



Threat Modeling Training

App Sec Training @ NÖ Landesregierung 2025-12-10
SBA Research

 Federal Ministry
Innovation, Mobility
and Infrastructure
Republic of Austria

 Federal Ministry
Economy, Energy
and Tourism
Republic of Austria

 **FFG**
Promoting Innovation.

 Vienna
business
agency |  For the
City of Vienna



 **FWF** Austrian
Science Fund

 **netidee**
FORDERUNGEN

whoami

- Andreas Boll
- IT Security Consultant at SBA Research
 - Penetration testing
 - Source code audits
 - SDLC
 - Threat Modeling



aboll@sba-research.org

Class “Rules”

- What happens in this course, stays in this course!
- Please Participate!
 - Ask questions
 - Share experiences & opinions

Introduction

Why Threat Modeling?

Privacy Fail

NETZPOLITIK

Datenschützer üben scharfe Kritik an österreichischen Plänen für den grünen Pass

Nutzung von E-Card würde massenhafte Datensammlungen und Stalking ermöglichen – Zentrales Abfragesystem erlaube Überwachung der Aktivitäten und sei potenziell EU-rechtswidrig

Andreas Proschofsky 7. Mai 2021, 09:13 564 Postings



Zentraler Ansatz als Problem

Und auch für eine weitere Problematik macht dies wenig Unterschied: Die Verwendung eines zentralen Servers zur Abfrage des Covid-Status eröffne die Möglichkeit, dass hier exakt mitprotokolliert werden könnte, wer wann und wo Einlass begehrt. Theoretisch wäre es also möglich, in einem gewissen Maß Bewegungsprofile über die Nutzer zu erstellen. Nun wollen die Datenschützer den Betreibern solche Absichten nicht gleich unterstellen, äußern aber Unverständnis darüber, wie man auf solche Ideen komme. Immerhin hätten in den vergangenen

<https://www.derstandard.at/story/2000126461757/datenschuetzer-ueben-scharfe-kritik-an-oesterreichischen-plaenen-fuer-den-gruenen>

“Shift Left”

“Weeks of coding can save you hours of planning”



Secure Design vs. Secure Coding

Secure Design	Secure Coding
Requires secure design knowledge & contextual knowledge	Requires security knowledge from every developer
Yields security requirements	Secure coding profits from secure design
Manual task	Can be (partially) automated

SDLC Maturity

Model | Design | Threat Assessment

The Threat Assessment (TA) practice focuses on identifying and understanding of project-level risks based on the functionality of the software being developed and characteristics of the runtime environment. From details about threats and likely attacks against each project, the organization as a whole operates more effectively through better decisions about prioritization of initiatives for security. Additionally, decisions for risk acceptance are more informed, therefore better aligned to the business.

By starting with simple threat models and building application risk profiles, an organization improves over time. Ultimately, a sophisticated organization would maintain this information in a way that is tightly coupled to the compensating factors and pass-through risks from external entities. This provides greater breadth of understanding for potential downstream impacts from security issues while keeping a close watch on the organization's current performance against known threats.

Maturity level	Stream A Application Risk Profile	Stream B Threat Modeling	
1	Best-effort identification of high-level threats to the organization and individual projects.	A basic assessment of the application risk is performed to understand likelihood and impact of an attack.	Perform best-effort, risk-based threat modeling using brainstorming and existing diagrams with simple threat checklists.
2	Standardization and enterprise-wide analysis of software-related threats within the organization.	Understand the risk for all applications in the organization by centralizing the risk profile inventory for stakeholders.	Standardize threat modeling training, processes, and tools to scale across the organization.
3	Proactive improvement of threat coverage throughout the organization.	Periodically review application risk profiles at regular intervals to ensure accuracy and reflect current state.	Continuously optimization and automation of your threat modeling methodology.

Goal

Get a deep understanding of the system you are building and how to protect it.

Have a dependable lack of surprise

Benefits

- Team has a shared view on security
- Prevent security design flaws & get concise security requirements
- Greatest risks are known & addressed
- Risk based approach to fixing problems
- Cheap way of fixing/preventing vulnerabilities
- Helps you get funding for implementing security controls
- Security documentation as a byproduct

Possible Problems

- Need (external) expertise
- Time consuming (a few hours per month, initial: ~1 week)
- Hard to reproduce across different teams
 - Different approaches
- Subpar tool support
- Model gets outdated

Tool support

- Microsoft Threat Modeling Tool
- OWASP Threat Dragon (Alpha)
- IRIUS Risk (expensive)
- Threagile, pytm (open source)
 - Semantic statements within the source code
 - Hard for beginners
- Whiteboard + Lists (ad-hoc)

Basic Steps

1. What are we building?
 - Diagram
2. What can go wrong?
 - Find threats
3. What can we do about it?
 - Quantify risk
 - Define mitigations
 - Accept residual risks

Real Life Threat Modeling

Defend your house/apartment

- Value of what you are protecting?
- Threat actors?
- Cost of security controls?

More:

<https://danielmiessler.com/blog/everyday-threat-modeling/>



Organization

Duration

- Initial session: a few days
- Regular updates: about 1-2 hours per session
(weekly, monthly)
 - Stay on time
- Prefer multiple short sessions over rare long ones

Duration

- Scope your sessions
 - Stick to your scoping!
 - Avoid to lose yourself in details
- Sessions can focus on many aspects
 - New features
 - More detailed explorations
 - Repeat past evaluations

Locally vs. Remote

Threat Modeling can be performed well both on-site and in a remote setting.

- On-site makes communication easier
- Use of remote communication tools can help speed up the “prettifying” part after the session for documentation purposes
- Getting the right people “in the room” might be easier in one of the scenarios
- Use of real vs. online whiteboards

Pitfalls

- Spending too much time
 - Loose yourself in details
 - Want to build the “perfect model”
 - Waste time on not relevant threat (“nation state”)
- Waiting too long to start
 - You don’t need to be perfect to start threat modeling
 - Use your first sessions as learning opportunity

Terminology

Vulnerability

A flaw or weakness in a system's design, implementation, or operation and management that could be exploited to violate the system's security policy.

RFC 2828: <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/rfc2828>

Threat

A potential for violation of security, which exists when there is a circumstance, capability, action, or event that could breach security and cause harm.

*That is, a threat is a **possible danger that might exploit a vulnerability**. A threat can be either "**intentional**" (i.e., intelligent; e.g., an individual cracker or a criminal organization) or "**accidental**" (e.g., the possibility of a computer malfunctioning, or the possibility of an "act of God" such as an earthquake, a fire, or a tornado).*

RFC 2828: <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/rfc2828>

Threat actor

An individual or a group posing a threat.

NIST Glossary: https://csrc.nist.gov/glossary/term/threat_actor

Sometimes also called a **threat agent**.

Threat modeling

A form of risk assessment that models aspects of the attack and defense sides of a logical entity, such as a piece of data, an application, a host, a system, or an environment.

NIST Glossary: https://csrc.nist.gov/glossary/term/threat_modeling

Risk

An expectation of loss expressed as the probability that a particular threat will exploit a particular vulnerability with a particular harmful result.

RFC 2828: <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/rfc2828>

Risk Assessment/Analysis

A process that systematically identifies valuable system resources and threats to those resources, quantifies loss exposures (i.e., loss potential) based on estimated frequencies and costs of occurrence, and (optionally) recommends how to allocate resources to countermeasures so as to minimize total exposure.

