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## D4.1 Context Awareness System

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## Terminology

### Organisation Mission

A set of activities to achieve purpose or goal

### Mission Impact Criteria

Organisation drivers that will be used to evaluate the impacts of risk to the organisations mission/ business objectives

## Abbreviation's List

AHP	Analytic Hierarchical Process
API	Application Programming Interface
ASM	Asset State Management
BIA	Business Impact Analysis
BPMN	Business Process Modelling Notation
CA	Context Awareness
CMDB	Configuration Management Data Base
CVE	Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures
CSIRT	Computer Security Incident Response Team
CVSS	Common Vulnerability Scoring System
CRR	Cyber Resilience Review
ENISA	European Network and Information Security Agency
FES	Front-end Server
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDS	Intrusion Detection System
IT	Information Technology
MCDA	Multiple Criteria Decision Analysis
NVD	National Vulnerability Database
MAIR	Mission and Asset Information Repository
MDG	Mission Dependency Graph
MIM	Mission Impact Management
NREN	National Research and Education Network
OVDDB	Ontology Vulnerability Data Base
PII	Personally Identifiable Information
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SME	Small Medium Enterprise
SME	Subject Matter Expert
WSM	Weighted Sum Model

## Executive Summary

This document describes the PROTECTIVE Context Awareness (CA) system. The CA system provides the *situational knowledge* that enables **asset criticality** to be determined when assessing the priority of security (meta) alerts. The system provides information about the importance of an asset to the *mission or business* of the organisation and the current *vulnerability management state* of the asset in response to queries from the PROTECTIVE prioritisation subsystem. It consists of three subsystems i) the Mission Impact Management (MIM) subsystem, ii) the Asset State Management (ASM) subsystem and iii) the Mission and Asset Information Repository (MAIR).

Mission impact research originated in the military domain but has recently become more widespread in the civil cybersecurity domain also as situational awareness research grows in significance therein. Existing research approaches are summarised in Chapter 2 and a methodology based on the use of Mission Dependency Graphs (MDG) to conduct mission impact assessment for the PROTECTIVE community is described. Example worksheets are included in the Annexes.

Asset state research focuses on asset configuration and, vulnerability assessment including patch levels and vulnerabilities relevant to the asset software and hardware. Chapter 3 describes related research and overviews the PROTECTIVE approach which is based on the use of semantic web ontology technology.

The CA system also includes an asset database (MAIR) that consists of information imported from other, i.e. non-PROTECTIVE, organisation asset repositories. This database is used by both CA subsystems. Chapter 4 describes the MAIR architecture and the mission impact meta-model which defines both the PROTECTIVE MDG and the data base model. It also describes the relationship between asset state ontology and meta-model.

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## 1 Introduction

The PROTECTIVE Context Awareness (CA) system provides the *situational knowledge* that enables **asset criticality** to be determined when assessing the priority of security (meta) alerts. This criticality is based on a combination of

1. The importance of the particular asset to the *mission or business* of the organisation.
2. The current *vulnerability management state* of the asset.

The CA system is described in below. It is composed of several complementary subsystems

1. Mission Impact Management subsystem (MIM);
2. Asset State Management subsystem and (ASM);  
Mission and Asset Information Repository (MAIR).

The Mission Impact Management subsystem keeps track of the criticality relationships between organisation mission, or security objectives, and the network and computer assets and provides information to queries from the security (meta)alert prioritisation subsystem about mission impact and asset criticality. This subsystem will be developed within the PROTECTIVE project

The Asset State Management subsystem keeps track of information on asset configurations including patch levels and vulnerability information and provides this information to the security alert handling module when queried. This subsystem will be based on an existing tool – Cybertool – from consortium member ITTI which will be extended to meet PROTECTIVE requirements.

Both subsystems utilise a shared Mission and Asset Information Repository (MAIR) which is a repository of the mission, services, software and hardware assets- i.e. network devices and computers of the organisation. This database is populated with asset information from other, external, organisation asset repositories through a CA defined Application Programming Interface (API). Information on missions and dependencies between missions, services and assets is also stored in the MAIR via the MIM subsystem. The ASM subsystem will utilise the MAIR to populate its own reasoning ontology.

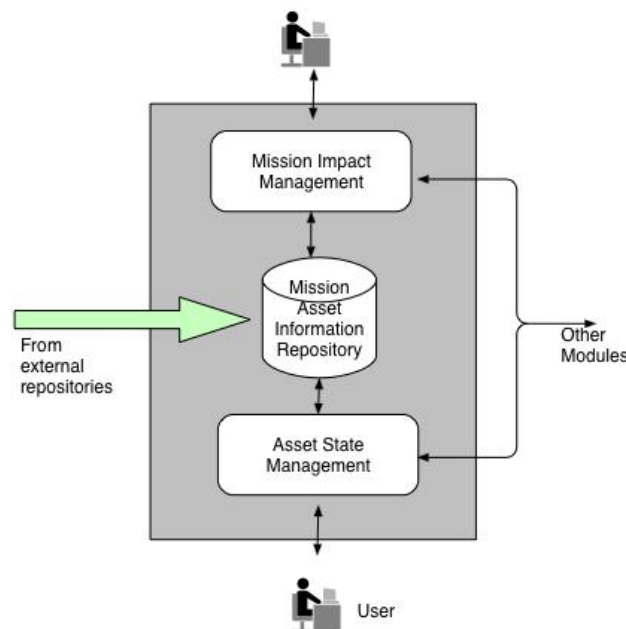


Figure 1 PROTECTIVE Context Awareness system

The CA subsystem is part of the **Enrichment** subsystem in the PROTECTIVE node structure – see Figure 1Figure 2 below:

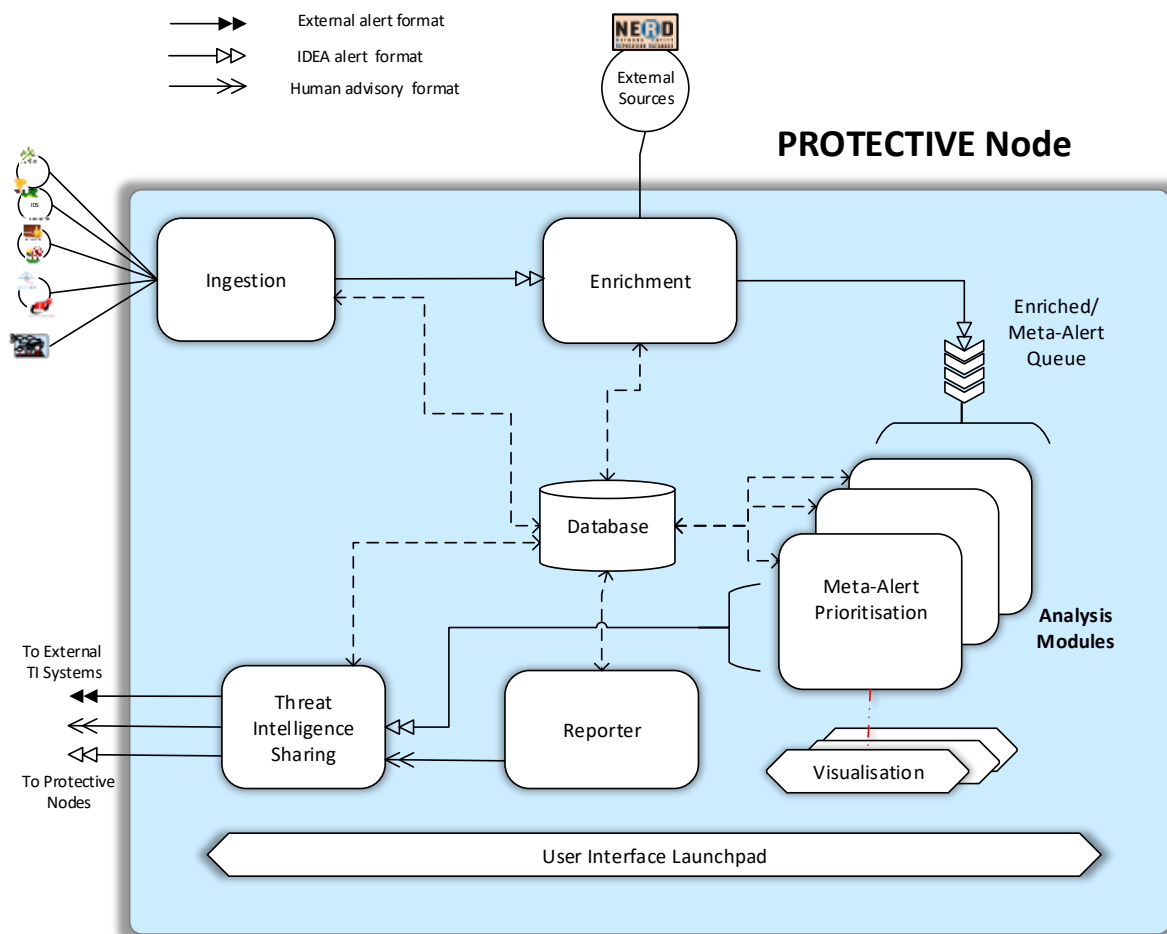


Figure 2 PROTECTIVE Node Architecture

The CA subsystem is used to annotate the received alerts to assist the prioritisation of the generated meta-alerts and thus help to increase the Computer Security Incident and Response Team (CSIRT) situational awareness levels. A complete description of the PROTECTIVE node operation is given in D2.1.

The rest of the document gives a comprehensive description of the CA subsystem components. Chapter 2 describes the mission impact background and approach as well as giving guidelines on how to conduct a mission impact assessment. Chapter 3 describes the asset state background and approach and gives an overview of the proposed ASM subsystem design. Chapter describes the MAIR which defines both the assets data base entities and the mission impact dependency schema.

## 2 CA: Mission Impact Assessment

### 2.1 Background

*Asset criticality* is a measure of how important the computer or network node or the information residing on them, is to the daily operation of the business, or *mission*, of the organisation i.e. if these nodes are impacted by a security attack then they have a major impact on the business mission. Servers that host business critical applications or information must be protected with the highest priority as must the network connections that enable clients to reach them. Furthermore, in a

situation where CSIRTs must struggle with large volumes of security alerts it is essential to focus on the most important assets.

In a large organisation, it can however be difficult to identify these assets since networks are large and subject to change and different parts of the business organisation may have different points of view on what is important. It is therefore necessary to establish a means or methodology to derive such information if asset prioritisation is required by the organisation. In this section, we describe the principal issues to consider when assessing this mission impact and outline two different approaches to address this problem. We select one approach for PROTECTIVE and describe a methodology to enable the CSIRT to conduct a mission impact assessment.

### 2.1.1 Introduction

According to Amico , (Amico & Goodall, 2009) a *mission* is “a combination of tasks to achieve a common goal” while for Jakobson (Jakobson G. , 2014) it is a “goal directed structured order of space and time bound actions to resolve the operational situation in favour of the agent that is conducting the mission or the business process.”. The key take-away is that a mission is *always* a combination of action/task/process and goal. However, in many parts of the literature, e.g. (NIST, 2012), the goal is often implicit and the term mission is often a synonym for *process* or *task*. For our purposes, an organisation’s *missions* define the “*set of activities to achieve a particular purpose or goal*”. Depending on the specific context a mission may be short term to achieve a tactical goal or long term to achieve strategic goals

In commercial organisations, a mission is generally considered as a strategic concept while *business functions/processes* are more usually used to describe the operational activities of short term nature, whereas in military or security related organisations mission refers to both short and longer term activities. An organisation may have many different, sometimes competing, goals which in turn can be supported by different missions - a side effect of this is that a mission may contain other missions.

Missions/business functions are in turn supported by Information Technology (IT) infrastructure in order to achieve their operational goals. Security threats to particular IT assets may therefore impact upon the missions and business functions that the assets support and this impact may in turn be propagated to the organisation business goals that the mission supports. Since a number of different IT assets may be subject to a threat at the same time a knowledge of which asset is most “mission critical” can help an analyst from the security team analyst to react accordingly to priorities derived from the inclusion of that information. Consequent ranking of these priorities allows the analyst to determine which threatened asset to deal with first.

A good description of the risk relationships between an organisation’s objectives, mission and information technology (IT) is given by NIST (NIST, 2012) – cf. Figure 3. The levels defined there are:

- **Organisation** – defines the strategic goals and objectives of the organisation and sets the context for all risk management activities carried out by an organization. It defines the organisational strategic risk approach identifies the key mission functions and formulates the operational policy within which to conduct risk management. From a risk assessment viewpoint, the determination of the relative importance of the missions/business functions is a key role of this layer. The greater the criticality of organizational missions and business functions, the greater the necessity for organizations to ensure that risks are adequately managed.



