



Threats and Vulnerability

Threats

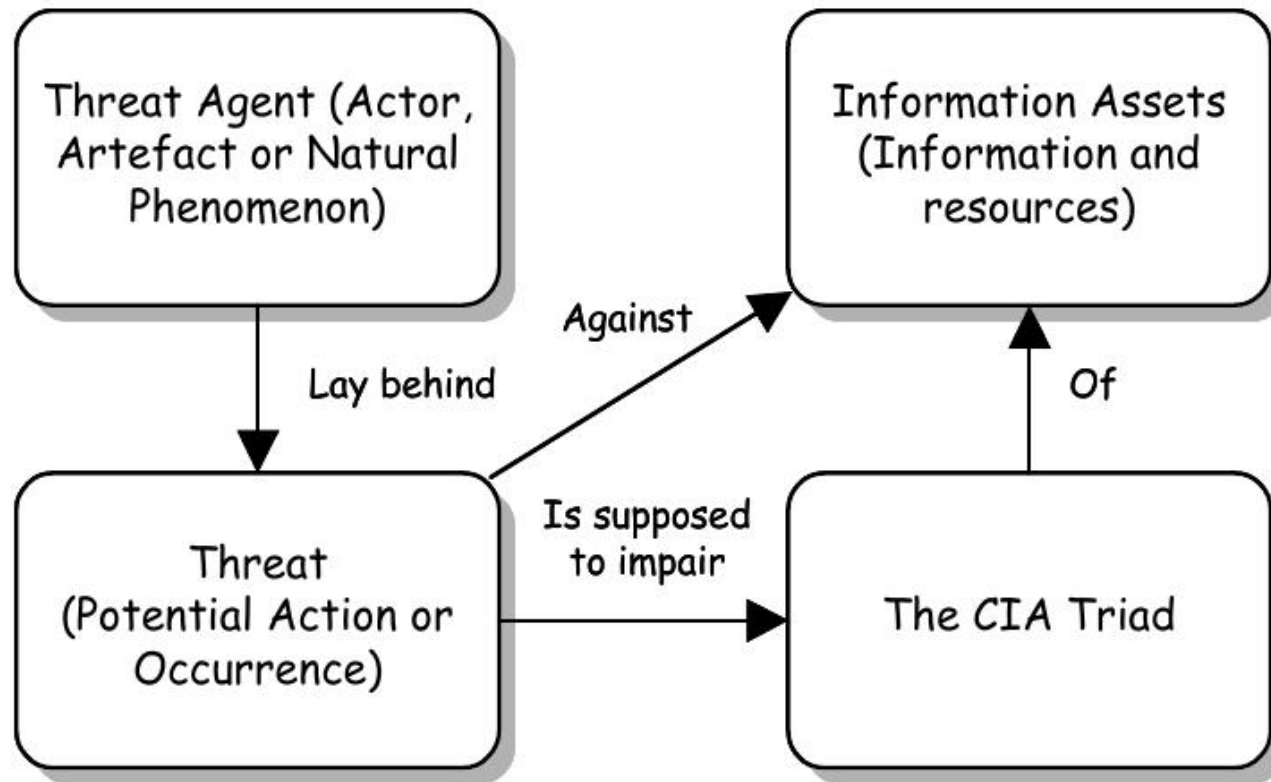
- ‘...an indication that an undesirable event may occur’ (Parker, 1981).
- ‘...any potential danger to information or systems’ (Harris, 2002).
- ‘...circumstances that have the potential to cause loss or harm’ (Pfleeger, 1996).

“If the objective of information security is to reach and maintain the CIA triad of information assets at a required level, threat is something that potentially can impair the CIA triad in the future.”

“A threat consists of a potential action or occurrence that may affect the information asset’s CIA triad negatively.”

