

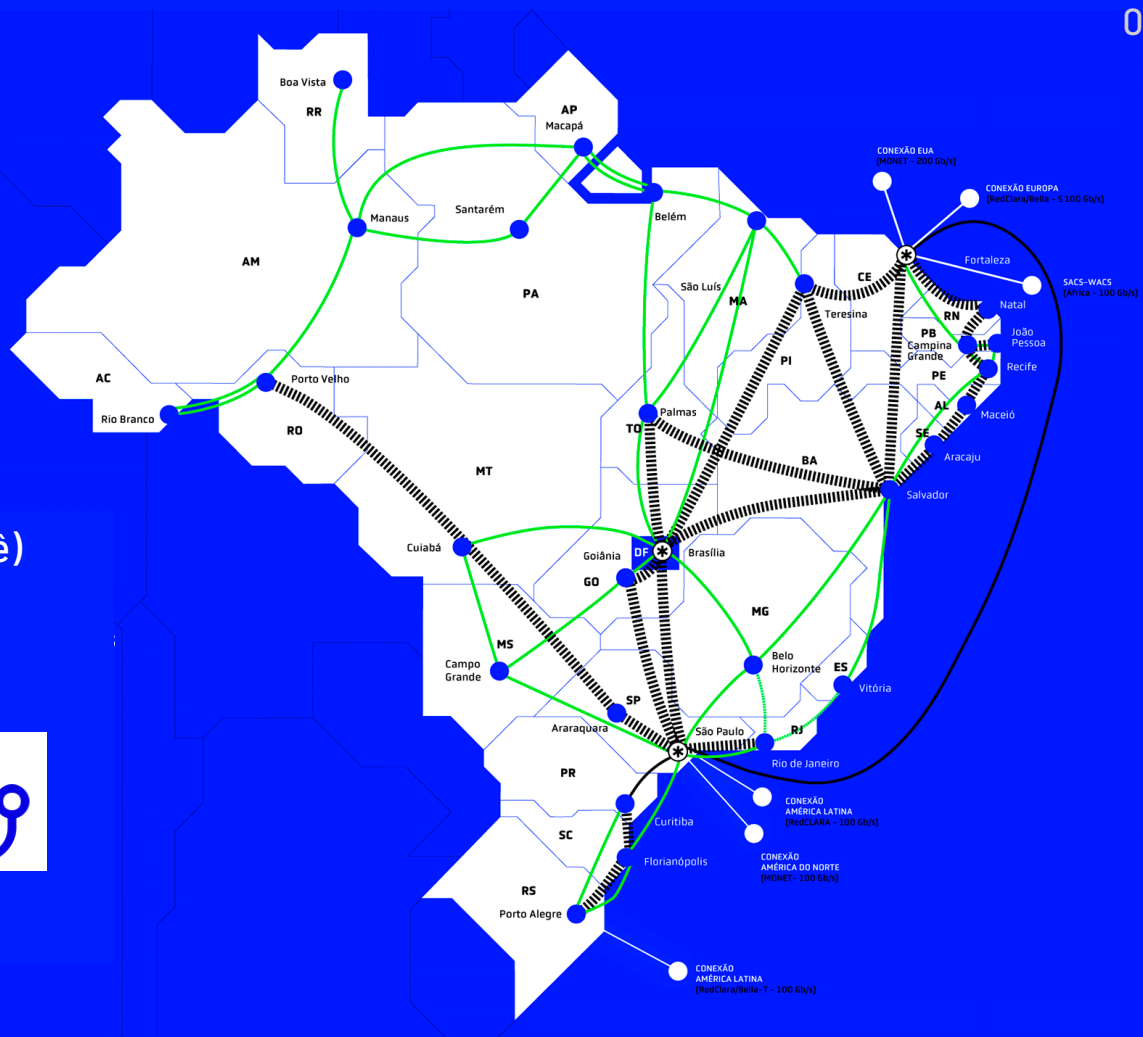
Method for Cyber Risk Assessment

Developing risk assessment capabilities in NRENs

Humberto Forsan
Information Security Manager

About RNP

- Brazilian National Research and Education Network (RNP).
- Created in 1989.
- 1800 institutions connected (Redelpê)
- 27 Points of Presence (PoPs)



WHERE DO YOU APPLY SECURITY?

In Everything?

