2-1 Journal

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Defense in Depth

**How deep is too deep, and what’s the tradeoff?**

Defense in Depth (DiD) is a cybersecurity strategy that uses multiple layers of defense to protect systems, networks, and data. Layering defenses is essential for mitigating various attack vectors however, going too deep can lead to reduced returns. The tradeoff is between security and usability. Too many layers can slow down system performance, frustrate users, and increase maintenance complexity. For example, requiring multiple forms of authentication, extensive logging, and redundant firewalls may strengthen security but could also hinder operational efficiency and productivity.

**What are some time, money, reputation, and operational considerations?**

Implementing DiD is resource intensive. Each added layer whether it’s a firewall, intrusion detection system, or endpoint protection requires time to configure, monitor, and update. Financially, the costs of purchasing software, hiring cybersecurity professionals, and training staff add up quickly. From a reputation standpoint, organizations must balance over-securing with maintaining trust and ease of use. A over complicated system may push users toward insecure workarounds. Operationally, complexity can lead to misconfigurations or blind spots if not managed carefully, introducing new vulnerabilities rather than closing existing ones.

**What are some additional aspects of DiD that make it unique for each situation?**

No two DiD strategies are identical because every organization has unique risk profiles, business goals, and regulatory environments. For example, a hospital’s DiD strategy must prioritize patient privacy and comply with HIPAA, while a financial firm must focus on preventing fraud and meeting financial compliance standards. Factors such as the organization's size, industry, threat landscape, and existing infrastructure shape how DiD is implemented. What makes DiD powerful is its adaptability because layers can be customized and prioritized based on what matters most in a given context.