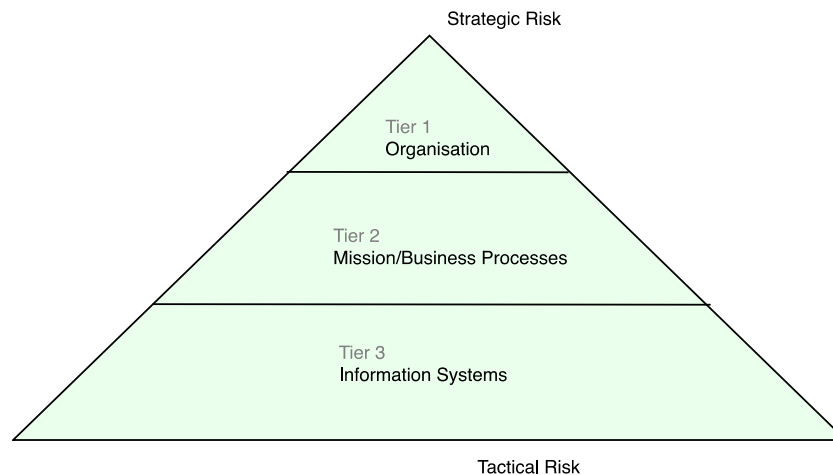


Figure 3 Multi-tiered Risk Management [after NIST, 2012]

- **Mission/Business Process** - risk management activities at this layer include: (i) defining the mission/business processes needed to support the missions and business functions of organizations; (ii) prioritizing the mission/business processes with respect to the strategic goals and objectives of organizations; (iii) defining the types of information needed to successfully execute the mission/business processes, the criticality/sensitivity of the information, and the information flows both internal and external to organizations.
- **Information System** – this layer encompasses the computing, networking and storage assets as well as the associated software applications and middleware that enable process execution (process layer) to realise the business objective of the organisation layer. Risk assessment at this layer is tactical and includes the identification of threats and vulnerabilities that are likely to arise from the nature of the information systems infrastructure technologies and topology.

An important corollary of Figure 3 is that risk is hierarchical and interconnected **creating dependencies between the different levels** i.e. the model can be used to identify dependencies and to construct mission-asset dependency graphs. Thus, mission criteria can be propagated **down** the risk hierarchy in order to understand the criticality of information system assets to the organisation missions and goals. Conversely risks at the information system layer can be propagated/aggregated **up** the risk hierarchy in order to assess organisational risk.

Mission impact modelling has its roots in both military and commercial domains, though formal research has been more active in the former. In the commercial domain, such modelling often takes the form of Business Impact Analysis (BIA) - which is normally conducted either as part of a risk assessment or a business continuity assessment (Swanson & al., 2010). Although the use of the term 'mission' is not often used in commercial organisations we prefer to retain *mission* in this document in preference to *business* since we feel it gives a more precise meaning to the role of public sector organisations such as National Research and Education Network (NREN) service providers.

### 2.1.2 Impact Assessment Approaches

Mission impact assessment is a process of identifying and recording the dependencies between missions and the IT assets that support them. The outcome of such a process is the mission dependency graphs (MDG)

Dependency mapping may be carried out to support different types of risk assessment such as

- *Threat oriented* – this assessment focuses on how an adversary could exploit technical and

non-technical aspects of a system to produce adverse effects. It starts with identification of threat events and threat sources, (Jakobson G. , 2011), (Holsopple & Yang, 2013).

- *Vulnerability oriented* – this assessment aims to gauge how risk might arise to the systems from an identified set of vulnerabilities within the system through exploitation by relevant threat events, (Jiang, Ding, Zhai, & Yu, 2015).
- *Asset oriented* – this focuses on the assets that must be protected from threats i.e. on the identification of system components as well as their interconnections and dependencies. Assets are generally assigned a *criticality metric* to denote their importance. Such an assessment may arise because of a business or mission impact analysis (Kim, Kang, Luo, & Velazquez, 2014),
- *Mission or objective oriented* – In this case the risk assessment focuses on the mission or business objectives that must be achieved despite the presence of threats. This assessment entails defining risk relationships between mission objectives and information system assets, (Watters, Morrissey, & Powers, 2009) (Suh & Han, 2003), (Innerhoffer-Oberperfler & Breu, 2006).

Mission impact assessments are either process-driven or artefact-driven (Schulz, Kotson, & Zipkin, 2015). The process-driven analyses are typically conducted manually by subject matter experts (SMEs), who identify both the risk measurement criteria and the assets that support the mission. The main advantage of this approach is that the SME's have an in-depth understanding of the whole terrain including mission, processes and supporting assets and the interactions between them. Another advantage is that since the graph is produced by humans it is considerably easier to understand than one produced by automated processes. The main drawback is that the process is manual and therefore time-consuming and expensive. Furthermore, locating suitable experts to provide the information is not always easy or indeed possible. Another drawback is that the graph produced is static since it is produced at a particular point in time. Process driven analyses are often a component part of risk assessments methodologies such as that of (NIST, 2012). Examples of process driven approaches described in the literature include (Watters, Morrissey, & Powers, 2009), (Suh & Han, 2003), (Innerhoffer-Oberperfler & Breu, 2006).

The artefact-driven approaches use logs and data from hosts and network equipment to draw inferences about the usage of network assets. However, it may be difficult to correctly infer the nature of mission through this approach, as it can be difficult to find data sources that can reveal the missions, processes, and tasks. The two most common strategies are to link assets to missions by pivoting through the workforce, or to infer the missions through the clustering of assets or employees, coupled with semantic analysis of document or network content. The quality of the output is highly dependent on the quality of the available data, as well as the quality of the algorithms used to draw the inferences. Maps created with this bottom-up approach can be hard for humans to interpret because the results can be both noisy and incomplete. The advantage is that with suitable algorithms, generating graphs is much faster and less labour intensive. Data-driven techniques enable discovery of new assets as they join the network. They are also able to identify hidden dependencies that may elude even the most expert SME. Examples in the literature include (Jiang, Ding, Zhai, & Yu, 2015), (Dai, Sun, Liu., & Giacobe, 2012), (Kim, Kang, Luo, & Velazquez, 2014).

**Due to the largely static mission nature of the NREN service provider environment we have opted for a process-driven assessment approach for PROTECTIVE.**

### 2.1.3 Mission Dependency Graphs

Mission dependency graphs are generated as the output of mission/business impact assessment that is, in turn, part of a risk assessment process such as that described in (NIST, 2012). The first step in the

mission assessment process is to identify and rank the critical organisational *mission impact criteria*<sup>1</sup> that can be impacted by attacks on the IT infrastructure. These take the form of key business objectives or security objectives (e.g. loss of reputation etc.). These objectives form the topmost layer of the MDG. The ranked objectives define a prioritisation order that is propagated or trickled down the graph to the lowest asset level to help define the asset criticality and so aid the meta-alert prioritization process.

All MDG research efforts have broadly followed the multi-tiered enterprise model of Figure 3 above, tending to vary in the layer details and the modelling approach used. One of the most cited works is that of Jakobson, (Jakobson G. , 2011), whose impact dependency graph is shown in Figure 4. This figure captures the main concepts of MDGs. It comprises three layers, **mission**, **service** and **asset**. Missions are modelled as goal-directed sequential or parallel flow of mission steps. Each mission step can be either another flow, another mission, or an elementary action (task). In a military setting a mission involves activities of a military nature whilst in a commercial setting the mission layer is

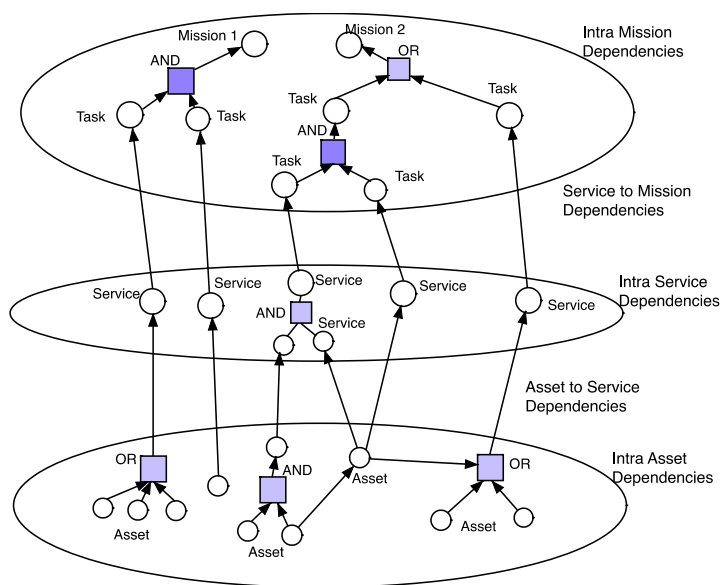


Figure 4 Impact Dependency Graph [after Jakobson, 2011]

comprised of business processes - such processes could be modelled, for example, using Business Process Modelling Notation (BPMN). The service layer contains common IT services such as a database, file transfer, e-mail etc. Finally, the assets layer contains the software (e.g. operating system, compilers, etc.) and hardware assets that comprise the IT infrastructure. - this includes networking nodes and links. Dependencies may exist between nodes in the same layer (Intra layer) or between layers (inter layer). Intra layer dependencies include those parallel or sequential mission steps (mission layer), enabling of one service by the other and containment of one service by another (service layer) hosting of an OS on a server or connectivity between network nodes (assets layer). Since a node in the graph may depend on a number other nodes aggregation operators (AND and OR nodes) are used to capture such dependencies.

An important omission from Figure 4 is the organisation layer that defines the business/ security objectives. This layer is captured in another mission impact modelling approach, RiskMAP (Risk to Mission Assessment Process) developed by the Mitre Corporation (Watters, Morrissey, & Powers, 2009) see Figure 5. This is quite like Jakobson above but varies in a number of subtle ways. It combines the hardware, software and IT services into a single layer (Information Assets) but separates out the network nodes into a standalone layer. The figure also shows conceptually how risk propagation up the dependency graph will occur. RiskMAP does not model intra-layer dependencies. Neither does the modelling notation include aggregation operators although the modelling methodology uses them.

<sup>1</sup> "organizational drivers that will be used to evaluate the effects of risk to an organisations mission and business objectives" [6]

This arises from the modelling approach used i.e. RiskMAP is an Excel based methodology and the aggregation is included as part of the calculations.

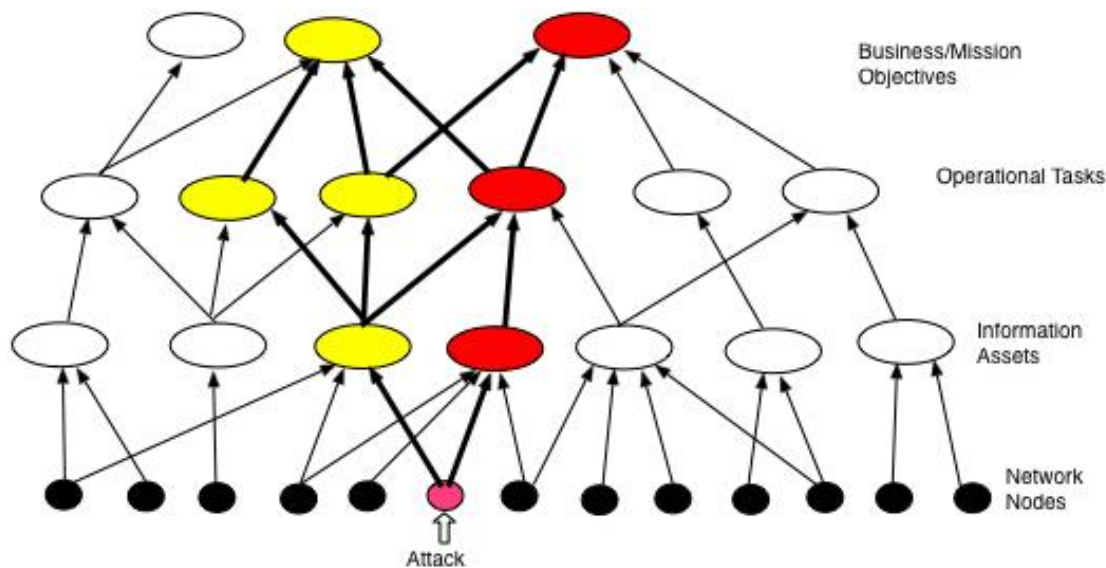


Figure 5 RiskMAP Dependency Model [after Watters, 2009]

Importantly RiskMAP also establishes a relative prioritisation of components at each layer in order to establish a top to bottom prioritisation chain.

