

Environmental Issues

3.9.8

Fire prevention, detection, and suppression

10

Fire Safety

3.9.9

Power (e.g., redundant, backup)

10

Electric Power

Domain 4: Communication and Network Security

4.1

Assess and implement secure design principles in network architectures

13

Applying Secure Design Principles to Network Architectures

4.1.1

Open System Interconnection (OSI) and Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) models

11

Network Reference Models

4.1.2

Internet Protocol (IP) networking (e.g., Internet Protocol Security (IPSec), Internet Protocol (IP) v4/6)

11

Internet Protocol Networking

4.1.3

Secure protocols

13

Secure Protocols

4.1.4

Implications of multilayer protocols

13

Multilayer Protocols

4.1.5

Converged protocols (e.g., Fiber Channel Over Ethernet (FCoE), Internet Small Computer Systems Interface (iSCSI), Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP))

13

Converged Protocols

4.1.6

Micro-segmentation (e.g., Software Defined Networks (SDN), Virtual eXtensible Local Area Network (VXLAN), Encapsulation, SoftwareDefined Wide Area Network (SD-WAN))

13

Network Segmentation

4.1.7

Wireless networks (e.g., Li-Fi, Wi-Fi, Zigbee, satellite)

12

Wireless Networking
Fundamentals

4.1.8

Cellular networks (e.g., 4G, 5G)

12

Mobile Wireless
Communication

4.1.9

Content Distribution Networks (CDN)

14

Content Distribution
Networks

4.2

Secure network components

14

Network Devices

4.2.1

Operation of hardware (e.g., redundant
power, warranty, support)

14

Operation of Hardware

4.2.2

Transmission media

14

Transmission Media

4.2.3

Network Access Control (NAC) devices

14

Network Access Control
Devices

4.2.4

Endpoint security

14

Endpoint Security

♣CISSP All-in-One Exam Guide

1216

All-in-One Coverage
Domain

Objective

Ch #

Heading

Domain 4: Communication and Network Security
4.3

Implement secure communication
channels according to design

15

All of Chapter 15

4.3.1

Voice

15

Voice Communications

4.3.2

Multimedia collaboration

15

Multimedia
Collaboration

4.3.3

Remote access

15

Remote Access

4.3.4

Data communications

11

Data Communications
Foundations

4.3.5

Virtualized networks

15

Virtualized Networks

4.3.6

Third-party connectivity

15

Third-Party Connectivity

Domain 5: Identity and Access Management (IAM)

5.1

Control physical and logical access to assets

17

Controlling Physical and
Logical Access

5.1.1

Information

17

Information Access Control

5.1.2

Systems

17

System and Application
Access Control

5.1.3

Devices

17

Access Control to Devices

5.1.4

Facilities

17

Facilities Access Control

5.1.5

Applications

17

System and Application
Access Control

5.2

Manage identification and authentication
of people, devices, and services

16

Identification, Authentication, Authorization,
and Accountability

5.2.1

Identity Management (IdM) implementation

16

Identity Management

5.2.2

Single/Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)

16

Identification and
Authentication

5.2.3

Accountability

16

Accountability

5.2.4

Session management

16

Session Management

5.2.5

Registration, proofing, and establishment of identity

16

Registration and
Proofing of Identity

5.2.6

Federated Identity Management (FIM)

16

Federated Identity
Management

5.2.7

Credential management systems

16

Credential Management

5.2.8

Single Sign On (SSO)

16

Single Sign-On

5.2.9

Just-In-Time (JIT)

16

Just-in-Time Access

5.3

Federated identity with a third-party service

16

Federated Identity with
a Third-Party Service

5.3.1

On-premise

16

On-Premise

▲Appendix B: Objective Map

1217

All-in-One Coverage

Domain

Objective

Ch #

Heading

Domain 5: Identity and Access Management (IAM)

5.3.2

Cloud

16

Cloud

5.3.3

Hybrid

16

Hybrid

5.4

Implement and manage authorization
mechanisms

17

Authorization
Mechanisms

5.4.1

Role Based Access Control (RBAC)

17

Role-Based Access
Control

5.4.2

Rule based access control

17

Rule-Based Access
Control

5.4.3

Mandatory Access Control (MAC)

17

Mandatory Access
Control

5.4.4

Discretionary Access Control (DAC)

17

Discretionary Access
Control

5.4.5

Attribute Based Access Control (ABAC)

