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ROBIN ABERNATHY
Dr. DARREN R. HAYES

CISSP Cert Guide

Fourth Edition

Robin Abernathy

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CISSP Cert Guide

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ISBN-13: 978-0-13-750747-4

ISBN-10: 0-13-750747-X

Library of Congress Control Number: 2022943249

ScoutAutomatedPrintCode

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Dedications

To all those out there on a certification journey!

—Robin

To all our cyber warriors who protect our businesses and our national security. Your careers are so demanding and your ambition to gain certifications is to be commended.

—Darren

Acknowledgments

My first thanks goes to God for blessing me with the ability to learn and grow in any field I choose. With Him, all things are possible!

For me, it is hard to believe that I am on the fourth edition of this book. I appreciate my family and my friends, who have supported me in my publishing journey through three titles and multiple editions.

It is my hope that you, the reader, succeed in your IT certification goals!

—Robin

To my beautiful wife, Nalini, and my children, Aine, Fiona, Nicolai, and Shay, I cannot thank you enough for your support and love over the years. Also, to my parents, Ted and Annette, who inspired me to be an eternal learner and try to help others to gain knowledge. I would like to acknowledge my fellow teachers who make immeasurable sacrifices to see their students succeed. My sincere thanks to all of the tremendous reviewers, editors, and other staff at Pearson who I have had the honor of working with for many years.

—Darren

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Introduction

Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) is one of the most respected and sought-after security certifications available today. It is a globally recognized credential which demonstrates that the holder has knowledge and skills across a broad range of security topics.

As the number of security threats to organizations grows and the nature of these threats broadens, companies large and small have realized that security can no longer be an afterthought. It must be built into the DNA of the enterprise to be successful. Consequently, trained professionals must be versed not only in technology security but all aspects of security. It also requires a holistic approach to protecting the enterprise.

Security today is no longer a one-size-fits-all proposition. The CISSP credential is a way security professionals can demonstrate the ability to design, implement, and maintain the correct security posture for an organization, based on the complex environments in which today's organizations exist.

The Goals of the CISSP Certification

The CISSP certification is created and managed by one of the most prestigious security organizations in the world and has a number of stated goals. Although not critical for passing the exam, having knowledge of the organization and of these goals is helpful in understanding the motivation behind the creation of the exam.

Sponsoring Bodies

The CISSP is created and maintained by the International Information System Security Certification Consortium (ISC)². The (ISC)² is a global not-for-profit organization that provides both a vendor-neutral certification process and supporting educational materials.

The CISSP is one of a number of security-related certifications offered by (ISC)². Other certifications offered by this organization include the following:

- Systems Security Certified Practitioner (SSCP)
- Certified Cloud Security Professional (CCSP)
- Certified Authorization Professional (CAP)
- Certified Secure Software Life Cycle Professional (CSSLP)
- HealthCare Information Security and Privacy Practitioner (HCISPP)

Several additional versions of the CISSP are offered that focus in particular areas:

- CISSP-Information Systems Security Architecture Professional (CISSP-ISSAP)
- CISSP-Information Systems Security Engineering Professional (CISSP-ISSEP)
- CISSP-Information Systems Security Management Professional (CISSP-ISSMP)

(ISC)² derives some of its prestige from the fact that it was the first security certification body to meet the requirements set forth by ANSI/ISO/IEC Standard 17024, a global benchmark for personnel certification. This ensures that certifications offered by this organization are both highly respected and sought after.

Stated Goals

The goal of (ISC)², operating through its administration of the CISSP and other certifications, is to provide a reliable instrument to measure an individual's knowledge of security. This knowledge is not limited to technology issues alone but extends to all aspects of security that face an organization.

In that regard, the topics are technically more shallow than those tested by some other security certifications, while also covering a much wider range of issues than those other certifications. Later, we cover the topics that comprise the eight domains of knowledge in detail, but it is a wide range of topics. This vast breadth of knowledge and the experience needed to pass the exam are what set the CISSP certification apart.

The Value of the CISSP Certification

The CISSP certification holds value for both the exam candidate and the enterprise. This certification is routinely in the top 10 of yearly lists that rank the relative demand for various IT certifications.