Can you do it?



Do you know where to apply more security?

Do you know where to apply more security?





How do you know where to
apply more security?

Risks!

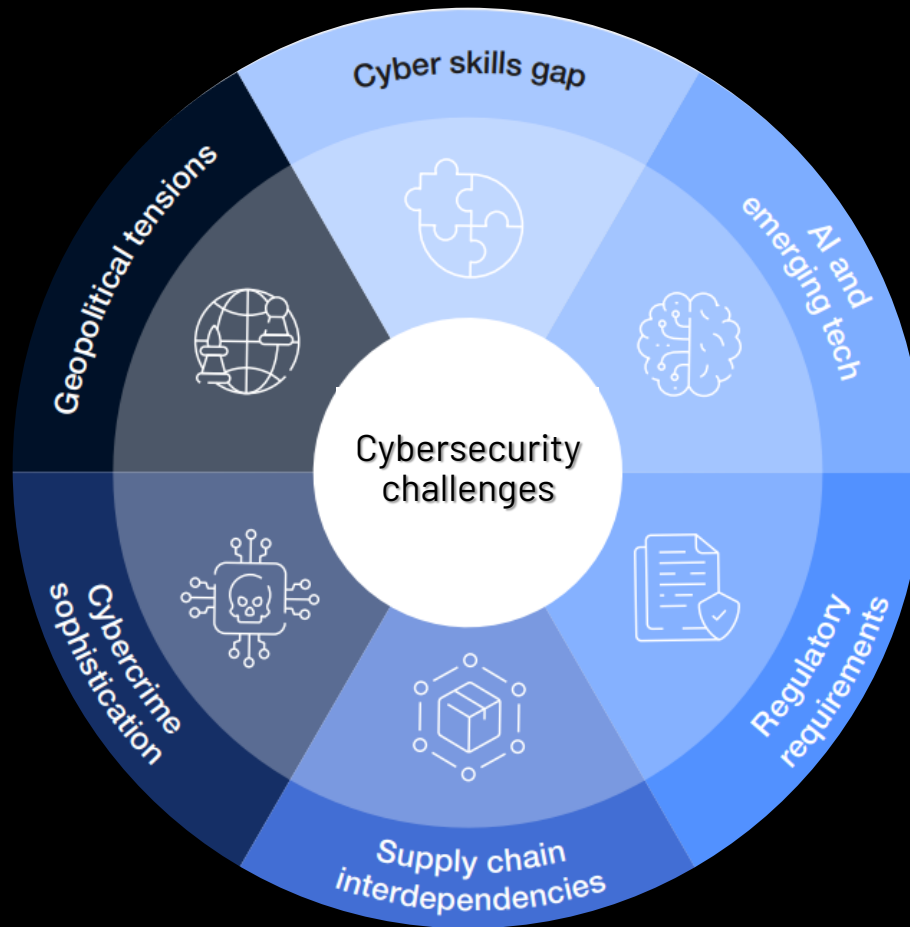
The definition of risk according to ISO 27001 is the effect of uncertainty on objectives.

Risk is the combination of the probability of something happening and the impact.



What the hell is this kid
going to do?

**We cannot
protect
everything**



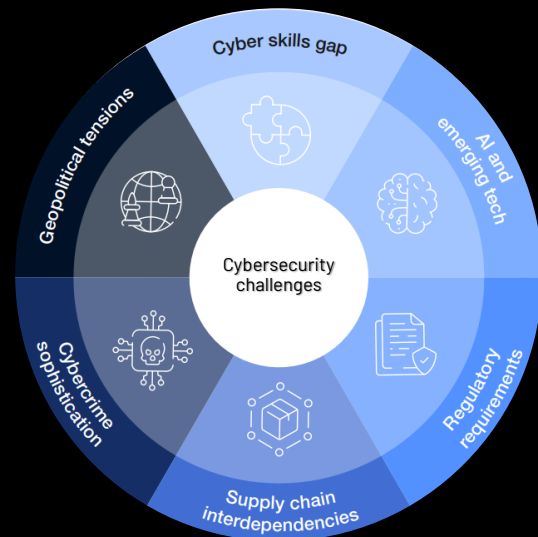
**and perhaps,
we should
not even try**

What's important
to you?



Everything?

...But, can you protect everything?



What really matters to you?



How to know what really matters to you?