17

Attribute-Based Access
Control

5.4.6

Risk based access control

17

Risk-Based Access
Control

5.5

Manage the identity and access
provisioning lifecycle

17

Managing the Identity and Access Provisioning Life Cycle

5.5.1

Account access review (e.g., user, system,
service)

17

System Account Access
Review

5.5.2

Provisioning and deprovisioning
(e.g., on /off boarding and transfers)

17

Provisioning
Deprovisioning

5.5.3

Role definition (e.g., people assigned
to new roles)

17

Role Definitions

5.5.4

Privilege escalation (e.g., managed service
accounts, use of sudo, minimizing its use)

17

Privilege Escalation
Managed Service
Accounts

5.6

Implement authentication systems

17

Implementing
Authentication and
Authorization Systems

5.6.1

OpenID Connect (OIDC)/Open
Authorization (Oauth)

17

OpenID Connect
Oauth

5.6.2

Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML)

17

Access Control and
Markup Languages

5.6.3

Kerberos

17

Kerberos

5.6.4

Remote Authentication Dial-In User Service
(RADIUS)/Terminal Access Controller Access
Control System Plus (TACACS+)

17

Remote Access Control
Technologies

▲CISSP All-in-One Exam Guide

1218

All-in-One Coverage
Domain

Objective

Ch #

Heading

Domain 6: Security Assessment and Testing
6.1

Design and validate assessment, test,
and audit strategies

18

Test, Assessment, and
Audit Strategies

6.1.1

Internal

18

Internal Audits

6.1.2

External

18

External Audits

6.1.3

Third-party

18

Third-Party Audits

6.2

Conduct security control testing

18

Testing Technical
Controls

6.2.1

Vulnerability assessment

18

Vulnerability Testing

6.2.2

Penetration testing

18

Penetration Testing

6.2.3

Log reviews

18

Log Reviews

6.2.4

Synthetic transactions

18

Synthetic Transactions

6.2.5

Code review and testing

18

Code Reviews

6.2.6

Misuse case testing

18

Misuse Case Testing

6.2.7

Test coverage analysis

18

Test Coverage

6.2.8

Interface testing

18

Interface Testing

6.2.9

Breach attack simulations

18

Breach Attack
Simulations

6.2.10

Compliance checks

18

Compliance Checks

6.3

Collect security process data
(e.g., technical and administrative)

19

Security Process Data

6.3.1

Account management

19

Account Management

6.3.2

Management review and approval

19

Management Review
and Approval

6.3.3

Key performance and risk indicators

19

Key Performance and
Risk Indicators

6.3.4

Backup verification data

19

Backup Verification

6.3.5

Training and awareness

19

Security Training and
Security Awareness
Training

6.3.6

Disaster Recovery (DR) and Business
Continuity (BC)

19

Disaster Recovery and
Business Continuity

6.4

Analyze test output and generate report

19

Reporting

6.4.1

Remediation

19

Remediation

6.4.2

Exception handling

19

Exception Handling

6.4.3

Ethical disclosure

19

Ethical Disclosure

▲Appendix B: Objective Map

1219

All-in-One Coverage

Domain

Objective

Ch #

Heading

Domain 6: Security Assessment and Testing

6.5

Conduct or facilitate security audits

18

Conducting Security
Audits

6.5.1

Internal

18

Conducting Internal
Audits

6.5.2

External

18

Conducting and
Facilitating External Audits

6.5.3

Third-party

18

Facilitating Third-Party
Audits

Domain 7: Security Operations

7.1

Understand and comply

with investigations

22

Investigations

7.1.1

Evidence collection and handling

22

Evidence Collection and
Handling

7.1.2

Reporting and documentation

22

Reporting and
Documenting

7.1.3

Investigative techniques

22

Other Investigative
Techniques

7.1.4

Digital forensics tools, tactics,
and procedures

22

Digital Forensics Tools,
Tactics, and Procedures

7.1.5

Artifacts (e.g., computer, network, mobile
device)

22

Forensic Artifacts

7.2

Conduct logging and monitoring activities

21

Logging and Monitoring

7.2.1

Intrusion detection and prevention

21

Intrusion Detection and Prevention Systems

7.2.2

Security Information and Event Management (SIEM)

21

Security Information and Event Management

7.2.3

Continuous monitoring

21

Continuous Monitoring

7.2.4

Egress monitoring

21

Egress Monitoring

7.2.5

Log management

21

Log Management

7.2.6

Threat intelligence (e.g., threat feeds, threat hunting)

