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# Classification

Week 8C

**Presented by Dr Rory Coulter** 

### Classification

### Security classification is applied to information to keep sensitive information protected

#### We know the levels

- To access sensitive information you're going to need a security clearance
- Should you obtain one, you will be able to access information that is\*:
- Top Secret
- Secret
- Protected
- I just learned about TLP, what's the difference?
- TLP Red is a classification often used in the context of cyber security and information sharing
- Primarily to protect sensitive data related to ongoing cyber threats

- Top Secret, a traditional classification used in the context of national security
- Covers a wide range of sensitive information beyond cyber security
- Much stricter access controls and longer classification durations (TLP:RED could be just for an organisation only)



## Levels

### Protected, Secret, Top Secret

Let's get to know all three

#### - PROTECTED:

- Damage: Compromise would cause damage, but not exceptionally grave
- Example: Information that, if compromised, would seriously impede the development or operation of major policies. The damage would be significant but not catastrophic

#### - SECRET:

- Damage: Compromise would cause serious damage
- Example: Information where compromised confidentiality could shut down or substantially disrupt significant national infrastructure. The damage would be severe and could have a substantial impact on critical systems

#### - TOP SECRET:

- Damage: Compromise would cause exceptionally grave damage
- Example: Information where compromised confidentiality would provoke international conflict. This level of damage is the most severe and could have farreaching consequences, potentially leading to serious international consequences or conflicts



# Protective Security Policy Framework (PSPF)

#### How Australian Government entities handle classified information

Security classification can apply to both the information itself and assets like USB drives or laptops

- PSPF also defines three levels of security classified information: Protected, Secret, and Top Secret
- Maybe be Australian, or in collaboration with other Governments
- Restrict information based on citizenship: Australian Eyes Only (AUSTEO), Australian Government Access Only (AGAO), and Releasable To (REL)