To the Security Professional

A security professional would spend the time and effort required to achieve this credential for numerous reasons:

- To meet growing demand for security professionals
- To become more marketable in an increasingly competitive job market
- To enhance skills in a current job

- To qualify or compete more successfully for a promotion
- To increase salary

In short, this certification demonstrates that the holder not only has the knowledge and skills tested in the exam but also has the wherewithal to plan and implement a study plan that addresses an unusually broad range of security topics.

To the Enterprise

For an organization, the CISSP certification offers a reliable benchmark to which job candidates can be measured by validating knowledge and experience. Candidates who successfully pass the rigorous exam are required to submit documentation verifying experience in the security field. Individuals holding this certification will stand out from the rest, not only making the hiring process easier but also adding a level of confidence in the final hire.

The Common Body of Knowledge

The material contained in the CISSP exam is divided into eight domains, which comprise what is known as the Common Body of Knowledge. This book devotes a chapter to each of these domains. Inevitable overlap occurs between the domains, leading to some overlap between topics covered in the chapters; the topics covered in each chapter are described next.

Security and Risk Management

The Security and Risk Management domain, covered in Chapter 1, encompasses a broad spectrum of general information security and risks management topics and is 15 percent of the exam. Topics include

- Professional ethics
- Concepts of confidentiality, integrity, availability, authenticity, and nonrepudiation
- Security governance principles
- Compliance requirements
- Legal and regulatory issues
- Investigation types
- Security policy, standards, procedures, and guidelines
- Business continuity (BC) requirements

- Personnel security policies and procedures
- Risk management concepts
- Threat modeling concepts and methodologies
- Supply chain risk management (SCRM) concepts
- Security awareness, education, and training program

Asset Security

The Asset Security domain, covered in Chapter 2, focuses on the collection, handling, and protection of information throughout its life cycle and is 10 percent of the exam. Topics include

- Information and asset identification and classification
- Information and asset handling requirements
- Resource provisioning
- Data life cycle
- Asset retention
- Data security controls and compliance requirements

Security Architecture and Engineering

The Security Architecture and Engineering domain, covered in Chapter 3, addresses the practice of building information systems and related architecture that deliver the required functionality when threats occur and is 13 percent of the exam. Topics include

- Engineering processes using secure design principles
- Fundamental concepts of security models
- Control selection based on systems security requirements
- Security capabilities of information systems
- Vulnerabilities of security architectures, designs, and solution elements
- Cryptography
- Cryptanalytic attacks
- Security principles of site and facility design
- Site and facility security controls

Communication and Network Security

The Communication and Network Security domain, covered in Chapter 4, focuses on protecting data in transit and securing the underlying networks over which the data travels and is 13 percent of the exam. Topics include

- Secure design principles in network architectures
- Network components security
- Secure communication channels

Identity and Access Management (IAM)

The Identity and Access Management domain, covered in Chapter 5 and comprising 13 percent of the exam, discusses provisioning and managing the identities and access used in the interaction of humans and information systems, of disparate information systems, and even between individual components of information systems. Topics include

- Physical and logical access to assets
- Identification and authentication of people, devices, and services
- Federated identity as a third-party service
- Authorization mechanisms
- Identity and access provisioning life cycle
- Authentication systems

Security Assessment and Testing

The Security Assessment and Testing domain, covered in Chapter 6 and comprising 12 percent of the exam, encompasses the evaluation of information assets and associated infrastructure using tools and techniques for the purpose of identifying and mitigating risk due to architectural issues, design flaws, configuration errors, hardware and software vulnerabilities, coding errors, and any other weaknesses that may affect an information system's ability to deliver its intended functionality in a secure manner. The topics include

- Assessment, test, and audit strategies design and validation
- Security control testing
- Security process data collection
- Test output analysis and reporting
- Security audits

Security Operations

The Security Operations domain, covered in Chapter 7, surveys the execution of security measures and maintenance of proper security posture and is 13 percent of the exam. Topics include