21

Threat Intelligence

7.2.7

User and Entity Behavior Analytics (UEBA)

21

User and Entity Behavior
Analytics

7.3

Perform Configuration Management (CM)
(e.g., provisioning, baselining,
automation)

20

Configuration
Management

▲ CISSP All-in-One Exam Guide

1220

All-in-One Coverage
Domain

Objective

Ch #

Heading

Domain 7: Security Operations
7.4

Apply foundational security
operations concepts

20

Foundational Security
Operations Concepts

7.4.1

Need-to-know/least privilege

20

Need-to-Know/Least
Privilege

7.4.2

Separation of Duties (SoD) and
responsibilities

20

Separation of Duties and
Responsibilities

7.4.3

Privileged account management

20

Privileged Account
Management

7.4.4

Job rotation

20

Job Rotation

7.4.5

Service Level Agreements (SLAs)

20

Service Level
Agreements

7.5

Apply resource protection

20

Resource Protection

7.5.1

Media management

20

Hierarchical Storage

Management

7.5.2

Media protection techniques

20

Resource Protection

7.6

Conduct incident management

22

Overview of Incident
Management

7.6.1

Detection

22

Detection

7.6.2

Response

22

Response

7.6.3

Mitigation

22

Mitigation

7.6.4

Reporting

22

Reporting

7.6.5

Recovery

22

Recovery

7.6.6

Remediation

22

Remediation

7.6.7

Lessons learned

22

Lessons Learned

7.7

Operate and maintain detective and
preventative measures

21

Preventive and Detective
Measures

7.7.1

Firewalls (e.g., next generation, web
application, network)

21

Firewalls

7.7.2

Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS) and
Intrusion Prevention Systems (IPS)

21

Intrusion Detection and
Prevention Systems

7.7.3

Whitelisting/blacklisting

21

Whitelisting and
Blacklisting

7.7.4

Third-party provided security services

21

Outsourced Security
Services

7.7.5

Sandboxing

21

Sandboxing

7.7.6

Honeypots/honeynets

21

Honeypots and
Honeynets

▲Appendix B: Objective Map

1221

All-in-One Coverage
Domain

Objective

Ch #

Heading

Domain 7: Security Operations
7.7.7

Anti-malware

21

Antimalware Software

7.7.8

Machine learning and Artificial Intelligence
(AI) based tools

21

Artificial Intelligence
Tools

7.8

Implement and support patch and
vulnerability management

20

Vulnerability and Patch
Management

7.9

Understand and participate in change
management processes

20

Change Management

7.10

Implement recovery strategies

23

Recovery Strategies

7.10.1

Backup storage strategies

23

Data Backup

7.10.2

Recovery site strategies

23

Recovery Site Strategies

7.10.3

Multiple processing sites

23

Multiple Processing Sites

7.10.4

System resilience, High Availability (HA),
Quality of Service (QoS), and fault tolerance

23

Availability

7.11

Implement Disaster Recovery (DR)
processes

23

Disaster Recovery
Processes

7.11.1

Response

23

Response

7.11.2

Personnel

23

Personnel

7.11.3

Communications

23

Communications

7.11.4

Assessment

23

Assessment

7.11.5

Restoration

23

Restoration

7.11.6

Training and awareness

23

Training and Awareness

7.11.7

Lessons learned

23

Lessons Learned

7.12

Test Disaster Recovery Plans (DRP)

23

Testing Disaster
Recovery Plans

7.12.1

Read-through/tabletop

23

Checklist Test
Tabletop Exercises

7.12.2

Walkthrough

23

Structured Walkthrough
Test

7.12.3

Simulation

23

Simulation Test

7.12.4

Parallel

23

Parallel Test

7.12.5

Full interruption

23

Full-Interruption Test

7.13

Participate in Business Continuity (BC)
planning and exercises

23

Business Continuity

7.14

Implement and manage physical security

20

Physical Security

7.14.1

Perimeter security controls

20

External Perimeter
Security Controls

7.14.2

Internal security controls

20

Internal Security Controls

▲CISSP All-in-One Exam Guide

1222

All-in-One Coverage

Domain

Objective

Ch #

Heading

Domain 7: Security Operations

7.15

Address personnel safety and
security concerns

20

Personnel Safety and
Security

7.15.1

Travel

20

Travel

7.15.2

Security training and awareness

20

Security Training and
Awareness

7.15.3

Emergency management

20

Emergency Management

7.15.4

Duress

20

Duress

Domain 8: Software Development Security
8.1

Understand and integrate security in the
Software Development Life Cycle (SDLC)

