

Title: User Participation in the Risk Management Process

Read the Spears & Barki (2010) article then prepare answers to the following questions:

- a. How did the authors use both Qualitative and Quantitative assessment approaches? What benefits did each approach yield?

The authors Spears & Barki (2010) approached assessments through multi method also known as mixed methods and pluralist, which consisted of interviews and a survey study on two different samples of professionals who worked on compliance.

The benefits on qualitative method were appropriate given the high degree of uncertainty and surrounding and not enough was known. This method provided a rich understanding of activities and behaviours.

Process model was constructed by applying the three-user participation theory. A framework for analysis. A process model is based on a narrative explanation of a sequence of events that contribute to a specific outcome

The benefits of quantitative methods applied to test theoretical model derived from the qualitative study Hypotheses were constructed from the qualitative study formed a variance model, which examined the degree of which user participation model that examined the degree to which user participations explained variation in pre-specified outcome variable

- b. What do the authors list as the advantages of involving users in the risk management process?

Users were able to provide input based on their knowledge of the topic. They were able to suggest new controls or improvements on controls considered too weak. Another key benefit is that they were also able help with testing and the remediation plans. The list includes -

- The Buy-In Theory
 - Organizational Awareness
 - Business-Aligned Risk Management
- c. Based on the findings of the research,

- i. How will the lack of user access affect the risk assessment you will carry out as part of your assessment?

Lack of user participation would hinder the awareness of security risks and controls that are needed within the company. Controls that are added maybe irrelevant and not meet the requirement. Without the buy in from the users we may have an issue of accountability or little or no response from end users

- ii. Will it affect the choice of Qualitative vs. Quantitative assessment methods you utilise?

The approach of using both qualitative and quantitative approach like the authors have done has been very inspiring it takes the unknown and builds on this. Laying a solid foundation building with stats and measures that can be tangible to the business.

- iii. How might you mitigate any issues encountered?

Lack of user communication. We would need to ensure we have a buy in from senior management, who would need to provide a user base of willing participants. Not having enough information. The methods used may not be able to capture enough relevant data. If this is the case we may need to look at a wider spectrum of tools.