



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

FAIRCON Event Series

Maturing A Quantitative Risk Management Program in the Federal Government

Presentation and Discussion with Ignatius Liberto, Department of Energy

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Improving Factors



RELIABLE METRICS

Track measurable progress of risk mitigations and responses to minimize risk exposure and promote accountability

INFORMED INSIGHTS

Facilitate quantitative risk assessments based on organization's unique cybersecurity posture and risk threshold / appetite

DEFENSIBLE RESULTS

Drive defensible decisions and secure investment decisions driven by verified data rather than preferences or red herrings

IMPROVED CYBERSECURITY RISK MANAGEMENT



Keys to Maturing a Program



ANALYSIS COOPRATION

External assessments rely on participation and responsiveness of the stakeholder organizations



SCALABILITY AND ADOPTION

Translating analysis findings into applicable terms for your organization



TAILORING

Customizing FAIR language and training to the government space and missions; overcoming lack of industry standards



ADAPTABILITY

Customize industry best practices and methodologies to your organization's interests



Challenges: External Communication



DATA GATHERING

Getting cooperation and buy-in from subject matter experts and data owners



COMMUNICATING RESULTS

Translating analysis findings into applicable terms for your organization



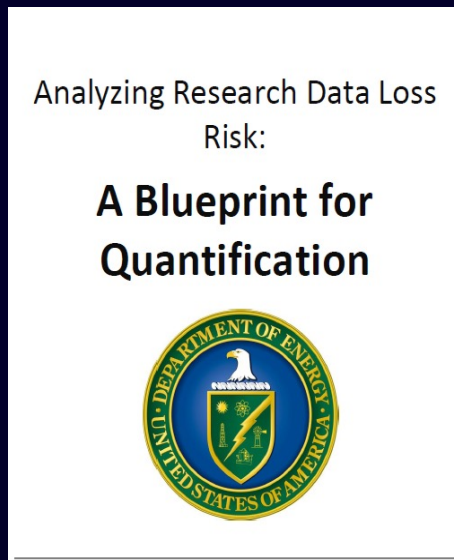
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Clarifying expectations in resource-constrained environment with few dedicated risk analysts



External Communication Resources

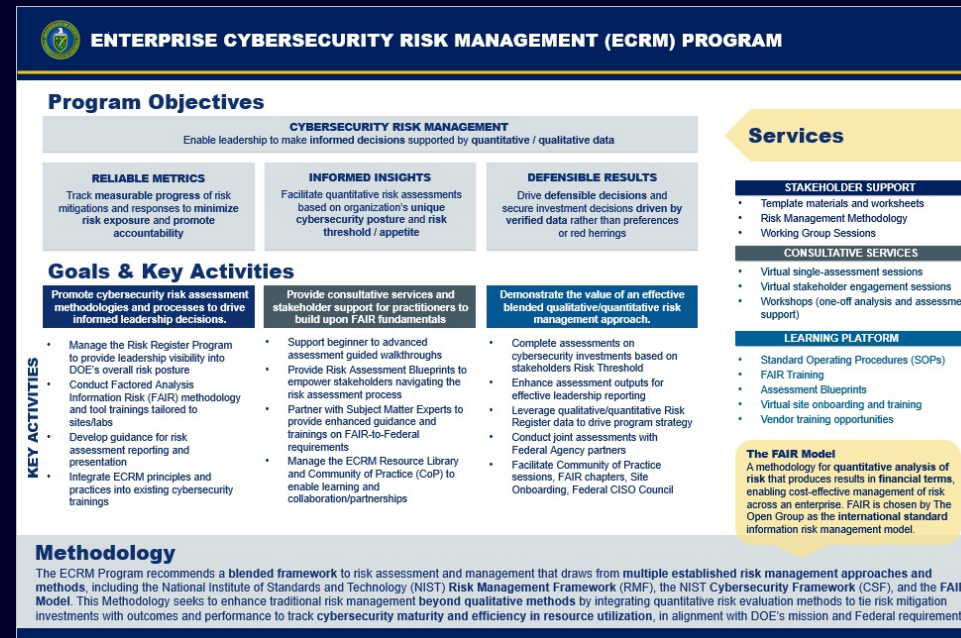
Pitch risk management as an offering and fill in resource gaps by maximizing a team's efficiency with supportive materials and streamlined, replicable processes



