vulnerability
 Threat scenario [likelihood] Unwanted incident [likelihood] Asset

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Step 5 - sub step 1: Identify Assets and Threats

- Answer the question: "What are the threats?"
 - Hints:
 - "Accidental threat": e.g., users/ roles inside the system
 - "Deliberate threat": e.g., attackers from outside

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Step 5 - sub step 2: Identify Unwanted Incidents

Answer the question:
 - What (unwanted incidents) do we fear will happen?

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Step 5 - sub step 2: Identify Unwanted Incidents

Answer the question:
 - What (unwanted incidents) do we fear will happen?

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Step 5 - sub step 3: Identify Threat Scenarios

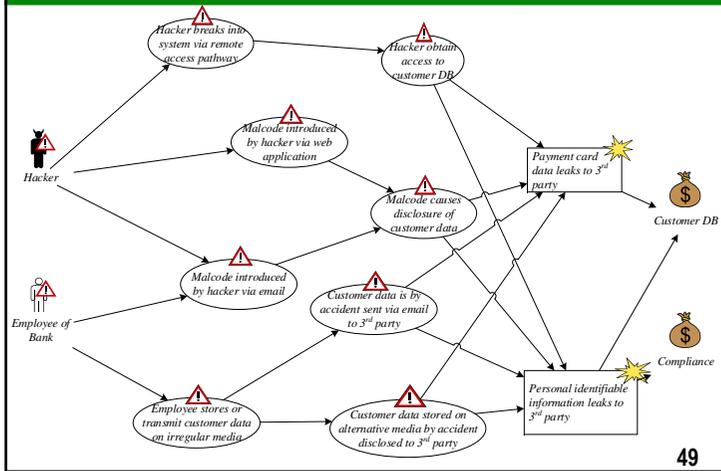
Answer the question:
 - How does it happen? It happens by which threat scenarios?

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Step 5 - sub step 3: Identify Threat Scenarios

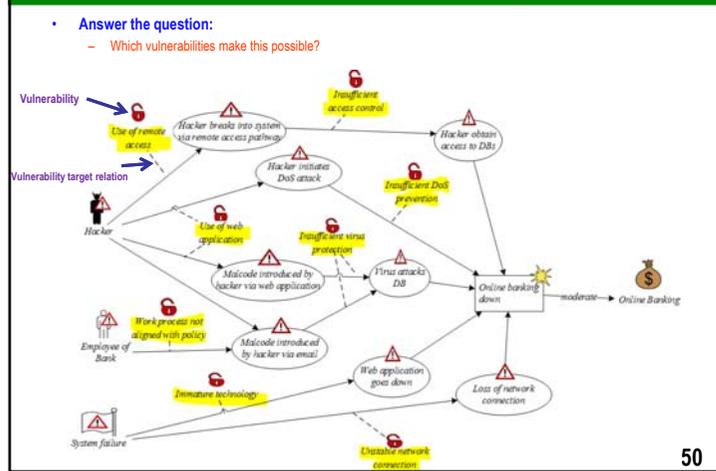
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Step 5 - sub step 3: Identify Threat Scenarios



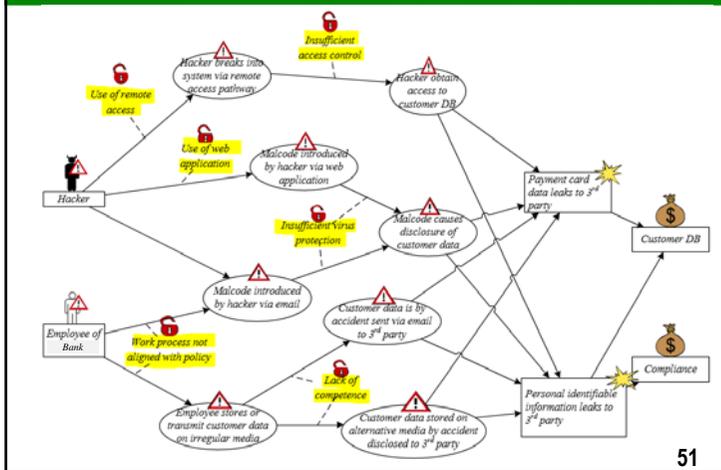
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Step 5 - sub step 4: Identify Vulnerabilities