RFC 2828: <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/rfc2828>

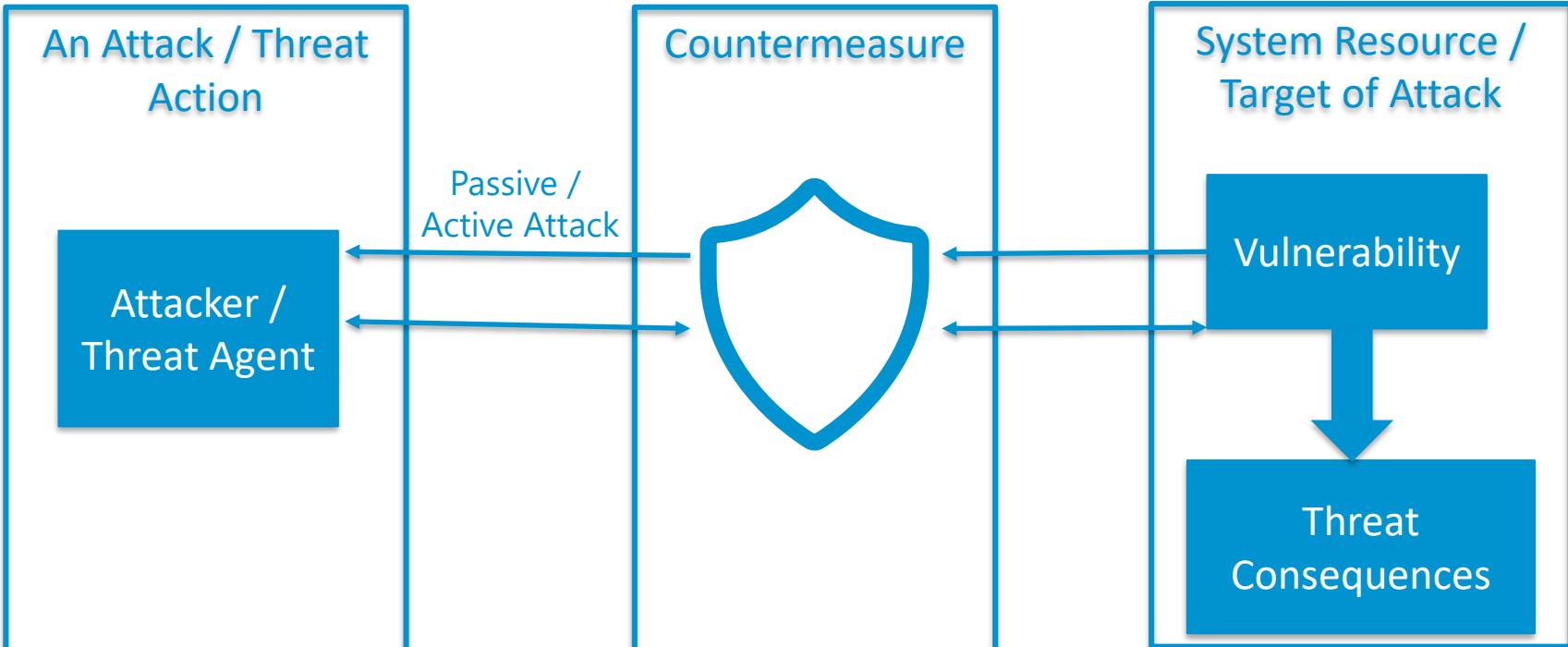
Controls & Mitigations

Controls are safeguards or countermeasures that you put in place in order to avoid, detect, counteract, or minimize potential threats against your information, systems, or other assets.

Mitigations are controls that are put in place to reduce either the likelihood or the impact of a threat, while not necessarily completely preventing it.

https://cheatsheetseries.owasp.org/cheatsheets/Threat_Modeling_Cheat_Sheet.html

Attack

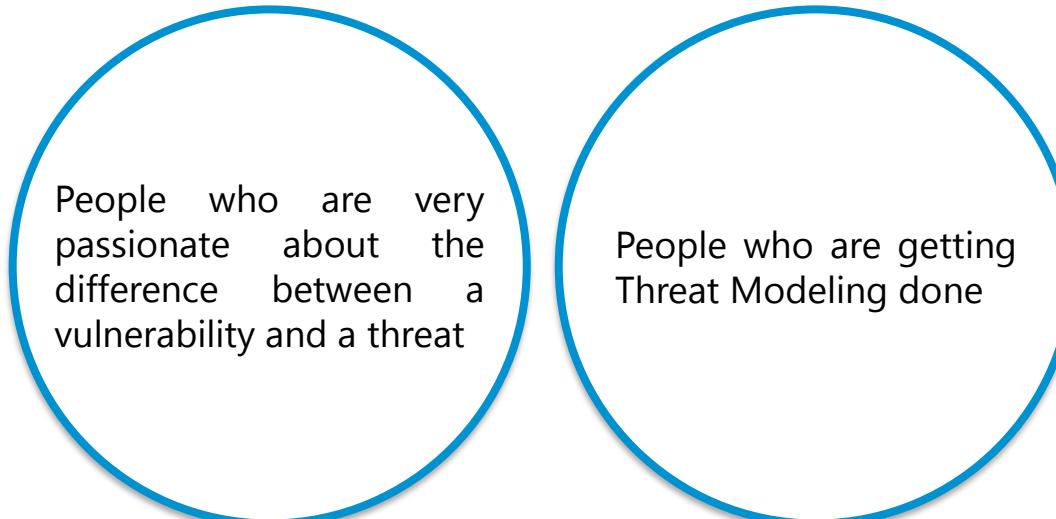


<https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/rfc2828>

Example

Vulnerability	Passwords stored in plain text form in database
Threat	A DB-admin (= <i>threat actor</i>) copies all passwords from the database and leaks them online
Risk	Customer loss due to bad press following the leak

Vagueness



People who are very passionate about the difference between a vulnerability and a threat

People who are getting Threat Modeling done

Step 1

What are we building?

Modeling your system

*All models are wrong, some
models are useful.*

-- George Box, FRS; quoted by
Adam Shostack



Photo from <https://adam.shostack.org>

Context

To make an effective model of an application, you first need to understand its context

- Applications have connections with other systems
- There is a technical context and a business context
- Who are the users?
- What are they doing with the application?
- What are the requirements & assumptions?

Assumptions & Requirements

- What are the requirements of the product?
 - Business objectives
 - Legal / Compliance
 - Standards
 - Internal
 - ...
- Under which assumptions do you operate?
 - How are things happening ("We use TLS everywhere")
 - What is not happening (ADMIN_NO_EVIL)
 - How is the product used
 - ...

Doomsday Scenarios

Define the 2-3 worst case scenarios for your product.



Meet MedicalTechLab2000

- MedicalTechLab2000 (MTL2K) is a company that operates laboratories which evaluates tests for multiple viruses.
- Testee register with their personal information (name, phone number, e-mail address, social security number, address, birthday).
- A test kit is registered with a web application when the test is performed and picked up by a bike-courier.
- After the tests are processed, a download link for the report is sent via e-mail.

Doomsday Scenarios

What are the doomsday scenarios
for MedicalTechLab2000?

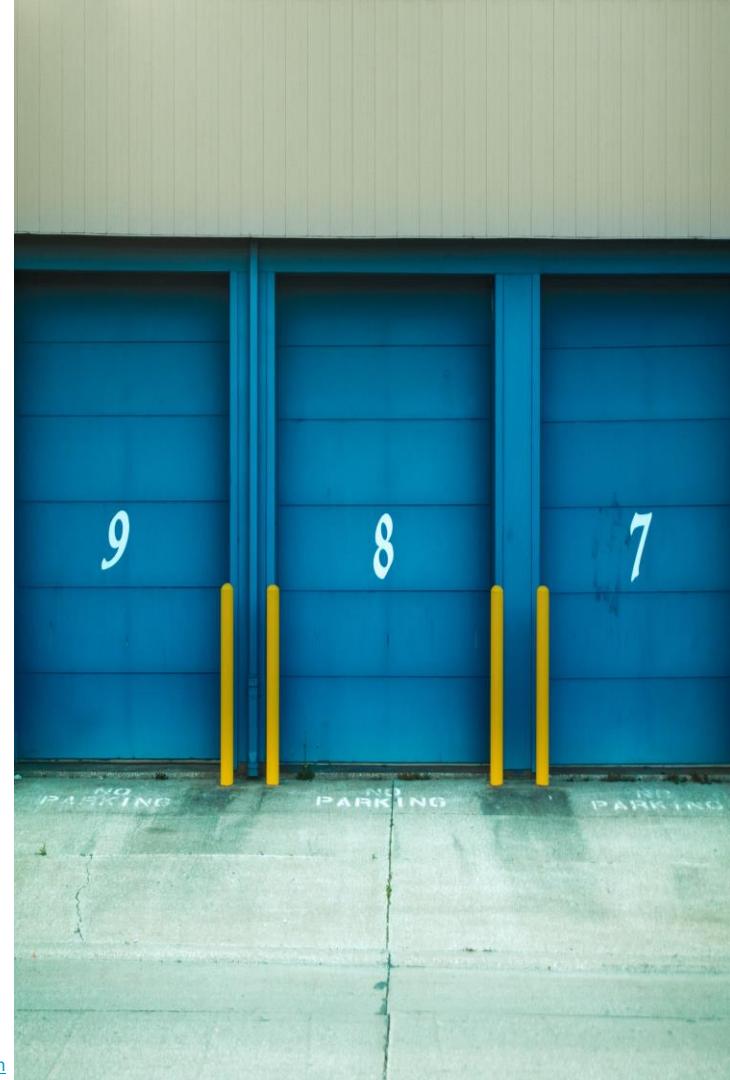
Discuss it in groups and present
your solutions.