Risk Assessment

Inside the Risk

LIKELIHOOD



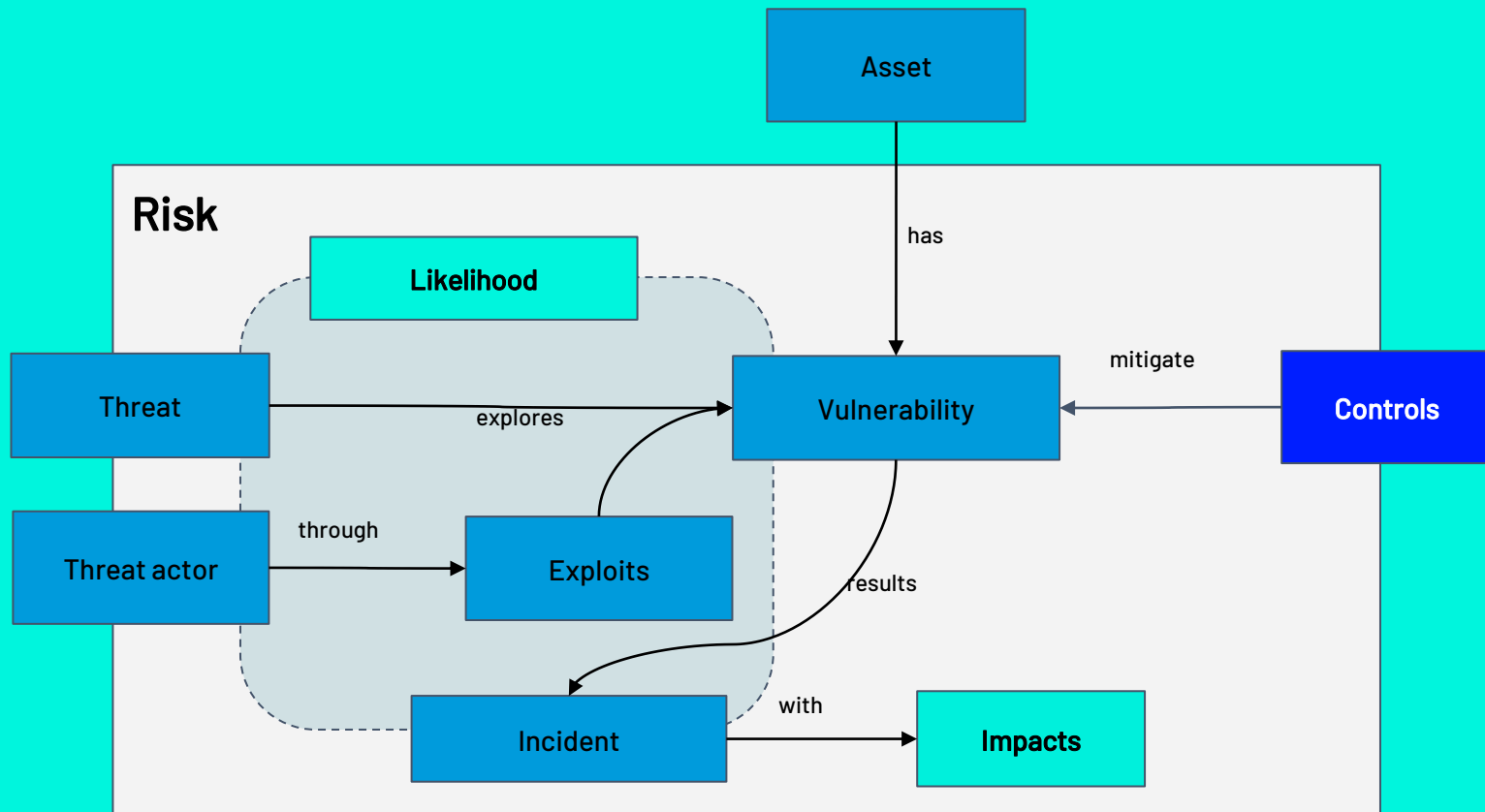
IMPACT



RISK

Likelihood	Frequent					Critical
	Likely				High	
	Possible			Medium		
	Unlikely		Low			
	Very Unlikely	Very Low				
		Negligible	Low	Significant	Important	Critical
		Impact				

Inside the Risk



"BIA" (Business Impact Analysis) It is crucial for Risk Assessment

BIA **identify critical business activities**: Understand which processes are essential for the organization's mission. *(Here you know where apply more efforts in cybersecurity)*

This includes **financial, operational, reputational and legal** resulting from a loss of confidentiality, integrity, or availability of information.