Threat Agents:

- **Actors (humans or organizations)**
- **Human made artefacts**
- **Natural phenomena**



Human Threats

- Intentional
- Unintentional

Non-Human Threats

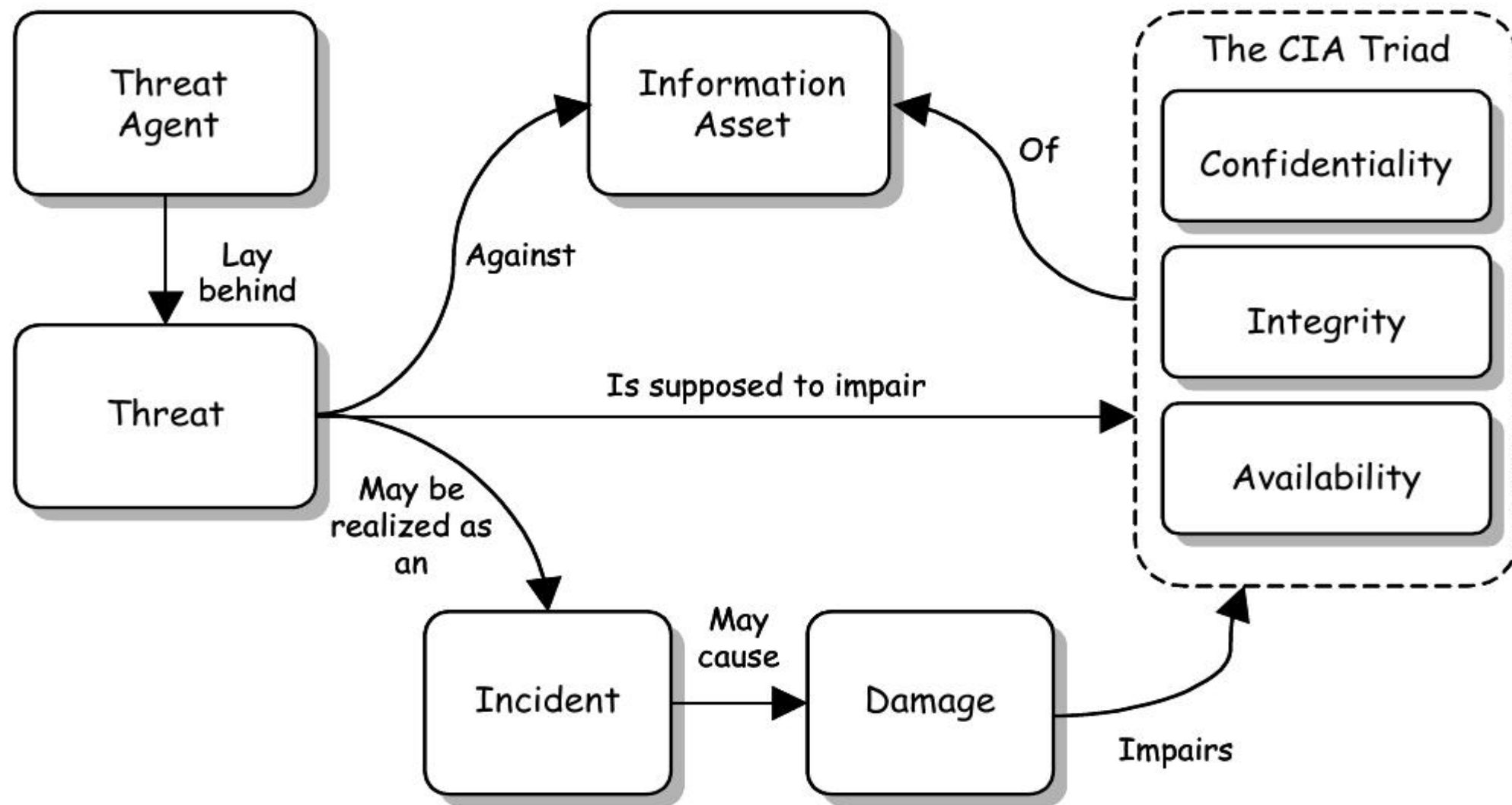