Assets

Good start is to compile a list of *assets*:

- Things attacker want
- Things you want protected
- Mark the particularly valuable (PII, credentials, ...)



Dataflow Diagram

- Diagram of the system
- Shows where data is
 - Stored
 - Used
 - Transferred

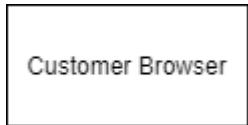


Diagram Levels

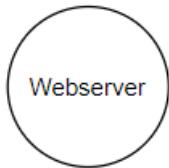
- Context diagram (L0)
 - Whole system
- High level diagram (L1)
 - Either whole system or single features
- Detailed diagrams (L2)
 - Low Level
 - Detailed components of single feature



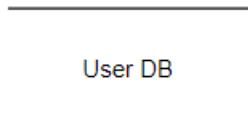
Diagram Elements



External entity



Process



Datastore



Trust boundary



Data flow

Trust Boundary

A location in the diagram, where data changes its level of trust or ownership.

Defined by a *policy* (what is allowed) and *controls* (how is the policy enforced).

Can be strong or weak.

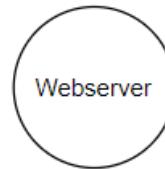
- Calling a 3rd party API
- Reading user input
- Webserver reading from a database



Process

A *Process* **uses** data.

At least one incoming and one outgoing dataflow



Data Store

A *Data Store* **stores** data.

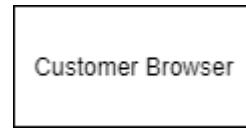
At least one incoming and one outgoing dataflow



External Entities

Not controlled by the application or system.

Must be connected to some process



Diagram

- Living objects; update when system changes
- Label everything (number, ID or name)
 - Can be referenced in other parts of the model (threat list)
- Better to make multiple small than one huge diagram
- Auxiliary diagrams can help you (business flows, sequence diagrams, architecture, ...)

Diagram

- Use a whiteboard for collaborative work
 - Actual whiteboard
 - Digital whiteboard e.g., <https://excalidraw.com>
- Make a „pretty version“ in a diagram tool of your choice after you are finished
 - e.g., <https://diagrams.net> (a.k.a. *draw.io*)

Diagram Example

Simple Webshop: Level 0

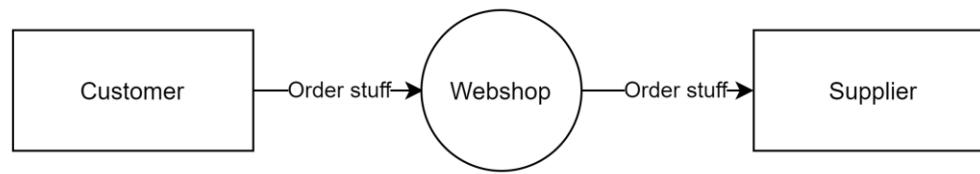


Diagram Example

Simple Webshop: Level 1

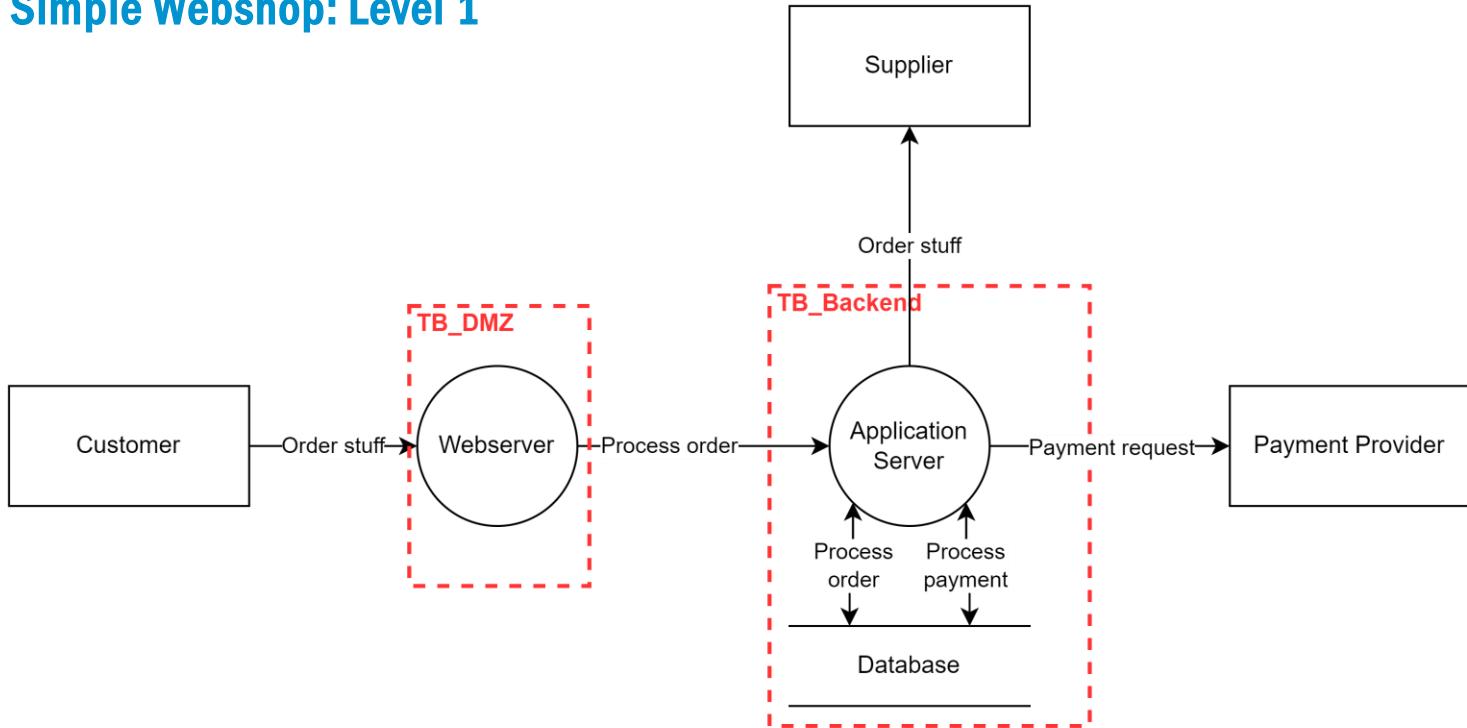
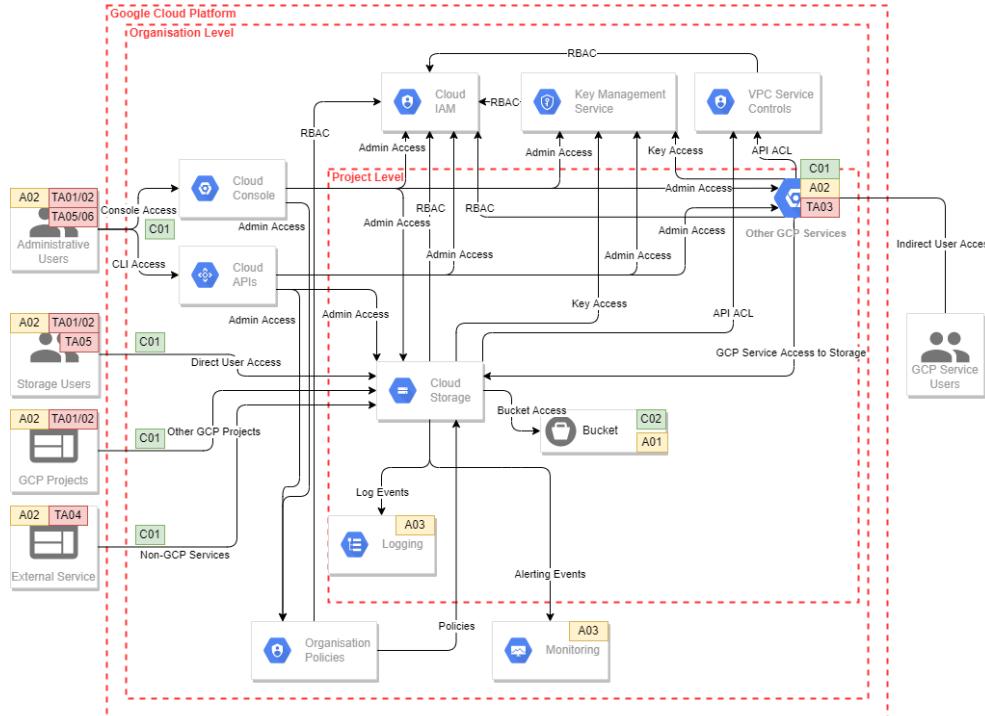