24

Software Development
Life Cycle

8.1.1

Development methodologies (e.g., Agile,
Waterfall, DevOps, DevSecOps)

24

Development Methodologies

8.1.2

Maturity models (e.g., Capability Maturity
Model (CMM), Software Assurance Maturity
Model (SAMM))

24

Maturity Models

8.1.3

Operation and maintenance

24

Operations and Maintenance Phase

8.1.4

Change management

24

Change Management

8.1.5

Integrated Product Team (IPT)

24

Integrated Product Team

8.2

Identify and apply security controls in
software development ecosystems

25

Security Controls for
Software Development

8.2.1

Programming languages

25

Programming Languages
and Concepts

8.2.2

Libraries

25

Software Libraries

8.2.3

Tool sets

25

Tool Sets

8.2.4

Integrated Development Environment (IDE)

25

Development Platforms

8.2.5

Runtime

25

Runtime Environments

8.2.6

Continuous Integration and Continuous Delivery (CI/CD)

25

Continuous Integration and Delivery

8.2.7

Security Orchestration, Automation, and Response (SOAR)

25

Security Orchestration, Automation, and Response

8.2.8

Software Configuration Management (SCM)

25

Software Configuration Management

8.2.9

Code repositories

25

Code Repositories

8.2.10

Application security testing (e.g., Static Application Security Testing (SAST), Dynamic Application Security Testing (DAST))

25

Application Security Testing

♠Appendix B: Objective Map

1223

All-in-One Coverage
Domain

Objective

Ch #

Heading

Domain 8: Software Development Security
8.3

Assess the effectiveness of
software security

25

Software Security
Assessments

8.3.1

Auditing and logging of changes

25

Change Management

8.3.2

Risk analysis and mitigation

25

Risk Analysis and
Mitigation

8.4

Assess security impact of acquired
software

25

Assessing the Security of
Acquired Software

8.4.1

Commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS)

25

Commercial Software

8.4.2

Open source

25

Open-Source Software

8.4.3

Third-party

25

Third-Party Software

8.4.4

Managed services (e.g., Software as a Service (SaaS), Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS), Platform as a Service (PaaS))

25

Managed Services

8.5

Define and apply secure coding guidelines and standards

25

Secure Software Development

8.5.1

Security weaknesses and vulnerabilities at the source-code level

25

Source Code Vulnerabilities

8.5.2

Security of Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)

25

Application Programming Interfaces

8.5.3

Secure coding practices

25

Secure Coding Practices

8.5.4

Software-defined security

25

Software-Defined
Security

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▲APPENDIX

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1225

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1226

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1227

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1228

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♣GLOSSARY

access A subject's ability to view, modify, or communicate with an object.

Access

enables the flow of information between the subject and the object.

access control Mechanisms, controls, and methods of limiting access to resources to

authorized subjects only.

access control list (ACL) A list of subjects that are authorized to access a particular

object. Typically, the types of access are read, write, execute, append, modify, delete, and

create.

access control mechanism Administrative, physical, or technical control that is designed to detect and prevent unauthorized access to a resource or environment.

accountability A security principle indicating that individuals must be identifiable

and must be held responsible for their actions.

accredited A computer system or network that has received official authorization and approval to process sensitive data in a specific operational environment. There must be

a security evaluation of the system's hardware, software, configurations, and controls by technical personnel.

acquisition The act of acquiring an asset. In organizational processes, this can mean

either acquiring infrastructure (e.g., hardware, software, services) or another organization.

administrative controls Security mechanisms that are management's responsibility and referred to as "soft" controls. These controls include the development and publication

of policies, standards, procedures, and guidelines; the screening of personnel; securityawareness training; the monitoring of system activity; and change control procedures.

aggregation The act of combining information from separate sources of a lower classification level that results in the creation of information of a higher classification

level that the subject does not have the necessary rights to access.

Agile development An umbrella term for several development methodologies that focus on incremental and iterative development methods and promote cross-functional

teamwork and continuous feedback mechanisms.

annualized loss expectancy (ALE)

from a risk in a span of a year.

