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# The Open Factor Analysis of Information Risk, a Standard for Cyber Risk

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# Today's Main Ideas

As cyber risk becomes a board governance concern, management is increasingly making cyber risk part of operational risk management

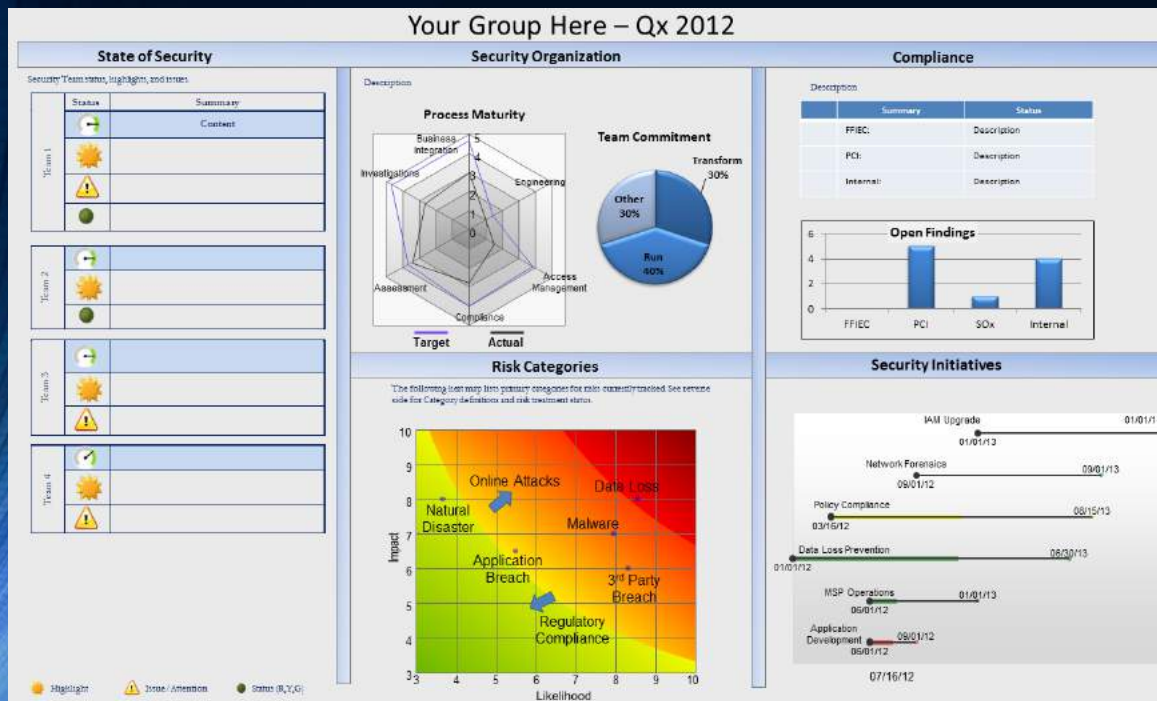
- For most organizations, cyber risk is not measured to the same standards as other risks
- Today, though we discuss how it can be by
  - Asking the right question
  - Using industry standard methods
  - Working through practical concerns and application
- This is an overview only
  - The references, though will give you a lot of self-study

# How We Inform Cyber Risk Decision Makers

- “My data is a high risk”
- “Malware is a huge risk”
- “My passwords and firewalls are a risk”
- “Definitely, my employees are risks”
- “Earthquakes, fires, tornadoes, hurricanes are risks”

When asked, most executives believe cyber risk cannot be measured

# Measuring Cyber Risks Today (Mostly)



The NIST CSF identifies underlying key Categories and Sub-categories for each Function, and maps them to Informative References

Function	Category
IDENTIFY (ID)	Asset Management (ID.AM)
	Business Environment (ID.BE)
	Governance (ID.GV)
	Risk Assessment (ID.RA)
PROTECT (PR)	Access Control (PR.AC)
	Awareness and Training (PR.AT)
	Data Security (PR.DS)
	Information Protection Processes and Procedures (PR.IP)
	Maintenance (PR.MA)
DETECT (DT)	Anomalies and Events (DE.AE)
	Security Continuous Monitoring (DE.CM)
	Detection Processes (DE.DP)
RESPOND (RS)	Response Planning (RS.RP)
	Communications (RS.CO)
	Analysis (RS.AN)
	Mitigation (RS.MI)
	Improvements (RS.IM)
RECOVERY (RC)	Recovery Planning (RC.RP)
	Improvements (RC.IM)
	Communications (RC.CO)

**Categories** are subdivisions of a **Function** into groups of cybersecurity outcomes closely tied to programmatic needs and particular activities.