Risk Assessment Blueprints

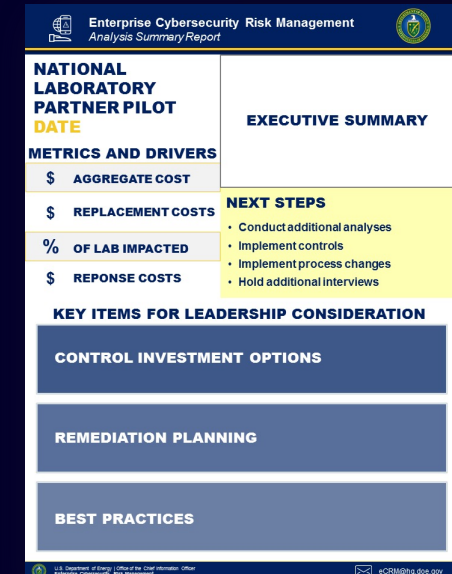
Provides sites and labs walkthroughs for scoping relevant topics as specified by DOE leadership

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Program Placemat

Full overview of program goals, services, methodologies and objectives



Reporting Templates

To transform findings into recommendations, a visual breakdown of the analysis results is required



Challenges: Education



TIERED TRAINING

Targeting training to the right audiences



FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS/GUIDELINES

Incorporating quantitative risk management with Federal guidance



CALIBRATION TECHNIQUES

Teaching calibration in a way that is accessible and applicable



Education Resources

Recognize that risk management is not one-size-fits all for any organization or individual and offer customizable education

Overview

WHAT IS THE FAIR MODEL?
The FAIR model monetizes risk by breaking down and defining its components and their relationship to one another.

Risk

Loss Event Frequency

Loss Magnitude

Threat Event Frequency

Susceptibility*

Primary Loss

Secondary Loss

Forms of Loss

PRODUCTIVITY
Loss that results from an operational inability to deliver products or services
Ex: Lost employee productivity due to an off server

FINES & JUDGEMENTS
Fines or judgements levied against organization
Ex: National Lab fined by oversight committee for failing to prevent incident

REPLACEMENT
The replacement of tangible, capital assets
Ex: Replacing servers, workstations, data warehouses, etc.

REPUTATION
Loss associated w/an external stakeholder perspective that customer's value has decreased &/or liability has increased.
Ex: Increased oversight by Congress, Department of Homeland Security, etc.

*** "Vulnerability" under the traditional FAIR model is the likelihood a threat event will be successful in causing a loss event vs. the traditional NIST definition of "Vulnerability"**

Official Use Only

Introductory Deck

Introduction to FAIR and the foundations of quantitative risk management

Enterprise Cybersecurity Risk Management

Improving Accuracy of Quantitative Measures
How to Measure Anything in Cybersecurity
Hubbard Decision Research

Estimate:
A quantitatively expressed forecast comprised of a range of probability based on observation.

PRIOR TO ANALYSIS, CALIBRATE ESTIMATES TO IMPROVE ACCURACY OF CURRENT-STATE METRICS

Apply the following techniques to calibrate estimations:

- 1. Use the Equivalent Bet Test.**
Begin with an extremely wide range that you are confident in. Use the equivalent bet test to ensure at least 90% confidence in your range.
- 2. Apply Klein's Premortem.**
Assume your answer is wrong and explain why. Use your narrative instinct to ask yourself why the upper bound isn't higher and the lower bound isn't lower.
- 3. Apply Range Adjustments.**
When your range estimates are consistently too wide or too narrow, take into consideration your calibration skills. Adjust your range based on measures derived from skill-based calibration exercises.

Equivalent Bet Test
To calibrate your estimate with 90% confidence, are you indifferent to playing game A or B?

For range questions:
A. Bet \$1K that the answer is inside your range.
B. Spin a dial with a 90% chance of winning \$1K.

For binary questions:
A. Bet \$1K that your answer is correct.
B. Spin a dial with a chance to win \$1K equal to your stated confidence (e.g., 90% of wheel wins \$1K; 10% wins \$0).

Practice Calibration Techniques during Data Gathering Sessions
Subject matter experts (SMEs) may not be familiar with how to apply calibration techniques. Facilitate a discussion and prompt SMEs with follow up questions to calibrate and improve their accuracy of estimates.

Be transparent and share confidence in your approach:

- We have more data than we think. Estimated values can begin with any reference class.
- Statistical modeling (even naive models) are an improvement over subjective intuition and for over 20 years, calibrated estimates has proven to help organizations at all maturity levels forecast with greater accuracy.

