

Qualitative Assessments

Qualitative assessments focus on an inherent quality, aspect, or characteristic of the risk as it relates to the outcome(s) of a risk occurrence. “Loss of business” could be losing a few customers, losing many customers, or closing the doors and going out of business entirely.

Qualitative assessment of information is most often used as the basis of an *information classification system*, which labels broad categories of data to indicate the range of possible harm or impact. Businesses, private organisations, and the military have another aspect of data categorisation in common: the concept of *need-to-know*. Need-to-know leads to compartmentalisation of information approaches, which create procedural boundaries (administrative controls) around such sets of information.