Diagram Example



Assets	
ID	Description
A01	Bucket object data
A02	Authentication tokens
A03	Log Data

Threat Actors	
ID	Description
TA01	Internal attacker
TA02	Internal malicious user
TA03	Compromised internal service
TA04	Compromised external service
TA05	External attacker over the Internet
TA06	Google Engineers

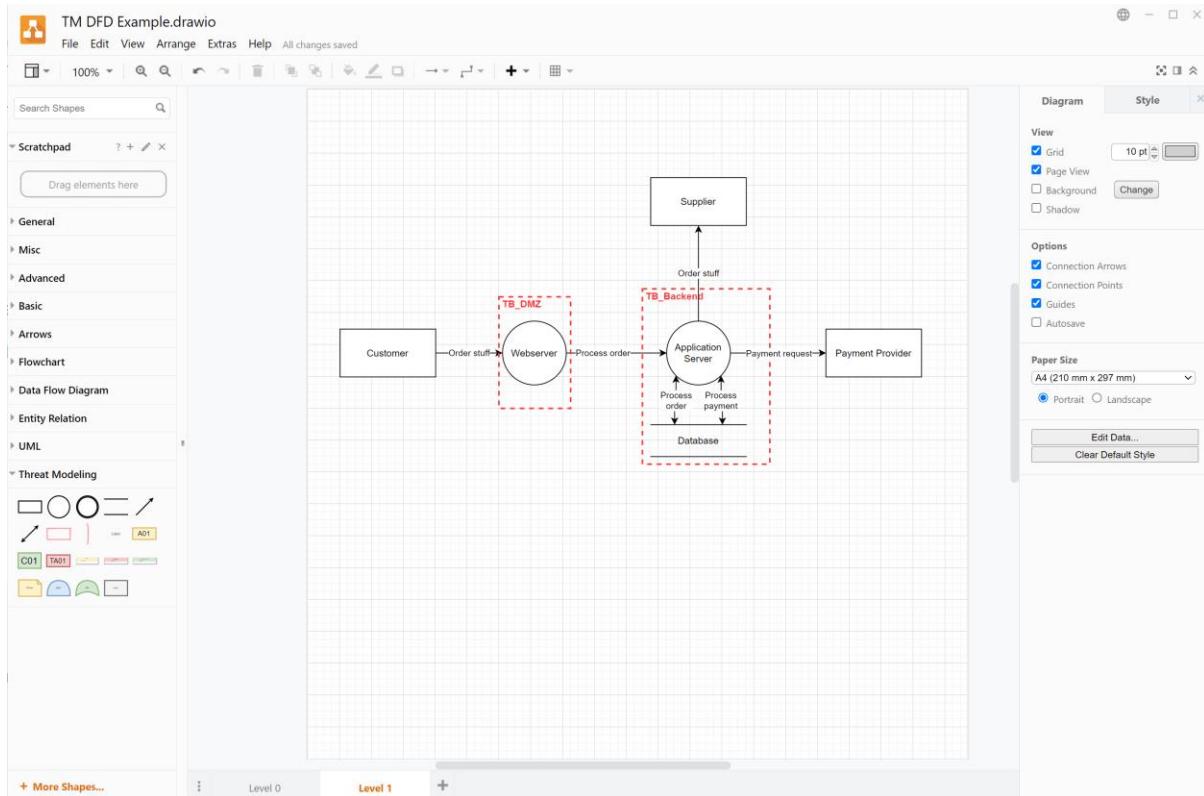
Default Base Security Controls	
ID	Description
C01	HTTPS transport layer encryption
C02	Data-at-rest encryption

Source: <https://research.nccgroup.com/2023/01/31/threat-modelling-cloud-platform-services-by-example-google-cloud-storage/>

Tool

Diagrams.net a.k.a. draw.io

<https://app.diagrams.net/>



Create model

Create a model (level 0 and level 1) for MedicalTechLab2000.

Draw a DFD in groups and present your solutions.

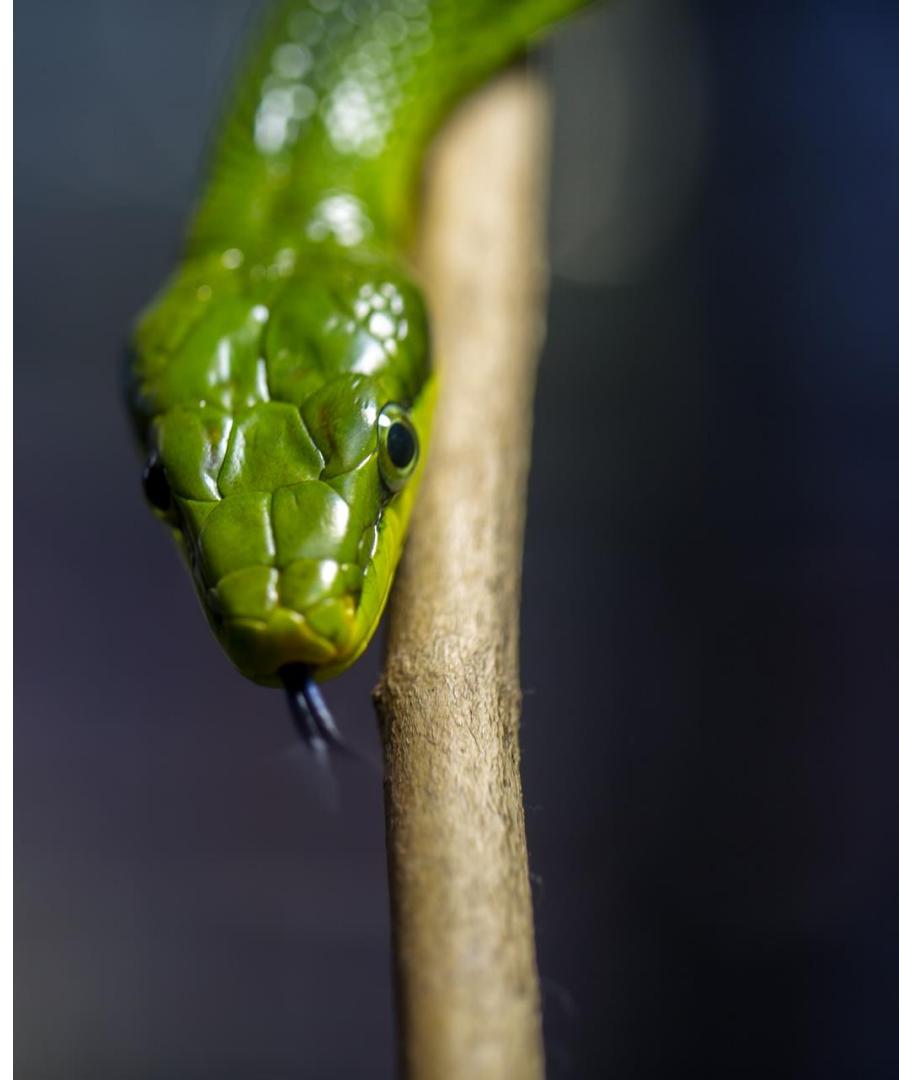


Step 2

What can go wrong?