U.S. Department of Energy | Office of the Chief Information Officer
Enterprise Cybersecurity Risk Management

Theme driven One Pagers

Overviews of best practices and techniques, such as calibration

Augmenting Traditional Frameworks
The Risk Management Methodology series is complementary guidance to execute National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework (CSF) and Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) Risk Management Framework (RMP).

RISK MANAGEMENT METHODOLOGY
Amplification Guidance

04/05/2020
Version 1.2

1.1 Purpose of Methodology
The DOE features a layered risk management approach with risk management activities performed at each organizational level that aggregate and inform each Program Office's risk posture and in turn, the Department's risk posture. The purpose of this Methodology is to establish an effective risk management framework that can be leveraged across the enterprise and work in tandem to augment the Department's existing risk management activities.

Figure 1: Augmenting Traditional Frameworks
Quantitative approaches also help achieve many of the outcomes of the NIST CSF Identify Function, including vulnerability assessment and risk tolerance. The discovery phase of risk quantification starts organization with vulnerability assessment through attack chain it gathering sessions. Assessment results can support asset management by providing data-driven assignments of criticality and a quantitative risk management translates risk impact and likelihood numerical terms to quantify the potential business impact of a risk potential impact and likelihood of a risk event enables leaders to remediate, assess the efficacy of risk mitigation investments, and understanding of the most pertinent risks to their operations and approaches and models often feature the following elements:

Figure 2: Leveraging Existing Inputs & Outputs

Amplification Guidance

Risk management methodology and integration of relevant guidance and policies



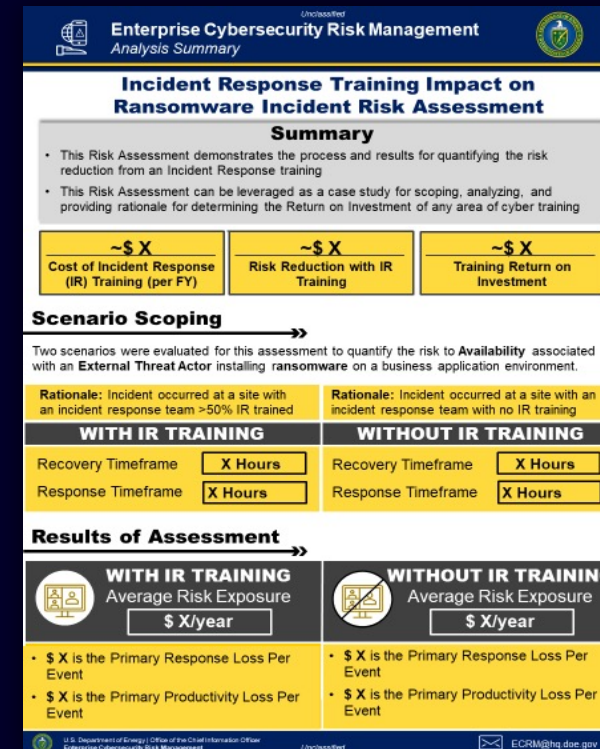
Pragmatic Use Case

Assessment Summary

The ECRM team recommends continued investment in Incident Response Training, as even a modest predicted impact on the response time and recovery timeframe results in a significant ROI for training when experiencing a Ransomware incident for a GSS asset.

Justification of Decision

- Survey results from the Training and SOC SME interviews indicated at least a 15% improvement in response ability.
- For the “With Incident Response Training” Scenario, it is assumed that the incident occurs at a laboratory with an incident response team with greater than 50% of members having attended the Incident Response Training.
- This improvement is reinforced by the participant surveys. 100% of DOE survey participants who completed the Incident Coordination Training responded positively to the survey questions.





Key Takeaways



USE CASES

Let your tactical success drive your program.

Don't get hung up on an enterprise-wide silver bullet strategy. Find tactical applications for the work and employ quantitative risk management for specific use cases to meet demands of your stakeholders.



TEMPLATES

Build a library of tailorable templates to help lighten the load for your resources.

Use these templates to guide analyses and streamline reporting and training.



EXECUTIVE MESSAGING

Develop talking points and field-tested / effective language that can be tailored for different types of leadership.

Customize based on the priorities of the organization and include tactical success stories.

**For additional information:
Email the DOE ECRM Team (ecrm@hq.doe.gov)**