

Task 'Security and Risk Management' Unit 7

Collaborative Learning Discussion 2 – Peer Response 2

****, your analysis of the Common Vulnerability Scoring System (CVSS) is interesting, especially your highlighting of the inconsistencies in its application, as noted by (Wunder et al. 2024). I do agree that despite its widespread use, CVSS may presents a challenges due to the subjective nature and those loosely defined metrics which may allow different interpretations by people view on the metrics differently, (Allodi et al. 2020), for instance the 'Attack Vector' and 'Privileges Required', even among experienced analysts could result in significant discrepancies in final severity scores (Holm et al. 2015). This highlights a crucial limitation of CVSS, while it provides a standardized framework, the CVSS application may not always be consistent or reliable.

However, your point about CVSS offering value as a preliminary tool in agile environments is valid. The possibility of leveraging the CVSS to practically categorize vulnerabilities provides a good starting point for teams in need of immediate assessments and action, even if a more detailed analysis may be required later. However, as you suggested, the inconsistencies demonstrated may diminish their overall effectiveness in certain contexts (Wunder et al. 2024).

The SSVC framework, with the decision tree methodology and its qualitative approach, could be a promising alternative to CVSS. By prioritizing actionable outcomes rather than mainly numerical scores, the SSVC framework reduces ambiguity and could provide a more robust basis for vulnerability management, in particular in environments where context and mission impact play a key role (Spring et al. 2021).

References

- Allodi, L., Cremonini, R., Massacci, F. and Shim, W., 2020. Measuring the accuracy of software vulnerability assessments: experiments with students and professionals. *Empirical Software Engineering*, 25(2), pp. 1063–1094.
- Holm, H. and Afridi, K.K., 2015. An expert-based investigation of the Common Vulnerability Scoring System. *Computers & Security*, 53, pp. 18–30.
- Spring, J., Hatleback, E., Householder, A., Manion, A. and Shick, D., (2021). Time to Change the CVSS? *IEEE Security & Privacy*, 19(2), pp.74-78
- Wunder, J. et al. (2024) Shedding Light on CVSS Scoring Inconsistencies: A User-Centric Study on Evaluating Widespread Security Vulnerabilities. arXiv.org. Available at:
https://*****.com/permalink/44UOES_INST/o3t9un/cdi_proquest_journals_2858809873 [Accessed 9 December 2025]