- Investigations compliance
- Logging and monitoring activities
- Configuration management
- Security operations concepts
- Resource protection
- Incident management
- Detective and preventive measures
- Patch and vulnerability management
- Change management processes
- Recovery strategies
- Disaster recovery (DR) processes
- Disaster recovery plan (DRP) testing
- Business continuity (BC) planning and exercises
- Physical security implementation and management
- Personnel safety and security concerns

Software Development Security

The Software Development Security domain, covered in Chapter 8, explores the software development life cycle and development best practices and is 11 percent of the exam. Topics include

- Software development life cycle (SDLC) security
- Security controls in development environments
- Software security effectiveness
- Security impact of acquired software
- Secure coding guidelines and standards

Steps to Becoming a CISSP

To become a CISSP, a test candidate must meet certain prerequisites and follow specific procedures. Test candidates must qualify for the exam and sign up for the exam.

Qualifying for the Exam

Candidates must have a minimum of five years of paid full-time professional security work experience in two or more of the eight domains in the Common Body of Knowledge. You may receive a one-year experience waiver with a four-year college degree or additional credential from the approved list, available at the (ISC)² website, thus requiring four years of direct full-time professional security work experience in two or more of the eight domains of the CISSP.

If you lack this experience, you can become an Associate of (ISC)² by successfully passing the CISSP exam. You'll then have six years to earn your experience to become a CISSP.

Signing Up for the Exam

The steps required to sign up for the CISSP are as follows:

1. Create a Pearson Vue account and schedule your exam.
2. Complete the Examination Agreement, attesting to the truth of your assertions regarding professional experience and legally committing to the adherence of the (ISC)² Code of Ethics.
3. Review the Candidate Background Questions.
4. Submit the examination fee.

When you are notified that you have successfully passed the examination, you will be required to subscribe to the (ISC)² Code of Ethics and have your application endorsed before the credential can be awarded. An endorsement form for this purpose must be completed and signed by an (ISC)² certified professional who is an active member and who is able to attest to your professional experience.

Facts About the CISSP Exam

The CISSP exam is a computer-based test that the candidate can spend up to three to six hours completing (depending on whether you take the CAT version that is available in English only or the linear format that is available in all other languages). There are no formal breaks, but you are allowed to bring a snack and eat it at the back of the test room, but any time used for that break counts toward the three to six hours. You must bring a government-issued identification card. No other forms of ID will be accepted. You may be required to submit to a palm vein scan.

The CAT test consists of a maximum 175 questions, while the linear format consists of 250 questions. As of May 2022, the CISSP exam will be in a computerized adaptive testing (CAT) format for those who take the English-language version, whereas all other languages have only the linear format. With the CAT format, the computer evaluates the certification candidate's ability to get the next question right based on the candidate's previous answers and the difficulty of those questions. The questions get harder as the certification candidate answers questions correctly, and the questions get easier as the certification candidate answers questions incorrectly. Each answer affects the questions that follow. Therefore, unlike the linear test format where the certification candidate can go back and forth in the question pool and change answers, a CAT format exam does *not* allow the certification candidate to change the answer or even view a previously answered question. The certification candidate may receive a pass or fail score without seeing 175 questions. To find out more about the CAT format, please go to www.isc2.org/Certifications/CISSP/CISSP-CAT#.

Although the majority of the questions will be multiple-choice questions with four options, test candidates may also encounter drag-and-drop and hotspot questions. The passing grade is 700 out of a possible 1,000 points. Candidates will receive the unofficial results at the test center from the test administrator. (ISC)² will then follow up with an official result via email.

About the *CISSP Cert Guide*, Fourth Edition

This book maps to the topic areas of the (ISC)² Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) exam and uses a number of features to help you understand the topics and prepare for the exam.