#### 2.1.4 Dependency Aggregation

One of the key issues to consider is how to aggregate dependencies i.e. how to combine the impacts from a number of child nodes into a parent node – in either direction up or down the graph. Most often aggregation is involved where equipment grouping, sharing or multiplexing is used as e.g. in redundancy or load balancing. For example, consider a round robin load-balanced server group. As long as one server in the group is operational the parent service that depends on the load-balanced servers is also operational, although its “operational capacity”<sup>2</sup>, (Jakobson G. , 2011), is impaired. Therefore, to assess the impact we use an OR aggregation function in which the operational capacity of the parent is assessed to be the maximum of the operational capacity of its child servers.

Methods used for aggregation may depend on the direction of traversal i.e. whether up or down the graph – this varies depending on the nature of the risk assessment being taken. Thus, starting from the business objective level, we propagate dependency and priority down the graph until we ultimately map it to one or more assets/network nodes at the bottom layer thereby helping determine asset criticality. Of course, since there are multiple missions there are likely to be several dependencies affecting any particular node in the graph then an asset may have multiple criticalities corresponding to the various mission it supports. Conversely when propagating an attack risk/impact up the graph many missions may be impacted and the propagation of the impact will be influenced by the nature of the dependency relationship between the nodes e.g. if a (parent) node depends on ALL vs. ANY of its children to function the nature of the perceived impact may well be different.

The RiskMAP process for mission dependency propagation *down* the graph is illustrated in Figure 6. It shows two layers of a dependency graph where the *dependent* assets are in the upper layer (from

<sup>2</sup> A measure of the functional capability of the asset. [14] expresses it as a value between 0 (non-functioning) and 1 (fully functioning) – the term is used in a qualitative way in this document.

whence the directed edges emanate) and the *depended\_on* (where the arrows terminate) asset is in the lower layer. The values of the assets are depicted as  $v_i$  and the degree of dependency between nodes  $i$  and  $j$  is  $w_{ij}$ , where  $i, j$  are arbitrary nodes,  $0 \leq i, j < n$ , and where  $n$  is the total number of nodes in the tree.

For the figure for the nodes  $a, b, c, d$

$$v_d = f((a, w_{ad}), (b, w_{bd}), (c, w_{cd}))$$

and the question of propagation then becomes one of determining the function  $f$ . For RiskMAP the typical functions used are

- the “SUM” method which is used if one wishes to show *both* the degree of dependency (the number of dependency paths from Business Objective to Network Node and their criticality) and the priority (based on Objective relative weight). The Network Node relative weight can be considered as the sum of all dependency paths (from each Objective to the Node), each path multiplied by the relative weight of the Objective that it supports.

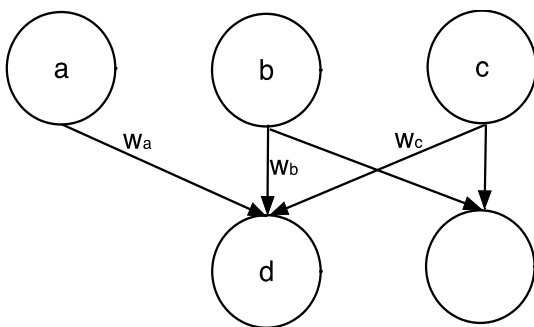


Figure 6 Dependency propagation in RiskMAP

- The “MAX” method is used if one wishes to identify the cases where a Node is *most critical* to a Business Objective, there is another way to calculate and portray Node relative weight – that being to show only the maximum of the products of dependency path and Objective relative weight.

We thus have

$$(a) \quad v_d = \text{SUM}((v_a * w_{ad}), (v_b * w_{bd}), (v_c * w_{cd})) \quad \text{OR}$$

$$(b) \quad v_d = \text{MAX}((v_a * w_{ad}), (v_b * w_{bd}), (v_c * w_{cd}))$$

More generally some researchers explicitly include an **aggregation operator** as a separate node type in the graph. This approach is exemplified by Jakobson, (Jakobson G. , 2011), (Figure 4 above) and by Holsopple, (Holsopple & Yang, 2013). The aggregation operator combines the inputs of its children according to the specified function and propagates the aggregated value to its parent node. A wide range of aggregation function operators can be used. The most common are:

- AND - this operator combines ALL its child inputs to generate the parent output. The actual combination method can vary between researchers. In the RiskMAP example above the AND is realised by the SUM function. For Jakobson who is concerned with the “operational capacity” of a node, AND is calculated by choosing the minimum value amongst the child nodes on the basis of the rule that “a chain is only as strong as its weakest link”. On the other hand, and for the same reason, for Holsopple, who is concerned with propagating *impact*, AND is realised by choosing the *maximum* value amongst the child nodes;
- OR - this operator addresses the situation where the functioning of a node depends on *any one* of its child nodes. For RiskMAP this is realised by the MAX function while Jakobson uses an averaging function. Holsopple chooses the minimum impact value - again using the “weak link” rule above.

Additionally, Holsopple, (Holsopple & Yang, 2013), proposes a general approach to aggregation based on Yager operators that allows the choice of arbitrary aggregation operators. In addition to the ones listed above he cites as examples

- Weighted Minimum – a form of OR function. This can be used when the degradation of the functionality of the child will minimally impact the mission;
- Weighted Maximum – a form of AND function. This can be used when it is highly desirable for all children to be fully functional, but the mission isn't completely non-functional when a child goes down;
- Average - essentially captures a "consensus" between the children;
- At least "n" - capture the situation where a minimum number of children are required to complete a mission.

## 2.2 Mission Impact Assessment Guidelines

Based on the above analyses we develop a set of guidelines for PROTECTIVE members to conduct mission impact assessments. The development of these guidelines has been guided by two overarching goals

1. Ease of use;
2. Reuse of best practice i.e. not reinventing the wheel.

The adoption of the mission impact assessment methodology must represent a trade-off between richness of the output and the ease of use for personnel in conducting the review. In line with the approach of other risk assessment methodologies (Caralli, Stevens, Young, & Wilson, 2007), (US-CERT, 2016) (Mitre Corporation, 2017) we have opted for simplicity of use at the expense of sophistication. As outlined earlier our approach is process-driven rather than artefact-driven i.e. a manual, semi-static rather than a more dynamic and complex one. The motivation for this includes the fact that, for our primary NREN audience,

- the provision of services is the primary goal and the nature and deployment of these services is not changing very often.
- offered services are often of a coarse granularity e.g. Video conferencing, and depend on a relatively small number of assets.
- the development of a comprehensive dynamic service dependency map will entail very fine grained asset and service enumeration and likely require the integration of many different inventory systems and the development of bespoke enumeration agents (or alternately the purchase of a commercial Configuration Management Database (CMDB) system). These activities are beyond the resourcing reach of many NREN's.

We also aim to reflect industry best practises to the greatest extent possible and therefore refer extensively to related literature from various industry groupings and regulatory agencies – European and otherwise. This means that where possible we refer to existing procedures that could be applied to conduct a particular assessment step.

Before conducting the assessment, it is necessary to decide what the structure of the MDG will be i.e. to identify the layers of the graph. The main elements (goals, mission, service, process, task, asset etc.) can be seen from Figures 2, 3 and 4. From this we propose the following general layers in a top to bottom order

1. **Business Security Objectives** – what are the impact criteria for the organisation (see discussion in next section).
2. **Mission** – "business" goals of the organisation e.g. "provide videoconferencing service to constituents".
3. **Service** – functional capability made available to users (which could be to other services as well as human users).
4. **Asset** – physical or virtual device that provides the service.



These are discussed further in Chapter 4 when describing the CA meta-model.

Based on these goals we define an iterative two-step methodology to develop a mission dependency map:

1. **Identify the security objectives, services and assets of the organisation.**
  - a. **Identify impact criteria**
  - b. **Identify services and their dependencies**
  - c. **Identify supporting assets**
2. **Identify and weight the dependencies between these entities.**

### 2.3 Identify security objectives, services and assets

As pointed out earlier information security risk management is always performed in the context of the business or mission of the organisation. One of the key security risk management activities is therefore to identify the principal business security objectives for the organisation (Innerhoffer-Oberperfler & Breu, 2006). These form an abstract high level definition of the goals of the security management effort and are expressed in terms of mission *impact criteria* i.e. “*organizational drivers that will be used to evaluate the effects of a risk to an organization’s mission and business objectives*” (Caralli, Stevens, Young, & Wilson, 2007). Examples can be found in Table 1 and Table 2 below.

These are the areas of greatest risk to the organisation achieving its business goals/fundamental mission. It goes without saying that the mission and goals of the organisation must be defined and clear in order to perform an impact assessment. Once mission impact criteria have been defined the next step in the process is normally to identify the business functions/critical services that, if attacked or damaged, could impact the mission. This process is applied recursively through the various supporting IT layers to identify other subsidiary services and assets. This approach is staple to almost all mission dependency approaches, (Watters, Morrissey, & Powers, 2009), (Jakobson G. , 2011), (ISO, 2011).

However, for service provider organisations the process of mission impact identification and identification of critical services is not quite so linear. here the provision of services is part of the organisation mission and hence the identification of impact criteria and critical services are mutually dependent. Some iterations of both steps may therefore be required to complete the mission dependency graph. This should be borne in mind when reading the rest of this chapter,

#### 2.3.1 Identify Mission Impact Criteria

Mission impact criteria vary from sector to sector as for example between military, commercial and infrastructure services provision. Individual risk management methodologies, (NIST, 2012), (Swanson & al., 2010), (Caralli, Stevens, Young, & Wilson, 2007) tend to have their own approach to the definition of such criteria – each supplies a predefined set but includes the possibility to define domain or organisation specific criteria. We reproduce the main impact areas from (NIST, 2012), (Watters, Morrissey, & Powers, 2009), (US-CERT, 2016), below:

Table 1 Impact Criteria

Risk Assessment Approach	Impact Areas	Impact types
OCTAVE	Reputation and Customer Confidence Financial	

	Productivity Safety and Health Fines and Legal Penalties User Defined	
ISO 27005 <sup>3</sup>	Operations ----->       Reputation ----->       Individuals----->       Financial and Legal Penalties--->	Disruption of internal operations Disruption of third party operations Interruption of service Loss of technological lead  Loss of customer confidence Loss of effectiveness/trust Loss of technical reputation Loss of suppliers  Attack on user private life Danger to personnel/user safety  Financial losses (goods/funds/assets) Financial costs for emergency or repair Judicial proceedings and penalties Breach of contract Infringement of laws/regulations
NIST 800-30	Harm to Operations----->       Harm to Assets----->       Harm to Individuals----->	Inability to perform Harms due to non-compliance (Laws, Contracts) Financial Costs Relational Harms (Trust, Reputation) Physical facilities  Information systems Component parts Information Assets Intellectual Property Injury, Loss of Life Identity Theft Loss of PII  Reputation Harms due to non-compliance (Laws, Contracts) Financial Costs

<sup>3</sup> ISO 27005 does not explicitly define Impact areas – the categories shown are derived from examples in Annex B.2



	Harm to Other Organisations-->	Relational Harms (Trust, Reputation)
	Harm to the Nation----->	Critical Infrastructure loss Loss of Continuity of Operations Relational Harms Ability to achieve Future Objectives

Private enterprises typically base their impact criteria on measures related to business objectives such as shareholder value, customer service or operational excellence whilst public sector entities typically base approaches on measures related to ensuring mission effectiveness or service delivery. Some private sector focused risk assessment frameworks also include some element of service delivery while public sector frameworks often include organisational focused criteria.

In general frameworks that have a strong public-sector influence take a more **function** oriented approach because of the “*sector’s ability to support the economy and national security*”, (Homeland Security, 2016). In other words, the IT sector is part of a highly-interlinked infrastructure chain with each link in the chain providing and consuming services from each other – services are enabled through service *capabilities* or *functions* at each link or layer. This *infrastructure service* approach recognises and puts the focus on the critical role of these infrastructure systems in providing services. This interlinking/ interdependence between communications infrastructure and other critical service infrastructure is also explored by the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA), (ENISA, 2014) , (ENISA, 2016).

According to (ENISA, 2014) identifying critical infrastructure mission *impact areas* can be difficult. Impact criticality is defined as “the: (i) level of contribution of an infrastructure to society in maintaining a minimum level of national and international law and order, public safety, economy, public health and environment”, or (ii) “impact level to citizens or to the government from the loss or disruption of the infrastructure.” Impact is usually evaluated with respect to three primary characteristics that can also help guide the selection of suitable mission impact areas

- Scope or spatial distribution – the geographic area that could be affected by the loss or unavailability of a critical infrastructure.
- Severity or intensity or magnitude – the consequences of the disruption or destruction of a critical infrastructure.
- Effects of time or temporal distribution – the point that the loss of an element could have a serious impact (immediate, one to two days, one week).

