How to Respond to a Category 1 Incident

Preparation Phase

Task. Respond to a Category 1 Incident.

Purpose. The organization must be able to respond to the risk introduced by Category 1 incidents, otherwise known as “root-level intrusions,” to protect the usability and defensibility of its enterprise.

Conditions.

- **Incident Response Team.** The organization is staffed with personnel who possess the knowledge, skills, attributes, processes, and technology required to perform in the following DoD Cybersecurity Workforce Framework (DCWF) Work Roles: Information Systems Security Manager (ISSM), Incident Responder, Infrastructure Support Specialist, System Administrator, and Network Administrator.
- **Stakeholders.** The organization is able to call and email the following stakeholders: Information Owner, Information System Owner, commander, and Tier III (Installation) Cyber Security Service Provider (CSSP).
- I**ncident Criteria.** The organization suspects the following activity has occurred: an Information System (IS) was accessed by a privileged account (e.g., domain administrator) without authorization and/or malicious software that provides remote, interactive control was installed.

Standard. The organization was able to contain the incident, determine the root cause, eradicate the threat/vulnerability, restore operations, implement lessons learned, and communicate with its stakeholders throughout each phase.

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Detection & Analysis Phase

Detection. The MITRE ATT&CK framework (https://attack.mitre.org/) describes techniques used by threat actors in cyberspace. It can also be used to find precursors and/or indicators of root-level intrusions. Monitor and hunt for the tactics below to detect Category 1 incidents.

- TA0001 - Initial Access
- TA0002 - Execution
- TA0004 - Privilege Escalation
- TA0006 - Credential Access
- TA0007 - Discovery

Analysis. Search for answers to the questions below to bridge the gap between what the organization thinks happened and what actually happened. If enough evidence suggests a Category 1 incident occurred, create a report and execute Containment procedures immediately. Otherwise, re-categorize the event as Category 8 “Investigating” or Category 9 “Explained Anomaly.”

- **Questions.**
  - What account was used to access the IS?
  - Does this account have administrator privileges?
  - Which ISs did the account access and at what time/day did they access these ISs?
  - Who had access to the account and were working during these time periods?
  - Did they have authorization to access the account and/or ISs during these time periods?
- **Reportable Details.**
  - Date-Time Groups (DTG) of when the incident started and was detected, contained, and resolved.
  - Primary Point-of-Contact (POC) and alternate POC for incident.
  - Category, summary, and root-cause of incident.
  - Hostname, IP address, MAC address, make/model, serial number of devices affected.
  - All actions taken (include the 5 Ws).

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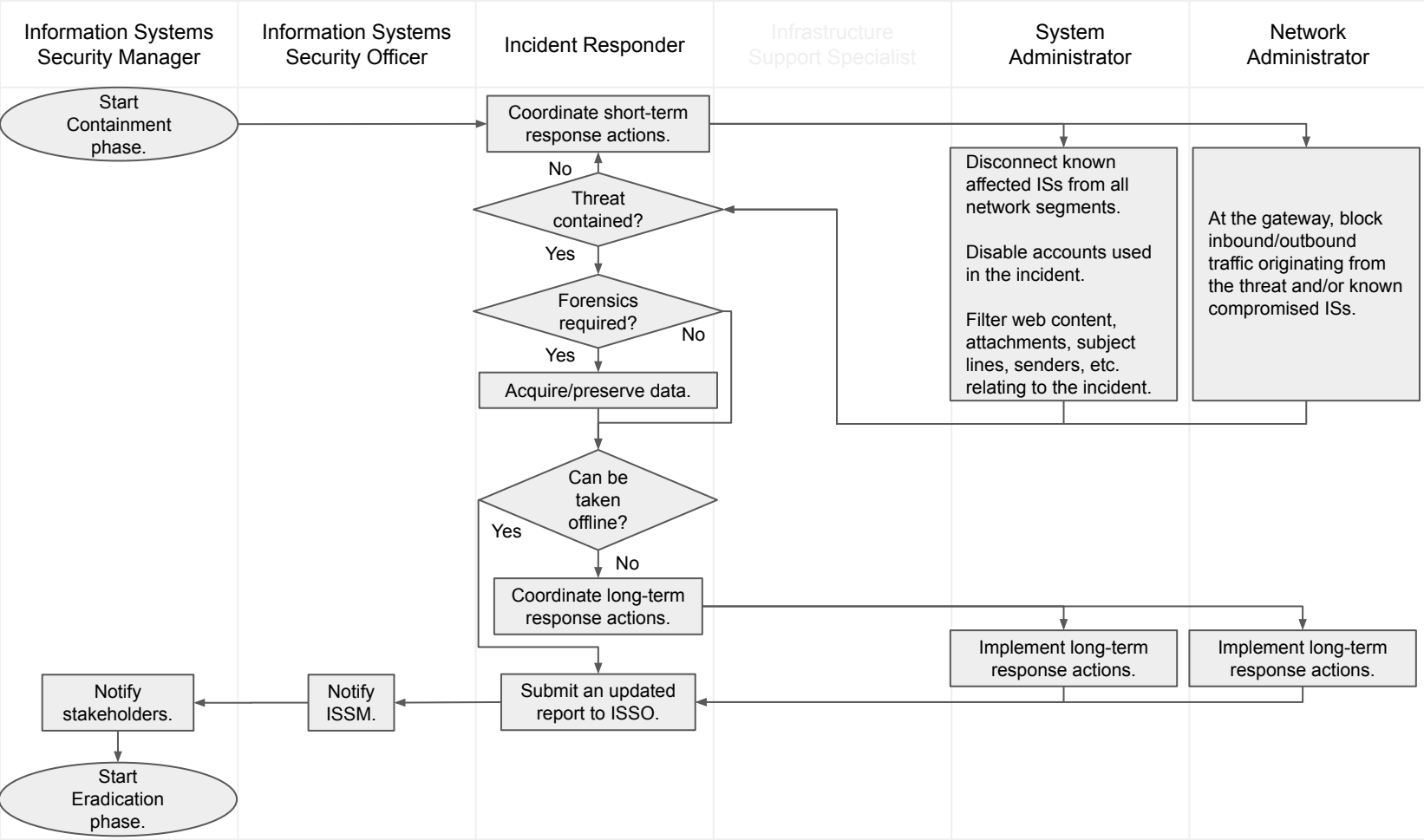
Containment Phase