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Step 5 - sub step 4: Identify Vulnerabilities



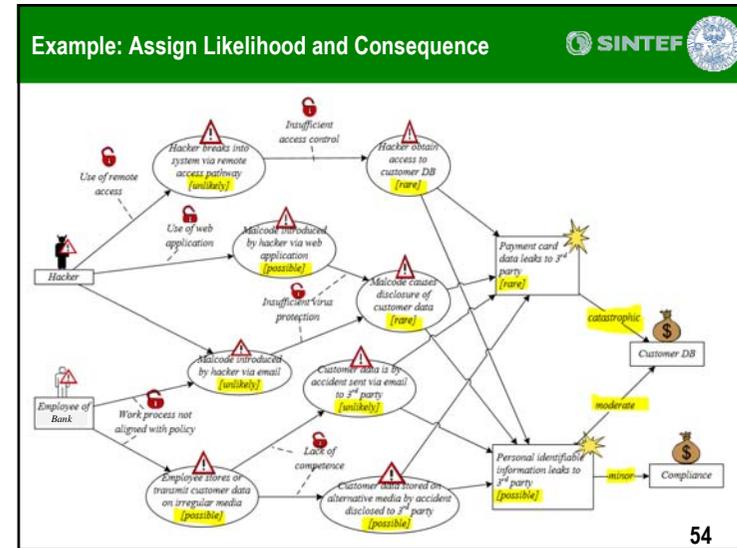
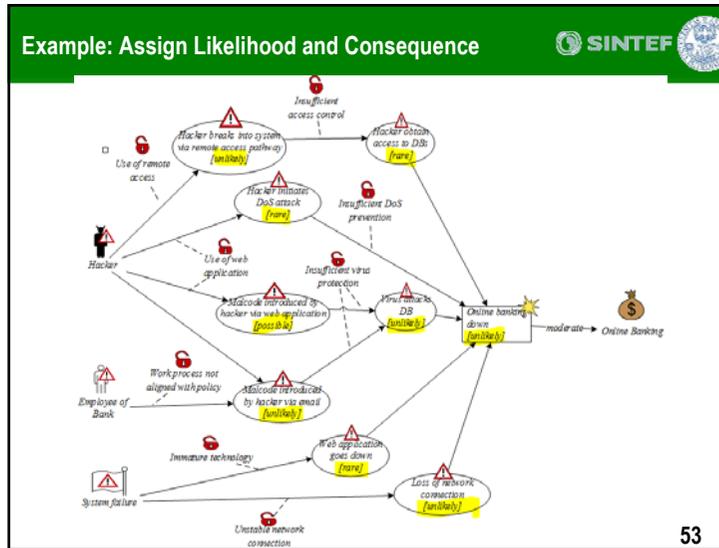
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Step 6: Risk estimation using threat diagrams



- Objective: determine risk level of the identified risks
- Tasks: base on likelihood and consequence scale approved in Step 4
 - Assign likelihood estimated for each Threat Scenario
 - Assign likelihood estimated for each Unwanted Incidents
 - Assign consequence caused by each Unwanted Incidents on each Asset (the consequence is denoted on "impact" relation)
- Artifacts to be produced:
 - Completed Threat diagrams with likelihood and consequences assigned

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Step 7: Risk evaluation using Risk diagram

- **Objective:** decide which of the identified risks are acceptable and which must be further evaluated for possible treatment
- **Tasks:**
 - Evaluate the identified risks:
 - Enter the risks into the Risk Function (from step 4)
 - Evaluate which risks are acceptable and which are not
 - Summarize the risk picture by Risk Diagram
- **Artifacts to be produced:**
 - Completed Risk Function
 - Risk Diagram with evaluation result

