



IT Security Policy Framework

Mapping to the Seven Domains

Because security without documentation is just expensive paranoia 



The Seven Domains Overview

1. User Domain 

2. Workstation Domain 

3. LAN Domain 

4. LAN-to-WAN Domain 

5. WAN Domain 

6. Remote Access Domain 

7. System/Application Domain 



"I know all seven domains!"



Forgets which domain the printer belongs to



Domain 1: User Domain

Policy Framework Mapping

Key Policies:

- Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)
- Password Policy
- Security Awareness Training
- Incident Reporting



Case Study: Phishing Nightmare at MegaCorp

Employee clicked malicious email → Compromised credentials → \$2.4M data breach

Solution: Implemented mandatory phishing simulation training + strict email filtering policies



User: "My password is 'password123'"



IT Security: "That's not secure!"



User: "Fine, 'Password123!'"



IT Security: *internal screaming*



Domain 2: Workstation Domain

Policy Framework Mapping

Key Policies:

- Endpoint Security Policy
- Software Installation Policy
- Patch Management Policy
- Device Configuration Standards



Case Study: The USB Stick Disaster

Finance employee found USB in parking lot → Plugged into work computer →
Ransomware infected entire finance network

Solution: USB port blocking policy + employee education on social engineering



"Found this USB in the parking lot!"



Immediately plugs it in



RANSOMWARE DEPLOYED



"Why is everything encrypted?"



Domain 3: LAN Domain

Policy Framework Mapping

Key Policies:

- Network Segmentation Policy
- VLAN Management Policy
- Switch Configuration Standards
- Network Access Control (NAC)



Case Study: The Printer That Saw Everything

Unsecured network printer → Lateral movement → Access to financial systems

Solution: Network segmentation + IoT device isolation policies



Smart Printer: "I can scan, print, fax, AND spy on your network!"

🌐 Network Admin: "Wait, what was that last part?"

🖨️ Smart Printer: "...make copies?"

🤔 Network Admin: "Suspicious..."



Domain 4: LAN-to-WAN Domain

Policy Framework Mapping

Key Policies:

- Firewall Management Policy
- DMZ Configuration Policy
- Intrusion Detection/Prevention Policy
- Traffic Monitoring Policy



Case Study: The Misconfigured Firewall

"Any-Any-Allow" rule left active → Direct internet access to internal servers → SQL injection attack

Solution: Firewall rule review policy + change management procedures



Firewall: "SHALL NOT PASS!"



Hacker: "What about through port 80?"



Firewall: "Oh, that's fine, come on through!"



Network Admin: "I may have misconfigured something..."



Domain 5: WAN Domain

Policy Framework Mapping

Key Policies:

- Internet Usage Policy
- Cloud Service Provider Policy
- Bandwidth Management Policy
- Third-Party Connection Policy



Case Study: Shadow IT Strikes Back

Marketing team used unauthorized cloud storage → Sensitive data leaked via public sharing link

Solution: Cloud Access Security Broker (CASB) + approved cloud services policy



"Let's just use this free cloud service!"



Uploads entire customer database



Link accidentally shared publicly



"Company X leaks 50,000 customer records"



"Oops..."



Domain 6: Remote Access Domain

Policy Framework Mapping

Key Policies:

- VPN Access Policy
- Remote Work Policy
- Multi-Factor Authentication Policy
- Mobile Device Management (MDM)



Case Study: Coffee Shop Catastrophe

Executive used public Wi-Fi for VPN → Man-in-the-middle attack → Credentials compromised

Solution: Always-on VPN policy + public Wi-Fi usage restrictions

☕ Working from coffee shop...

📶 "FreeWiFi" looks legit!

🔓 No VPN needed, right?

💻 Hacker: "Thanks for the login credentials!"

😱 "Why is someone in Kazakhstan accessing our servers?"



Domain 7: System/Application Domain

Policy Framework Mapping

Key Policies:

- Application Security Policy
- Database Security Policy
- Server Hardening Standards
- Backup and Recovery Policy



Case Study: The Default Password Debacle

New application deployed with default admin credentials → Discovered by automated scanners → Complete system compromise

Solution: Secure deployment checklist + credential management policy

- 🔧 "Just deployed the new system!"
- 🔑 Password: admin/admin
- ☁️ "I'll change it later..."
- 🤖 *Bot scans internet*
- 💥 "System compromised in 3... 2... 1..."
- 😱 "Later never came..."



