

MBRA 2.3.0 Tool Window Calculations Tab

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The MBRA 2.3.0 Tool Window Calculations tab performs an advanced set of equations on the user-provided data in order to determine the most useful set of allocations for Prevention and Response Budgets, and the most likely allocation for an attacker's budget. As the equations can be difficult to understand from the implementation itself, they are explained below. To save typing, the n nodes and m links are referred to together as nodes, and where $i = [1, n + m]$.

Each set of equations is based on values determined by the other formula. That is, the value of each variable can only be determined by finding the values of the other two variables first. Because of this, the calculations are performed for a specified number of iterations, with each iteration calculating new vulnerability, consequence, and threat values for each node based upon the values calculated in the previous iteration. The results come closer to their "true" value with each iteration, and most eventually converge on that "true" value. Some few data sets can cause results to diverge, however, and fail to find the true values. The algorithm currently assumes that if a value has not converged after the designated number of iterations, it will not ever converge. This pattern of iterating the values of the variables in order to get closer to the true answers is referred to in the original algorithm description as a "Stackleberg game".

General Variables

Let:

n_i	represent some node i
c_∞	represent the minimum consequence for any node as defined by the user in the MBRA general preferences window
v_∞	represent the minimum vulnerability for any node as defined by the user in the MBRA general preferences window
d_i	represent the calculated prevention allocation for n_i
r_i	represent the calculated response allocation for n_i
a_i	represent the calculated attack allocation for n_i
v_{i_0}	represent the user-input vulnerability for n_i

c_{i_0}	represent the user-input consequence for n_i
t_{i_0}	represent the user-input threat for n_i
v_i	represent the calculated vulnerability for n_i
c_i	represent the calculated vulnerability for n_i
t_i	represent the calculated threat value for n_i
w_i	represent the calculated network weight for n_i
$\beta_i = -\ln(c_\infty)$	for all nodes
$\gamma_i = -\ln(\frac{v_\infty}{v_i})$	for each node

Calculating Prevention Allocation and Vulnerability

Let:

e_i	be the user-input prevention cost for n_i
d_i	be the calculated prevention allocation for n_i
λ_v	be the correction factor for vulnerability calculations
P	be the total prevention budget

Then:

$$\ln(\lambda_v) = \frac{-\sum_i [\frac{e_i}{\gamma_i} \ln(\frac{e_i}{w_i t_i v_{i_0} c_i \gamma_i})] - P}{\sum_i \frac{e_i}{\gamma_i}}$$

$$d_i = -\frac{e_i}{\gamma_i} [\ln(\lambda_v) + \ln(\frac{e_i}{w_i t_i v_{i_0} c_i \gamma_i})]$$

Having determined the prevention allocation, vulnerability for n_i can be calculated:

$$v_i = v_{i_0} e^{-\gamma_i (\frac{r_i}{c_i})}$$

Calculating Response Allocation and Consequence

Let:

h_i	be the user-input response cost for n_i
r_i	be the calculated prevention allocation for n_i
λ_c	be the correction factor for consequence calculations
R	be the total prevention budget

Then:

$$\ln(\lambda_c) = \frac{-\sum_i [\frac{h_i}{\beta_i} \ln(\frac{h_i}{w_i t_i v_{i0} c_i \beta_i})] - R}{\sum_i \frac{h_i}{\beta_i}}$$

$$r_i = -\frac{h_i}{\beta_i} [\ln(\lambda_c) + \ln(\frac{h_i}{w_i t_i c_{i0} v_i \beta_i})]$$

Having determined the response allocation, consequence for n_i can be calculated:

$$c_i = c_{i0} e^{-\beta_i (\frac{r_i}{h_i})}$$

Calculating Attack Allocation and Threat

Let:

e_i be the user-input prevention cost for n_i

a_i be the calculated prevention allocation for n_i

λ_t be the correction factor for threat calculations

A be the total attack budget. This is currently set to be the same amount as the prevention budget.

Then:

$$\ln(\lambda_t) = \frac{-\sum_i [\frac{e_i}{\gamma_i} \ln(\frac{e_i}{w_i v_i c_i \gamma_i})] - P}{\sum_i \frac{e_i}{\gamma_i}}$$

$$a_i = -\frac{e_i}{\gamma_i} [\ln(\lambda_t) + \ln(\frac{e_i}{w_i v_i c_i \gamma_i})]$$

Having determined the attack allocation, threat for n_i can be calculated:

$$t_i = 1 - e^{-\gamma_i (\frac{a_i}{e_i})}$$