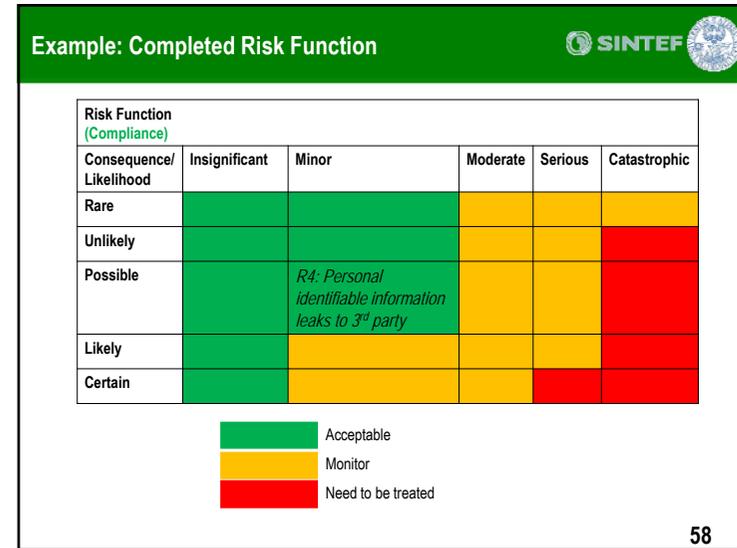
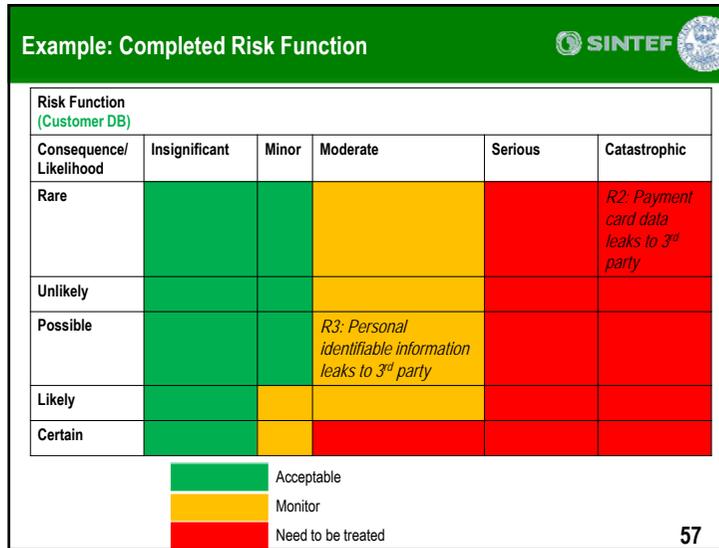
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Example: Completed Risk Function

Risk Function (Online Banking)	Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Serious	Catastrophic
Consequence/ Likelihood					
Rare					
Unlikely			R1: Online banking down		
Possible					
Likely					
Certain					

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Acceptable
 Monitor
 Need to be treated

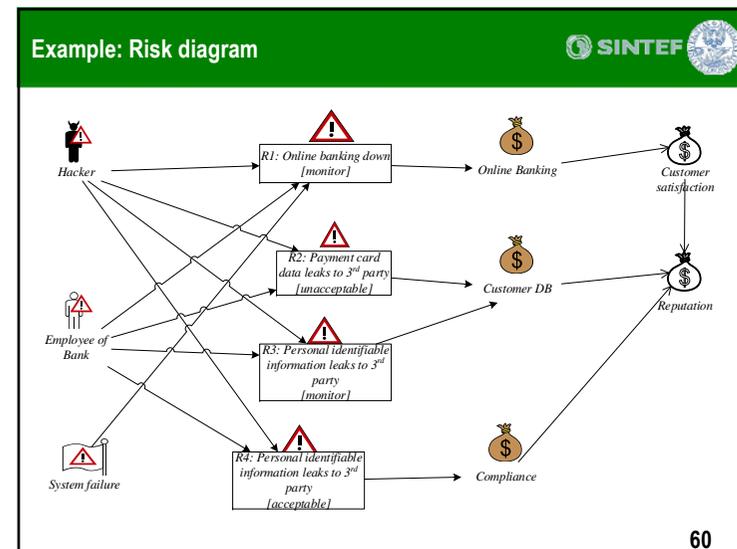


Summarizing the Risk picture

- We use Risk diagram to show how Threats pose Risks to the Assets
- Notions to be used in Risk diagram:

Threat (deliberate) Threat (accidental) Threat (non-human)
 Risk Asset

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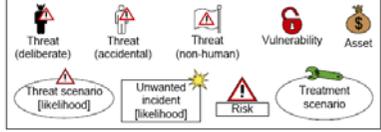
Step 8: Risk treatment using Treatment diagram 

- **Objective: identify cost effective treatments for the unacceptable risks**
- **Task:**
 - Identify Treatment Scenario for unacceptable risks:
 - What can we do to reduce the risks to an acceptable (or monitor) level?
 - Create Treatment diagram
 - Summarize by Treatment Overview diagram
 - Evaluate treatment: estimate the cost-benefit of each treatment, and decide which ones to implement
- **Artifacts to be produced:**
 - Treatment diagram (=Threat diagram with Treatment added)
 - Treatment Overview diagram
 - Treatment evaluation

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Step 8: Risk treatment using treatment diagram 

- **Notions to be used in Treatment Diagram**



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Identify Treatment 

- **Start with most severe risks**
- **List possible actions to reduce likelihood and/or loss**
 - What could be done?
 - When should it be accomplished?
 - Who is responsible?
 - How much funding, if any, is required?

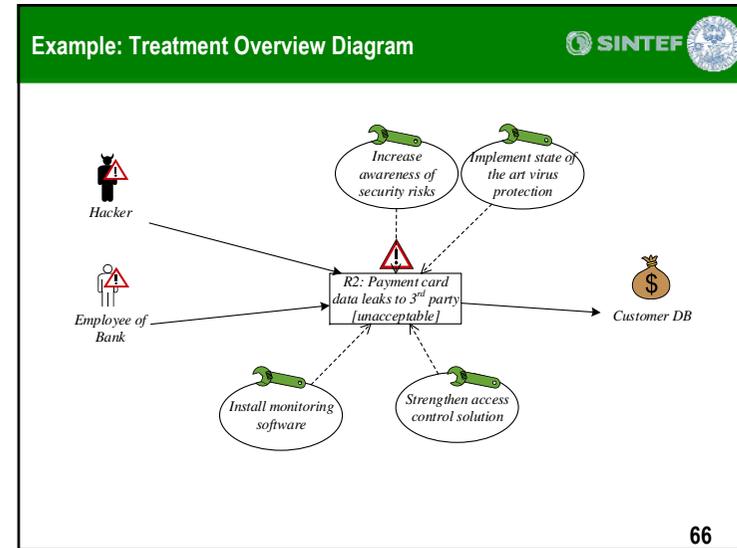
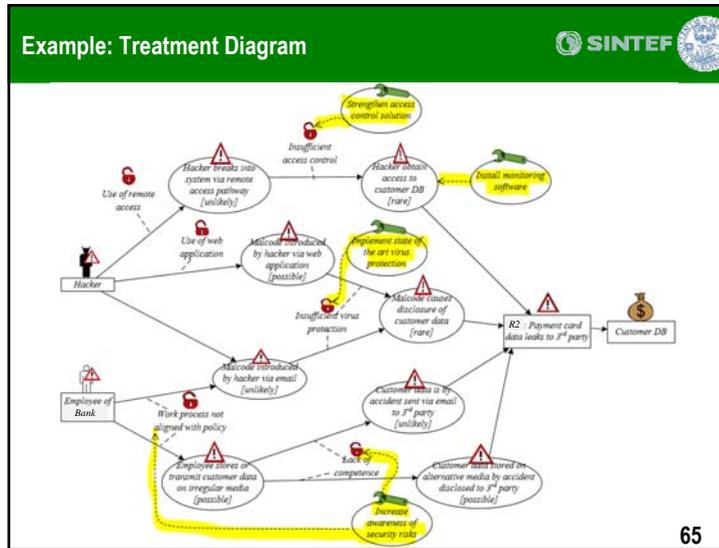


