Information and Network Security

Chapter 1 Computer and Network Security Concepts

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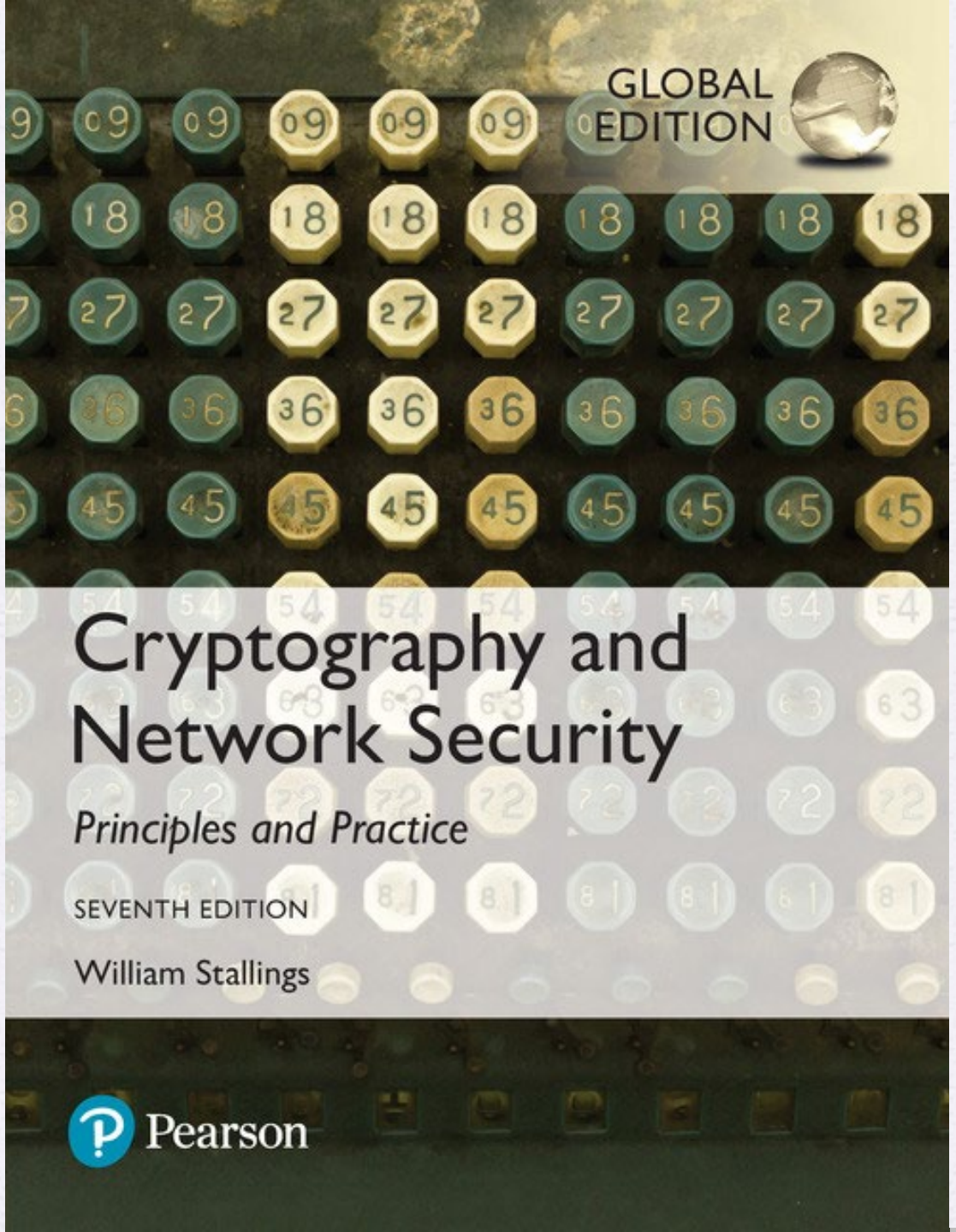

GLOBAL EDITION
Cryptography and Network Security
Principles and Practice
SEVENTH EDITION
William Stallings
Pearson

Cryptographic algorithms and protocols can be grouped into four main areas:

Symmetric encryption

- Used to conceal the contents of blocks or streams of data of any size, including messages, files, encryption keys, and passwords

Asymmetric encryption

- Used to conceal small blocks of data, such as encryption keys and hash function values, which are used in digital signatures