Determine maximum tolerable downtime **(MTD)**, recovery time objectives **(RTOs)** and recovery point objectives **(RPOs)**

Map out the IT systems, people, and third-party services crucial for these critical activities. *(Here you know where apply more efforts in cybersecurity)*

The BIA provides the necessary input for prioritizing information security efforts and developing appropriate resilience and recovery strategies.

"BIA" (Business Impact Analysis) Example

BIA is done through interviews and activity mapping

CONNECTIVITY

ID												Score		RPO/ h	RTO/ h	MTPD / h							
01	Point of Presence X, Y, Z											8,51	SIGNIFICANT										
Impact - Financial						Impact - Reputational						Impact - Operational						Impact - Legal					
1H	6H	12H	18H	24H	Real	1H	6H	12H	18H	24H	Real	1H	6H	12H	18H	24H	Real	1H	6H	12H	18H	24H	Real
1,0	1,0	1,5	2,5	3,0	3,6	2,3	2,7	3,3	4,3	4,3	10,2	2,5	2,7	3,0	3,7	4,0	15,8	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,5	4,4

ID												Score		RPO/ h	RTO/ h	MTPD / h							
02	Others Point of Presence											7,41	SIGNIFICANT										
Impact - Financial						Impact - Reputational						Impact - Operational						Impact - Legal					
1H	6H	12H	18H	24H	Real	1H	6H	12H	18H	24H	Real	1H	6H	12H	18H	24H	Real	1H	6H	12H	18H	24H	Real
1,0	1,0	1,5	2,5	3,0	3,6	2,0	2,3	3,0	3,7	3,7	8,8	1,5	2,2	2,5	3,2	3,5	12,8	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,5	4,4

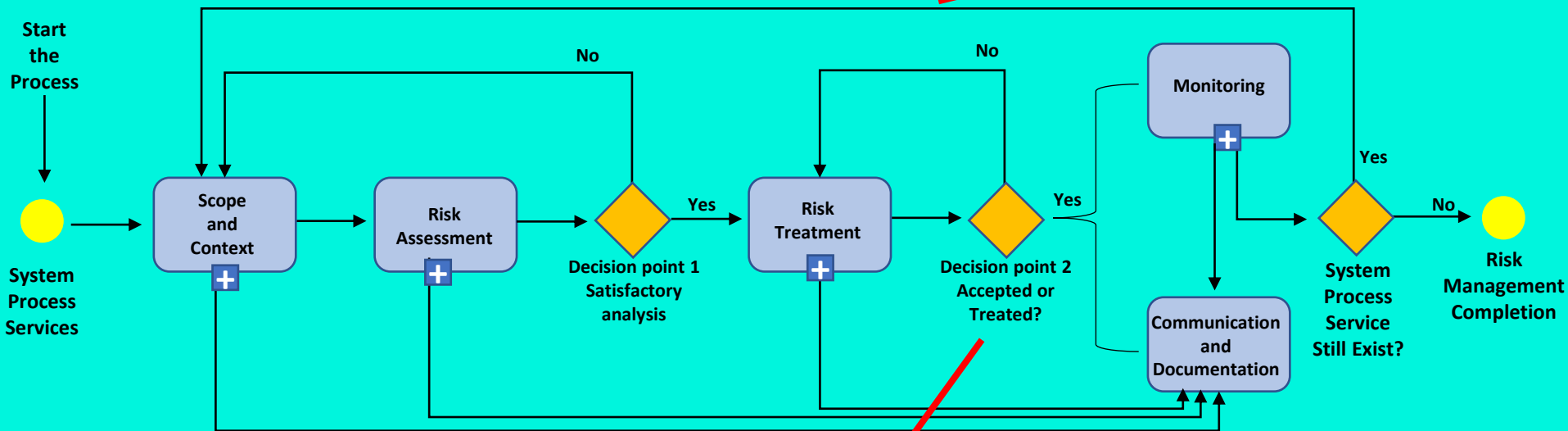
DIGITAL SERVICES

ID												Score		RPO/ h	RTO/ h	MTPD / h							
03	DIGITAL SERVICE X											7,77	SIGNIFICANT										
Impact - Financial						Impact - Reputational						Impact - Operational						Impact - Legal					
1H	6H	12H	18H	24H	Real	1H	6H	12H	18H	24H	Real	1H	6H	12H	18H	24H	Real	1H	6H	12H	18H	24H	Real
1,0	1,5	1,5	2,0	2,5	3,4	2,3	2,7	2,7	3,7	3,7	9,0	2,0	2,5	3,0	3,5	3,7	14,7	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	4,0