- IT Artefacts - Virus etc.
- Natural

Physical Threats

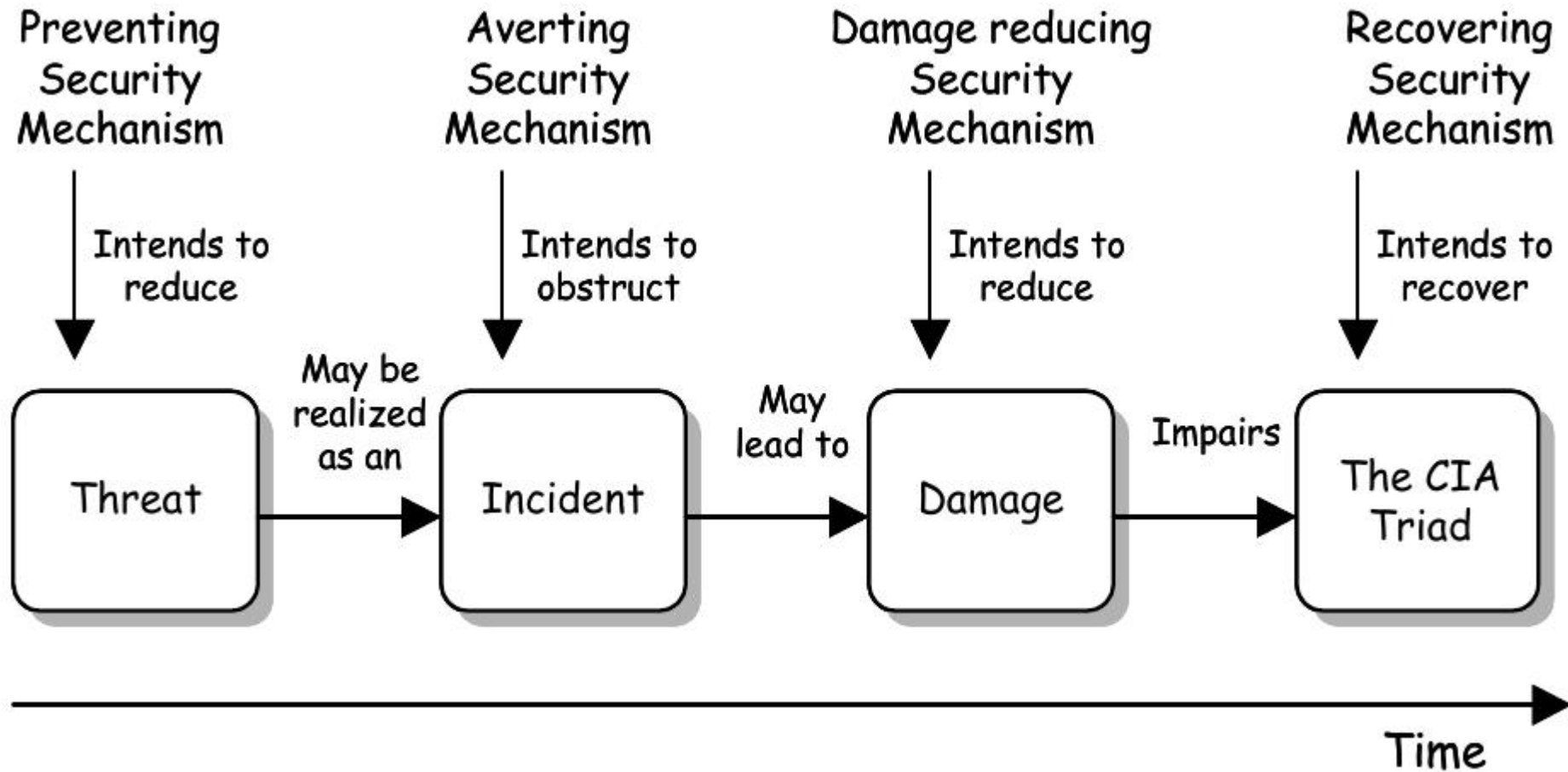
- Floods
- Thefts
- Fires

Non-Physical Threats/Logical Threats

- Viruses
- Computer intrusion
- User's software mistakes.