Objectives and Methods

This book uses several key methodologies to help you discover the exam topics on which you need more review, to help you fully understand and remember those details, and to help you prove to yourself that you have retained your knowledge of those topics. This book does not try to help you pass the exam only by memorization; it seeks to help you to truly learn and understand the topics. This book is designed to help you pass the CISSP exam by using the following methods:

- Helping you discover which exam topics you have not mastered
- Providing explanations and information to fill in your knowledge gaps
- Supplying exercises that enhance your ability to recall and deduce the answers to test questions
- Providing practice exercises on the topics and the testing process via test questions on the companion website

Book Features

To help you customize your study time using this book, the core chapters have several features that help you make the best use of your time:

- **Foundation Topics:** These are the core sections of each chapter. They explain the concepts for the topics in that chapter.
- **Exam Preparation Tasks:** After the “Foundation Topics” section of each chapter, the “Exam Preparation Tasks” section lists a series of study activities that you should do at the end of the chapter:
 - **Review All Key Topics:** The Key Topic icon appears next to the most important items in the “Foundation Topics” section of the chapter. The Review All Key Topics activity lists the key topics from the chapter, along with their page numbers. Although the contents of the entire chapter could be on the exam, you should definitely know the information listed in each key topic, so you should review these.
 - **Define Key Terms:** Although the CISSP exam may be unlikely to ask a question such as “Define this term,” the exam does require that you learn and know a lot of information systems security terminology. This section lists the most important terms from the chapter, asking you to write a short definition and compare your answer to the glossary at the end of the book.
 - **Review Questions:** Confirm that you understand the content that you just covered by answering these questions and reading the answer explanations.
- **Web-based practice exam:** The companion website includes the Pearson Cert Practice Test engine that allows you to take practice exam questions. Use it to prepare with a sample exam and to pinpoint topics where you need more study.

How This Book Is Organized

This book contains eight core chapters—Chapters 1 through 8. Chapter 9 includes some preparation tips and suggestions for how to approach the exam. Each core chapter covers a subset of the topics on the CISSP exam. The core chapters map directly to the CISSP exam topic areas and cover the concepts and technologies that you will encounter on the exam.

Companion Website

Register this book to get access to the Pearson IT Certification test engine and other study materials plus additional bonus content. Check this site regularly for new and updated postings written by the authors that provide further insight into the more troublesome topics on the exam. Be sure to check the box that you would like to hear from us to receive updates and exclusive discounts on future editions of this product or related products.

To access this companion website, follow these steps:

- Step 1.** Go to www.pearsonitcertification.com/register and log in or create a new account.
- Step 2.** Enter the ISBN: **9780137507474**.
- Step 3.** Answer the challenge question as proof of purchase.
- Step 4.** Click the **Access Bonus Content** link in the Registered Products section of your account page, to be taken to the page where your downloadable content is available.

Please note that many of the companion content files can be very large, especially image and video files.

If you are unable to locate the files for this title by following these steps, please visit www.pearsonITcertification.com/contact and select the **Site Problems/Comments** option. Our customer service representatives will assist you.

Pearson Test Prep Practice Test Software

As noted previously, this book comes complete with the Pearson Test Prep practice test software containing two full exams. These practice tests are available to you either online or as an offline Windows application. To access the practice exams that were developed with this book, please see the instructions in the card inserted in the sleeve in the back of the book. This card includes a unique access code that enables you to activate your exams in the Pearson Test Prep software.

Accessing the Pearson Test Prep Software Online

The online version of this software can be used on any device with a browser and connectivity to the Internet, including desktop machines, tablets, and smartphones. To start using your practice exams online, simply follow these steps:

- Step 1.** Go to www.PearsonTestPrep.com.
- Step 2.** Select **Pearson IT Certification** as your product group.

- Step 3.** Enter your email/password for your account. If you don't have an account on PearsonITCertification.com or CiscoPress.com, you will need to establish one by going to PearsonITCertification.com/join.
- Step 4.** In the **My Products** tab, click the **Activate New Product** button.
- Step 5.** Enter the access code printed on the insert card in the back of your book to activate your product.
- Step 6.** The product will now be listed in your My Products page. Click the **Exams** button to launch the exam settings screen and start your exam.

