Fox ML Infrastructure — Risk Assessment Matrix

This document identifies and assesses risks to Fox ML Infrastructure operations and outlines mitigation strategies.
This matrix is essential for enterprise procurement reviews and risk management.

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1. Risk Assessment Methodology

1.1 Risk Classification

Risks are classified by:

- **Likelihood** — Probability of occurrence (Low, Medium, High)
- **Impact** — Severity of impact (Low, Medium, High, Critical)
- **Risk Level** — Overall risk level (Low, Medium, High, Critical)

1.2 Risk Matrix

Risk levels are determined by likelihood and impact:

Impact →	Low	Medium	High	Critical
High Likelihood	Medium	High	Critical	Critical
Medium Likelihood	Low	Medium	High	Critical
Low Likelihood	Low	Low	Medium	High

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2. Risk Inventory

2.1 Operational Risks

Risk 1: GitHub Service Disruption

- **Description:** GitHub service outage or unavailability
- **Likelihood:** Low (GitHub provides 99.95%+ uptime)
- **Impact:** Medium (Code delivery disrupted, but backup options available)
- **Risk Level:** Low
- **Mitigation:**
  - Backup repositories on alternative platforms (GitLab, Bitbucket)
  - Local backups of critical repositories
  - Alternative code delivery methods (direct file transfer)
- **Residual Risk:** Low
- **Owner:** Jennifer Lewis

Risk 2: Email Service Disruption

- **Description:** Email service outage or unavailability
- **Likelihood:** Low (Email providers provide high availability)
- **Impact:** Medium (Support and communications disrupted)

- **Risk Level:** Low
- **Mitigation:**
  - Alternative email accounts
  - Support via private repository issues
  - Phone contact for critical issues (if applicable)
- **Residual Risk:** Low
- **Owner:** Jennifer Lewis

Risk 3: Internet Connectivity Loss

- **Description:** Loss of internet connectivity
- **Likelihood:** Medium (Depends on local infrastructure)
- **Impact:** High (All online services disrupted)
- **Risk Level:** Medium
- **Mitigation:**
  - Alternative internet connections (mobile hotspot)
  - Cloud-based development environments
  - Remote access to alternative resources
- **Residual Risk:** Medium
- **Owner:** Jennifer Lewis

Risk 4: Computing Resource Failure

- **Description:** Hardware failure or computing resource unavailability
- **Likelihood:** Medium (Hardware can fail)
- **Impact:** Medium (Development and support disrupted)
- **Risk Level:** Medium
- **Mitigation:**
  - Backup computing resources
  - Cloud-based development environments (GitHub Codespaces)
  - Remote access to alternative resources
- **Residual Risk:** Medium
- **Owner:** Jennifer Lewis

2.2 Security Risks

Risk 5: Code Repository Compromise

- **Description:** Unauthorized access to code repositories
- **Likelihood:** Low (GitHub provides strong security)
- **Impact:** Critical (Code integrity compromised, potential client impact)
- **Risk Level:** High
- **Mitigation:**
  - Strong access controls (2FA, SSH keys)
  - Regular security audits
  - Monitoring for unauthorized access
  - Incident response plan
- **Residual Risk:** Medium

- **Owner:** Jennifer Lewis

Risk 6: Credential Compromise

- **Description:** Unauthorized access to vendor credentials
- **Likelihood:** Low (Strong credential management)
- **Impact:** High (Potential access to systems and services)
- **Risk Level:** Medium
- **Mitigation:**
  - Strong password policies
  - Two-factor authentication (2FA)
  - Regular credential rotation
  - Credential monitoring
  - Incident response plan
- **Residual Risk:** Low
- **Owner:** Jennifer Lewis

Risk 7: Supply Chain Compromise

- **Description:** Compromise of dependencies or third-party services
- **Likelihood:** Low (Dependencies are monitored)
- **Impact:** High (Potential security vulnerabilities in software)
- **Risk Level:** Medium
- **Mitigation:**
  - Dependency monitoring and updates
  - Security vulnerability scanning
  - Regular dependency updates
  - Supply chain integrity verification
- **Residual Risk:** Low
- **Owner:** Jennifer Lewis

Risk 8: Consulting Data Breach

- **Description:** Unauthorized access to consulting engagement data
- **Likelihood:** Low (Strong security practices, NDA requirements)
- **Impact:** Critical (Client data exposure, regulatory implications)
- **Risk Level:** High
- **Mitigation:**
  - NDA requirements for all consulting engagements
  - Client-approved secure storage
  - Limited data access (minimum required)
  - Data deletion upon project completion
  - Incident response plan
- **Residual Risk:** Medium
- **Owner:** Jennifer Lewis

2.3 Business Risks

Risk 9: Key Person Dependency

- **Description:** Single-person operation creates dependency risk
- **Likelihood:** Medium (Current operation is single-person)
- **Impact:** High (Business operations disrupted if unavailable)
- **Risk Level:** High
- **Mitigation:**
  - Documentation of all processes and procedures
  - Knowledge transfer to external resources (if needed)
  - Backup support resources (if applicable)
  - Business continuity plan
- **Residual Risk:** Medium
- **Owner:** Jennifer Lewis

Risk 10: Client Dependency

- **Description:** Heavy reliance on a small number of clients
- **Likelihood:** Medium (Depends on client portfolio)
- **Impact:** Medium (Revenue impact if key client leaves)
- **Risk Level:** Medium
- **Mitigation:**
  - Diversified client portfolio
  - Long-term contracts where possible
  - Strong client relationships
  - Multiple revenue streams (licensing + consulting)
- **Residual Risk:** Medium
- **Owner:** Jennifer Lewis