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Identify Treatment – Possible treatments 

- **Technical treatment:** user identification, authentication, authorization, nonrepudiation, transaction privacy, virus detection and eradication,...
- **Management treatment :** assign security responsibility, security awareness training, periodic system audits, establish incident response capability,...
- **Operational treatment :** control physical access, secure hub and cable wiring closets, off-site storage procedure, provide an uninterruptible power supply, control temperature and humidity, ensure environmental security,...

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Treatment Evaluation

- Estimate the cost-benefit of each treatment and decide which ones to implement

Treatment	Cost	Risk	Risk reduction	Select to implement
....
....
....

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Example: Treatment Evaluation

Treatment	Cost	Risk	Risk reduction	Select to implement
T1: Increase awareness of security risks	Low	R2	R2: Unacceptable to Acceptable	Yes
T2: Implement state of the art virus protection	Low	R2	R2: Unacceptable to Monitor	Yes
T3: Install monitoring software	Medium	R2	R2: Unacceptable to Acceptable	Yes
T4: Strengthen access control solution	High	R2	R2: Unacceptable to Monitor	No

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Example: Treatment Evaluation 

Treatment	Cost	Risk	Risk reduction	Select to implement
T1: Increase awareness of security risks	Low	R2	R2: Unacceptable to <u>Acceptable</u>	Yes
T2: Implement state of the art virus protection	Low	R2	R2: Unacceptable to <u>Monitor</u>	Yes
T3: Install monitoring software	Medium	R2	R2: Unacceptable to <u>Acceptable</u>	Yes
T4: Strengthen access control solution	High	R2	R2: Unacceptable to <u>Monitor</u>	No

Residual Risk

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Residual Risk 

- **Residual Risk** – is the risk remaining after the implementation of new or enhanced controls
- If the residual risk has not been reduced to an acceptable level, the risk management cycle must be repeated to identify a way of lowering the residual risk to an acceptable level
- No IT system can be risk-free

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Example: Treatment Evaluation 

Treatment	Cost	Risk	Risk reduction	Select to implement
T1: Increase awareness of security risks	Low	R2	R2: Unacceptable to <u>Acceptable</u>	Yes
T2: Implement state of the art virus protection	Low	R2	R2: Unacceptable to <u>Monitor</u>	Yes
T3: Install monitoring software	Medium	R2	R2: Unacceptable to <u>Acceptable</u>	Yes
T4: Strengthen access control solution	High	R2	R2: Unacceptable to <u>Monitor</u>	No

Residual Risk

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Treatment Evaluation: Dealing with REALITY 

- There's not enough staff time (human hours) or schedule time or funding to address all potential risks
- Which risks are unacceptable?
- Can we avoid or mitigate these?



Can we live with what we can't fix?
Will the mitigation strategy work?

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Example: Treatment Evaluation

Treatment	Cost	Risk	Risk reduction	Select to implement
T1: Increase awareness of security risks	Low	R2	R2: Unacceptable to Acceptable	Yes
T2: Implement state of the art virus protection	Low	R2	R2: Unacceptable to Monitor	Yes
T3: Install monitoring software	Medium	R2	R2: Unacceptable to Acceptable	Yes
Final recommendations to customer				le No

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Contingency Planning

- Contingency planning:
 - Only for the most severe risks that **cannot** be mitigated
 - List actions to take should the risk materialize

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Tool Support and Demo

- The CORAS tool is a diagram editor
- Support for making all kinds of CORAS diagrams
- Design for on-the-fly modeling during structured brainstorming at analysis workshops
- Ensures syntactically correct diagrams
- Used during all steps of the risk analysis
 - Input to the various tasks
 - Gathering and structuring of information during the tasks
 - Documentation of analysis results
- Available for download: <http://coras.sourceforge.net/>

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Tool Support: Screenshot

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