

Vulnerabilities and gaps in our existing practices

Purpose & Output In this exercise, you can consider each of the threats you identified and prioritised in the previous Section, Explore, in light of the gaps in your existing security practices and your vulnerabilities. This will give a much clearer picture of where you need to begin building new capacities.

Input & Materials To carry out this exercise, you need to a) have identified and prioritised threats in [Exercise 2.6b](#), and b) collated the output from [Exercise 3.1a](#) above.
Use pens and paper or other writing materials.

Format & Steps Return to the threats identified in [Exercise 2.6b](#) and the existing capacities and practices you identified in [Exercise 3.1a](#). Here, you can attempt to identify the gaps in your existing practices and your vulnerabilities, relative to each of the questions you answered previously. Consider the following questions:

- **Who/what** is under threat? Identify here what gaps or vulnerabilities (if any) are making this person or thing more vulnerable to the threat. Vulnerabilities could include:
 - in the case of judicial harassment, a person having little legal knowledge, or
 - in the case of computer confiscation, the hard-drives having no password or disk encryption.
- **Who** is behind the threat? What vulnerabilities or gaps exist in our ability to influence this actor? For example, if there is no way of directly engaging with the actor to create acceptance of your work or deter an attack, this could be considered a gap.
- **How**: What information is necessary for them to carry out the attack?
- Is it difficult to control the flow of information – are there any vulnerabilities in the way you deal with information relevant to your work that may facilitate this threat or make it more damaging?

Format & Steps

- **Where:** What aspects of the physical spaces around us (e.g. buildings, vehicles, private property) may make this threat more probable or more damaging? In the case of an office raid and theft, for example, having weak locks on the doors would be a vulnerability.
- **Psychological, emotional and health vulnerabilities:** in the context of this threat, how might stress, tiredness etc. affect you? What gaps or vulnerabilities exist in your well-being practices that may make this threat more likely, or more damaging?

If you wish to record the results of the exercise in writing, you could use a format like the one below:

Threat	[Title of the threat]			
Summary	[Brief description/summary of the threat]			
What	Target	Adversary	How	Where
Describe what happens if the threat is carried out (if required, subdivide the threat into its components below).	Specify what/who is the target.	Who is the entity behind this threat?	What information is necessary to carry out the threat?	What are physical spaces in which the threat can manifest?
1)				
2)				
3)				
Psychological, emotional and health impacts				