Data integrity algorithms

- Used to protect blocks of data, such as messages, from alteration

Authentication protocols

- Schemes based on the use of cryptographic algorithms designed to authenticate the identity of entities

The field of network and Internet security consists of:

measures to deter, prevent, detect, and correct security violations that involve the transmission of information

Computer Security

- The NIST *Computer Security Handbook* defines the term computer security as:

  "the protection afforded to an automated information system in order to attain the applicable objectives of preserving the integrity, availability and confidentiality of information system resources" (includes hardware, software, firmware, information/data, and telecommunications)

Computer Security Objectives

Confidentiality

- Data confidentiality
  - Assures that private or confidential information is not made available or disclosed to unauthorized individuals
- Privacy
  - Assures that individuals control or influence what information related to them may be collected and stored and by whom and to whom that information may be disclosed

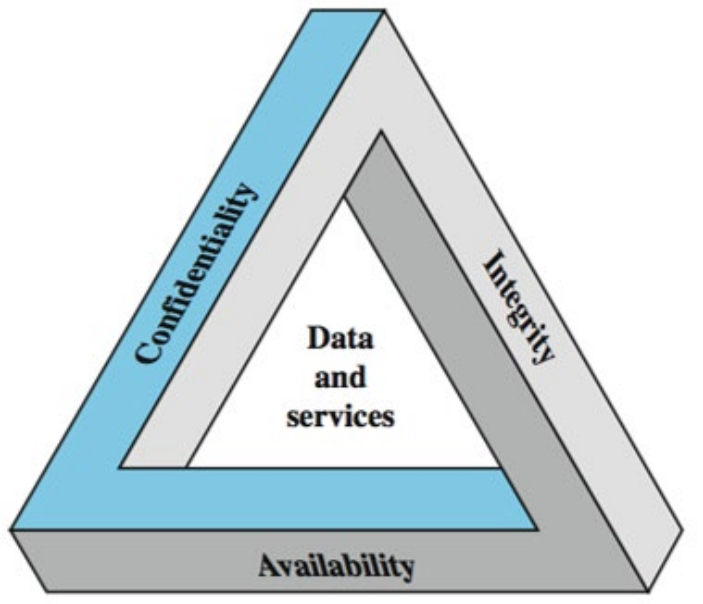
Integrity

- Data integrity
  - Assures that information and programs are changed only in a specified and authorized manner
- System integrity
  - Assures that a system performs its intended function in an unimpaired manner, free from deliberate or inadvertent unauthorized manipulation of the system