Accessing the Pearson Test Prep Software Offline

If you wish to study offline, you can download and install the Windows version of the Pearson Test Prep software. There is a download link for this software on the book's companion website, or you can just enter this link in your browser:

www.pearsonitcertification.com/content/downloads/pcpt/engine.zip

To access the book's companion website and the software, simply follow these steps:

- Step 1.** Register your book by going to PearsonITCertification.com/register and entering the ISBN: **9780137507474**.
- Step 2.** Answer the challenge questions.
- Step 3.** Go to your account page and click the **Registered Products** tab.
- Step 4.** Click the **Access Bonus Content** link under the product listing.
- Step 5.** Click the **Install Pearson Test Prep Desktop Version** link under the Practice Exams section of the page to download the software.
- Step 6.** After the software finishes downloading, unzip all the files on your computer.
- Step 7.** Double-click the application file to start the installation, and follow the onscreen instructions to complete the registration.
- Step 8.** After the installation is complete, launch the application and click the **Activate Exam** button on the My Products tab.
- Step 9.** Click the **Activate a Product** button in the Activate Product Wizard.
- Step 10.** Enter the unique access code found on the card in the sleeve in the back of your book and click the **Activate** button.

- Step 11.** Click **Next** and then click **Finish** to download the exam data to your application.
- Step 12.** Start using the practice exams by selecting the product and clicking the **Open Exam** button to open the exam settings screen.

Note that the offline and online versions will sync together, so saved exams and grade results recorded on one version will be available to you on the other as well.

Customizing Your Exams

When you are in the exam settings screen, you can choose to take exams in one of three modes:

- **Study mode:** Allows you to fully customize your exams and review answers as you are taking the exam. This is typically the mode you would use first to assess your knowledge and identify information gaps.
- **Practice Exam mode:** Locks certain customization options, as it is presenting a realistic exam experience. Use this mode when you are preparing to test your exam readiness.
- **Flash Card mode:** Strips out the answers and presents you with only the question stem. This mode is great for late-stage preparation when you really want to challenge yourself to provide answers without the benefit of seeing multiple-choice options. This mode does not provide the detailed score reports that the other two modes do, so you should not use it if you are trying to identify knowledge gaps.

In addition to these three modes, you will be able to select the source of your questions. You can choose to take exams that cover all of the chapters, or you can narrow your selection to just a single chapter or the chapters that make up specific parts in the book. All chapters are selected by default. If you want to narrow your focus to individual chapters, simply deselect all the chapters; then select only those on which you wish to focus in the Objectives area.

You can also select the exam banks on which to focus. Each exam bank comes complete with a full exam of questions that cover topics in every chapter. You can have the test engine serve up exams from all banks or just from one individual bank by selecting the desired banks in the exam bank area.

There are several other customizations you can make to your exam from the exam settings screen, such as the time of the exam, the number of questions served up,

whether to randomize questions and answers, whether to show the number of correct answers for multiple-answer questions, and whether to serve up only specific types of questions. You can also create custom test banks by selecting only questions that you have marked or questions on which you have added notes.

Updating Your Exams

If you are using the online version of the Pearson Test Prep software, you should always have access to the latest version of the software as well as the exam data. If you are using the Windows desktop version, every time you launch the software while connected to the Internet, it checks if there are any updates to your exam data and automatically downloads any changes that were made since the last time you used the software.

Sometimes, due to many factors, the exam data may not fully download when you activate your exam. If you find that figures or exhibits are missing, you may need to manually update your exams. To update a particular exam you have already activated and downloaded, simply click the **Tools** tab and click the **Update Products** button. Again, this is only an issue with the desktop Windows application.

If you wish to check for updates to the Pearson Test Prep exam engine software, Windows desktop version, simply click the **Tools** tab and click the **Update Application** button. This ensures that you are running the latest version of the software engine.

Figure Credits

Chapter Opener: Charlie Edwards/Getty Images

Figure 1.1: Joseph Steinberg, CloudMask Inc.