On this basis (ENISA, 2014) is motivated to suggest the following general impact type examples for critical infrastructure services.

**Table 2 Critical Infrastructure Mission Impact Criteria**

Criterion Title	Explanation
International Relations	The effect that that a service interruption will have on the relationships between the nation and 3rd countries.
Public order	The effect that a service interruption may cause to the public order

Public operations hindered	The daily operations of the public, such as going to work via public transportation, are stopped or thwarted
Population affected	The percentage of the population of the MS affected from the disruption of the service
Concentration	The density of the population on the geographic area affecting the service
Economic Impact	The cost of service disruption in terms of GDP percentage.
Public confidence	The effect that the proper operation of this service has on the public confidence towards the government

These can be combined with similar factors from (Homeland Security, 2016) and (ITSEAG, 2102) to form a more focused *Infrastructure Services* impact table – see Table 3 .

**Table 3 Infrastructure Services Mission Impact**

<b>Risk Assessment Approach</b>	<b>Impact Areas</b>	<b>Impact types</b>
ENISA Critical Infrastructure Assets and Services	Public confidence International Relations Public order Public operations hindered Other country services are affected Concentration/density of population % Population affected Economic Impact	
SCADA (Australia)	People-----> Products ----->  Processes ----->  Reputation ----->	Users & Operators Buildings; Networks; SCADA SW; SCADA HW; Field Devices;  Management& Control; Information management  Corporate reputation
IT Sector Specific Plan	IT Products and Services Incident Management Services DNS Services Identity Management Services	

	Internet Content Services Internet Connectivity Services	
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Based on the earlier industry state of the art survey and noting the actual services operated by NRENs from interviews and observation conducted during visits to NREN premises we propose the following set of Impact Criteria as a starting point for performing a mission impact assessment for NREN and similar service providers.

**Table 4 Mission Impact Criteria for NREN's**

Service Type	Impact Area	Impact Types
Infrastructure/ Communication Services (DNS, IP, VOIP, etc.)	Harm to Constituents Harm to people	
Network Support Services (Fault resolution, Help desk etc.)		
Security Support Services (Incident Management, Threat Intelligence Distribution etc.)		
Internal Services/IT Processes (Infrastructure monitoring, Service provisioning etc.	Harm to Assets	

Noting the already identified iterative nature of mission dependency map development for service we return to the topic of mission impact criteria development after the critical service identification.

### 2.3.2 Identify Services and their Dependencies

US\_CERT defines a **service** as “a set of activities that the organisation carries out in performance of a duty or in the production of a product”. Further services can be *externally* or *internally* focused. External services (essentially equivalent to mission) are typically customer (or client) facing e.g. provision of video-conferencing for an Internet Service Provider (such as an NREN) or Automated Teller Machine (ATM) cash withdrawal for a bank. Internal services are the organisational activities required to support the provision of external services.

This step includes the identification of all external facing services and the internal services to support them as well as the dependencies i) between external services, ii) between external and internal services and iii) between internal services.

Identifying services might seem straightforward - however establishing a list of critical services is not always easy, especially for critical infrastructure services, (ENISA, 2014). Hints on how identify of services (both internal and external) can be obtained from organisational documents, (US-CERT, 2016), (Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., 2014), (Financial Stability Board, 2014) , such as

- Strategic plans;
- Business plans;
- Contracts;
- Customer requests;
- Standard work processes.

**Identified services should be identified and catalogued.** This could be e.g. a spread-sheet, a configuration managed document or a database. An example service catalogue worksheet is provided in Appendix B.

The precise nature of service dependencies can vary depending on the nature of the service and whether the service is external or internal. An example of an external service dependency is that given by (D. & Haier, 1997) which shows how a Web application service depends on a DNS service as well as IP connectivity services. An example of dependencies between an external and internal service is that shown by (ENISA, 2014), in Figure 7 for the case of an arbitrary critical infrastructure service which shows the internal services required to support the external service over its full lifecycle. As described elsewhere in the text, dependencies may occur between a service and an aggregation of other services

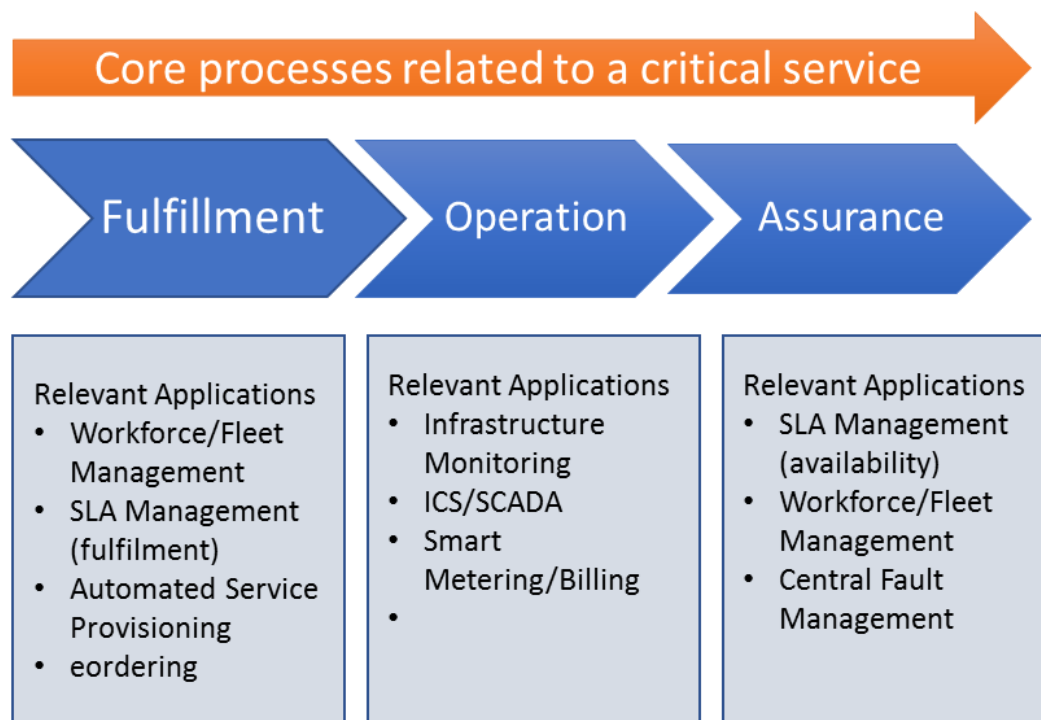


Figure 7 External to Internal Service Dependencies (from Enisa 2014)

**All dependencies between the services should be identified and catalogued.**

### 2.3.3 Identify supporting assets and their dependencies

This step entails identifying all assets that are required for the external and internal services to achieve their missions. Assets can include, (NIST, 2012):

- People – staff (including contract staff) who operate and monitor the services.
- Information – data or any media required for operation of the services.
- Technology – includes software, hardware, firmware and physical interconnection such as a network.
- Facilities – physical plant and buildings.

This document objective concerns mostly with information and technology assets. Identified assets should be documented and catalogued via some tool. An example spread sheet based asset catalogue is provided in Appendix C.

Dependencies exist between services and assets and between assets and assets.

Examples of such dependencies include, (D. & Haiser, 1997)

- Execution dependency: The performance of an application server process executing on a host machine depends on the status of the host.
- Link dependency: The performance of a service offered over a network link depends on the status of the link.
- Component dependency: An example of this dependency occurs in the case of a web service that is provided collectively by multiple “front-end servers” (FESs). While a single domain name is associated with the web service, round-robin DNS scheduling is used to map subscriber requests to one of the FESs. In this case, the status of the web service depends on the status of the service provided by the individual FESs; i.e., the web service has component dependencies on the service provided by the different FESs.
- Organizational dependency: Services and/or servers may be mapped to different domains of responsibility. A dependency of this type is an organizational dependency.

***All dependencies should be carefully identified and catalogued.***

#### 2.3.4 Process Output

The output from the above process is conceptually a weighted MDG of the form shown in Figure 3 or 3 as well as service and asset catalogues.

### 2.4 Assessing Dependency Priority

The above process yields an MDG showing the dependency links between the missions, services and assets of the organisation. In addition to identifying dependencies most techniques for defining an MDG also include the notion of **weighting** the dependency between entities to reflect the degree of importance or criticality of the dependency. These weightings are normally expressed on a categorical scale such as “Small, Medium, Large” or an ordinal scale from e.g. 1 to 5. Establishing a prioritised ranking of top level mission impact criteria and trickling these priorities down through the dependency graph is the basis of establishing asset criticality and thus a means of identifying the most important mission critical assets and prioritising the handling of these assets in accordance with their potential to disrupt operations should they fail (due to cyber-attack or other damage).

Researchers have used a variety of approaches to determine mission impact dependency prioritisation including various forms of multiple criteria decision analysis, (Watters, Morrissey, & Powers, 2009), (Suh & Han, 2003), (Kim, Kang, Luo, & Velazquez, 2014), Bayesian Networking, (Dai, Sun, Liu., & Giacobe, 2012), Fuzzy Cognitive maps (Szwed & Skrzynski, 2014), and , for dynamic dependency identification, graph ranking algorithms such as Page Rank (Jiang, Ding, Zhai, & Yu, 2015).

In keeping with the process-driven mission impact assessment we have adopted, the steps to establish the prioritised dependency mapping are

1. **Establish a prioritised ranking of the security objectives.**
2. **Propagate this prioritisation down through the layers of the MDG.**

Some of the previous process-driven research efforts have used the same, (Suh & Han, 2003) for each step while others have used a different method at each step, (Watters, Morrissey, & Powers, 2009). In our case, we follow the RiskMap approach i.e. in using a different method for each step.

### 2.4.1 Prioritising Security Objectives

This step is essential if prioritised treatment of critical assets is required i.e. if there is no difference of priority between the security objectives then there are no critical assets, as all assets will have the same value to the organisation

The most common approach to rank security objectives in process-driven mission assessment is using some form of Multiple Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA), (Watters, Morrissey, & Powers, 2009), (Suh & Han, 2003). MCDA is a family of techniques, (Wikipedia, 2016)], used to evaluate conflicting criteria when deciding. One of the more widely used such techniques is the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) (Wikipedia, 2016). AHP structures the decision problem as a hierarchy of sub-problems and then conducts pairwise comparison of alternatives at each layer to establish a weighting for each alternative. Weightings at higher layers are reflected down the tree to establish the final prioritisation. AHP is used as part of the RiskMAP process, (Watters, Morrissey, & Powers, 2009), and also by Suh and Han, (Suh & Han, 2003), while Kim, (Kim, Kang, Luo, & Velazquez, 2014), uses another MCDA variant called TOPSIS and Cheng, (Cheng, 2014) describes a simplified version called Grid analysis or Decision Matrix Analysis. In a related area, Nurse (Nurse & Sinclair, 2012) uses the Weighted Sum Model (WSM) variant to select amongst different security actions to be applied across a number of Enterprises in collaboration scenarios and also points out some of the complexities of using MCDM methods in security risk management.

In all of these cases the prioritisation and weighting is determined by a panel of subject matter experts, (SME). A notable exception to the use of the MCDA process in ranking security objectives is OCTAVE, (Caralli, Stevens, Young, & Wilson, 2007). Here a simple ordering of priority is made without taking any weighting into account.

For this step in PROTECTIVE we utilise pairwise comparison as it is simple and easy to use. The steps are as follows

1. Identify the criteria to be ranked – in our case these are the security objectives.
2. Arrange the criteria (security objectives) in a square matrix where each axis is graduated with the criteria.
3. For each criteria pair, X Y, decide which is more important and by how much. Enter a value from a predetermined scale to reflect weighting in the X Y row/column Then enter the inverse of this value in the Y X row, column. See for example A B row/column in Table 5 below. Here A is more important than B by a factor of 2, 2 is therefore entered in the A, B row/column and 0.5 (1/2) is entered in the B, A row/column. Use 0 where each factor is of equal importance. 0 is also entered for each same-criteria (A, A; B, B etc.) comparison.
4. Total each row.
5. Total the “Row Total” column and hence normalise each row total to give the priority i.e. for each row  $Row\ Priority = Row\ Total / \Sigma\ Row\ Total$ .

Table 5 Pairwise Comparisons

	A	B	C	D	Row total	Priority
A	0	2	2	1/3	4.33	0.22
B	1/2	0	1/2	1/4	1.25	0.06
C	1/2	2	0	4	6.5	0.34
D	3	4	1/4	0	7.25	0.38

Thus, the prioritised order for objectives A, B, C, D in this example is D, C, A, B

A Pairwise Comparison worksheet is provided in Annex D and a corresponding Excel spread-sheet will be designed.