A dollar amount that estimates the loss potential

single loss expectancy (SLE) × annualized rate of occurrence (ARO) = ALE

1231

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1232

annualized rate of occurrence (ARO) The value that represents the estimated possibility of a specific threat taking place within a one-year timeframe.

antimalware Software whose principal functions include the identification and mitigation of malware; also known as antivirus, although this term could be specific to

only one type of malware.

artificial intelligence (AI) A multidisciplinary field concerned with how knowledge is

organized, how inference proceeds to support decision-making, and how systems learn.

asset

Anything that is useful or valuable to an organization.

assurance A measurement of confidence in the level of protection that a specific security control delivers and the degree to which it enforces the security policy.

asymmetric key cryptography A cryptographic method that uses two different, or asymmetric, keys (also called public and private keys).

attribute-based access control (ABAC) An access control model in which access decisions are based on attributes of any component of or action on the system.

audit A systematic assessment of significant importance to the organization that determines whether the system or process being audited satisfies some external standards.

audit trail A chronological set of logs and records used to provide evidence of a system's performance or activity that took place on the system. These logs and records can be used to attempt to reconstruct past events and track the activities that took place, and possibly detect and identify intruders.

authentication Verification of the identity of a subject requesting the use of a system and/or access to network resources. The steps to giving a subject access to an object should be identification, authentication, and authorization.

authorization Granting a subject access to an object after the subject has been properly identified and authenticated.

availability The reliability and accessibility of data and resources to authorized individuals in a timely manner.

back door An undocumented way of gaining access to a computer system. After a system is compromised, an attacker may load a program that listens on a port (back door) so that the attacker can enter the system at any time. A back door is also referred to as a maintenance hook.

back up Copy and move data to a medium so that it may be restored if the original data is corrupted or destroyed. A full backup copies all the data from the system to the backup medium. An incremental backup copies only the files that have been modified since the previous backup. A differential backup backs up all files since the last full backup.

▲Glossary

1233

baseline The minimum level of security necessary to support and enforce a security policy.

Bell-LaPadula model A formal security model for access control that enforces the confidentiality of data (but not its integrity) using three rules: simple security, star property (*-property), and strong star property.

Biba model A formal security model for access control that enforces data integrity (but not confidentiality) using three rules: the *-integrity axiom (referred to as

“no write up”),
the simple integrity axiom (referred to as “no read down”), and the invocation property.

biometrics When used within computer security, identifies individuals by physiological characteristics, such as a fingerprint, hand geometry, or pattern in the iris.
blacklist (or deny list)
names, or applications.

A set of known-bad resources such as IP addresses, domain

breach attack simulation An automated system that launches simulated attacks against a target environment and then generates reports on its findings.

brute-force attack An attack that continually tries different inputs to achieve a predefined goal, which can be used to obtain credentials for unauthorized access.

business continuity (BC) Practices intended to keep the organization in business after

a major disruption takes place.

business impact analysis (BIA) A functional analysis in which a team collects data

through interviews and documentary sources; documents business functions, activities,

and transactions; develops a hierarchy of business functions; and applies a classification

scheme to indicate each individual function’s criticality level.

Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI) A process model that captures the organization’s maturity and fosters continuous improvement.

certificate authority (CA) A trusted third party that vouches for the identity of a

subject, issues a certificate to that subject, and then digitally signs the certificate to assure

its integrity.

certification The technical evaluation of the security components and their compliance

for the purpose of accreditation. A certification process can use safeguard evaluation, risk

analysis, verification, testing, and auditing techniques to assess the appropriateness of a

specific system processing a certain level of information within a particular environment.

The certification is the testing of the security component or system, and the accreditation

is the approval from management of the security component or system.

challenge/response method A method used to verify the identity of a subject by sending the subject an unpredictable or random value. If the subject responds with the

expected value in return, the subject is authenticated.

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1234

change management A business process aimed at deliberately regulating the

changing

nature of business activities such as projects.

chosen-ciphertext attack A cryptanalysis technique in which the attacker can choose

the ciphertext to be decrypted and has access to the resulting decrypted plaintext, with

the goal of determining the key that was used for decryption.

chosen-plaintext attack A cryptanalysis technique in which the attacker has the plaintext and ciphertext, but can choose the plaintext that gets encrypted to see the

corresponding ciphertext in an effort to determine the key being used.