Excel spreadsheet example

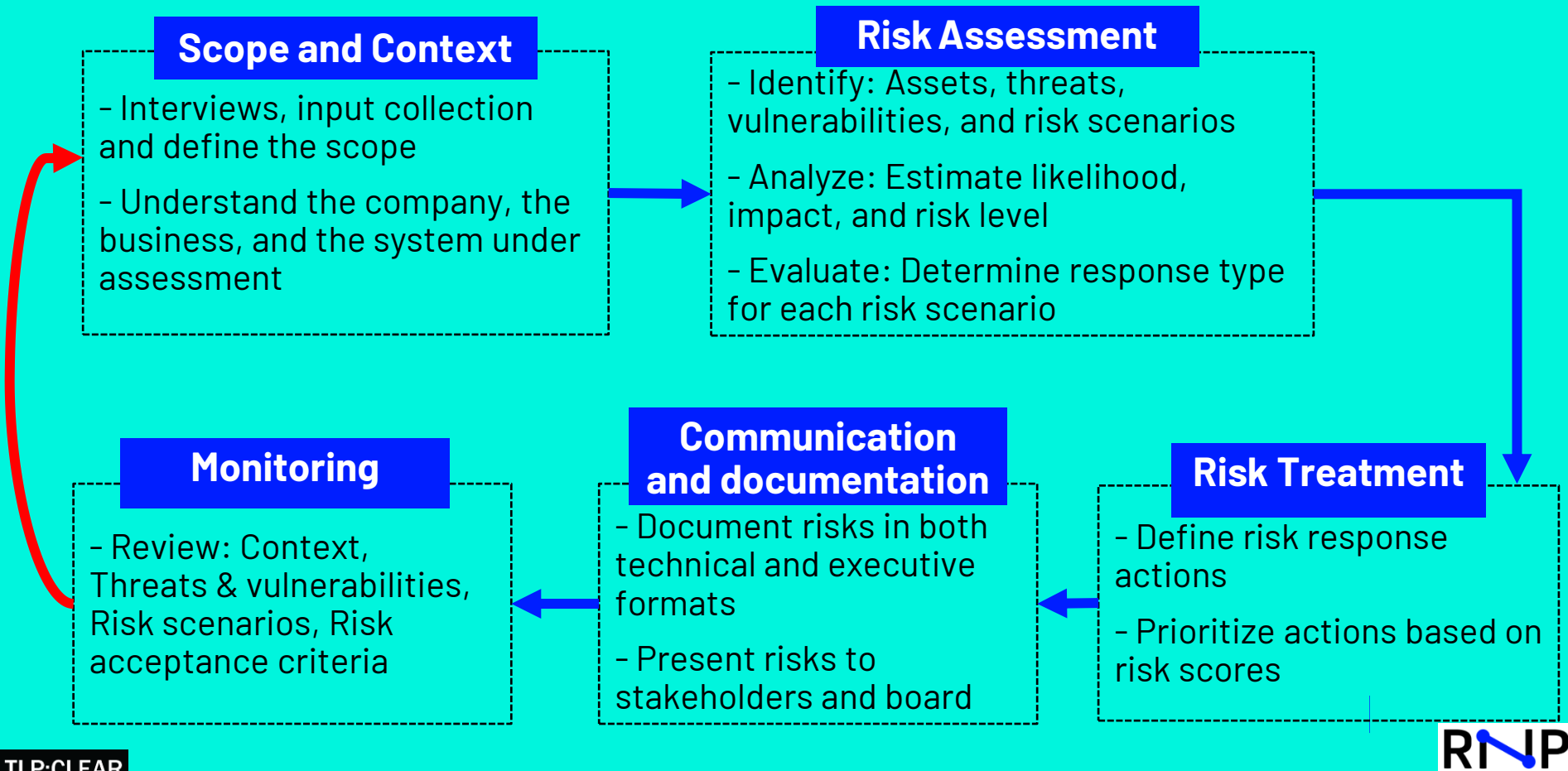
Risk Assessment Methodology

Define the frequency of risk assessment

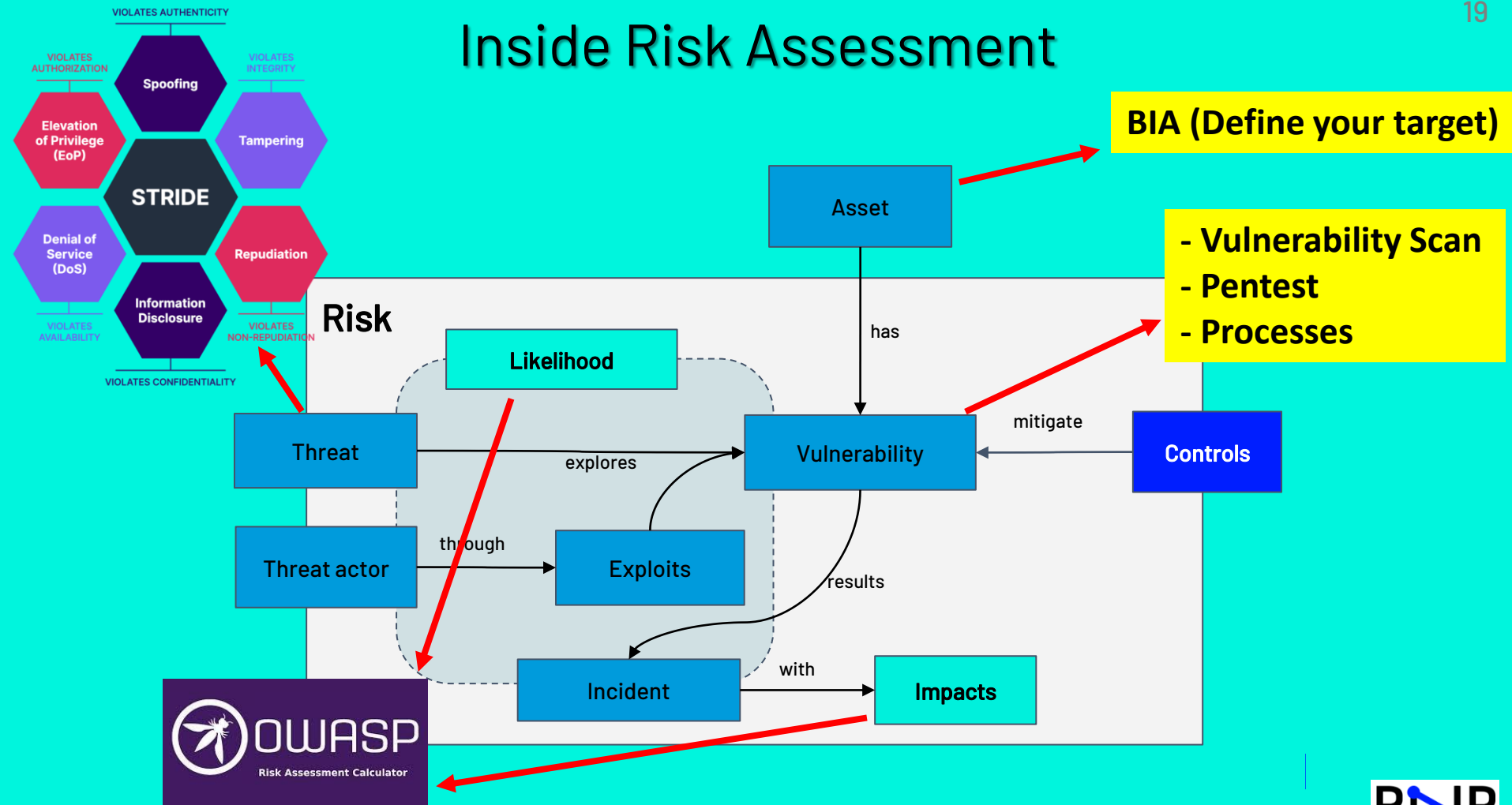


Define who accepts the risk, by criticality

Risk Assessment Methodology



Inside Risk Assessment



Inside Risk Assessment

Likelihood	Frequent					Critical
	Likely				High	
	Possible			Medium		
	Unlikely		Low			
	Very Unlikely	Very Low				
		Negligible	Low	Significant	Important	Critical
		Impact				