#### 2.4.2 Dependency Propagation

In this step, the priorities for each entity in a layer are mapped to the dependent entities in the layer below. This is done by combining the layer n entity priority with the weighting of the dependencies this entity has towards the layer n-1 entities that it depends on or influences to give in turn priorities for those layer n-1 entities. Once this has been done the process is repeated for the layer n-1 to layer n-2 dependencies.

To do this we use a form of MCDA called Decision Matrix Analysis or Grid based Analysis (Cheng, 2014).

The steps are as follows:

1. List all the layer n entities as the row labels on a table, and list the layer n-1 as the column headings in the table. These are the layer n-1 entities needed to achieve the mission or security objective.
2. Specify the priority of each layer n entity using the priority calculated in the previous step. This will be in the range 0-1 for the security objectives but possibly larger for subsequent layers.
3. For each column, score each layer n entity/layer n-1 entity combination using the Impact scale indicated below the table. This ranges from 0 (no impact) to 4 (failure) and indicates the impact based on how well it impacts the parent node. These scores indicate the criticality of the layer n-1 entities to help the layer n entity achieve its purpose.
4. Then, multiply each score from step 3 by the relative importance derived from step 2. This will give users weighted scores for each layer n/layer n-1/factor combination.
5. Finally, add up the corresponding weighted scores for each layer n-1 entity. Entities with higher scores are more important than the entities with lower scores. These scores now form the basis for repeating the process for layers n-1/n-2 comparison where applicable.

To illustrate the process, we consider how the security objectives priorities derived in the last step are now mapped to the mission layer of the MDG as described below. We consider the case for **three** missions. The security objectives are first listed on each row with their corresponding priorities derived from the previous steps. Three columns are created for each of the three missions. The impact of the loss of the mission (0-4) on each security objective is then entered in the Impact column of each mission. The priority for each mission towards each mission is then calculated by multiplying the Mission Impact \* Security Objective Impact e.g. for Mission 2 and security objective B this is  $0.06 * 4 = 0.24$ . Finally, the total priority for the Mission is obtained by aggregating the individual scores. For the example in the table below the aggregation function is SUM but as discussed above the function used may vary depending on the circumstances.

Table 6 Decision Matrix Analysis

Asset/Service		Mission 1		Mission 2		Mission 3	
Security Objectives	Priority	Impact	Priority	Impact	Priority	Impact	Priority
A	0.22	0	0	2	.44	4	.88
B	0.06	4	.24	4	.24	0	0
C	0.34	2	.68	5	1.7	0	0
D	0.38	0	0	1	.38	3	1.14
TOTAL			0.92		2.76		2.02

Impact Key      0 - No Impact  
                      1- Minimal Impact  
                      2 – Somewhat Impacted  
                      3 – Substantially Impacted  
                      4 – Failure

The process is now repeated for each layer n/n-1 mapping until the bottom layer I reached and the final prioritisation is reached. At this stage, the Mission Impact Assessment is complete.

## 2.5 Useful Reading

There are several documents that may provide further insight or aid to practitioners conducting or about to conduct a mission impact analysis exercise. These include

### US-CERT Cyber Resilience Review (CRR)

The CRR, (US-CERT, 2016) is a “non-technical assessment to evaluate an organization’s operational resilience and cybersecurity practices. The CRR may be conducted as a self-assessment or as an on-site assessment facilitated by DHS cybersecurity professionals. The CRR assesses enterprise programs and practices across a range of ten domains including risk management, incident management, service continuity, and others” It consists primarily of an extensive questionnaire over the ten domains and is supported by a number of supplementary resource materials for each of the domains. The Asset Management supplemental resource is the most relevant for the current context. The CRR contains an extensive set of useful information and ideas and is and easily understood.

### OCTAVE Allegro

Allegro, (Caralli, Stevens, Young, & Wilson, 2007), is the latest offering of the OCTAVE family of risk management methodologies from the Software Engineering Institute (SEI) in CMU. It is a “pragmatic” methodology that omits much of the earlier processes and which focuses on identifying risk to information assets. Its most direct input to the current context is in the definition of impact criteria but the overall focus on a lightweight and efficient process coupled with extensive template examples serves as an excellent exemplar on how to conduct risk assessments.

### ENISA Documents on Critical Infrastructure

These include “Methodologies for the identification of Critical Information Infrastructure assets and services”, (ENISA, 2014), and “Communication network dependencies for ICS/SCADA systems”, (ENISA, 2016). These documents are aimed at identifying issues and methodologies to identify



services, assets and dependencies in the overlap between critical infrastructures and communications networks. While they are somewhat high level in nature they contain valuable contextual information, and give useful guidelines for identifying impact criteria, services and dependencies.

#### NIST 800 SP 34

This document, (Swanson & al., 2010), is the “Contingency Planning Guide for Federal Information Systems”. While significantly broader in scope than the current context it contains some useful information on conducting a business impact analysis and a BIA template - in Appendix B – that can serve as a starting point for a tool to document dependencies.

### 3 CA: Asset State Management

Asset state and vulnerability management is nowadays an essential part of cyberattack prevention and the securing of IT networks and the assets composing them. Management of vulnerabilities can also contribute to the post-incident investigation and recovery in case of malicious attack or network/asset failure. According to MITRE (MITRE, 2016), a *vulnerability* is a “mistake in software that can be directly used by a hacker to gain access to a system or network.” According to the ISO/IEC 27000-series standard, *vulnerability* is considered as “weakness of an asset or control can be exploited by one or more threats” (ISO, 2016). Based on this standard, vulnerability management is an integral part of overall IT risk management in organizations and is interrelated to the *threat* and *asset* definition, since the weakness of an asset vulnerability could allow it to be exploited and harmed by one or more threats.

This section presents the initial approach to vulnerabilities management as employed in PROTECTIVE. It is important to underline that the terms “vulnerability assessment/management” and “asset state” will be used interchangeably in this section.

#### 3.1 Methods for assessment of technical vulnerabilities and related challenges

MITRE is the provider and administrator of the CVE (Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures) initiative, commonly used as a reference database for publicly known cyber-security vulnerabilities. The list of CVE vulnerabilities feeds also into the NVD (National Vulnerability Database) (NIST, 2016) database. For CVE purposes, a software flaw can be classified as a vulnerability, if it can be used by an attacker to violate a reasonable security policy for the given system or asset, allowing attacker to:

- execute commands as another user,
- access data that is contrary to the specified access restrictions for that data,
- pose as another entity,
- conduct a denial of service (MITRE, 2016).

As for qualitative assessment of known vulnerabilities, most approaches rely on the CVSS (Common Vulnerability Scoring System) (CVSS) framework (FiRST, 2015) to assign scores to each known vulnerability. CVSS scores (constituting overall score of the vulnerability) are:

- Base metrics - representing the intrinsic and fundamental i.e. not changing over time features of the given vulnerability. Base metrics are also environment-independent, therefore the score calculated using base metrics does not vary for e.g. different networks. Base metrics are further divided into:
  - Exploitability metrics - describing the level of exploitability and indicating “difficulty level” for the attacker exploiting the particular vulnerability,

- Impact metrics – assessing the vulnerability’s impact on an asset’s confidentiality, integrity and availability.
- Temporal metrics - scores assigned to the particular vulnerability that can change over time, but (similarly to base metrics) not dependent on the environment. Temporal metrics are categorized into following groups:
  - Exploitability metrics – represents the current state of techniques used to exploit vulnerability and the availability of code that could be used to exploit given vulnerability. E.g. publicly available and easy-to-exploit code can result in a higher number of potential attackers and increase the overall vulnerability score.
  - Remediation Level – representing the availability and efficiency of patches and fixes developed to reduce or eliminate the given vulnerability.
  - Report Confidence – assessing the level of confidence and the credibility of the known technical details describing the given vulnerability (the score is higher when the vulnerability is known and exists with certainty).
- Environmental metrics - assessing the vulnerability based on placing it in a particular user environment.

The ISO/IEC 27005 standard (ISO, 2011) indicates automated vulnerability scanning, discovery and assessment is an integral part of proactive, methodical testing of ICT (Information and Communications Technology) systems and infrastructure. It’s also defined as crucial in the well-recognised CSC CIS 20<sup>4</sup>. The automated vulnerability scanning tools can be used to scan a network or selected network assets to find known vulnerabilities (e.g. system allows anonymous File Transfer Protocol (FTP)). However, potential vulnerabilities identified in the network may not represent real vulnerabilities in the wider context of the system (environment, dependencies, business processes, security requirements). For example, misconfiguration of particular assets may be intentional, resulting from specific environmental requirements, while many of the vulnerability scanners would flag them as a known vulnerability. Therefore, ISO/IEC 27005 indicates the first serious challenge in vulnerability management – **different automated solutions tend to interpret various operational circumstances as false positives.**

In (Wang & Guo, OVM: An Ontology for Vulnerability Management, 2009) the authors stated that a constant, rapid growth of new vulnerabilities was discovered every day, but also general development of new tools, protocols and devices, impose the problem with **updating vulnerability databases**. What is more important, in consequence is, this causes the challenge that vulnerability assessment metrics do not always represent real threats associated to security flaws. Authors emphasize also the need for definition of a classification framework able to **describe vulnerabilities from various viewpoints**.

Also, according to (Chejara, Garg, & Singh, 2013), simple vulnerability discovery and analysis with use of commonly known frameworks is not enough to properly assess completely the vulnerability of a network. Methods relying on CVE/CVSS consider vulnerabilities (i.e. find them and prioritize their criticality) independently, since in real cases, an attacker can use more than one attack paths and exploit more than one vulnerability subsequently or in parallel, using so-called *vulnerability chaining*. Therefore, it emphasizes the need for the management of vulnerabilities considering the **context of**

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cisecurity.org/controls/continuous-vulnerability-assessment-and-remediation/>

**interrelations between them**, attacks profile and possible routes and the context of a given IT environment, such as business value of the attacked assets.

### 3.2 Research landscape

Most scientific approaches described in literature employ CVE/CVSS frameworks to provide a view on the vulnerabilities in a given IT environment. However, in the light of limitations and challenges described earlier, researchers are focused on combining CVE/CVSS capabilities with other methods, that can enrich the results of a vulnerability assessment, increase the reliability of vulnerability scanning and better fit into real IT conditions.

One of the examples of well-known standards enhanced by other techniques is use of the **semantic description/ontology** to define relations between vulnerabilities, assets, attacks, countermeasures, etc., and to facilitate reasoning from identified relations.

In (Wang & Guo, OVM: An Ontology for Vulnerability Management, 2009) and (Wang & Guo, Security Data Mining in an Ontology for Vulnerability Management, 2009), the authors propose an **ontological approach** to describe, and then use, the fundamental concepts in cyber security, considering their relationships. The major goal is reliable reasoning about vulnerability causes and impact on the network. Ontology developed for purposes of the research (OVM – ontology for vulnerability management) has been populated by the vulnerabilities existing in the NVD dataset. Additional inference rules and knowledge representation have been implemented. Authors adopt also the CVE (MITRE, 2017) scheme as a taxonomy for the vulnerability concept, and CVSS scores linked to NVD content. In this research, semantic reasoning eases the automation of vulnerability management and allows decision-makers to get vulnerability-related information in a more structured manner. Also, such an approach enables retrieving information about similar vulnerabilities (for example impacting the same type of assets with similar impact level), about similar assets (vulnerable to the same threats) or similar attack paths – e.g. including the same nodes in attack graphs but exploiting different vulnerabilities. For example, definition of *similarity rules*, allows us to compare a vulnerability genesis, existence in the same IT asset, kind/route of possible exploitation, type of consequence caused by successful exploitation, etc. and, as a result, to change the priority of one vulnerability in relation to other ones. Therefore, the use of common methods (CVE/CVSS) enriched with semantic reasoning can contribute to the more accurate categorization of vulnerabilities with the ability to retrieve information about similarities and differences related to the security concepts. Additionally, it can facilitate high-level decision making by structuring the security-related knowledge.

In (Kamongi, Kotikela, Kavi, Gomathisankaran, & Singhal, 2013) the framework called Vulcan for vulnerability assessment in a Cloud environment is presented. One of the main components of this framework is the Ontological Vulnerability Assessment module. This component relies on an Ontology Vulnerability Database (OVDB) fed by knowledge about currently known vulnerabilities provided by the NVD database, therefore the first feature of OVDB is access to a structured and conceptualized set of listed vulnerabilities. The second feature is reasoning capabilities, i.e. automated processes of discovering, extracting, populating of the OVDB and then mapping OVDB knowledge with external Metasploit Auxiliary Module and Exploit Database (database of possible exploits for given vulnerability), enhancing basic vulnerability listing.