**Sub-categories** further divide a **Category** into specific outcomes of technical and/or management activities.

**Informative References** are specific sections of standards, guidelines, and practices common among critical infrastructure sectors that illustrate a method to achieve the outcomes associated with each **Sub-category**.

- Identify (ID) – Develop the organizational understanding to manage cybersecurity risk to systems, assets, data, and capabilities.
- Protect (PR) – Develop and implement the appropriate safeguards to ensure delivery of critical infrastructure services.
- Detect (DE) – Develop and implement the appropriate activities to identify the occurrence of a cybersecurity event.
- Respond (RS) – Develop and implement the appropriate activities to take action regarding a detected cybersecurity event.
- Recover (RC) – Develop and implement the appropriate activities to maintain plans for resilience and to restore any capabilities or services that were impaired due to a cybersecurity event.

# But Elsewhere, Risk is Defined and Measured

- Risk: defined as the likelihood and severity of loss, loss exposure in dollars per year
  - Credit risk
  - Market risk
  - Operational risk
- Through well developed models to estimate and quantify risk
  - Domain-specific models
  - Through simulation
- Quantified results support effective management decisions
  - Capital requirements
  - Disclosure
  - Regulatory compliance
  - Cost-Benefit analysis of alternatives
    - Assessment
    - Insurance / Transfer
    - Project cost-benefit analysis and prioritization



# Boards Need Standardized Risk

- Directors need to understand and approach cybersecurity as an enterprise-wide risk management issue, not just an IT issue.
- Directors should understand the legal implications of cyber risks as they relate to their company's specific circumstances.
- Boards should have adequate access to cybersecurity expertise, and discussions about cyber-risk management should be given regular and adequate time on the board meeting agenda.
- Directors should set the expectation that management will establish an enterprise-wide cyber-risk management framework with adequate staffing and budget.
- Board-management discussion of cyber risk should include identification of which risks to avoid, accept, mitigate, or transfer through insurance, as well as specific plans associated with each approach.

Source: Cyber-Risk Oversight, Director's Handbook Series 2014, National Association of Corporate Directors, available at <https://www.nacdonline.org/Resources/Article.cfm?ItemNumber=10688>

# What a Risk Standard Does For Us

- Answer common questions / solves common problems once
  - Terms
  - Definitions
  - Relationships
- When combined, can form a “generally accepted body of knowledge”
- Once developed, no cost to reuse: resource efficient
- Enable interoperability of practitioners, systems, information

# Risk Standards Now

## Central Question

## Credit Risk

## Market Risk

## Cyber Risk

Banks Managing Risk associated with loans

Traders managing Risk associated with trading financial assets

Risk associated with running information systems

How often do bad things occur?

Probability of Default

Probability a loss exceeds a tolerable threshold

Probable Loss Event Frequency

How bad are they when they do?