Identify Threats

- Finding threats by analyzing the diagram
- Threats can be
 - On a component (process, entity, datastore)
 - Where a dataflow crosses a trust boundary
- Use STRIDE to find threats



STRIDE

- Model to help you identify threats
- Developed at Microsoft in 1999
- Mnemonic of its 6 threat types

STRIDE

Spoofing

Tampering with data

Repudiation

Information disclosure

Denial of service

Elevation of privileges

STRIDE

Spoofing

- Performing an action while pretending to be someone else
- Defeats *Authentication*
 - Also reduces *Accountability*
- Missing or weak authentication
- Account takeover
- Bad session management

STRIDE

Tampering

- Altering data that you are not allowed to change
- Defeats *Integrity*
- Injection attacks
- Cross-Site-Scripting (XSS)
- Cross-Site-Request-Forgery (CSRF)

STRIDE

Repudiation

- Successfully denying having performed an action
 - Defeats *Non-Repudiation*
-
- Insufficient logging
 - Logs can be tampered with
 - Missing access control
- 
- For a privacy relevant part of your application, this might actually be desired and not a threat!

STRIDE

Information Disclosure

- Retrieving data not intended for one
- Defeats *Confidentiality*
- Missing access control
- Missing encryption
- Sensitive data in logs or backups

STRIDE

Denial-of-Service

- Prevent access to a service by legitimate users
- Defeats *Availability*
- Missing DDoS protection
- Bad account lockout policy
- Ransomware attack

STRIDE

Elevation of Privileges

- I can get access to a system with higher privileges than intended
- Defeats *Authorization*
- RCE on webserver
- Server-Side-Request-Forgery (SSRF) to internal network
- Broken access control

STRIDE

Spoofing

Authentication

Tampering with data

Integrity

Repudiation

Non-Repudiation

Information disclosure

Confidentiality

Denial of service

Availability

Elevation of privileges

Authorization

STRIDE cards

Double sided printable cards to help you with the STRIDE elements



REPUDIATION OF ACTION

How hard is it for users to deny performing an action? What evidence does the system collect to help you to otherwise? Non-repudiation refers to the ability of a system to ensure people are accountable for their actions.

An example of repudiation of action is where a user deleted some sensitive information and the system lacks the ability to trace the malicious operations.

DENIAL OF SERVICE

Can someone break a system so valid users are unable to use it? Denial of service attacks work by flooding, wiping or otherwise breaking a particular service or system.

An example of denial of service is where a Web server has been made temporarily unavailable or unusable with a flood of traffic generated by a botnet.

KEY CONCEPTS:

- Non-Repudiation
- Audit
- Logging
- Signing



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

How hard is it for an attacker to view information they are not supposed to? Information disclosure threats involve the release of information to unauthorised individuals.

The most common type of information disclosure is when a user views information they were not granted access to, or the user can read data in transit between two computers.



SPOOFED IDENTITY

How hard is it for an attacker to pretend to be someone with authority to use the system?

Can someone spoof an identity and then abuse its authority? Spoofing identity allows attackers to do things they are not supposed to do.

An example of identity spoofing is an attacker illegally accessing and then using another user's authentication information, such as username and password.

ONCEPTS:

- Identity
- Leakage
- Man in the middle

PTS:



INJECTION OF PRIVILEGE

How hard is it for a user to gain more access to the system than they are entitled to? Elevation of privilege attacks are possible when boundaries are missing or inadequate.

Elevation of privilege is where a user can do things they are not entitled to do, such as reading sensitive records that are not meant for them to see.



TAMPERING WITH INPUT

How hard is it for an attacker to modify the data they submit to your system? Can they break a trust boundary and modify the code which runs as part of your system? Tampering with input can allow attackers to do things they are not supposed to do.

An example of tampering with input is when an attacker submits a SQL injection attack via a web application and uses that action to delete all the data in a database table.

KEY CONCEPTS:

- Availability
- Botnets
- Content delivery network
- DDoS

- Identity
- Authentication

- Integrity
- Validation
- Blacklisting
- Injection
- Whitelisting



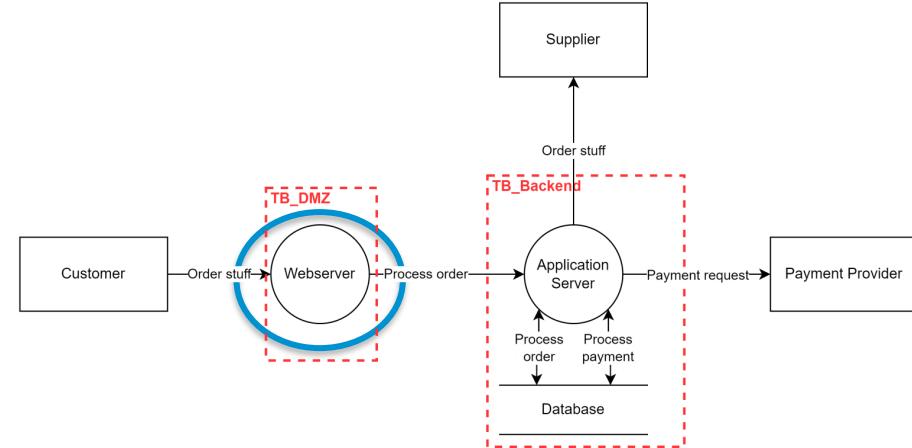
Finding Threats

Look for threats at the elements of your diagram

1. Data flows crossing a trust boundary
2. Other data flows
3. Processes
4. Data storage
5. (External entities)

Sample Threats

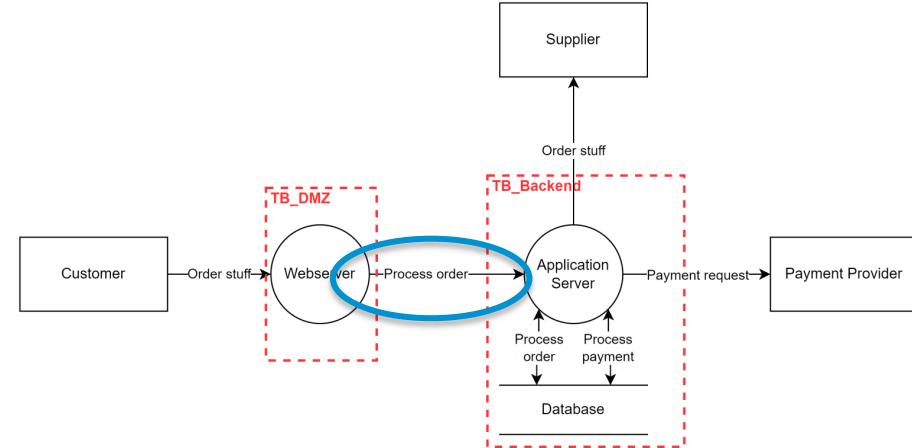
Spoofing



Title	STRIDE	Description
Account takeover	S	Password-reset functionality allows an account takeover via security question

Sample Threats

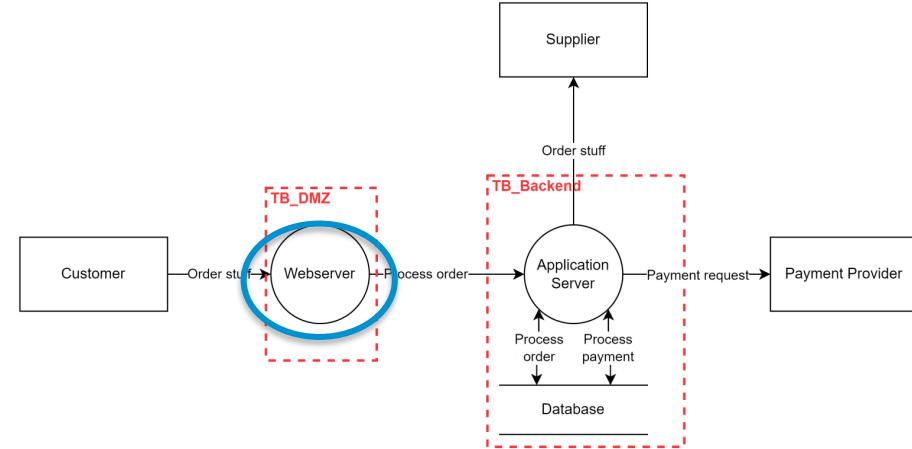
Tampering



Title	STRIDE	Description
MitM	TI	Data gets altered on an unencrypted network connection

