

Title : Risk Scoring Method for Cybersecurity Assessment

This document defines the scoring method used to assess cybersecurity risks for small businesses. The purpose of this scoring model is to measure the severity of risks, calculate their impact on business, and determine which risks need urgent action.

Section 1: Likelihood Scale

Score Likelihood Level Description

| | | |
|---|-------------|--|
| 1 | Rare | Unlikely to happen in the next 12 months |
| 2 | Possible | Might occur in the next 12 months |
| 3 | Likely | Expected to occur within 6 months |
| 4 | Very Likely | Expected to occur within 1 month |

Section 2 : Impact Scale

Score Impact Level Description

| | | |
|---|----------|---|
| 1 | Low | Minor interruption with no financial loss |
| 2 | Moderate | Short downtime & small financial loss |
| 3 | High | Major downtime or data loss affecting customers |
| 4 | Critical | Business unable to operate, legal or financial damage |

Section 3 : Risk Calculation Formula

□ **Raw Risk = Likelihood × Impact**

□ **Residual Risk = Raw Risk × (1 – Controls Effectiveness)**

- Residual Risk is the remaining risk after applying existing security controls.

Section 4 : Risk Level Categories

Score Range Risk Level

| | |
|-------|----------|
| 1–4 | Low |
| 5–8 | Medium |
| 9–12 | High |
| 13–16 | Critical |

Section 5 : Worked Examples

Example 1: Email Phishing Attack

- Likelihood = 4
- Impact = 3
- Raw Risk = $4 \times 3 = 12$
- Controls Effectiveness = 0.20

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Residual Risk} &= 12 \times (1 - 0.20) \\ &= 12 \times 0.80\end{aligned}$$

Show math:

$$12 \times 0.80 = (12 \times 8) \div 10 = 96 \div 10 = \mathbf{9.6}$$