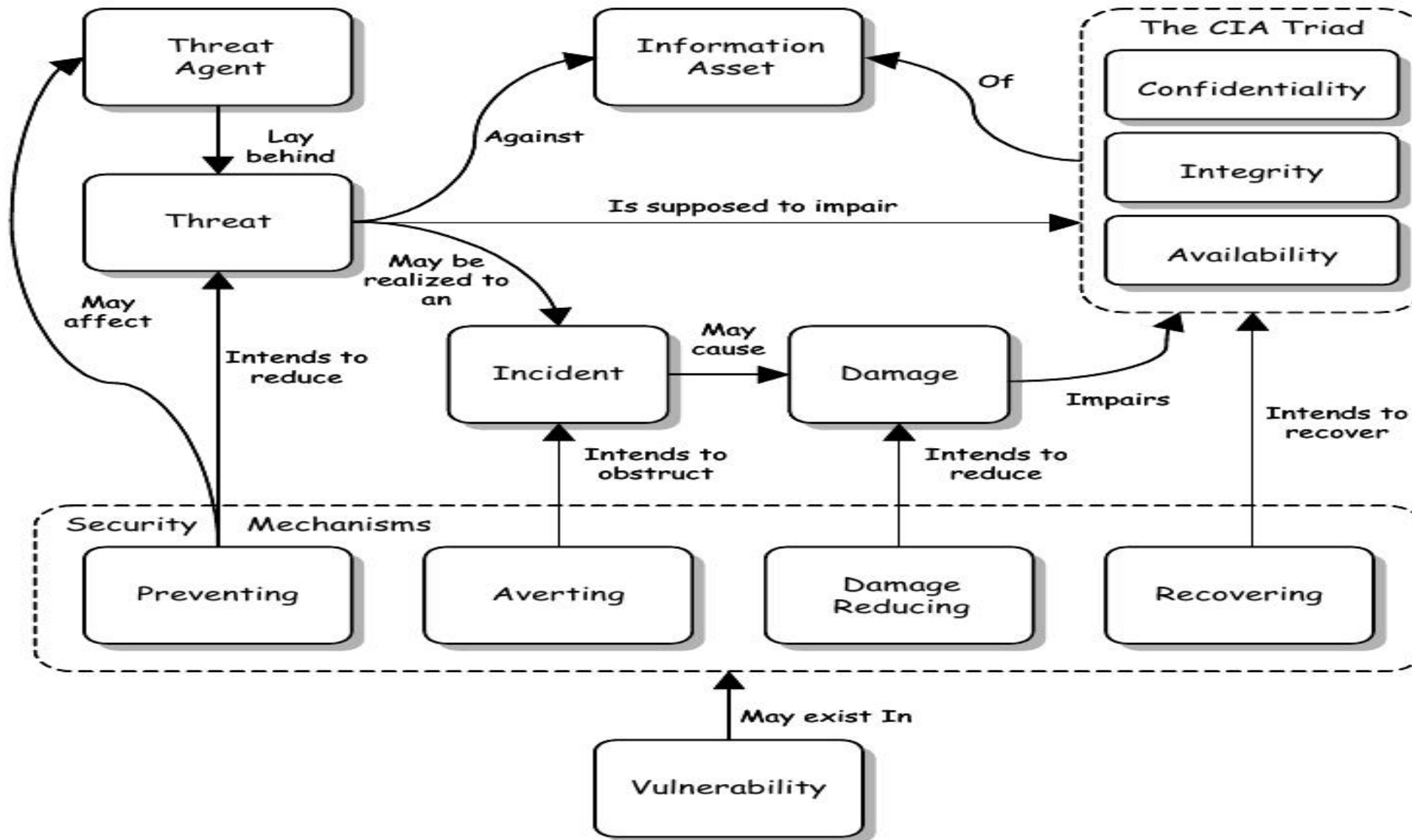


Security Mechanisms



Vulnerability

- Vulnerability is absence of security mechanisms, or weaknesses in existing security mechanisms.
- Vulnerability may exist in all of the categories of security mechanisms that are mentioned in the previous section, and may be known or unknown.



THANK YOU



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