

CRITICAL INFORMATION

Is it in the eye of the beholder?

Dr John Widdowson

Information Assurance

- Information assurance is the confidence that information systems will protect the information they carry, and will function as they need to, when they need to, under the control of legitimate users.
- Information assurance covers the **CONFIDENTIALITY**, **INTEGRITY** and **AVAILABILITY** of Information.

What is Critical Information?

- Military, Intelligence;
 - Short term mission specific.
 - Long term strategic.
- Historic focus on confidentiality.

What is Critical Information?

- Critical Infrastructure;
 - System specific.
 - Trust and confidence.

What is Critical Information?

- Government
 - Short term, political.
 - Long term, but changing.
 - Long term static.
- For all there will be Business Driven, information assets, but there will also be owner sensitivities.

Impact Levels

- Concept
 - The compromise of Confidentiality, Integrity or Availability of an information asset would have an impact at a reasonably well-defined level.
- Categories
 - Defence, International relations, Security.
 - Public order, Public safety and law enforcement.
 - Trade, Economics and the Public Finances.
 - Public Services.
 - Critical National Infrastructure.

Impact Levels

- Example:
 - Public Order
 - Level 2: Inconvenience or cause discomfort to an individual.
 - Level 3: Risk to an individuals personal safety or liberty.
 - Level 4: Risk to a group of individuals safety or liberty.
 - Level 5: Threat to life directly leading to limited loss of life.
 - Level 6: Lead to widespread loss of life.

Conclusion

- Individuals do have their own perception of impact and risk.
- A framework can be devised that enables structured thinking.
- Impact can be mapped to protective measures.
- Structured thinking enables better risk management decisions.