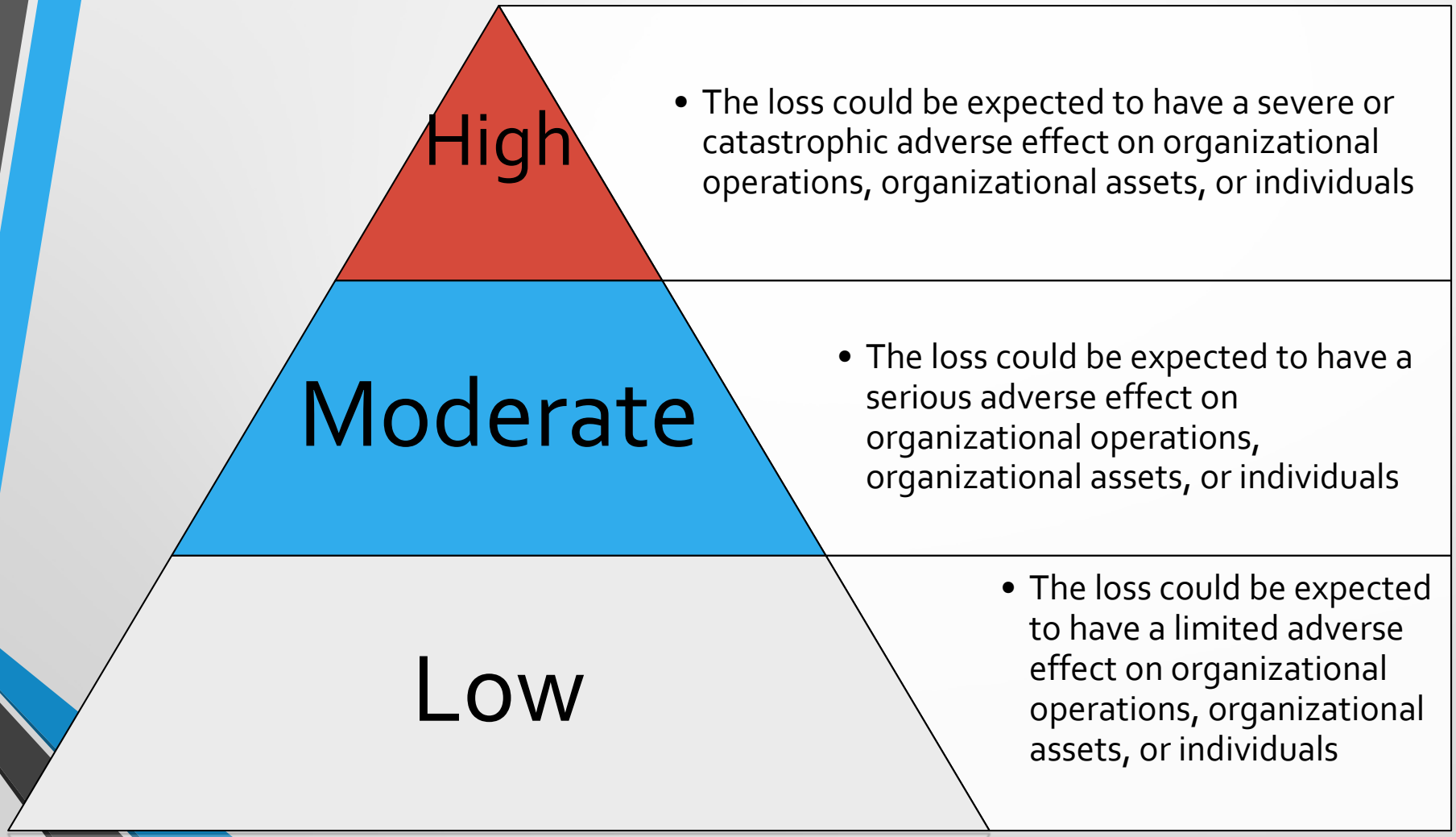
Availability

- Assures that systems work promptly and service is not denied to authorized users

Key Security Concepts



Breach of Security Levels of Impact



Computer Security Challenges

- Security is not simple
- Potential attacks on the security features need to be considered
- Procedures used to provide particular services are often counter-intuitive
- It is necessary to decide where to use the various security mechanisms
- Requires constant monitoring
- Is too often an afterthought
- Security mechanisms typically involve more than a particular algorithm or protocol
- Security is essentially a battle of wits between a perpetrator and the designer
- Little benefit from security investment is perceived until a security failure occurs
- Strong security is often viewed as an impediment to efficient and user-friendly operation

OSI Security Architecture

- Security attack
  - Any action that compromises the security of information owned by an organization
- Security mechanism
  - A process (or a device incorporating such a process) that is designed to detect, prevent, or recover from a security attack
- Security service
  - A processing or communication service that enhances the security of the data processing systems and the information transfers of an organization
  - Intended to counter security attacks, and they make use of one or more security mechanisms to provide the service

Threats and Attacks (RFC 4949)

Threat

A potential for violation of security, which exists when there is a circumstance, capability, action, or event that could breach security and cause harm. That is, a threat is a possible danger that might exploit a vulnerability.

Attack

An assault on system security that derives from an intelligent threat; that is, an intelligent act that is a deliberate attempt (especially in the sense of a method or technique) to evade security services and violate the security policy of a system.

Security Attacks

- A means of classifying security attacks, used both in X.800 and RFC 4949, is in terms of *passive attacks* and *active attacks*
- A *passive attack* attempts to learn or make use of information from the system but does not affect system resources
- An *active attack* attempts to alter system resources or affect their operation