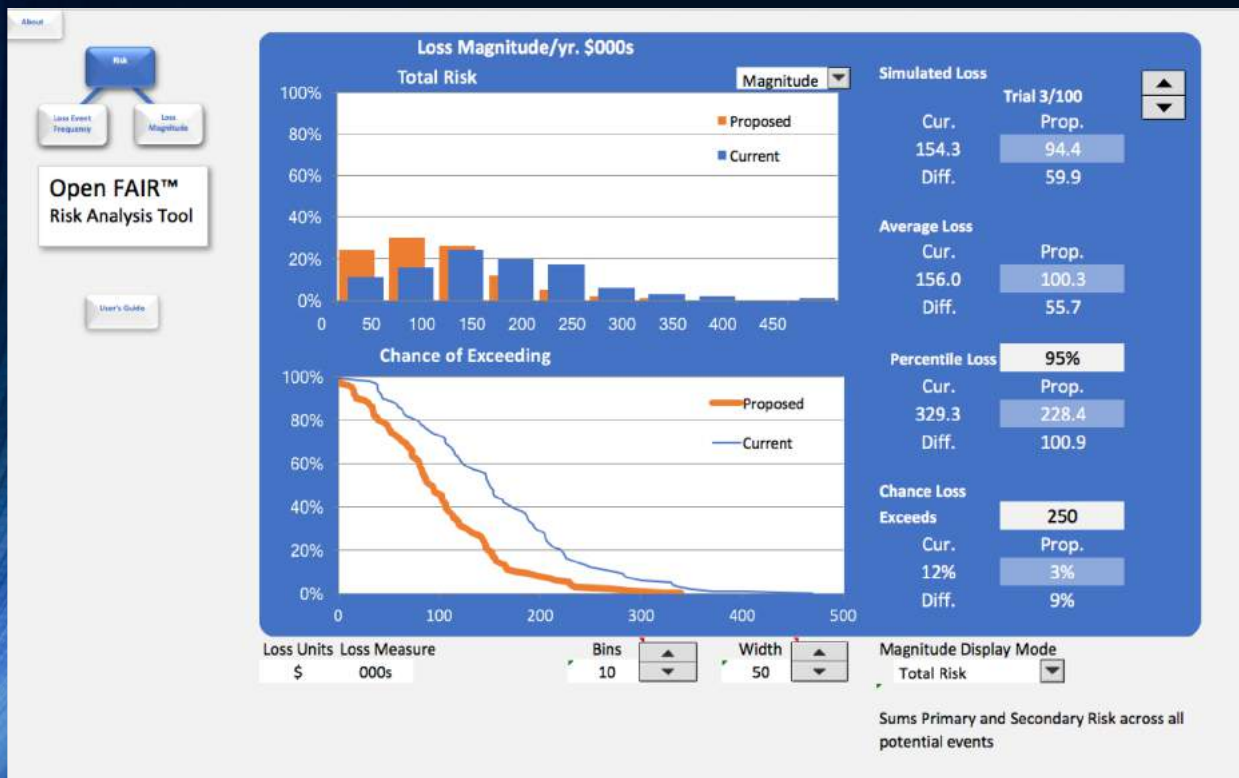
Loss Given Default

Defined loss tolerance threshold

Probable Loss Magnitude



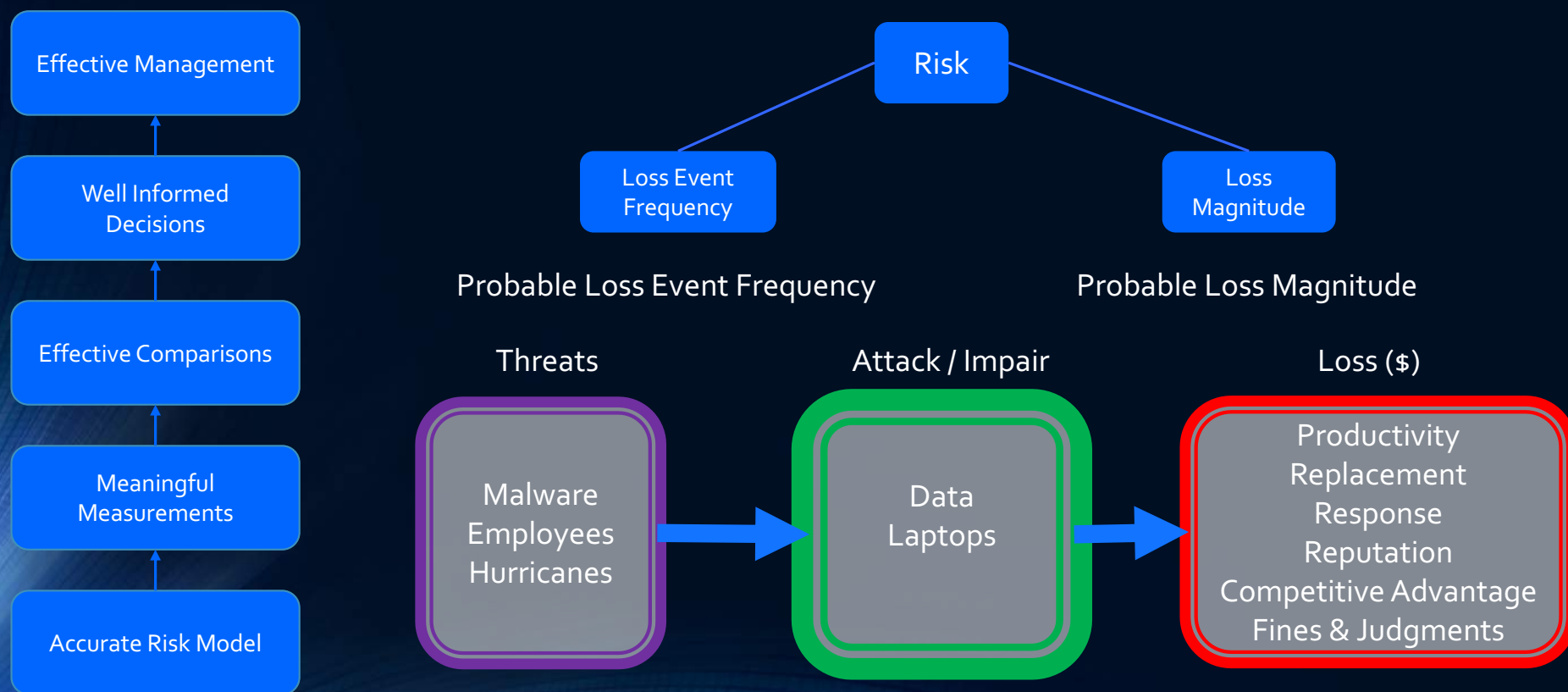
# Most Importantly, Risk is a Distribution of Estimated Outcomes



