

B.N. Jones
LFI Week 5
Create an example threat model

Example: Union members want to coordinate their response to a workplace grievance.

1) What do you want to protect?

The union members want to protect their communications. They also want to protect the privacy of those involved as much as possible. More broadly, they want to protect their autonomy to address grievances.

2) Who do you want to protect it from?

Some of their coworkers.

3) How likely is it you will need to protect it?

100% likely. They will need to protect their communications. Their communication will have to be done in secret.

4) How bad are the consequences if you fail?

Depending on the workplace, failure could result in termination. Technically such firings are illegal, so post termination legal bills if they chose to fight it. If not termination, other workplace retaliation: demotion, being passed over for promotion, reassignment, poor evaluations, etc. If nothing else, their efforts could be undermined, and they may not achieve their goals. Their grievance may not be addressed, or may not be addressed in the manner they preferred.

5) How much trouble are you willing to go through to prevent those consequences?

If they want to protect their communications, they will have to use tools and services that provide end to end encryption outside of those provided by their employer. There are probably different levels of technology skills so there might be a learning curve for some. They would probably have to do a lot of this not at work, or not during work time. They may have to learn to change their internet browsing habits to hide their information seeking. They may need to learn to use Tor, or, at the very least, delete their browsing history. Again, this would likely have to be done outside of work on non-workplace computer networks.