To help calculate the risk



<https://owasp-risk-rating.com>

OWASP Risk Rating Calculator

Likelihood Factors

Threat Agent Factors

Skill Level

9 - No technical skills

Motive

1 - Low or no reward

Opportunity

7 - Some access or resources required

Size

5 - Partners

Threat Agent Factor:
Medium (TAF: 5.5)

Likelihood Factor: Medium (LF: 5.75)

Vulnerability Factors

Ease of Discovery

3 - Difficult

Ease of Exploit

3 - Difficult

Awareness

9 - Public knowledge

Intrusion Detection

9 - Not logged

Vulnerability Factor: High
(VF: 6)

Impact Factors

Technical Impact Factors

Loss of Confidentiality

6 - Minimal critical data or extensive non

Loss of Integrity

3 - Minimal seriously corrupt data

Loss of Availability

0 - N/A

Loss of Accountability

9 - Completely anonymous

Technical Impact Factor:
Medium (TIF: 4.5)

Impact Factor: Low (IF: 1.5)

Business Impact Factors

Financial Damage

3 - Minor effect on annual profit

Reputation Damage

1 - Minimal damage

Non-compliance

2 - Minor violation

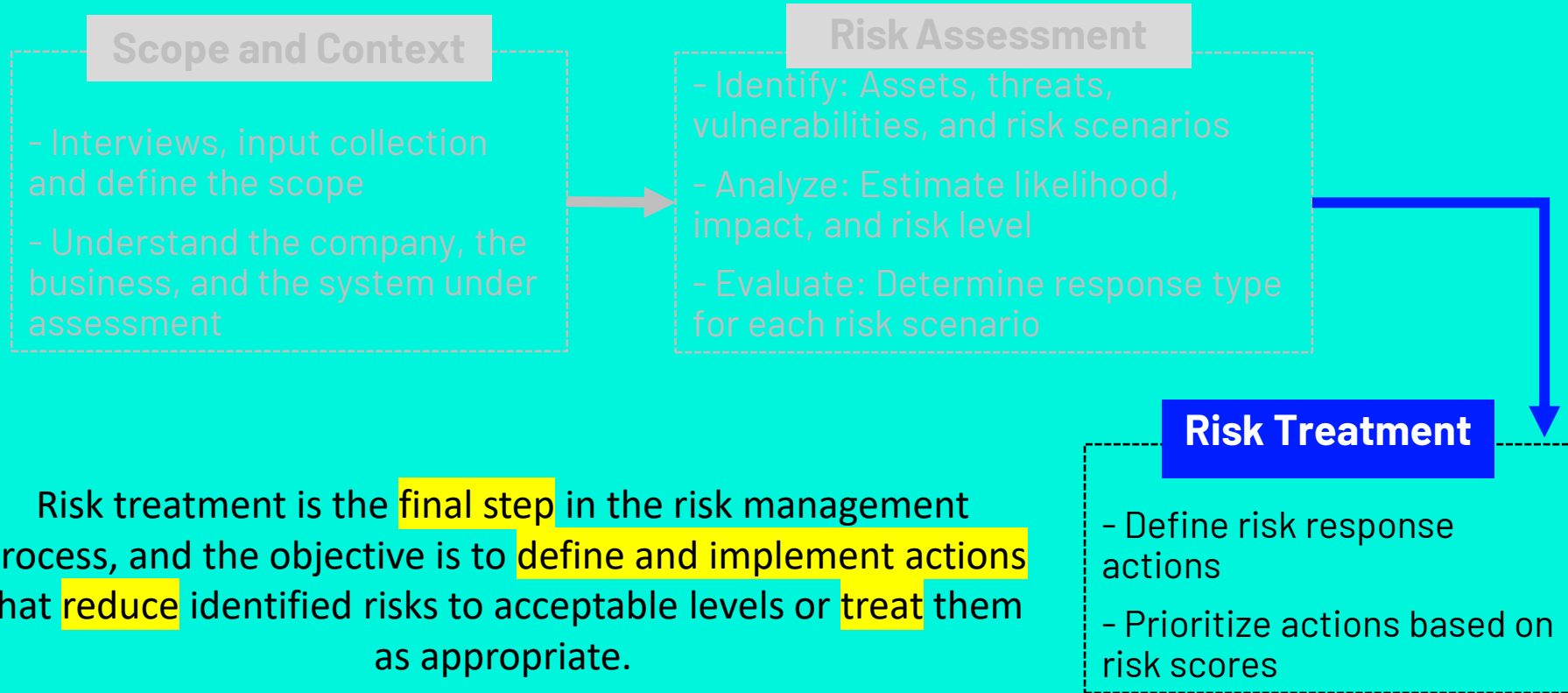
Privacy Violation

0 - N/A

Business Impact Factor:
Low (BIF: 1.5)

Overall Risk Severity: Low

Inside Risk Treatment



Inside Risk Treatment

Risk treatment involves coordination between three main actors:



Evaluator: Responsible for assessing risks and providing technical and strategic recommendations for mitigation.

Responsible for the System: Manager or person directly responsible for the system, with authority over the security controls to be implemented.

Interested Parties/Stakeholders: Involves leadership and other relevant areas that may be impacted by mitigation actions or that have decision-making authority.

Inside Risk Treatment

Action Plan is responsible for:

Manage identified risks: The plan provides a structured approach to addressing risks identified during the risk assessment process.

Implement controls: It outlines the specific steps and actions needed to implement controls that mitigate or eliminate the identified risks.

Reduce impact and likelihood: The plan aims to reduce the potential negative consequences and probability of risks occurring.

Responsibilities: The plan assigns individuals or teams responsible for implementing and monitoring the risk treatment actions.