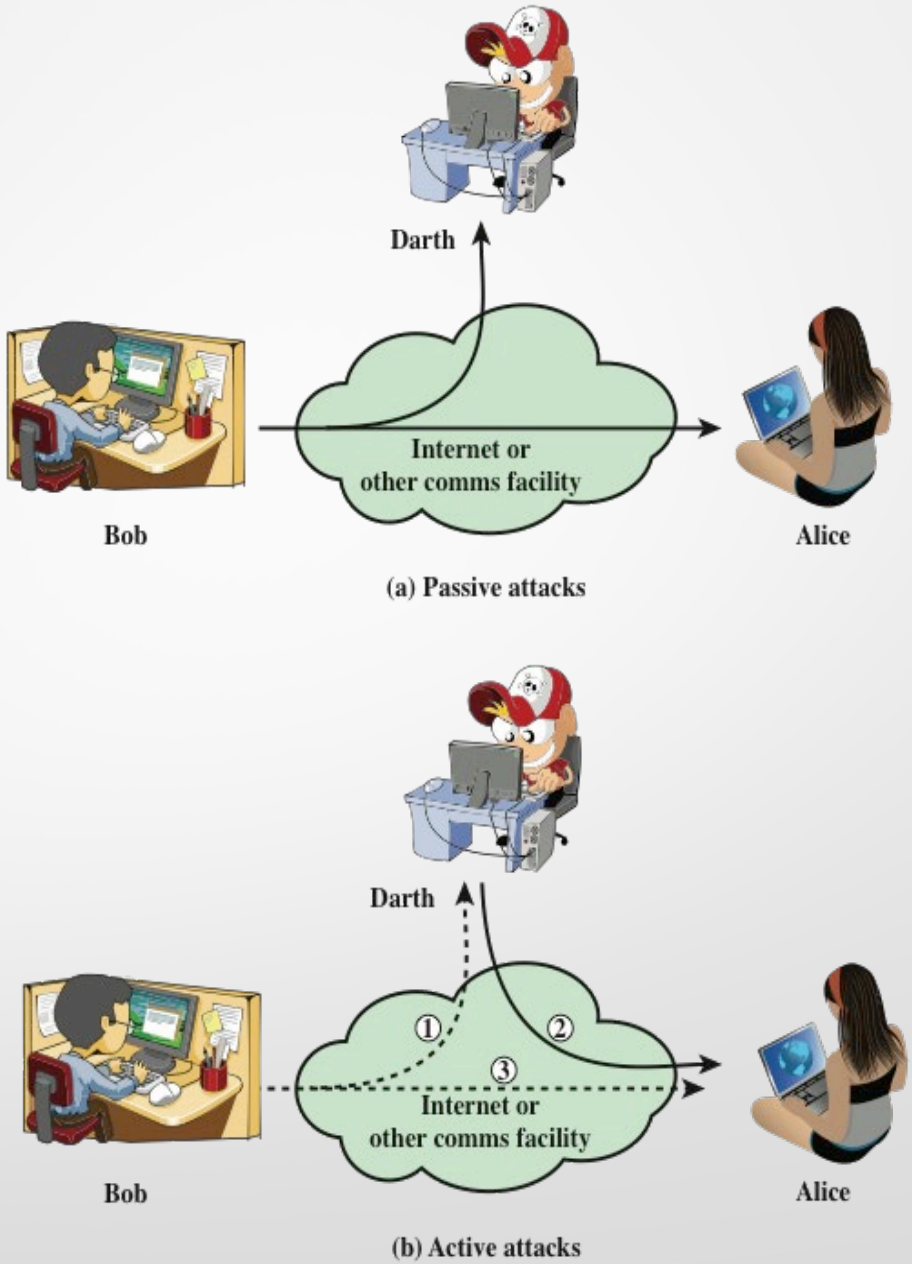


Figure 1.2 Security Attacks

Passive Attacks

- Are in the nature of eavesdropping on, or monitoring of, transmissions
- Goal of the opponent is to obtain information that is being transmitted
- Two types of passive attacks are:
  - The release of message contents
  - Traffic analysis

Active Attacks

- Involve some modification of the data stream or the creation of a false stream
- Difficult to prevent because of the wide variety of potential physical, software, and network vulnerabilities
- Goal is to detect attacks and to recover from any disruption or delays caused by them

Masquerade
- Takes place when one entity pretends to be a different entity
- Usually includes one of the other forms of active attack

Replay
- Involves the passive capture of a data unit and its subsequent retransmission to produce an unauthorized effect

Modification of messages
- Some portion of a legitimate message is altered, or messages are delayed or reordered to produce an unauthorized effect

Denial of service
- Prevents or inhibits the normal use or management of communications facilities

Attack Surfaces

- An attack surface consists of the reachable and exploitable vulnerabilities in a system
- Examples:
  - Open ports on outward facing Web and other servers, and code listening on those ports
  - Services available on the inside of a firewall
  - Code that processes incoming data, email, XML, office documents, and industry-specific custom data exchange formats
  - Interfaces, SQL, and Web forms
  - An employee with access to sensitive information vulnerable to a social engineering attack