CIA triad The three primary security principles: confidentiality, integrity, and availability. Sometimes also presented as AIC: availability, integrity, and confidentiality.

ciphertext Data that has been encrypted and is unreadable until it has been converted

into plaintext.

ciphertext-only attack A cryptanalysis technique in which the attacker has the ciphertext of one or more messages, each of which has been encrypted using the same

encryption algorithm and key, and attempts to discover the key used in the encryption process.

Clark-Wilson model An integrity model that addresses all three integrity goals: prevent unauthorized users from making modifications, prevent authorized users from

making improper modifications, and maintain internal and external consistency through

auditing. A distinctive feature of this model is that it focuses on well-formed transactions

and separation of duties.

classification A systematic arrangement of objects into groups or categories according

to a set of established criteria. Data and resources can be assigned a level of sensitivity

as they are being created, amended, enhanced, stored, or transmitted. The classification

level then determines the extent to which the resource needs to be controlled and secured

and is indicative of its value in terms of information assets.

cleartext In data communications, describes the form of a message or data that is

transferred or stored without cryptographic protection.

cloud access security broker (CASB) A system that provides visibility and security

controls for cloud services, monitors user activity in the cloud, and enforces policies and

controls that are applicable to that activity.

cloud computing The use of shared, remote computing devices for the purpose of providing improved efficiencies, performance, reliability, scalability, and security.

code review A systematic examination of the instructions that comprise a piece of

software, performed by someone other than the author of that code.

collusion Two or more people working together to carry out a fraudulent activity.

More than one person would need to work together to cause some type of destruction or fraud; this drastically reduces its probability.

▲Glossary

1235

compensating controls Alternative controls that provide similar protection as the original controls but have to be used because they are more affordable or allow specifically required business functionality.

compliance Verifiable adherence to applicable laws, regulations, policies, and standards.

The term is typically used to refer to compliance with governmental regulations.

compromise A violation of the security policy of a system or an organization such that

unauthorized disclosure or modification of sensitive information occurs.

confidentiality A security principle that works to ensure that information is not

disclosed to unauthorized subjects.

configuration management An operational process aimed at ensuring that systems and controls are configured correctly and are responsive to the current threat and

operational environments.

containerization A type of virtualization in which individual applications run in

their own isolated user space (called a container), which allows for more efficient use of

computing resources.

content distribution network Multiple servers distributed across a large region, each

of which provides content that is optimized for users closest to it. These networks are

used not only to improve the user experience but also to mitigate the risk of denial-of-service attacks.

continuous improvement The practice of constantly measuring, analyzing, and improving processes.

continuous integration and continuous delivery (CI/CD) Processes and technologies

that allow source code to be integrated, tested, and prepared for delivery to production

environments as soon as a change to the code is submitted.

continuous monitoring Maintaining ongoing awareness of information security, vulnerabilities, and threats to support organizational risk management decisions.

control A policy, method, technique, or procedure that is put into place to reduce the

risk that a threat agent exploits a vulnerability. Also called a countermeasure or safeguard.

control zone The space within a facility that is used to protect sensitive processing

equipment. Controls are in place to protect equipment from physical or technical unauthorized entry or compromise. The zone can also be used to prevent electrical waves carrying sensitive data from leaving the area.
converged protocols Protocols that started off independent and distinct from one another but over time converged to become one.
copyright

A legal right that protects the expression of ideas.

corrective controls
occurred.

Controls that fix components or systems after an incident has

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1236

cost/benefit analysis An assessment that is performed to ensure that the cost of a safeguard does not outweigh the benefit of the safeguard. Spending more to protect an asset than the asset is actually worth does not make good business sense. All possible safeguards must be evaluated to ensure that the most security-effective and cost-effective choice is made.

countermeasure A policy, method, technique, or procedure that is put into place to reduce the risk that a threat agent exploits a vulnerability. Also called a safeguard or control.

covert channel A communications path that enables a process to transmit information

in a way that violates the system's security policy.

covert storage channel A covert channel that involves writing to a storage location by

one process and the direct or indirect reading of the storage location by another process.