Risk 11: Regulatory Changes

- **Description:** Changes in regulations affecting software or services
- **Likelihood:** Low (Regulations change slowly)
- **Impact:** Medium (May require compliance updates)
- **Risk Level:** Low
- **Mitigation:**
  - Monitor regulatory changes
  - Compliance documentation
  - Legal counsel consultation (if needed)
  - Proactive compliance updates
- **Residual Risk:** Low
- **Owner:** Jennifer Lewis

2.4 Technical Risks

Risk 12: Software Vulnerabilities

- **Description:** Security vulnerabilities in software code

- **Likelihood:** Medium (Software can have vulnerabilities)
- **Impact:** High (Potential security risks for clients)
- **Risk Level:** High
- **Mitigation:**
  - Security best practices in development
  - Code review and security audits
  - Dependency vulnerability scanning
  - Regular security updates
  - Patch release process
- **Residual Risk:** Medium
- **Owner:** Jennifer Lewis

Risk 13: Compatibility Issues

- **Description:** Software compatibility issues with client environments
- **Likelihood:** Medium (Various client environments)
- **Impact:** Medium (Support burden, client dissatisfaction)
- **Risk Level:** Medium
- **Mitigation:**
  - Clear system requirements documentation
  - Testing in various environments
  - Support for compatibility issues
  - Version compatibility guidelines
- **Residual Risk:** Low
- **Owner:** Jennifer Lewis

Risk 14: Data Loss (Client Data)

- **Description:** Loss of client data (for consulting engagements)
- **Likelihood:** Low (Strong data handling practices)
- **Impact:** Critical (Client data loss, regulatory implications)
- **Risk Level:** High
- **Mitigation:**
  - Client-approved secure storage
  - Regular backups (if applicable)
  - Data deletion upon completion (reduces risk)
  - Incident response plan
- **Residual Risk:** Low
- **Owner:** Jennifer Lewis

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3. Risk Mitigation Summary

3.1 High-Priority Risks

High-priority risks (Risk Level: High or Critical):

1. **Code Repository Compromise** — Mitigated through strong access controls and monitoring
2. **Consulting Data Breach** — Mitigated through NDA requirements and secure practices

3. **Key Person Dependency** — Mitigated through documentation and business continuity planning
4. **Software Vulnerabilities** — Mitigated through security best practices and regular updates

3.2 Medium-Priority Risks

Medium-priority risks (Risk Level: Medium):

1. **Internet Connectivity Loss** — Mitigated through alternative connectivity
2. **Computing Resource Failure** — Mitigated through backup resources
3. **Credential Compromise** — Mitigated through strong credential management
4. **Supply Chain Compromise** — Mitigated through dependency monitoring
5. **Client Dependency** — Mitigated through client diversification
6. **Compatibility Issues** — Mitigated through testing and support

3.3 Low-Priority Risks

Low-priority risks (Risk Level: Low):

1. **GitHub Service Disruption** — Mitigated through backup repositories
2. **Email Service Disruption** — Mitigated through alternative channels
3. **Regulatory Changes** — Mitigated through compliance monitoring

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4. Risk Monitoring and Review

4.1 Risk Monitoring

We monitor risks through:

- **Regular reviews** — Quarterly risk assessment reviews
- **Incident tracking** — Track incidents and near-misses
- **Dependency monitoring** — Monitor dependencies and third-party services
- **Security monitoring** — Monitor for security threats and vulnerabilities

4.2 Risk Review Process

Risk review process:

1. **Identify new risks** — Identify new risks as they emerge
2. **Reassess existing risks** — Reassess likelihood and impact of existing risks
3. **Update mitigation** — Update mitigation strategies as needed
4. **Document changes** — Document changes to risk assessment

4.3 Risk Reporting

Risk reporting:

- **Internal reporting** — Internal risk assessment documentation
- **Client reporting** — Risk information provided to clients upon request
- **Compliance reporting** — Risk information for compliance purposes (if required)

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5. Risk Acceptance

5.1 Acceptable Risk Levels

We accept:

- **Low-risk items** — Low-risk items are generally acceptable
- **Medium-risk items** — Medium-risk items are acceptable with mitigation
- **High-risk items** — High-risk items require strong mitigation and monitoring
- **Critical-risk items** — Critical-risk items are not acceptable and must be mitigated

5.2 Risk Tolerance

Risk tolerance:

- **Operational risks** — Low to medium tolerance (mitigation required)
- **Security risks** — Very low tolerance (strong mitigation required)
- **Business risks** — Medium tolerance (mitigation and monitoring)
- **Technical risks** — Low to medium tolerance (mitigation and updates)

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6. Contact

For risk assessment questions:

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7. Related Documents

- `legal/BUSINESS_CONTINUITY_PLAN.md` — Business continuity plan
- `legal/INCIDENT_RESPONSE_PLAN.md` — Incident response plan
- `legal/SECURITY.md` — Security statement

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8. Summary

Key Risk Assessment Principles:

1. **Comprehensive identification** — Identify all significant risks
2. **Systematic assessment** — Assess likelihood and impact systematically
3. **Effective mitigation** — Implement effective mitigation strategies
4. **Regular review** — Regularly review and update risk assessment
5. **Clear documentation** — Document risks and mitigation clearly
6. **Continuous improvement** — Continuously improve risk management

This matrix provides a comprehensive risk assessment for enterprise procurement reviews.