Sample Threats

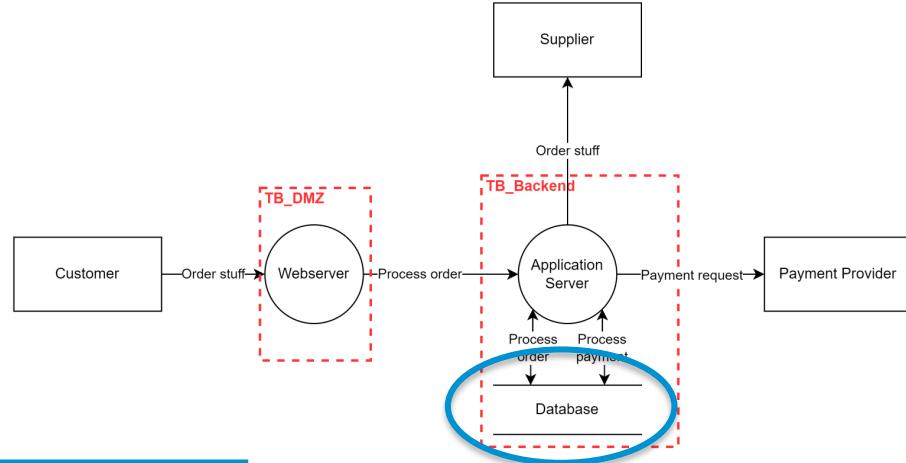
Repudiation



Title	STRIDE	Description
Insufficient Logging	R	Frontend logging is very limited, attacks can go unnoticed

Sample Threats

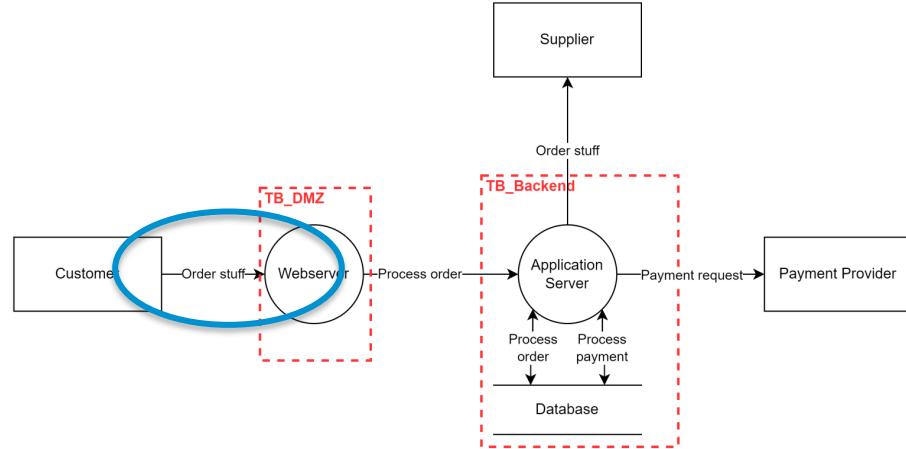
Information Disclosure



Title	STRIDE	Description
Bad DB credentials	I	Simple DB password is known throughout the company

Sample Threats

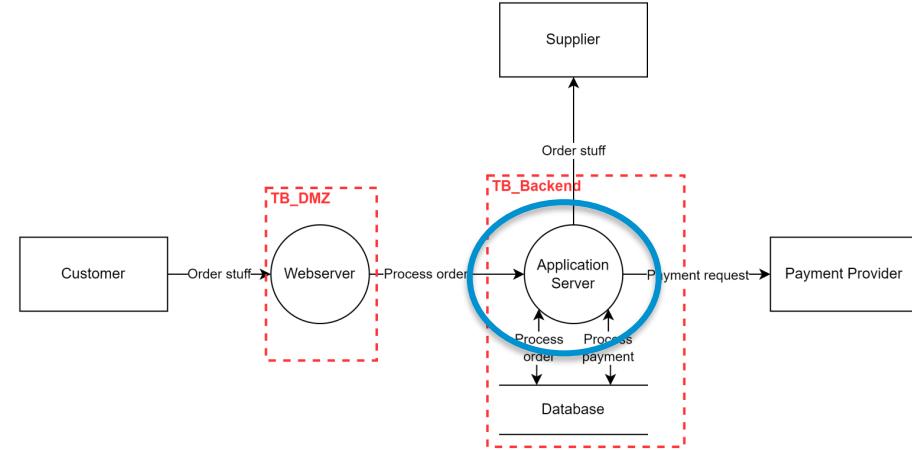
Denial-of-Service



Title	STRIDE	Description
Lockout	D	Brute-forcing the login causes a user-lockout

Sample Threats

Elevation of Privileges



Title	STRIDE	Description
Broken AuthZ	E	Missing function level access control allows usage of administrative functions

STRIDE-per-Element

Useful method for identifying the most common threats.

	S	T	R	I	D	E
Data Flow						
Process						
Data Store						
External Entity						

Threat actors

- Define attackers and their capabilities & motivations
 - Internal attacker (employee)
 - Passive network observer
 - ...
- Must not lead to ignoring threats not falling into one of those buckets

Threat actors

Map threat actors to the threats you have identified.

	TA1 (Network operator)	TA2 (Normal user)	TA3 (Evil admin)	TA4 (Employee)
T1 (MitM)				
T2 (Brute force login)				
T3 (DB credentials)				
T4 (Abuse payment service)				

Threat Types

- Generic threats vs. specific threats
 - “MitM attack on unencrypted network connection”
 - “Excessive customer data sent to payment provider”
- Combination of multiple threats/vulnerabilities may yield larger, systemic threats
- Accidental vs. Tradeoff vs. Inherent threats
 - [Adam Shostack: Inherent Threats – Clarifying a property of threats](#)

Threat Documentation

- Focus on most prevalent scenarios/areas.
- Be specific: not “data gets dumped”, no catch-all (“system compromised”)
 - Think about mitigations
 - (Think about risk rating)
- Don’t forget the threat actors
 - Result: table of threat actors
- Duplicate threats with different threat actors are possible

Threat Documentation

threat-composer

The screenshot shows the 'threat-composer' GitHub page. At the top, there's a dark header bar with the title 'threat-composer'. Below it is a blue banner with a message: 'This GitHub Page is provided for demonstration purposes only. Refer to [threat-composer GitHub Repo](#) for self-hosting deployment instructions.' On the right side of the banner is a close button ('X'). Below the banner are three buttons: 'Threat list', 'Start over', and 'Add to list'. The main area has a light gray background. It features a section titled 'Let's write a threat statement!' with a help icon. Below this, a sub-instruction says 'Start by clicking ANY field you like and work from there...'. A text input field contains a sentence: 'A [threat source] [prerequisites] can [threat action], which leads to [threat impact], + negatively impacting [impacted assets]'. To the right of this input field are two buttons: 'Give me a random example' and a three-dot menu icon.

Let's write a threat statement!

[Give me a random example](#)

Start by clicking ANY field you like and work from there...

An [external threat actor] with a network path to the database can [read other user's documents], which leads to [a compliance violation], resulting in reduced [confidentiality] of [invoices]

Threat Documentation

ID	Title	STRIDE	Threat Actor	Location	Description
T1	Account takeover	S	Internet user	P1	Password-reset functionality allows an account takeover via security question
T2	MitM	TI	Internal network member	DF1	Data gets altered on an unencrypted network connection
T3	Bad DB credentials	I	Employee	DS1	Simple DB password is known throughout the company

Find Threats

Find relevant threats for your model of MedicalTechLab2000.

Discuss it in groups and present your solutions.

ID	Title	Location	STRIDE	Threat Actor	Description
T52	Broken AuthZ	P1	E	Registered User	Missing function level access control allows usage of administrative functions



Step 3

What can we do about it?

Risk

- Every threat adds a *Risk* to the system
- *Risk* is a quantification of a threat which helps you prioritize them
- Risk = Likelihood * Impact
 - Technical Impact
 - Business Impact

Mitigations / Controls

Ways to address your threats or at least parts of them.

Storage

Every device and field gateway has some form of storage (temporary for queuing the data, operating system (OS) image storage).