Covert storage channels typically involve a resource (for example, sectors on a disk) that

is shared by two subjects at different security levels.

covert timing channel A covert channel in which one process modulates its system resource (for example, CPU cycles), which is interpreted by a second process as some

type of communication.

cryptanalysis The practice of breaking cryptosystems and algorithms used in encryption and decryption processes.

cryptography The science of secret writing that enables storage and transmission of

data in a form that is available only to the intended individuals.

cryptology The study of cryptography and cryptanalysis.

cryptosystem The hardware or software implementation of cryptography.

data at rest Data that resides in external or auxiliary storage devices such as hard disk

drives, solid-state drives, or optical discs.
data classification Assignments to data that indicate the level of availability, integrity, and confidentiality that is required for each type of information.
data controller A senior leader that sets policies with regard to the management of the data life cycle, particularly with regard to sensitive data such as personal data.
data custodian An individual who is responsible for the maintenance and protection of the data. This role is usually filled by the IT department (usually the network administrator). The duties include performing regular backups of the data; implementing and maintaining security controls; periodically validating the integrity of the data; restoring data from backup media; retaining records of activity; and fulfilling the requirements specified in the organization's security policy, standards, and guidelines that pertain to information security and data protection.

▲Glossary

1237

data in transit (or data in motion) Data that is moving between computing nodes over a data network such as the Internet.
data in use Data that temporarily resides in primary storage such as registers, caches, or RAM while the CPU is using it.
data loss (or leak) prevention (DLP) The actions that organizations take to prevent unauthorized external parties from gaining access to sensitive data.
data mining The analysis of the data held in data warehouses in order to produce new and useful information.
data owner The person who has final responsibility of data protection and would be the one held liable for any negligence when it comes to protecting the organization's information assets. The person who holds this role—usually a senior executive within the management group—is responsible for assigning a classification to the information and dictating how the information should be protected.
data processor Any person who carries out operations (e.g., querying, modifying, analyzing) on data under the authority of the data controller.
data remanence A measure of the magnetic flux density remaining after removal of the applied magnetic force, which is used to erase data. Refers to any data remaining on magnetic storage media.
data subject The person about whom the data is concerned.
data warehousing The process of combining data from multiple databases or data sources into a large data store for the purpose of providing more extensive information retrieval and data analysis.

declassification An administrative decision or procedure to remove or reduce the security classification of information.

defense in depth A secure design principle that entails the coordinated use of multiple

security controls in a layered approach.

degauss Process that demagnetizes magnetic media so that a very low residue of magnetic induction is left on the media. Used to effectively erase data from media.

Delphi technique A group decision method used to ensure that each member of a group gives an honest and anonymous opinion pertaining to what the result of a particular threat will be.

denial of service (DoS) Any action, or series of actions, that prevents a system, or its

resources, from functioning in accordance with its intended purpose.

detective controls

an intruder.

Controls that help identify an incident's activities and potentially

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1238

DevOps The practice of incorporating development, IT, and quality assurance (QA) staff into software development projects to align their incentives and enable frequent,

efficient, and reliable releases of software products.

DevSecOps The integration of development, security, and operations professionals into a software development team. It's DevOps with the security team added in.

dial-up The service whereby a computer terminal can use telephone lines, usually via a

modem, to initiate and continue communication with another computer system.

dictionary attack A form of attack in which an attacker uses a large set of likely

combinations to guess a secret, usually a password.

digital certificate A mechanism used to associate a public key with a collection of

components in a manner that is sufficient to uniquely identify the claimed owner. The most

commonly used standard for digital certificates is the International Telecommunications

Union's X.509.

Digital Rights Management (DRM)

access to copyrighted data.

digital signature

A set of technologies that is applied to controlling

A hash value that has been encrypted with the sender's private key.

disaster recovery (DR) The set of practices that enables an organization to minimize

loss of, and restore, mission-critical technology infrastructure after a catastrophic incident.

disaster recovery plan (DRP) A plan developed to help an organization recover

from

a disaster. It provides procedures for emergency response, extended backup operations,

and post-disaster recovery when an organization suffers a loss of computer processing

capability or resources and physical facilities.

discretionary access control (DAC) An access control model and policy that restricts

access to objects based on the identity of the subjects and the groups to which those

subjects belong. The data owner has the discretion of allowing or denying others access

to the resources it owns.

Distributed Network Protocol 3 (DNP3) A communications protocol designed for use in SCADA systems, particularly those within the power sector, that does not include

routing functionality.

domain The set of objects that a subject is allowed to access. Within this domain, all

subjects and objects share a common security policy, procedures, and rules, and they are

managed by the same management system.

due care The precautions that a reasonable and competent person would take in a given situation.

due diligence The process of systematically evaluating information to identify vulnerabilities, threats, and issues relating to an organization's overall risk.

