PREMIER MINISTRE
Secrétariat général de la défense nationale
Direction centrale de la sécurité des systèmes d'information
Sous-direction des opérations
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BEST PRACTICES FOR ISS RISK MANAGEMENT

Using the Results of the EBIOS® Method to Study a Future System

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What is a Future System?

An "information system" is a set of entities (software, hardware, networks, facilities, organisations and personnel) organised to perform data processing functions[1].

The expression "future system" applies to information systems that are in the opportunity study, feasibility study, basic design study, detailed design study, production, coding, integration, qualification, approval and acceptance phases.

What benefits does the EBIOS method offer when studying a future system?

The EBIOS method provides several benefits for future system studies:

- Total consistency with the organisation's strategic goals,
- Step-by-step validation and bottom-up system security design thanks to the structured approach,
- Neat fit with the system development process,
- Optimised resources, thanks to appropriate security specifications,
- Commitment by the various actors (i.e. decision-makers, the contracting authority and the prime contractor).

How can EBIOS be used to study a future system?

One effective solution for specifying a future system's security requirements involves conducting an EBIOS study of the system:

- The analysis should begun early – during the opportunity study,
- Study data should be gradually incorporated and refined as the design process advances.

[1] According to the definition in the NATO glossary on information and communication systems, AAP-31(A) published on 15/05/2003.

The table below illustrates the process for studying a future system using the EBIOS method:

Steps in the method	Use when studying a future system
Context study	- Based on the organisation's baseline (regulations, existing system and ISS) and on the overall IS security policy in particular, - Gradually refined as the system specifications take shape;
Expression of needs	- Primarily involves the project leader and contracting authority;
Threat study	- Gradually refined as the system specifications take shape;
Identify security objectives	- Gradually refined and approved as the system specifications take shape;
Determine security requirements	- Gradually refined as the system specifications take shape; - Conducted in step with the organisation's other system development projects; - Developed in accordance with security assurance requirements.

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