

HIGH RISK

MEDIUM RISK

LOW RISK



THREAT-ON-MER



PUBLIC CLOUD



**LAPTOP WITH
BROWSER**

Exploit unlikely or
running
untrusted code already
worst case

Exploit possible but
needs another
successful attack to run
attackers code

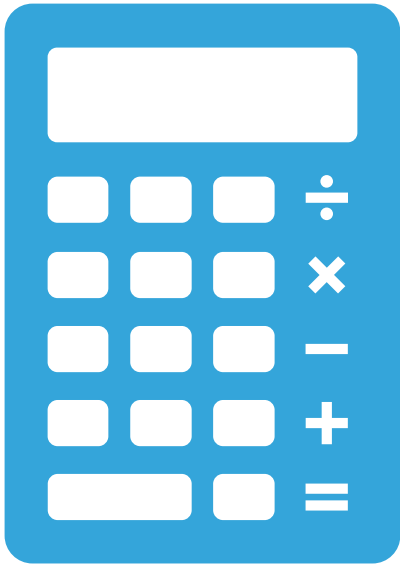
Exploit possible and
runs untrusted code "by
design"



PRIVATE CLOUD



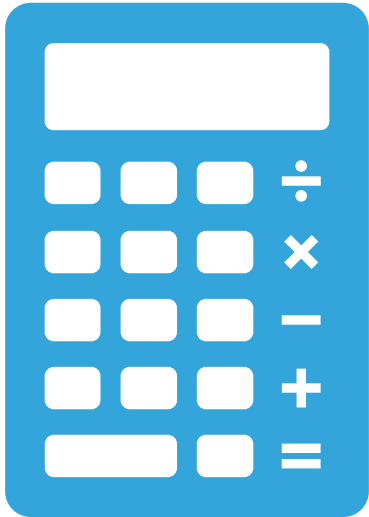
**DATABASE
SERVER**



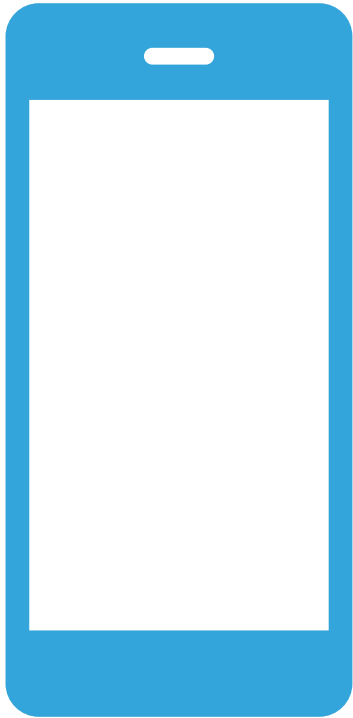
MAILSERVER



FIREWALL



**APPLICATION
SERVER**



MOBILE PHONE

Public clouds run code of many untrusted parties which makes them very vulnerable.

Databases are often protected from the internet and are accessed only by application servers.

Running untrusted code on a database is often already the worst case scenario. Patching against Meltdown/Spectre would only marginally increase security.

Mailserver are exposed to the internet but have been proven to be very robust to "remote code execution" attacks.

Also a code execution is already the worst case.

Arguably mail servers can be placed in "medium" due to their exposure to the internet.

Laptops/desktop
systems with browsers
are very vulnerable
because they execute
untrusted code in the
form of JavaScript from
websites.

Threat-Order

Mobile phones run apps
and websites (JavaScript).

Firewalls and switches (normally) do not expose an attackable surface to the external network.

This greatly reduces the likelihood of attacks.

A code execution is already the worst case.

VPN gateways expose a complex interface and are more likely to be attacked.

Application servers only
run trusted code but
attacks can lead to code
execution.

Private clouds run many different workloads but they are all trusted.

An attacker only needs to hack one application running in the cloud to run a Spectre attack.

Given the patches are risky w. regards to performance and availability.

What would be your patching strategy for each risk class?



PUBLIC CLOUD



**DATABASE
SERVER**



MAILSERVER



LAPTOP WITH
BROWSER



MOBILE PHONE



FIREWALL



APPLICATION
SERVER



PRIVATE CLOUD

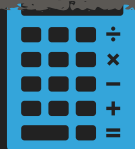
THREAT-0-METER

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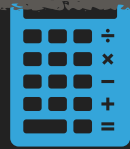
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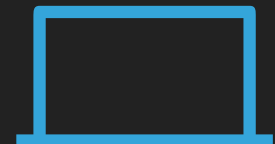
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ACCIDENT, MALICE,
INCOMPETENCE?

**WHY DID IT
HAPPEN?**