Attack Surface Categories

- Network attack surface
  - Refers to vulnerabilities over an enterprise network, wide-area network, or the Internet
- Software attack surface
  - Refers to vulnerabilities in application, utility, or operating system code
- Human attack surface
  - Refers to vulnerabilities created by personnel or outsiders

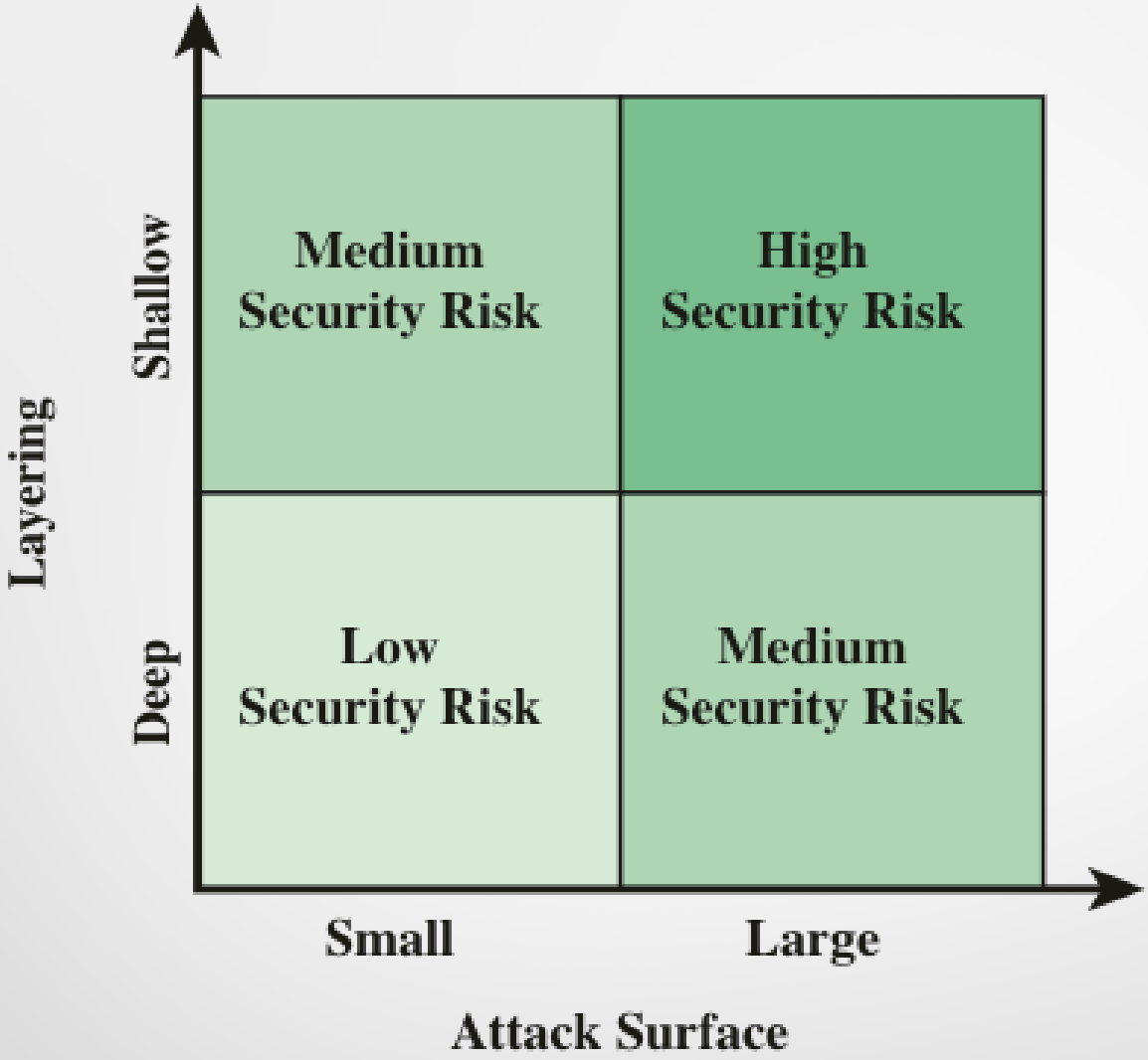


Figure 1.3 Defense in Depth and Attack Surface

THANK YOU

For any questions feel free
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