Policy Documentation Best Practices

Essential Documentation Components

- **Purpose & Scope** - Why does this policy exist?
- **Roles & Responsibilities** - Who does what?
- **Compliance Requirements** - Legal/regulatory obligations
- **Implementation Guidelines** - How to actually do it
- **Monitoring & Enforcement** - Consequences and auditing



Policy Document: 247 pages



Employee: "TL;DR version?"



IT: "Don't click suspicious links"



Employee: "Got it!"



Immediately clicks phishing email



Cross-Domain Policy Integration

The Domino Effect

- User clicks malicious link (**User Domain**)
- Workstation gets infected (**Workstation Domain**)
- Malware spreads through network (**LAN Domain**)
- Breaches firewall (**LAN-to-WAN Domain**)
- Exfiltrates data to internet (**WAN Domain**)
- Compromises VPN users (**Remote Access Domain**)
- Attacks critical applications (**System/Application Domain**)

- 🎯 "It's just one small security gap..."
- 💣 *Chain reaction begins*
- 💥 "EVERYTHING IS ON FIRE!"
- 🔥 "This is fine" dog meme energy



Real-World Implementation Stats

Policy Effectiveness Metrics

- **95%** reduction in security incidents with proper user training
- **80%** fewer breaches with network segmentation
- **67%** faster incident response with documented procedures
- **45%** cost reduction through standardized policies



Success Story: TechStart Inc.

Implemented comprehensive 7-domain policy framework → Zero major security incidents in 18 months → Achieved SOC 2 compliance → Won major enterprise contracts



Common Policy Pitfalls

The "Swiss Cheese" Model

- Policies with gaps = Multiple failure points
- No regular updates = Outdated protections
- Poor documentation = Confused implementation
- Lack of training = User non-compliance

🧀 Security Policy: "We have holes, but we're still cheese!"

🐭 Threat Actor: "Perfect, I love cheese!"

🧀 Security Policy: "Wait, that's not how this works..."

🐭 Threat Actor: *Already inside the network*



Implementation Roadmap

Phase 1: Foundation (Months 1-3)

- Document current state
- Identify critical gaps
- Develop core policies

Phase 2: Deployment (Months 4-6)

- Roll out policies by domain
- Conduct training sessions
- Implement monitoring

Phase 3: Optimization (Months 7-12)

- Regular reviews and updates
- Incident response testing
- Continuous improvement

🏆 Success Metrics & KPIs

What to Measure

- **Incident Response Time:** < 4 hours to containment
- **Policy Compliance Rate:** > 95% adherence
- **Training Completion:** 100% of users annually
- **Vulnerability Remediation:** < 30 days for critical issues



"Our security metrics are improving!"



Shows beautiful dashboard



Major breach happens next day



"Metrics don't lie, but timing does..."



Tools & Resources

Documentation Tools

- **Policy Templates:** NIST, ISO 27001 frameworks
- **Collaboration Platforms:** SharePoint, Confluence
- **Version Control:** Git for policy versioning
- **Training Platforms:** KnowBe4, SANS Security Awareness

Monitoring & Compliance

- **SIEM Solutions:** Splunk, QRadar, ELK Stack
- **Vulnerability Scanners:** Nessus, OpenVAS
- **Compliance Tools:** Rapid7, Qualys VMDR

Key Takeaways

1. **Holistic Approach:** All seven domains are interconnected
2. **Living Documents:** Policies must evolve with threats
3. **User Education:** Technical controls + human awareness
4. **Regular Testing:** Policies are only as good as their implementation
5. **Continuous Improvement:** Security is a journey, not a destination



"I've read all the security policies!"



Stack of 500+ pages



"I understand everything!"



Gets phished 5 minutes later



"Theory vs. Reality: The Eternal Struggle"



Questions & Discussion

Think About

- Which domain poses the biggest risk in your organization?
- How do you ensure policy compliance without being the "security police"?
- What's your experience with cross-domain security incidents?



"Any questions about IT security policies?"



"Yeah, can we just not have them?"



"That's... not how security works..."



"But they're so complicated!"



Breach statistics intensify



Additional Resources

Standards & Frameworks

- NIST Cybersecurity Framework
- ISO 27001/27002
- COBIT 2019
- SANS Critical Security Controls

Documentation Templates

- Policy template libraries
- Incident response playbooks
- Risk assessment matrices
- Compliance checklists

Remember: Good documentation today prevents tomorrow's "How did this happen?" meetings! 🎯