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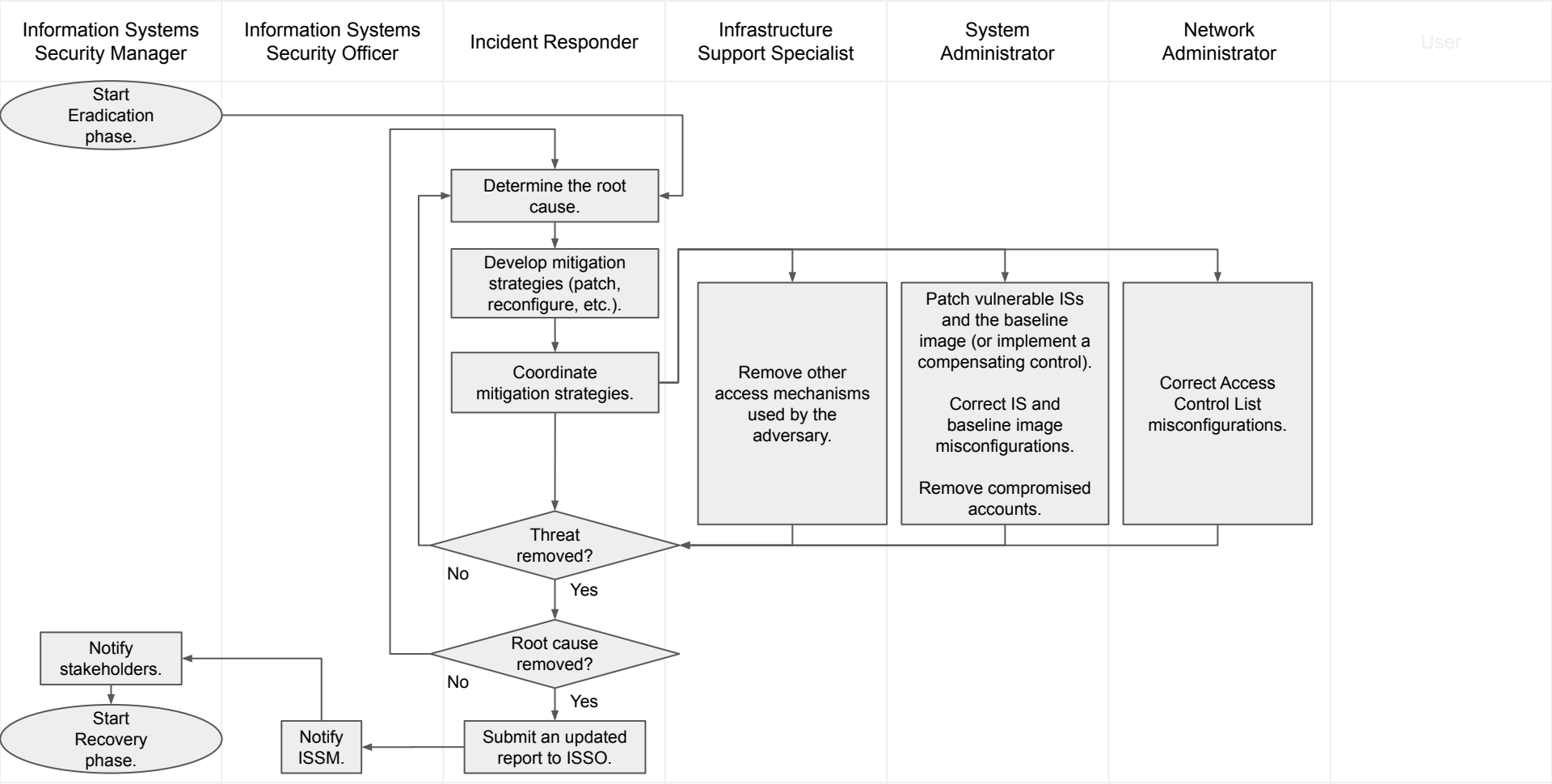
Eradication Phase