## Standard Measures

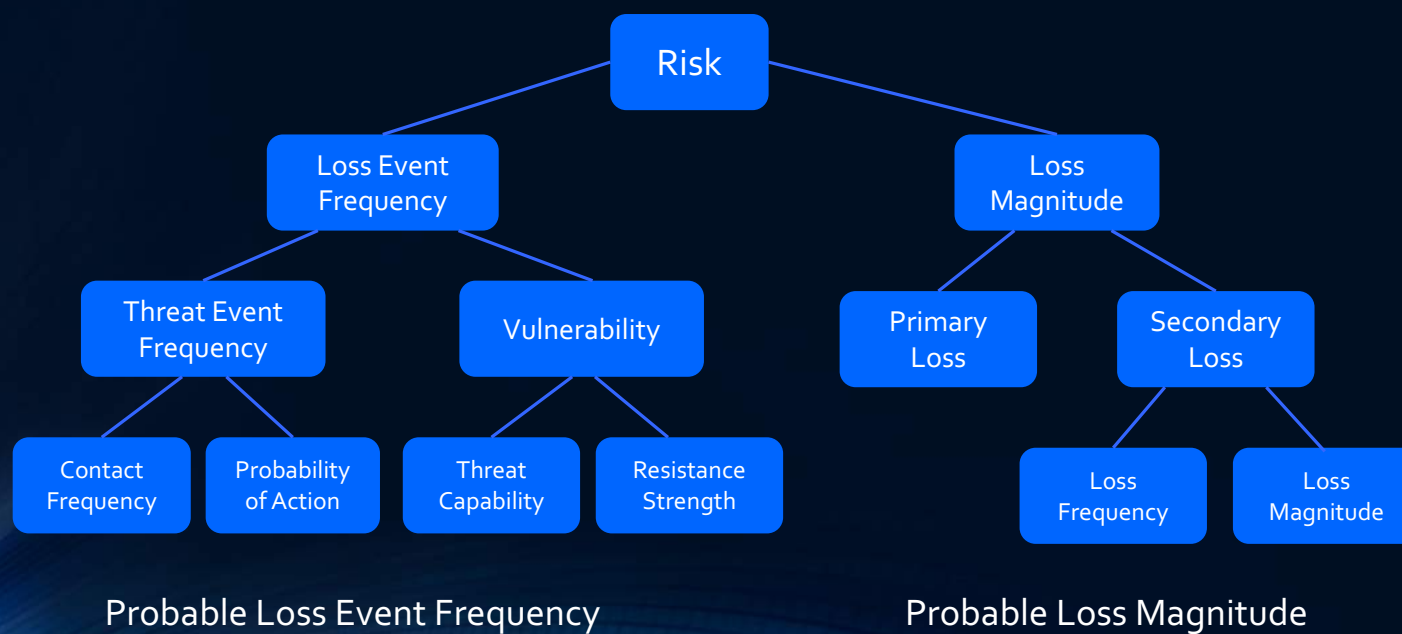
- Averages
- Probability of a loss within a time period
- Magnitude of a single loss given a probability of occurrence
- Loss thresholds, risk appetite
- Probability distribution of likely outcomes

# Cyber Risk as an Operational Risk: Open FAIR™ Risk Taxonomy and Analysis Standards



# Modelling Risk

- Work within the Open FAIR™ Taxonomy
  - Using calibrated estimates (Min, Max, Most Likely) for the risk factors
  - Most analyses stop here