The OVDB is populated by extraction of XML data provided by the NVD, tagging the information and mapping particular tags to different classes and properties in the ontology. The important parts of the architecture are system classifiers used to group (classify) classes in the ontology, depending on user preferences, for example according to cloud computing domain, software and hardware vendors or services. The next module is the indexer, that is software responsible for crawling the ontology

database and creating the knowledge index using classified ontology classes as an input. This way, the index can include vulnerabilities grouped according to the system classifiers provided by the user. The created vulnerability class index is the list of all vulnerabilities for the considered system that are grouped based on vulnerability classes (provided by system classifiers). By using the vulnerability class index, a user can for example search for vulnerabilities assigned to a specific domain or sub-domain, e.g. to discover all vulnerabilities within defined set of software vendors, technologies or frameworks. A disadvantage of that approach is the requirement of updating the system classifiers and re-indexing of the ontology DB in case of any changes in the database.

Searching and semantic reasoning are enabled for a user by the SNLP (Semantic Natural Language Processor) module offering capabilities such as pattern matching, searching based on keywords and reasoning based on ontology class properties and relationships between classes.

The typical VULCAN use case scenario includes:

- Providing user dynamic input (e.g. Android) and a user query expressed by use of natural language (e.g. assess vulnerabilities related to unauthorized access to my device) that is further processed by the SNLP.
- Generation of an “Android-related” list of vulnerabilities by the system classifiers, feeding them to the indexer module and generation of vulnerability indexes to produce vulnerability classes (groups).
- Indexed data contain classified vulnerabilities related to Android and unauthorized access to it, listed using CVE format.

It should be noticed that authors use also a third-party solution - Mercury framework (now Drozer framework) (MWR, 2013) – for Android-based devices security testing to perform a kind of penetration testing. After mapping discovered vulnerabilities onto possible exploitation routes, the Mercury framework launches relevant attacks on the considered products (in this specific use case to gain root access to the device). By combining the VULCAN framework with a third-party solution capable of testing IT assets, users can be provided with valuable information about real threats, because listed CVE vulnerabilities are immediately verified. However, the authors use only the Mercury framework, thus the capabilities of automated penetration testing for VULCAN are limited.

Other challenges and limitations include the lack of cyber security metrics incorporated in the framework, that could allow comparing different vendors and assets based on present vulnerabilities. According to the publication ontology relationships among vulnerabilities require future work.

Some other approaches described in the literature use semantic reasoning in cyber security and cyber defence tasks where vulnerability management is only a part of those approaches. For example, in (Sadighian, Zargar, M. Fernandez, & Lemay, 2013) the authors propose a context-aware alert fusion approach based on semantic reasoning. The main idea is to assist user security-related decisions by providing him synthesized information reasoned by a set of ontologies and with use of a set of IDS sensors. Information coming from sensors is enriched by the ontology containing information from CVE and NVD databases (among other ontologies), in which vulnerabilities are grouped into three classes based on severity - low, medium, high. In (Wu, Gandhi, & Siy, 2013), the author proposed a semi-automated process for semantically supported annotating of CVE/CVSS information, based on parsing of natural language vulnerability reports and machine learning techniques.

Another combination of vulnerability definition/assessment frameworks with other cyber security techniques is using them in conjunction with **analysis of cyber-attack graphs**. An attack graph is represented by the number of nodes – attacker’s states (or attack stages) and edges (possible

transitions among attacker states). Therefore, attack graphs allow visualizing paths followed by the attacker when attempting to gain access to specific resources localized within the network. In the context of vulnerability management, a combination of vulnerability databases and scoring with analysis of attack paths can allow consideration of vulnerability chain, “cascading effect” of vulnerabilities, or estimation on how one vulnerability affects other ones, within the same attack path. This enables more accurate estimation of a network's severity level by providing a vulnerability score to an attack path - not single nodes. As a result, prioritization of patching can be considered in the context of a given attack path, not in the context of independent assets. In vulnerability management, this allows identification of the easiest ways that can be used to compromise given resources.

(Chejara, Garg, & Singh, 2013) proposes another CVSS-based approach combined with attack graphs theory **enhanced using probabilistic methods**. The authors employ conditional probability to calculate interdependent vulnerability scores. Generic CVSS scores are independent of each other, while when considering attack chaining, each exploited vulnerability has an impact on exploitation of the next vulnerability in the attack path. As in previous publications, in this paper the authors focus on the calculation of the score for the complete attack path. The main pillar of their approach is the assumption that if two consequent vulnerabilities are exploited (two nodes in an attack graph are compromised), the probability of a second event can be represented by conditional probability, given the probability of the first event.

However, the authors indicate some work that needs to be done to optimize this approach, namely setting reasonable threshold values for attack path scores (e.g. depending on the defence mechanisms implemented). On the other hand, the challenge related to the identification of a complete set of attack paths is considered. This can result in difficulties in maintaining accuracy of the attack graph over time, however it can be less critical in not changing (or slowly evolving) environments comprised of assets that are well-known - for which vulnerability scores are reliable and well-documented.

Attack graphs in vulnerability management are also the subject of (Ko, Lim, Lee, & Shon, 2014). The approach described in this paper is focused mainly on smart grid networks, but can be translated into different domains and network types. In this approach, independent CVSS scores are enriched with the defined NVS **parameter representing context of the network**.

Similarly, to the (Wang & Guo, OVM: An Ontology for Vulnerability Management, 2009) research, the proposed method is two-stage: firstly, the CVSS score is calculated for the nodes within the given attack route, secondly the network vulnerability total score is calculated based on weighted average of attack paths scores. In this approach, CVSS scoring is considered with the newly developed NVS parameter that mainly **depends on existing network defence mechanism**, such as firewalls implemented, IDS, protocol types, and communication links. Experimental results show that depending on the security mechanisms applied, the newly developed metric can correct original CVSS-based calculation by about 10-15% (increasing or decreasing the score).

In (Keramati, Akbari, & Keramati, 2013) another CVSS-based security metric that can assess the impact of an attack on the network are presented. The primary focus of the research is put on estimation of interrelationships between vulnerabilities instead of analysing CVSS scores separately and without a context. Again, analysis of attack graphs was crucial for evaluation of the complete network security posture. In their work the authors assess losses that are consequences of exploiting vulnerabilities, taking into account such network security parameters as confidentiality, availability and integrity. The main results are:

- development of a security metric enabling comparison of simplicity (or difficulty) of exploiting various attack paths,

- development of a security metric enabling comparison of security losses after exploiting different network vulnerabilities.

Another, CVSS metric-based approach is presented in (Tupper & Zincir-Heywood, 2008). The proposed VEA-bility security metric is defined to assess the security of a network based on multiple factors. The main three pillars of the assessment include network exploitability dimension, network attackability dimension and host vulnerability dimension.

The VEA-bility score for the given network is calculated based on the gathered information on CVSS scores for each network asset, network topology and attack graph analysis and uses the formula:  $VEA\text{-}bility = 10 - ((V+E+A)/3)$ , where:

- V is the network vulnerability function expressed by the exponential average of the host, vulnerability scores, or a maximum of 10. This means that the vulnerability score of the network is not lesser than the CVSS score for the most vulnerable host in an analysed network, with the assumption that additional vulnerable hosts contribute to increase this value.
- E is the network exploitability function expressed by the sum of all exploitability scores assigned to network assets using the CVSS framework and evaluating the likelihood of a host exploitation.
- A is the network attackability function that is a sum of the attackability scores for all network assets. These scores are derived from the information gathered by the attack graphs analysis.

It should be noted that information about the network was gathered by using the Nessus scanner and the Sheyner/Swasey toolkit. Authors indicate that one of the possible directions of development of VEA-bility metric is incorporation of a greater number of CVSS sub-scores, such as environmental metrics. (Farnan & Nurse, 2015) also explores controls-based assessment of infrastructure vulnerability. The idea is that one uses a certain control set and if those controls are not present in the organisation, then they are assumed to be vulnerable to certain attacks.

### 3.3 Conclusions and concept summary

According to the reviewed literature, it can be concluded that most researchers use CVE/NVD databases and the CVSS framework to get initial vulnerability scores of the assets in an analysed network. The main limitation of CVE/CVSS according to reviewed publications is the fact that a simple listing of vulnerability scores for assets operating in a network does not provide a comprehensive view on the real level of network security. Lack of addressing of “collective vulnerabilities”, attack chaining, network context (such as defensive or remediation mechanisms implemented) can result in disinformation for decision-makers while they analyse unprocessed CVSS scores. The most common research approaches to increase reliability of these scores or to support contextual evaluation of reports generated based on them, are:

- Adjustment of CVSS metrics to be more credible by use of weighted parameters (CVSS sub-metrics).
- Semantic reasoning and use of cyber security ontologies to recognize patterns and dependencies between such cyber security concepts such as threats, vulnerabilities, attackers, etc., to support the intelligent reasoning and searching within vulnerabilities based on user defined parameters (such as vulnerability severity or group of technologies/assets that can be affected by exploiting a given vulnerability).



- Analysis of attack graphs enhanced with probabilistic methods to obtain conditional dependencies between assets, thus between CVSS scores and modification of these scores.

Each of these approaches has advantages and can be valuable in vulnerability management as it is described in the next sub-sections. All of them are also characterized by limitations and challenges. For instance, in case of highly evolving and dynamic environments, the effective implementation of these approaches requires either rebuilding the attack graphs to include new exploits and assets, or rebuilding and re-indexing the ontology knowledge base.

It is worth mentioning that aspects of data collection, topology discovery, building of attack graphs and feeding the ontology with knowledge for analysed networks are not the primary subject in scientific considerations<sup>5</sup>. Authors do not focus on these processes, however in some cases they stated that they use third party software to perform these tasks, such as in (Tupper & Zincir-Heywood, 2008), where the Nessus tool was used to gain information about the analysed IT network. Particularly, the centre of gravity has shifted towards improving (increasing accuracy, reliability and adjustment to real scenarios) CVSS scoring methodology.

Although the vulnerability management, enriched with semantic description and/or attack graph analysis is relatively widely discussed in scientific literature, the real examples of tools employing those techniques are rare. For example, the NIST Interagency Report (Singhal & Ou, 2011) emphasizes challenges related to using attack graphs in security analysis in practice. Authors do not dispute the benefits that may be achieved by combining attack graph generation and analysis with security risk management and demonstrate the methodology using the MULVAL (Xinming, 2016) tool. However, presented examples are simple, focused on presenting only proof of the concept and do not reflect the real complexity of the networks and assets dependencies. In the part devoted to the challenges of attack graphs generation, the authors stressed their doubts about the scalability of attack graph creation and stated that the ability to generate graphs based on information gathered in large, enterprise networks comprised of hundreds of hosts and applications is crucial for further exploitation of attack graphs in real security applications. Some other challenges discussed in the report are:

- difficulties in gathering detailed information about vulnerabilities and exploits, that may be overcome with the use of automation.
- proper analysis of cycles in an attack graph in terms of probabilistic methods,
- insufficient granularity of CVSS scores.
- modeling of zero-days vulnerabilities and including it in risk analysis.

Taking the above into consideration Figure 8 presents the initial concept of the asset state / vulnerability management solution in PROTECTIVE as an evolution of the current operation of the Cyber Tool prototype in its current stage at TRL4. The knowledge base (security ontology) will have to be adjusted to accommodate/reflect networks and IT infrastructures models employed in PROTECTIVE.