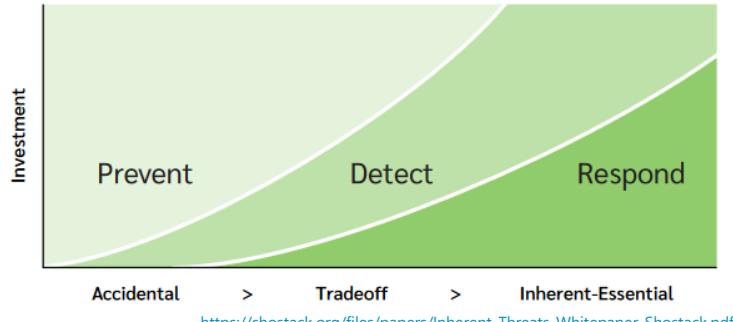
Component	Threat	Mitigation	Risk	Implementation
Device storage	TRID	Storage encryption, signing the logs	Reading data from the storage (PII data), tampering with telemetry data. Tampering with queued or cached command control data. Tampering with configuration or firmware update packages while cached or queued locally can lead to OS and/or system components being compromised	Encryption, message authentication code (MAC), or digital signature. Where possible, strong access control through resource access control lists (ACLs) or permissions.
Device OS image	TRID		Tampering with OS /replacing the OS components	Read-only OS partition, signed OS image, Encryption

Types of Controls

- Preventive
 - Security door
 - TLS for network connection
- Detective
 - Motion sensors
 - Monitoring / Incident detection
- Corrective
 - Fire extinguisher
 - Isolate threat actor, patch vulnerability

Mitigations / Controls

- Try to remove a threat
- More likely: Reduce its risk
 - Reduce either the likelihood or the impact of a threat
- Different control types, depending on the threat type



<https://shostack.org/files/papers/Inherent-Threats-Whitepaper-Shostack.pdf>

Threat Documentation

Mitigations

ID	Title	S T R I D E	Threat Actor	Loc.	Description	Existing Mitigations	Suggested Mitigations
T1	Account takeover	S	Internet user	P1	Password-reset functionality allows an account takeover via security question	None	Do not use security questions Rate Limiting per IP and user
T2	MitM	TI	Internal network member	DF1	Data gets altered on an unencrypted network connection	Switch prevents ARP spoofing	Use TLS
T3	Bad DB credentials	I	Employee	DS1	Simple DB password is known throughout the company	DB logins are logged	Use high entropy password, rotate regularly

Security Requirements

Derive requirements from your mitigations:

- Password reset must only be done via a reset link sent to a known e-mail address
- Every IP address must no request more than 1 password reset every 15 minutes
- The network connections between frontend and backend must use TLS
- All passwords for internal services must be at least 12 characters long
- All service account passwords for internal services must be at least 25 characters long
- All shared passwords must be rotated every 3 months

Process



Risk management

1. Identify threats
2. Calculate risks for all threats
- 3. Treat risks**
4. Implement mitigations
5. Calculate residual risk
6. Go back to 3.

What happens with a risk?

You can do either of the following things with a risk:

- Avoid
- Reduce/Address
- Transfer
- Accept
- ~~Ignore~~

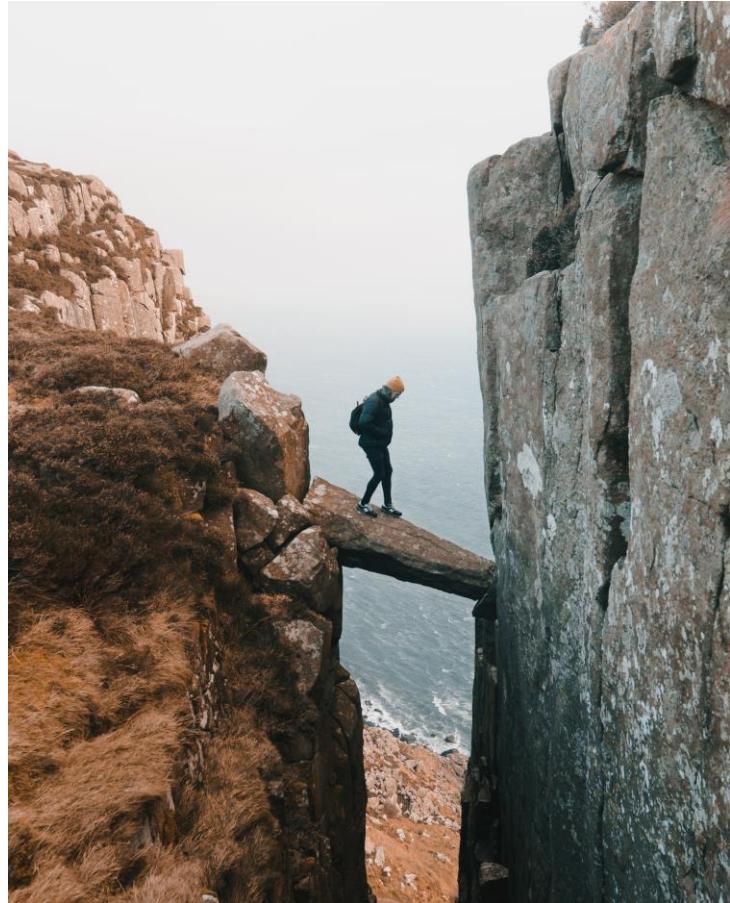


Photo by [Michael Shannon](#) on [Unsplash](#)

What to fix

- Prioritize what to fix first
 - Severe risks should usually be fixed first as it does barely improve the overall risk profile fixing low rated issues.
 - Not all risks are worth fixing as the investment to fix them would be too high.
 - *Cost-to-Fix* is also important

Prioritization

You will need to find a way to rank your threats, to find out which ones to deal with first

1. Voting
2. Quantify risk (Critical – High – Medium – Low – Info)
 1. Ad-Hoc
 2. Sophisticated

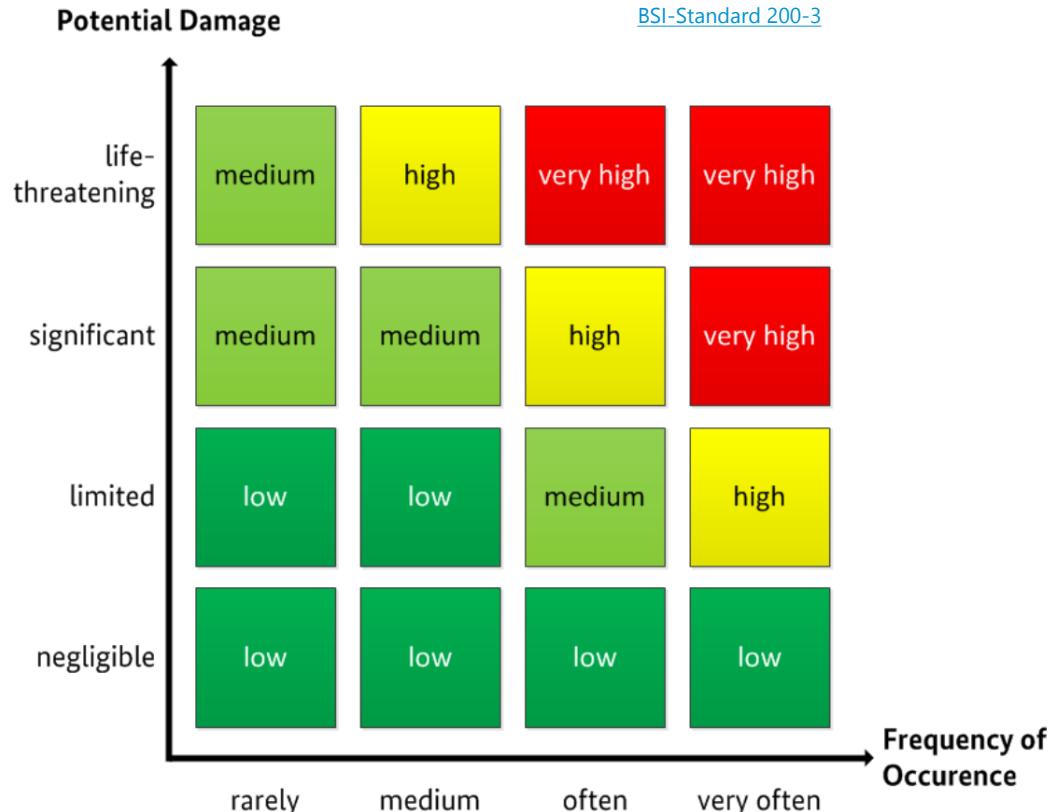
Risk calculation

3x3 Risk Matrix

Overall Risk Severity				
Impact	HIGH	Medium	High	Critical
	MEDIUM	Low	Medium	High
	LOW	Note	Low	Medium
		LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
		Likelihood		

