

Threat Strategy Matrix

Instances Where Use Is Recommended

Strategy

Avoid

When a change to the solution approach means scope will not be compromised, but the alternate solution eliminates a risk.

When a change to the solution approach reduces solution capability, but stakeholders accept that reduced capability because the risk to the project is reduced.

When a change to the solution approach reduces solution capability, and stakeholders accept the reduced capability temporarily to get a portion of the solution earlier. Diligent analysis should be performed to determine how to get full-solution capability via a future phase of the project, with acceptable risk. Often, hiring a specialist contractor is executed in this instance.

Escalate

When executing a risk response action is clearly beyond the authority of the project manager.

When executing a risk response may have significant political or cultural implications. The authority of a senior leader may be necessary to ensure the response is embraced appropriately.

When executing a risk response is a source of contention between senior leaders. The sponsor should be informed to make a decision on executing the response action and negotiating with the senior leaders who are in conflict.

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Strategy	Transfer	When an outside party, like an expert vendor, can perform the work to achieve better results.	When a risk can be more readily managed by an outside party, such as an insurance company.	When your organization is involved in a strategic partnership and that partner has specific responsibility for managing a product or service that is part of your project domain. The partner would also manage the risk.
	Mitigate	When a risk cannot be avoided and an acceptable action is possible that reduces the possibility of the risk happening.	When a risk cannot be avoided and an acceptable action is possible that reduces the impact on the project if the risk occurs.	When a risk cannot be avoided or transferred and the risk might have impacts that cannot be quantified; for example, diminishing the reputation of the company in the public eye.
	Accept	When the impact of a risk is low. Should the risk occur, the impacts could be dealt with easily at the time of occurrence.	When the probability of a risk occurring is low. The impact should be understood and the risk monitored. If the probability of the risk happening increases, another response action (such as mitigate) may be appropriate.	When there is no practical action that can be taken to increase the impact or probability of an opportunity occurring.