Figure 1.27: The Committee of Sponsoring Organizations (COSO)

Figure 3.25: EnggCyclopedia.com

Figure 4.46: Cisco Systems

Figure 8.7: The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)



This chapter covers the following topics:

- **Security Terms:** Concepts discussed include confidentiality, integrity, and availability (CIA); auditing and accounting; non-repudiation; default security posture; defense in depth; abstraction; data hiding; and encryption.
- **Security Governance Principles:** Concepts discussed include security function alignment, organizational processes, organizational roles and responsibilities, security control frameworks, and due care and due diligence.
- **Compliance:** Concepts discussed include contractual, legal, industry standards, and regulatory compliance and privacy requirements compliance.
- **Legal and Regulatory Issues:** Concepts discussed include computer crime concepts, major legal systems, licensing and intellectual property, cyber crimes and data breaches, import/export controls, trans-border data flow, and privacy.
- **Investigation Types:** Concepts discussed include operations/administrative, criminal, civil, regulatory, industry standards, and eDiscovery investigations.
- **Professional Ethics:** Concepts discussed include (ISC)2 Code of Ethics, Computer Ethics Institute, Internet Architecture Board, and organizational code of ethics.
- **Security Documentation:** Documentation types include policies, processes, procedures, standards, guidelines, and baselines.
- **Business Continuity:** Concepts discussed include business continuity and disaster recovery concepts, scope and plan, and BIA development.
- **Personnel Security Policies and Procedures:** Policies and procedures discussed include candidate screening and hiring; employment agreements and policies; onboarding and offboarding processes; vendor, consultant, and contractor agreements and controls; compliance policy requirements; privacy policy requirements, job rotation, and separation of duties.

- **Risk Management Concepts:** Concepts discussed include asset; asset valuation; vulnerability; threat; threat agent; exploit; risk; exposure; countermeasure; risk appetite; attack; breach; risk management policy; risk management team; risk analysis team; risk assessment; implementation; control categories; control types; control assessment, monitoring, and measurement; reporting and continuous improvement; and risk frameworks.
- **Geographical Threats:** Concepts discussed include internal versus external threats, natural threats, system threats, human threats, and politically motivated threats.
- **Threat Modeling:** Concepts discussed include threat modeling concepts, threat modeling methodologies, identifying threats, potential attacks, and remediation technologies and processes.
- **Security Risks in the Supply Chain:** Concepts discussed include risks associated with hardware, software, and services; third-party assessment and monitoring; minimum security requirements; and service-level requirements.
- **Security Education, Training, and Awareness:** Concepts discussed include levels required, methods and techniques, and periodic content reviews.

The Security and Risk Management domain addresses a broad array of topics, including the fundamental information security principles of confidentiality, integrity, and availability; governance; legal systems; privacy; the regulatory environment; personnel security; risk management; threat modeling; business continuity; supply chain risk; and professional ethics. Out of 100 percent of the exam, this domain carries an average weight of 15 percent, which is the highest weight of all the eight domains. So, pay close attention to the many details in this chapter!

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Security and Risk Management

Information security governance involves the principles, frameworks, and methods that establish criteria for protecting information assets, including security awareness. Risk management allows organizations to identify, measure, and control organizational risks. Threat modeling allows organizations to identify threats and potential attacks and implement appropriate mitigations against these threats and attacks. These facets ensure that security controls that are implemented are in balance with the operations of the organization. Each organization must develop a well-rounded, customized security program that addresses the needs of the organization while ensuring that the organization exercises due care and due diligence in its security plan. Acquisitions present special risks that management must understand prior to completing acquisitions.

Security professionals must take a lead role in their organization's security program and act as risk advisors to management. In addition, security professionals must ensure that they understand current security issues and risks, governmental and industry regulations, and security controls that can be implemented. They also must understand professional ethics for security personnel. Security is an ever-evolving, continuous process, and security professionals must be watchful.

Business continuity and disaster recovery ensure that the organization can recover from any attack or disaster that affects operations. Using the results from the risk assessment, security professionals should ensure that the appropriate business continuity and disaster recovery plans are created, tested, and revised at appropriate intervals.

In this chapter, you learn how to use the information security governance and risk management components to assess risks, implement controls for identified risks, monitor control effectiveness, and perform future risk assessments.

Foundation Topics

Security Terms

When implementing security and managing risk, you must keep in mind several important security principles and terms, including confidentiality, integrity, and availability; auditing and accounting; non-repudiation; default security posture; defense in depth; abstraction; data hiding; and encryption.