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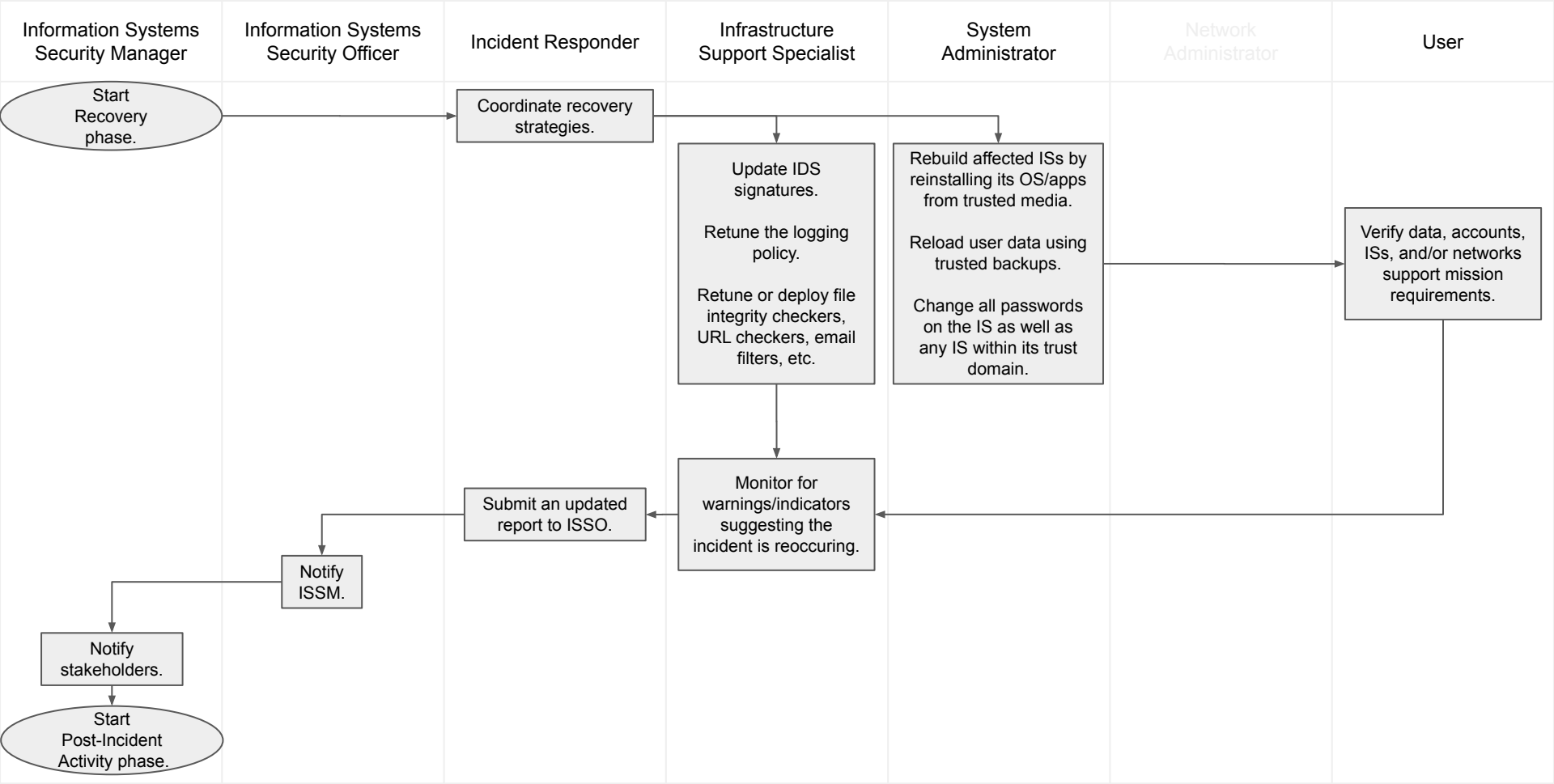
Recovery Phase



References
NIST SP 800-61
CJCSM 6510.01B
DA PAM 25-2-14
DA PAM 25-2-17

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Post-Incident Activity Phase