

THREAT

A cyber criminal, hacktivist or nation state group try to steal data from the system

LIKELIHOOD

- What value might data in the system have to an attacker?
- Does the data have exchange value? Can it be sold?
- Could an attacker demand a ransom if they obtained the data?
- Are there specific reasons an attacker might target the data in your system?
- Can the data be used to escalate privilege into other systems?

IMPACT

- How might data loss impact the organisation's reputation?
- Might there be a breakdown in trust with any parent organisation or customers?
- Might this trigger an investigation or penalties by a regulator?
- Might there be a financial cost in terms of revenue? Ransoms?
- What impact if data allows escalation of privilege to more sensitive systems?

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THREAT

A cyber criminal or hacktivist group mount a denial of service attack on the system

LIKELIHOOD

- Could an attacker demand a ransom were your system unavailable?
- Is it in the interest of any group to impact your reputation by taking your system down?
- Are there knock on effect on third parties or clients which an attack could benefit from?

IMPACT

- What is the impact on revenue or operations if the system is down?
- How long could the system be down until it really hurt? 5 mins? 1 hour? 1 week?

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A regulator investigates an infringement of the General Data Protection Regulation

LIKELIHOOD

- Do you process the personal data of EU residents?
- Might an EU resident raise a complaint to a regulator about your organisation?
- Is it likely that you will be subject to a data breach?

IMPACT

- Fines for failing to report a data breach can be up to 2% yearly revenue
- Fines for non compliance with GDPR can be up to 4% of global yearly revenue
- Penalties in most cases will be public record, leading to a reputational impact

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An end user or third party tries to commit fraud by providing false information

LIKELIHOOD

- Are there previous examples of this kind of threat for this or similar systems?
- Could someone to gain financially by making an application or other action using your system?
- Could someone cause harm or mischief to a third party by using your system?

IMPACT

- What is the impact of a single fraudulent transaction?
- How does this change if there are means of replaying or multiplying the fraud?

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A disgruntled employee or ex-employee tries to embarrass or hurt the organisation

LIKELIHOOD

- Are there signs of poor morale? Are managers aware of concerns of this type?
- Is it possible that someone could be laid off under a dispute?
- If something like this is detected, there will be legal implications. Would someone take the risk?
- Are there previous examples of this kind of threat?

IMPACT

- What impact could someone with a normal level of access to the system make?
- What impact could someone with high levels of technical access to system make?

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A new form of ransomware or a wiper worm tries to spread from adjacent networks

LIKELIHOOD

- Does the system connect to other networks?

IMPACT

- What would be the impact if you had to rebuild your environment from scratch?
- Would there be data loss if the environment was destroyed?
- How long would the system be unavailable for in the event of a rebuild?

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A developer or admin makes an error in configuring or securing the system

LIKELIHOOD

- Human error can never be ruled out, although you can use automation and review to reduce issues.

IMPACT

- What might be the impact of misconfiguring access control?
- What might be the impact of a misconfiguration of transport encryption?

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A random botnet or scriptkiddy mounts an automated attack on the system

LIKELIHOOD

- Should be considered likely if the system connects to the Internet

IMPACT

- What is the business impact of spam comments, applications or signups?
- What is the effect of a system component being taken offline?
- What is the impact of a user account being brute-forced and access sold?
- What is the rebuild / forensic cost if a machine is compromised?

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An internal user tries to access sensitive information out of curiosity

LIKELIHOOD

- Does the system have a large number of end users?
- Does the system store sensitive data that people might find of interest?

IMPACT

- What is the administrative cost of a data breach?
- What is the reputational impact if personal information leaks to press?
- What is the privacy impact on the individual?
- Could there be regulatory impact?

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