CIA

The three fundamentals of security are confidentiality, integrity, and availability (CIA), often referred to as the *CIA triad*. Although the CIA triad is being introduced here, each principle of the triad should be considered in every aspect of security design. The CIA triad could easily be discussed in any domain of the CISSP exam.

Most security issues result in a violation of at least one facet of the CIA triad. Understanding these three security principles will help security professionals ensure that the security controls and mechanisms implemented protect at least one of these principles.

Every security control that an organization puts into place fulfills at least one of the security principles of the CIA triad. Understanding how to circumvent these security principles is just as important as understanding how to provide them.

A balanced security approach should be implemented to ensure that all three facets are considered when security controls are implemented. When implementing any control, you should identify the facet that the control addresses. For example, Redundant Array of Inexpensive Disks (RAID) addresses data availability, file hashes address data integrity, and encryption addresses data confidentiality. A balanced approach ensures that no facet of the CIA triad is ignored.

Confidentiality

To ensure *confidentiality*, you must prevent the disclosure of data or information to unauthorized entities. As part of confidentiality, the sensitivity level of data must be determined before putting any access controls in place. Data with a higher sensitivity level will have more access controls in place than data at a lower sensitivity level. Identification, authentication, and authorization can be used to maintain data confidentiality.

The opposite of confidentiality is open access. Encryption is probably the most popular example of a control that provides confidentiality.

Integrity

Integrity, the second part of the CIA triad, ensures that data and systems are protected from unauthorized modification or data corruption. The goal of integrity is to preserve consistency, specifically:

- **Data integrity:** Implies that the data can be trusted, is complete, consistent, and accurate.
- **System integrity:** Implies that a system will work as intended—that is, store, process, and display data correctly.

The opposite of integrity is corruption. Hashing can be used to prove (or disprove) data integrity.

Availability

Availability means ensuring that information, systems, and supporting infrastructure are operating and accessible when needed. The two main instances in which availability is affected are (1) when attacks are carried out that disable or cripple a system and (2) when service loss occurs during and after disasters. Each system should be assessed in terms of its criticality to organizational operations. Controls should be implemented based on each system's criticality level.

Availability is the opposite of destruction or inoperability. Fault-tolerant technologies, such as RAID or alternate sites, are examples of controls that help improve availability.

Auditing and Accounting

Auditing and *accounting* are two related terms in organizational security. *Auditing* is an internal or external process of providing a manual or systematic measurable technical assessment of a system or application, whereas *accounting* is the logging of access and use of information resources. Auditing requires an analysis, which may be used to form an opinion. Accountability is the process of tracing actions to the source. Security professionals can perform audits of user or service accounts, account usage, application usage, device usage, and even permission usage. An audit is often used to identify corporate assets, detect risks to those assets, and improve security protocols. Regular audits should be carried out to ensure that the security policies in place are enforced and are being followed. Accounting is used to determine what changes need to be made.

Organizations should have a designated party who is responsible for ensuring that auditing and accounting of enterprise security are being completed regularly.

Although computer security audits can be performed by internal personnel, such as corporate internal auditors, the audits may also need to be completed by federal or state regulators, external auditors, or consultants.

Keep in mind that in many contexts auditing can also be a third-party activity whereby an organization gains independent assurance based on evidence. With this type of auditing, the third party is usually assessing an organization's compliance with standards or other organizational guidelines.

Non-repudiation

Non-repudiation is the assurance that a sender cannot deny an action, and often involves the sender being sent proof of delivery, while the receiver is provided with proof of the sender's identity. This behavior is usually seen in electronic communications where one party denies sending a contract, document, or email. Non-repudiation means putting measures in place that will prevent the sender from denying that it sent a message.

A valid digital signature gives a recipient reason to believe that the message was created by a known sender (authentication), that the sender cannot deny having sent the message (non-repudiation), and when encrypted with a signature, that the message was not altered in transit (integrity).