▲Glossary

1239

duress The use of threats or violence against someone in order to force them to do

something they don't want to do.

dynamic application security testing (DAST) Also known as dynamic analysis, the evaluation of a program in real time, while it is running.

edge computing A distributed system in which some computational and data storage assets are deployed close to where they are needed in order to reduce latency

and network

traffic.

egress monitoring Maintaining awareness of the information that is flowing out of a

network, whether it appears to be malicious or not.

electronic discovery (e-discovery) The process of producing for a court or external

attorney all electronically stored information pertinent to a legal proceeding.

electronic vaulting The transfer of backup data to an offsite location. This process is

primarily a batch process of transmitting data through communications lines to a server

at an alternative location.

elliptic curve cryptography A cryptographic method that uses complex mathematical

equations (plotted as elliptic curves) that are more efficient than traditional asymmetric

key cryptography but also much more difficult to cryptanalyze.
emanations Electrical and electromagnetic signals emitted from electrical equipment that can transmit through the airwaves. These signals carry information that can be captured and deciphered, which can cause a security breach. These are also called emissions.
embedded system A self-contained, typically ruggedized, computer system with its own processor, memory, and input/output devices that is designed for a very specific purpose.
encryption The transformation of plaintext into unreadable ciphertext.
end-of-life (EOL) The point in time when a manufacturer ceases to manufacture or sustain a product.
end-of-support (EOS) The point in time when a manufacturer is no longer patching bugs or vulnerabilities on a product, which is typically a few years after EOL.
endpoint A networked computing device that initiates or responds to network communications.
endpoint detection and response (EDR) An integrated security system that continuously monitors endpoints for security violations and uses rules-based automated response and analysis capabilities.
end-to-end encryption

A technology that encrypts the data payload of a packet.

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1240

ethical disclosure The practice of informing anyone who might be affected by a discovered vulnerability as soon as feasible, so a patch can be developed before any threat actors become aware of the vulnerability.
exposure An instance of being exposed to losses from a threat. A weakness or vulnerability can cause an organization to be exposed to possible damages.
exposure factor The percentage of loss a realized threat could have on a certain asset.
failover A backup operation that automatically switches to a standby system if the primary system fails or is taken offline. It is an important fault-tolerant function that provides system availability.
fail-safe A functionality that ensures that when software or a system fails for any reason, it does not compromise anyone's safety. After a failure, a fail-safe electronic lock might default to an unlocked state, which would prevent it from interfering with anyone trying to escape in an emergency.
fail-secure A functionality that ensures that when software or a system fails for any reason, it does not end up in a vulnerable state. After a failure, a fail-secure lock might default to a locked state, which would ensure the security of whatever it is

protecting.

federated identity management (FIM) The management of portable identities, and their associated entitlements, that can be used across business boundaries.

Fibre Channel over Ethernet (FCoE) A converged protocol that allows Fibre Channel

frames to ride over Ethernet networks.

firmware Software instructions that have been written into read-only memory (ROM)

or a programmable ROM (PROM) chip.

forensic artifact

Anything that has evidentiary value.

formal verification Validating and testing of highly trusted systems. The tests are

designed to show design verification, consistency between the formal specifications and

the formal security policy model, implementation verification, consistency between the

formal specifications, and the actual implementation of the product.

full-interruption test A type of security test in which a live system or facility is shut

down, forcing the recovery team to switch processing to an alternate system or facility.

gamification The application of elements of game play to other activities such as

security awareness training.

gateway A system or device that connects two unlike environments or systems.

The gateway is usually required to translate between different types of applications or

protocols.

guidelines Recommended actions and operational guides for users, IT staff, operations

staff, and others when a specific standard does not apply.

▲Glossary

1241

handshaking procedure A dialog between two entities for the purpose of identifying

and authenticating the entities to one another. The dialog can take place between two

computers or two applications residing on different computers. It is an activity that

usually takes place within a protocol.

high-performance computing (HPC) The aggregation of computing power in ways that exceed the capabilities of general-purpose computers for the specific purpose of

solving large problems.

honeynet A network of honeypots designed to keep adversaries engaged (and thus under observation) for longer than would be possible with a single honeypot.

honeypot A network device that is intended to be exploited by attackers, with the

administrator's goal being to gain information on the attackers' tactics,