# Open FAIR™: Standardizes Cyber Risk

- Measured as any other risk: In dollars. Total risk now may be aggregated and managed
- Defensible Cyber Risk Analyses
  - Capital requirements
  - Risk-based compliance
  - Disclosure
  - Preventive, Detective, Corrective Control Business Case
- Initial Assessment
- Insurance / Transfer
- Project Business Case Support and Prioritization
- The Analytic Engine for “Risk Based” Compliance or decision making

# Open FAIR Risk Analysis Tool Using SIPMATH Distributions



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The screenshot shows the Open FAIR Risk Analysis tool interface within a spreadsheet application. The interface is divided into several sections:

- Risk:** Contains a graph and a table. Callouts include: "Select Event or Magnitude Graph", "Scroll through individual simulation trials", "Statistics based on all trials appear here", and "Adjust graph settings here".
- Loss Event Frequency:** Contains a tree diagram. Callouts include: "Set Units and Magnitudes for all screens", "Drill up or down with Check", and "Enter triangular distributions estimates at any level. When lower levels are activated upper level estimates are bypassed. NOTE: Ensure that Min is < M, a Max.".
- Loss Magnitude:** Contains a table. Callouts include: "Specify triangular distributions for Current and Proposed Primary Loss Magnitude", "Specify Secondary Loss", and "Grey loss form boxes can be input, but are not usually associated with the given primary or secondary loss".
- Magnitude Display Mode:** A dropdown menu with options: "Total Risk", "Total Loss", "Single Primary Loss", "Single Secondary Loss", and "Single Total Loss". Callout: "Specify Current and Proposed Secondary Loss".
- Loss Magnitude Display Mode:** A dropdown menu with options: "Total Risk", "Total Loss", "Single Primary Loss", "Single Secondary Loss", and "Single Total Loss". Callout: "Specify Magnitude Display Mode".

Additional text on the left side of the interface:

**Open FAIR™ Risk Analysis**

This tool lets analysts compare two risk states: the "current" (status quo) state and a "proposed" (mitigated) state. There are three pages, which may be navigated between using the buttons above. You may graph distributions of either Loss Events and Loss Magnitude.

Every box in white is an input. Analysts can start from the **Risk** page to set up the local currency and loss measure of annual loss exposure. On any page you may specify a percentile or a threshold of the output, and view the chance of exceedance.

Use the **Loss Event Frequency (LEF)** page to work at any level of the FAIR LEF tree to enter loss event-related data.

Use the **Loss Magnitude (LM)** page to enter Loss Magnitude data. You may also view either simulated Single Loss Magnitudes or Total Risk Exposure outcomes.

Model created by Sara Savage, Darryl O'Neil and Mike Jelicic with the SIPmath™ Modeler Tools from ProbabilityManagement.org  
 HDR random number generator by Hubbard Decision Research  
 Sum of IID triangular distributions from MisingDistributions.com  
 The Department of Economics at San José State University

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 SIPmath™ is a trademark of ProbabilityManagement.org.



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Source: <https://publications.opengroup.org/i181>

# It Works

"FAIR is the future of information security, as that's how we will bridge the gap and talk about risk in a common language."

- CISO Fed Reserve NY



<http://www.opengroup.org/certifications/openfair>



<http://www.fairinstitute.org>





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## Leading in Developing and Teaching the Open FAIR™ Risk Standard

- Academic Program with the Open Group
  - Norwegian Regional Health Authority Risk Analysis
  - Open FAIR™ Risk Analysis Process Guide
- Open FAIR Risk Analysis Tool Using SIPMATH Distributions
- Twenty one students Open FAIR™ Certified



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# Resources

- Open FAIR Risk Taxonomy and Risk Analysis Standards
  - <https://publications.opengroup.org/c13k>
  - <https://publications.opengroup.org/c13g>
- Open FAIR Risk Analysis Tool Using SIPMATH Distributions
  - <https://publications.opengroup.org/i181>
- The Open FAIR Tool with SIPMATH Distributions: Guide to the Theory of Operation
  - <https://publications.opengroup.org/g181>
- Open FAIR Risk Analysis Process Guide
  - <https://publications.opengroup.org/guides/g18o>
- Norwegian Regional Health Authority Paper
  - <https://publications.opengroup.org/white-papers/healthcare/w176>
- Foundational texts
  - *How to Measure Anything* by Douglass Hubbard
  - *Measuring and Managing Information Risk* by Jack Freund and Jack Jones



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# Local Risk Interest Groups Standardizing Risk





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# Thank You

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