Default Security Posture

An organization's approach to information security directly affects its access control strategy. For a *default security posture*, organizations must choose between the allow-by-default or deny-by-default options. As implied by its name, an allow-by-default posture permits access to any data unless a need exists to restrict access. The deny-by-default posture is much stricter because it denies any access that is not explicitly permitted. Government and military institutions and many commercial organizations use a deny-by-default posture.

Today, few organizations implement either of these postures to its fullest. Most organizations use some mixture of the two. Access control protocols enable an organization to balance both protocols. Although the core posture should guide the organization, organizations often find that this mixture is necessary to ensure that data is still protected while providing access to a variety of users. For example, a public website might grant all HTTP and HTTPS content but deny all other content.

Defense in Depth

A *defense-in-depth* strategy refers to the practice of using multiple layers of security between data and the resources on which it resides and securing that data from possible attackers (see Figure 1-1). It is derived from a military strategy, whereby multiple layers of defense are used rather than one line of defense, thereby slowing down the advancement of an attacker.

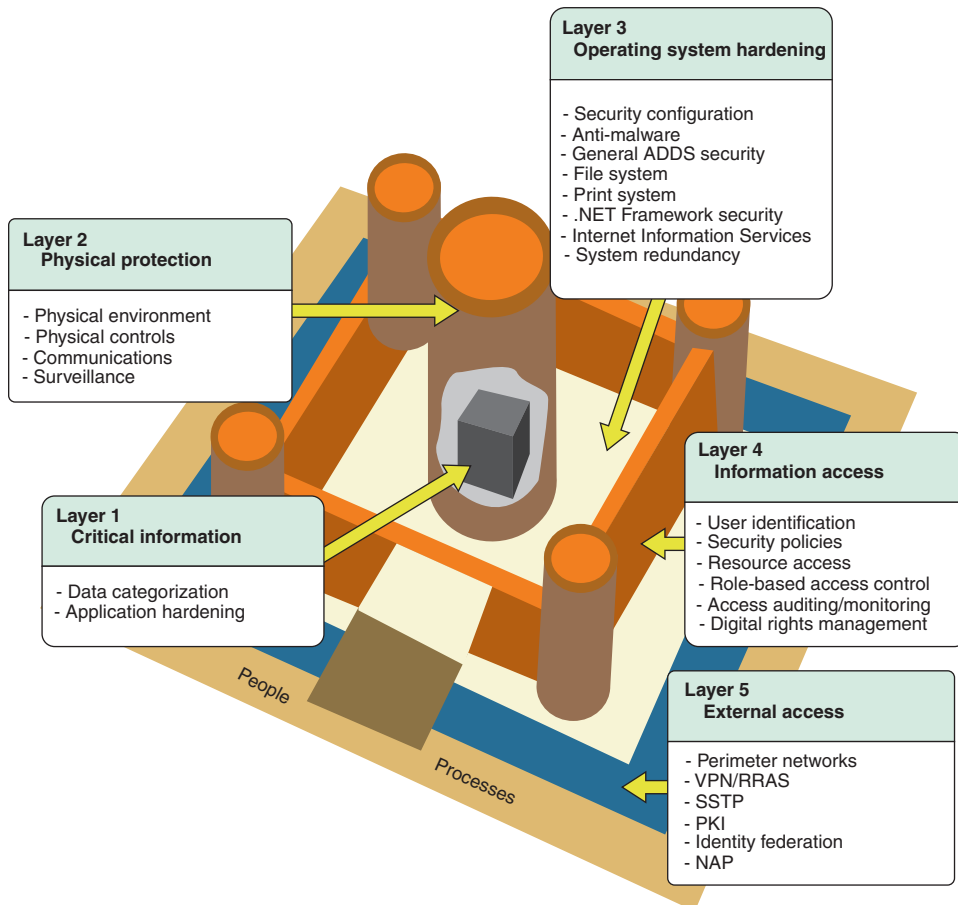


Figure 1-1 Defense-in-Depth Example

The first layer of a good defense-in-depth strategy is appropriate access control strategies. Access controls exist in all areas of an information systems (IS) infrastructure (more commonly referred to as an IT infrastructure), but a defense-in-depth strategy goes beyond access control. It also considers software development security, asset security, and all other domains of the CISSP realm.