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<sup>5</sup> Or provide assessment for small networks only

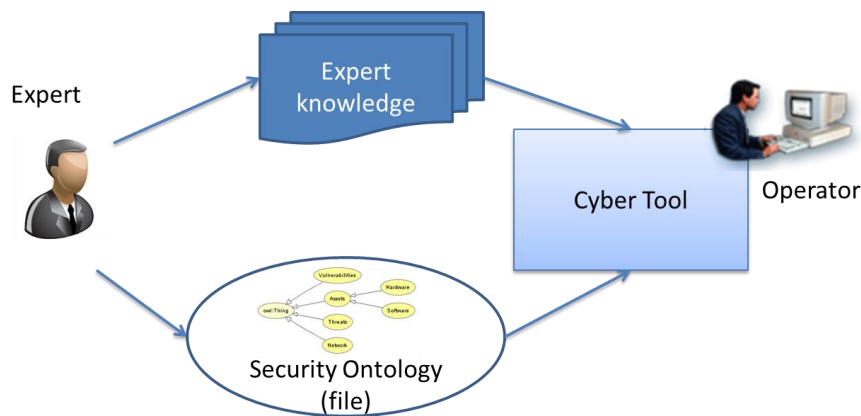


Figure 8 Tool assessing network security basic architecture

Figure 9 below presents the concept for the PROTECTIVE vulnerability (aka. “asset state”) solution. The final set/mix of these functionalities / components / sources / flows will depend on the feedback gathered during the SME requirements WPs (i.e. what the user would need / want to use / which are most important). Assets and their configuration will be read from the MAIR. The vulnerabilities for a given asset will come from one or more (if possible in the scope of PROTECTIVE) sources such as Nessus, OpenVas. Cross-examining vulnerabilities in different databases e.g. for exploits may be considered, although this depends on the use-case and end user (if it will bring value as e.g. Nessus provides similar functionality, being then an unnecessary feature for Nessus users). The vulnerabilities scoring could be adjusted according to trending / historic data (e.g. coming from NRENs) on top of the initial CVSS scores. Apart from the data coming from NRENs, trending could be also based on e.g. SM mentions. Generally, we will use the CVE as the identifier for the vulnerability, but it is to be decided in the implementation if and how to handle vulnerabilities that do not have a CVE assigned.

Expert knowledge for a given asset / network can be stored in the Cyber Tool. This information can include certain facts on certain assets and their properties or apply more general rules applying to a whole network or relations between elements. The idea of providing expert knowledge is to fill-in information gaps where it would be impossible or technically infeasible to gather data otherwise. This especially includes custom HW/software systems used in highly sensitive networks, a good example being e.g. the presence of data diodes in the network. Initial agreement is that the NRENs should be able to ask about some specific asset and, as a result, receive a list of vulnerabilities that are currently stored for a given asset in the Cyber Tool (merged list from different sources).



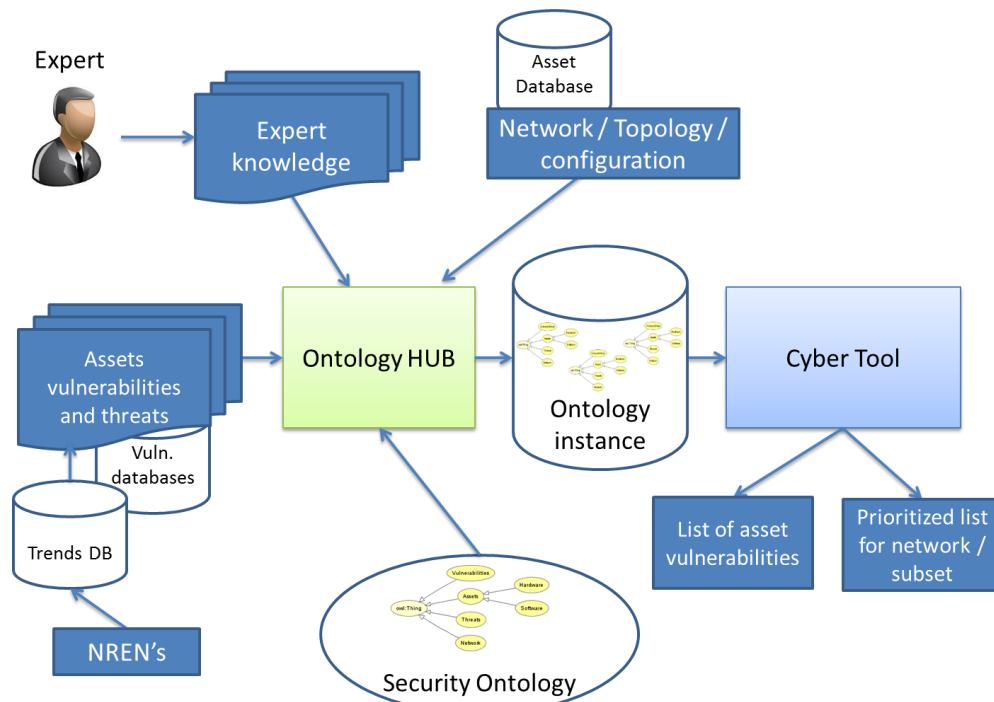


Figure 9 Concept of the solution

As stated above, the information will be organized in the ontology – see Figure 10. The general ontology concept follows the definitions in the ISO/IEC 27000 standards. The Ontology allows one to describe not just computer networks. Therefore, in PROTECTIVE we will arrive at a common definition of what is considered an asset through its definition in the MAIR.

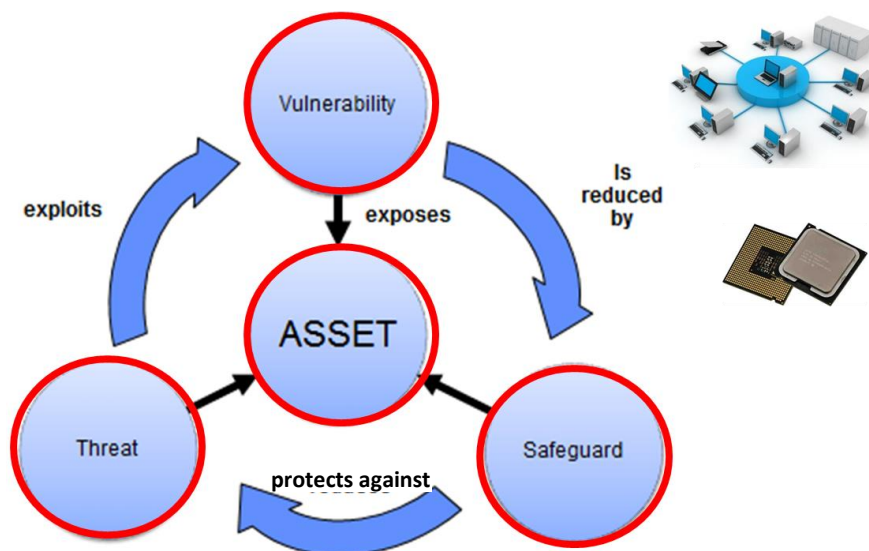


Figure 10 Ontology concept

Figure 11 below presents a subset of the main classes of the ontology. As stated, the ontology will be adjusted according to the available data sources and models used in PROTECTIVE CA – cf. Chapter 4 on the MAIR.

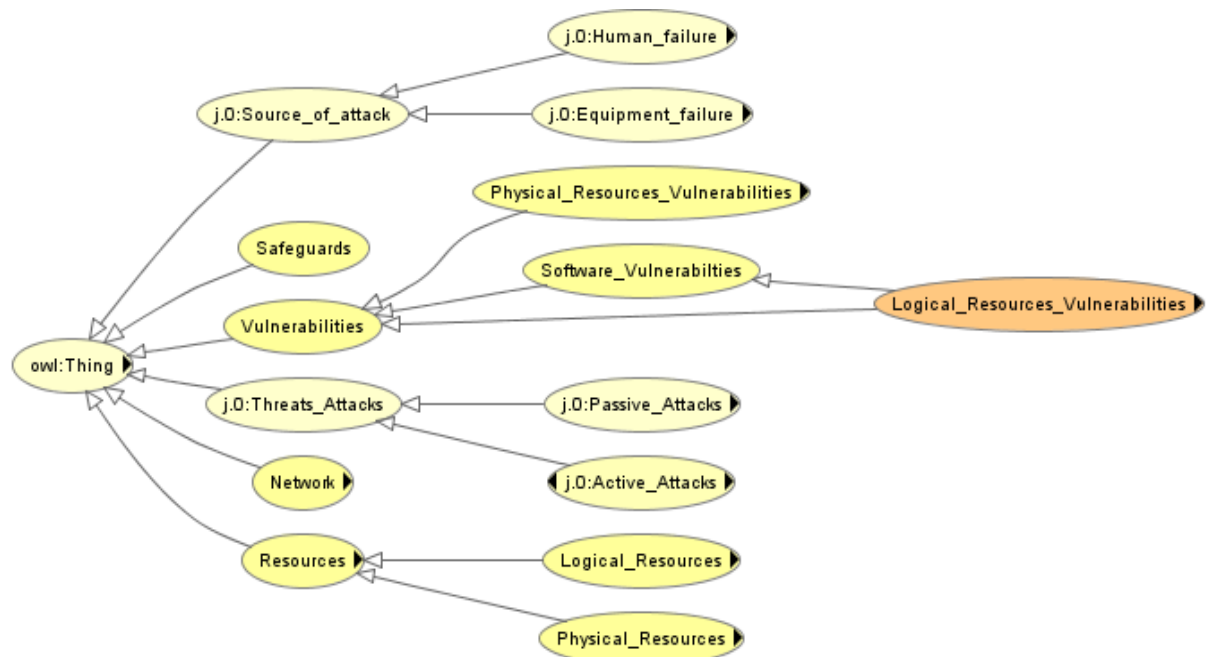


Figure 11 Main classes

## 4 CA: Mission and Asset Information Repository

### 4.1 MAIR Overview

The Mission and Asset Information Repository (MAIR) is a repository that tracks an organisations mission, IT infrastructure and services and the relationships between them. It gives a logical view of the infrastructure items and the infrastructure entity information in the data-base is a federation of data from other information repositories and databases in the organisation i.e. the MAIR is populated from these sources via a provisioning application programming interface (API).

As such the MAIR can be considered as a much-simplified federated Configuration Management Data Base (CMDB) (DMTF, 2010). According to (DMTF, 2010) “an ITIL CMDB contains a record of the expected configuration of the IT environment, as authorized and controlled through the change management and configuration management processes”. The MAIR however is not concerned at all with configuration management and therefore has a much-reduced role compared to a “proper” CMDB. However, the design of the MAIR will use the CMDB architectural pattern and principles as a starting point for its development.

According to (DMTF, 2010) a *federating CMDB* provides an aggregate view of an item or relationship, potentially using data from multiple *managed data repositories* (MDR). An MDR provides data about managed resources (for example, computer systems, application software, and buildings), process artefacts (for example, incident records), and the relationships between them. The whole assemblage of MDRs and federating CMDB is called a federated CMDB. A federated CMDB client can query the CMDB for entity or relationship information,

A conceptual view of the federated CMDB is shown in Figure 12 below:

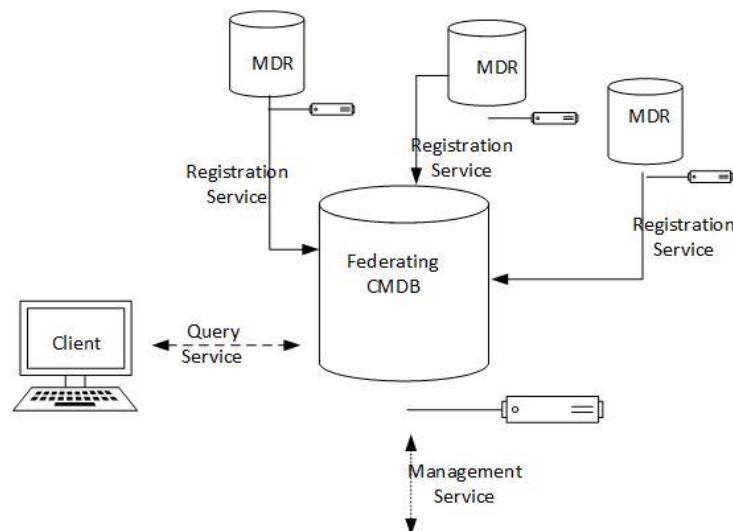


Figure 12 Federated CMDB Pattern

An MDR uses the *registration service* to register data that it has available for federation. The MDR maps its data to the data type published by the CMDB. The registration service is implemented in *push mode* i.e. the MDR pushes its data to the CMDB. In contrast clients use a *query service* to retrieve information from the CMDB. Queries may select and return entities, relationships, or graphs containing entities and relationships, and the data associated with each item and relationship. The management service is used to configure the CMDB.

We can express the MAIR in terms of the above architecture. The MAIR is in fact the federating DB (we avoid using CMDB since MAIR is not a fully-fledged CMDB). The MDRs will be various asset and inventory data-bases in the organisation as well as perhaps other configuration data including vulnerability and asset patch levels. The PROTECTIVE prioritisation functions are the main client. As an example of the types of query that might occur on this interface consider that the MIM and ASM provide the following types of information i.e.

1. (MIM) Information about the assets supporting by a mission and
2. (MIM) Information about the mission impacted by an asset.
3. (MIM) Information about service dependencies.
4. (ASM) Information about asset known vulnerabilities.
5. (ASM) Information about asset patch status.
6. (ASM) Information about custom/"extraordinary" asset configuration (i.e. piece of information provided by expert, rather than inventory DB).