Actions and timelines: It specifies the specific actions that will be taken to implement the chosen strategy, including timelines for completion.

Required resources: It identifies the resources needed to carry out the planned actions, such as budget, personnel, and technology.



Communication and Documentation - Monitoring

25

Scope and Context

- Interviews, input collection and define the scope
- Understand the company, the business, and the system under assessment

Risk Assessment

- Identify: Assets, threats, vulnerabilities, and risk scenarios
- Analyze: Estimate likelihood, impact, and risk level
- Evaluate: Determine response type for each risk scenario

Risk Treatment

- Define risk response actions
- Prioritize actions based on risk scores

Communication and documentation

- Document risks in both technical and executive formats
- Present risks to stakeholders and board

Monitoring

- Review: Context, Threats & vulnerabilities, Risk scenarios, Risk acceptance criteria

Indicadores - Riscos

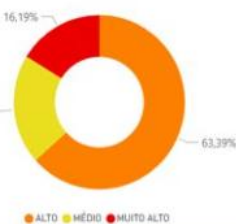
Ativos
244

Vulnerabilidades
330

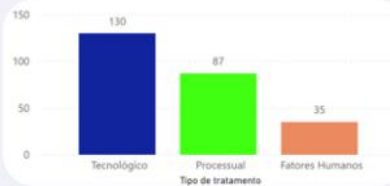
Riscos
661



Nível dos Riscos



Ações
252



Contagem de Ação

POR TIPO DE TRATAMENTO, PRIORIZAÇÃO

Tipo de tratamento	Curto prazo	Longo prazo	Médio prazo	Total
Tecnológico	24	85	21	130
Processual	17	50	20	87
Fatores Humanos	7	17	11	35
Total	48	152	52	252

RNP

RNP

Lessons Learned

- **Risk management is continuous** – Always ask: "What's changed? What new risks emerged?"
 - **Collaboration is non-negotiable** – Cybersecurity is everyone's responsibility.
 - **Celebrate wins** – Even small risk mitigations deserve recognition.
 - **Start small, scale smart** – Begin with limited scopes; expand as maturity grows.
 - **Communicate directly** – No intermediaries. Clarity drives buy-in.
 - **Expect (and overcome) resistance** – Discomfort means you're changing the status quo.
 - **When in doubt, assume the worst** – Be cautious in your assessments.
 - **Risks reveal priorities** – They turn limited resources into strategic actions.
-

A risk-based strategy isn't just protection –
it's the art of **making uncertainty work for you.**

That's **working smarter** with focus

THANK YOU!

humberto.forsan@rnp.br