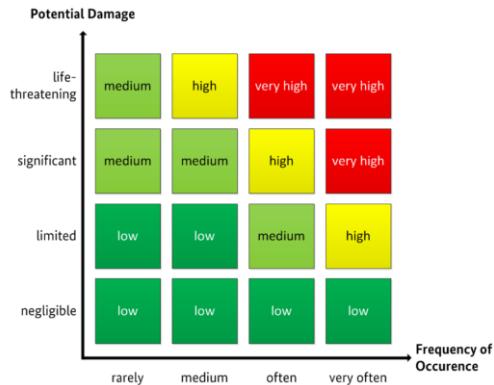
Risk calculation

4x4 Risk Matrix (e.g. BSI-Standard 200-3)



Risk calculation

BSI-Standard 200-3



[BSI-Standard 200-3](#)

SBA Research

Frequency	Description
Rarely	According to present knowledge, the event could occur every 5 years at the most
Medium	The event occurs once every 5 years to once a year
Often	The event occurs once a year to once a month
Very Often	The event occurs several times a month
Damage	Description
Negligible	The effects of damage are low and can be neglected
Limited	The effects of the damage are limited and manageable
Significant	The effects of damage can be considerable
Life Threatening	The effects of the damage can reach a catastrophic level that threatens the existence of the organisation

Identify Top Threats

Identify the most relevant threats (~5) for your model of MedicalTechLab2000.

Discuss it in groups and present your solutions.



Risk calculation

OWASP Risk Rating Methodology

Slightly more complex way of quantifying a risk.

The methodology consists of 6 steps:

1. Identifying a Risk
2. Factors for Estimating Likelihood
3. Factors for Estimating Impact
4. Determining Severity of the Risk
5. Deciding What to Fix
6. Customizing Your Risk Rating Model

Estimating Likelihood

Threat Agent Factors

Skill level

Security penetration skills (1)

network and programming skills (3)

advanced computer user (5)

some technical skills (6)

no technical skills (9)

Motive

Low or no reward (1)

possible reward (4)

high reward (9)

Opportunity

Full access or expensive resources required (0)

special access or resources required (4)

some access or resources required (7)

no access or resources required (9)

Size

Developers (2)

system administrators (2)

intranet users (4)

partners (5)

authenticated users (6)

anonymous Internet users (9)

Estimating Likelihood

Vulnerability Factors

Ease of discovery

Practically impossible (1)

difficult (3)

easy (7)

automated tools available (9)

Ease of exploit

Theoretical (1)

difficult (3)

easy (5)

automated tools available (9)

Awareness

Unknown (1)

hidden (4)

obvious (6)

public knowledge (9)

Intrusion detection

Active detection in application (1)

logged and reviewed (3)

logged without review (8)

not logged (9)

Estimating Impact

Technical Impact Factors

Loss of confidentiality

non-sensitive data disclosed (2)

minimal critical data disclosed (6)

extensive non-sensitive data disclosed (6)

extensive critical data disclosed (7)

all data disclosed (9)

Loss of integrity

Minimal slightly corrupt data (1)

minimal seriously corrupt data (3)

extensive slightly corrupt data (5)

extensive seriously corrupt data (7)

all data totally corrupt (9)

Loss of availability

Minimal secondary services interrupted (1)

minimal primary services interrupted (5)

extensive secondary services interrupted (5)

extensive primary services interrupted (7)

all services completely lost (9)

Loss of accountability

Fully traceable (1)

possibly traceable (7)

completely anonymous (9)

Estimating Impact

Business Impact Factors

Financial damage

Less than the cost to fix the vulnerability (1)

minor effect on annual profit (3)

significant effect on annual profit (7)

bankruptcy (9)

Reputation damage

Minimal damage (1)

Loss of major accounts (4)

loss of goodwill (5)

brand damage (9)

Non-compliance

Minor violation (2)

clear violation (5)

high profile violation (7)

Privacy violation

One individual (3)

hundreds of people (5)

thousands of people (7)

millions of people (9)

Determining Severity

- Calculate mean value of all ratings (likelihood & impact)
 - 0–3 LOW
 - 3–6 MEDIUM
 - 6–9 HIGH
- Derive overall severity

Overall Risk Severity				
Impact	HIGH	Medium	High	Critical
	MEDIUM	Low	Medium	High
	LOW	Note	Low	Medium
		LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Likelihood				

Toolbox

Likelihood									
Threat agent factors				Vulnerability factors					
Skill level	Motive	Opportunity	Size		Ease of discovery	Ease of exploit	Awareness	Intrusion detection	
4 - Advanced computer user	1 - Low or no reward	4 - Special access or resources required	5 - Partners		3 - Difficult	5 - Easy	4 - Hidden	3 - Logged and reviewed	
				2 - Developers, system administrators	3,625	MEDIUM			
Technical Impact			5 - Partners 6 - Authenticated users 7 - 8 - 9 - Anonymous Internet	Business Impact					
Loss of confidentiality	Loss of integrity	Loss of availability		Financial damage	Reputation damage	Non-compliance	Privacy violation		
2 - Minimal non-sensitive data disclosed	0 -	0 -		1 - Less than the cost to fix the vulnerability	1 - Minimal damage	0 -	5 - Hundreds of people		
Overall technical impact:				Overall business impact:					
2,750				1,750					
LOW				LOW					
Overall impact: 2,250 LOW									



Overall Risk Severity = Likelihood x Impact					Likelihood and Impact Levels		
Impact	HIGH	Medium	High	Critical	0 to <3	LOW	
	MEDIUM	Low	Medium	High	3 to <6	MEDIUM	
	LOW	Note	Low	Medium	6 to 9	HIGH	
		LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH			
Likelihood							

Toolbox

https://www.owasp-risk-rating.com

OWASP Risk Rating Calculator

Likelihood Factors

Threat Agent Factors

Skill Level

Motive

Opportunity

Size

Threat Agent Factor:
Note (TAF: 0)

Likelihood Factor: Note (LF: 0)

Overall Risk Severity: Note

Vulnerability Factors

How easy is it for this group of threat agents to actually exploit this vulnerability?

Impact Factors

Technical Impact Factors

Loss of Confidentiality

Loss of Integrity

Loss of Availability

Loss of Accountability

Technical Impact Factor:
Note (TIF: 0)

Impact Factor: Note (IF: 0)

Business Impact Factors

Financial Damage

Reputation Damage

Non-compliance

Privacy Violation

Business Impact Factor:
Note (BIF: 0)



Score Vector: (SL:0/M:0/O:0/S:0/ED:0/EE:0/A:0/ID:0/LC:0/LI:0/LAV:0/LAC:0/FD:0/RD:0/NC:0/PV:0)

Shortened Score Vector: 0000000000000000

Customization

Possible customizations of the risk rating model

- Adding factors
 - Based on the organization or application, different factors may be of interest
- Customizing options
 - The description or the weighting of different options can be adapted
- Weighting factors
 - The weight of different factors can be adapted to the specific business situation

Threat Documentation

Risk

ID	Title	S T R I D E	Threat Actor	Loc.	Description	Existing Mitigations	Suggested Mitigations	Risk
T1	Account takeover	S	Internet user	P1	Password-reset functionality allows an account takeover via security questions	None	Do not use security questions Rate Limiting per IP and user	HIGH (I:M L:H)
T2	MitM	T I	Int. network member	DF1	Data gets altered on an unencrypted network connection	Switch prevents ARP spoofing	Use TLS	LOW (I:M L:L)
T3	Bad DB credentials	I	Employee	DS1	Simple DB password is known throughout the company	DB logins are logged	Use high entropy password, rotate regularly	MEDIUM (SL:5/M:4/O:7/S:4/ ED:7/EE:9/A:6/ID:3/ LC:9/LI:0/LAV:0/LA: G:1/ED:6/BD:6/NC:

Quantify Top Threats

Use the OWASP methodology to calculate the risk level of your top threats.



Thank You

Congratulations on completing your first steps into the world of Threat Modeling!

Feedback:

aboll@sba-research.org



Photo by [George Pagan III](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Andreas Boll

SBA Research

Floragasse 7, 1040 Wien

aboll@sba-research.org

 Federal Ministry
Innovation, Mobility
and Infrastructure
Republic of Austria

 Federal Ministry
Economy, Energy
and Tourism
Republic of Austria



 FWF Austrian
Science Fund

 netidee
FÖRDERUNGEN