While the exact form of the information remains to be specified the following types of query are probable

1. (MIM) For a given asset list all impacted missions.
2. (MIM) For a given asset get the most important mission.
3. (MIM) For a given mission list all assets that support it.
4. (MIM) List the most critical assets ("crown jewels") based on the missions they support.
5. (MIM) List which services depend on service X.
6. (ASM) List known vulnerabilities known for assets X.
7. (ASM) List assets with vulnerability X / patch Y etc.
8. (ASM) List expert information about assets.

The MIM and ASM subsystems will use the *management service* to configure, manage and query the MAIR. More work remains to be done to complete the specification of the design and the individual interfaces. For example, as outlined in the discussion of the ASM in Chapter 3 more detailed requirement collection needs to be done from an SME perspective to arrive at a detailed description of the MAIR entities and models.

## 4.2 MAIR Meta-model

As already mentioned there is a modelling overlap between the ASM and the MIM. The ontology described in Figure 11 shows some the anticipated entities that are likely to be required for PROTECTIVE. In a similar manner Figure 13 describes the proposed MIM meta-model. This model contains two sets of information

1. the core meta-model elements that capture the dependency relationships – these are indicated in the heavily lined outlines and the dependencies are expressed via the broken lines.
2. actual assets and services – the leaf nodes of the schema.

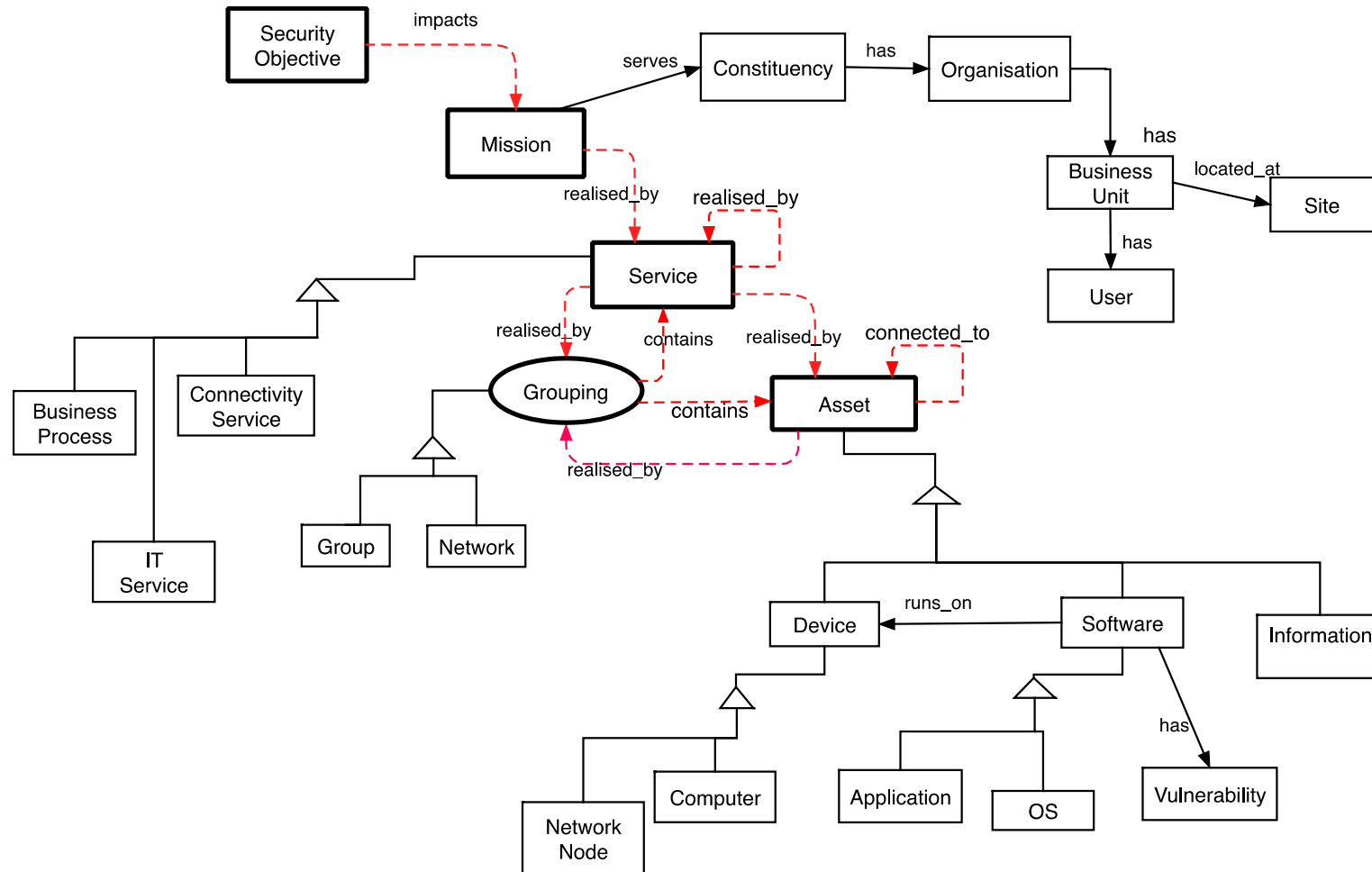
**This is the first version of the MIM meta-model and it is expected to evolve as more requirements are collected and the interaction with the ASM and the other parts of the PROTECTIVE system become clearer. The actual assets and services depicted in the model should therefore be considered as representative rather than complete i.e. not all assets/services and/or relationships are shown.** However, such evolution is expected to be incremental and to involve the addition of new leaf node types and the completion of the property values of the entity types.

In the model, we can see that the four main elements (**Security Objective; Mission; Service; Asset**) that form the dependency chain are those already identified in Section 2.2. Both **Service** and **Asset** can be sub-classed – in fact need to be – to create realistic entity layer schemes to be used by organisations. The model also includes a **Grouping** construct that is used to describes various forms of managing collections of entities. Grouping is a form of *aggregation of entities*. This is not quite the same as the aggregation we spoke of in Chapter 2.1.4 which is rather more concerned with *aggregation of dependencies* – thus dependency aggregation occurs in **all** instantiated entities including Grouping entities. Specific *aggregation functions* will be applied at each entity node to capture the combined impact of the dependent entities as outlined in Chapter 2. These are not shown explicitly in the meta-model. In contrast to the approaches surveyed in the state of the art in section 2.1 where **Business Process** is the business function modelling entity we adopt the CRR, (US-CERT, 2016), approach of internal and external services and use the modelling entities **Mission** and **Service** to capture the business purposes and functions. Internal services are realised as Business Processes while client facing activities are presented as Mission. Additionally, the Service entity allows us to capture more usual consideration of the term as e.g. network connectivity services or TCP/IP application services such as HTTP. These are captured as **Connectivity Service** and **IT Service**, either or both of which can be evolved further.

In addition to the business aspects the model also attempts to capture the human and organisational aspects of context by incorporating the **Constituency** entity and its family of related entities.

The Asset entity is simply a root object for several more specific entity types including **Device**, **Software** and **Information** that are in turn further refined into more specific entity types. Information assets include any information that is needed to manage and operate the organisation and such assets are usually stored in information containers such as databases and file systems. The inclusion of **Vulnerability** is intended to illustrate support for the ASM

One type of asset that is perhaps conspicuous by its absence is **Virtual Device** – the precise needs for this entity or its subclasses within the scope of PROTECTIVE is yet to be determined.



**Figure 13 PROTECTIVE CA Meta-model**

The MAIR meta-model will be used as the modelling basis to conduct mission impact assessments as outlined in Chapter 2. The MDG produced from these assessments will be stored in the MAIR and used to manage queries from clients. Support tools will be developed to help users capture and manage these relationships and to enter them into the MAIR.

## 5 Conclusion

This document describes the Context Awareness system in PROTECTIVE and specifies the research and design approaches to be considered in the further development of the model.

It defines the architectural structure of the CA system in terms of its component systems and outlines their scope and interactions. It describes the main features of each subsystems and the research approaches underpinning each subsystem. It outlines the interaction of the CA system and its's components with the other parts of the PROTECTIVE systems and makes clear the benefits that the CA provides to the overall PROTECTIVE solution in assisting alert and meta-alert prioritisation.

It also specifies a methodology and tools to conduct mission impact assessment and outlines the models to be used in the development of the CA systems.

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## Annex A NREN Mission Impact Assessment Questionnaire

The intent of these questions is to gather information to prepare a “Business Impact Analysis” procedure. This procedure will be used later by the NREN organisation to identify and prioritise services and assets for use within the pilot trials. Questions have both an organisation internal and external focus

### Mission of your organisation

Question Objective: To understand the organisation’s purpose

1. What is the mission of your organization? Please be as specific as possible.
2. Are the mission’s objectives and activities identified and prioritised?

Question Objective: To identify the high-value activities that support the achievement of the organisation mission and objectives

### Clients of your organisation

Question Objective: To understand the nature of the NREN constituency.

1. Who are the clients (participants) of your organisation?
2. Please identify different categories of client if such exist?
3. Please indicate if any categories are more important than others?

### Impact Areas

Question Intent: To understand which criteria are important to assess the impact of risks.

“Impact Area” is means the categories where realised risk can have a major disruptive consequence. Examples cloud include “Cost”, “Reputation”, “Compliance with Regulations” or perhaps for NREN type organisations “Quality of Provided Service” or related Service Level Agreement factors.

1. Does your organisation periodically conduct a Business Impact Analysis as part of Risk Assessment?
2. Have suitable impact areas been defined by your organisation as a base for conducting Business Impact Assessment?
3. Has a clear relationship between these Impact Areas and Mission objectives been defined?
4. Have these impact areas been prioritised to determine their relative importance?

### Infrastructure services provided to clients

Question Objective: To understand the types of services provided to clients and to establish their relative importance.

Here “infrastructure service” means a communication, storage or compute service provided to the client base e.g. VoIP, IaaS etc.

1. Are the infrastructure services provided to clients clearly identified and catalogued?
2. Have these services been prioritised based on importance to organisation mission goals and value to client?
3. Have “owners” of these services within the organisation been identified?
4. Can dependencies between these services be clearly identified and does such a “service dependency map” exist?
5. Are geographical dependencies important to note when assessing impact i.e. if a service in one area/region is affected could it impact other services in the same region?

## Other services critical to the fulfilment of the mission

Question Objective: To understand the internal business processes and services (e.g. provision services) and external client facing services and processes (e.g. helpdesk) that are required to fulfil the mission and to establish their importance.

1. Have other services critical to the fulfilment of the mission been identified and catalogued?
2. Have dependencies between these mission objectives and these services/processes been clearly identified and does a “mission-service dependency map” exist?
3. Have these services/processes been prioritised based on value to mission fulfilment?
4. Have “owners” of these services within the organisation been identified?
5. Can dependencies between these services be clearly identified and does a “service dependency map” exist?

## Infrastructure Assets

Question Objective: To understand the nature of the assets used to provide both client infrastructural and internal services.

Here “infrastructure asset” means a communication, storage or compute capability provided to support either client infrastructure processes or internal services/process. This definition can also include “information assets” i.e. information or data that is of value to the organization, such as client records, intellectual property etc. as well as the assets that contain this information e.g. databases.

1. Does an inventory of infrastructure assets exist? Is asset “aggregation” used in the identification of assets in your organisation? e.g. “Network” is an aggregated asset.
2. If so have all types of aggregated asset been identified?
3. Have the dependencies between assets and client infrastructure services been identified and does a “service-asset impact dependency map” exist?
4. Have the dependencies between assets and internal services been identified and does a “service-asset impact dependency map” exist?
5. Have the dependencies between assets been identified and does an “asset-asset impact dependency map” exist?
6. Have “owners” of these assets within the organisation been identified?
7. Are geographical dependencies important to note when assessing impact i.e. if a service in one area/region is affected could it impact other services in the same region?

## Annex B Service Profile Catalogue

Service Id	Name	Description	Services Supported (Id's)	Supporting Networks	Service Type	Technical Owner	Assets Supported

Annex C Asset Profile Catalogue

Asset Id	Name	Type	Services Supported	Location	Business owner	Technical Owner	Assets Supported

## Annex D Pairwise Comparison Worksheet

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Row Total	Priority
A									
B									
C									
D									
E									
F									
G									

Annex E Decision Matrix Worksheet

Asset/Service	Priority																
		Impact	Weight	Impact	Weight	Impact	Weight	Impact	Weight	Impact	Weight	Impact	Weight	Impact	Weight	Impact	Weight
TOTAL																	

Impact Key

- 0 - No Impact
- 1- Minimal Impact
- 2 – Somewhat Impacted
- 3 – Substantially Impacted
- 4 – Failure