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RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

PREMIER MINISTRE

Secrétariat général de la défense nationale

Direction centrale de la sécurité des systèmes d'information

The EBIOS® method

Expression of Needs and Identification of Security Objectives

The benefits of EBIOS®

A tool for managing ISS risks

The EBIOS® method is used to assess and treat risks relating to information systems security (ISS).
It can also be used to communicate this information within the organisation and to partners, and therefore assists in the ISS risk management process.

A negotiation and decision-making tool

By providing information to support decision-making (detailed descriptions, strategic stakes, detailed risks with their impact on the organisation, explicit security objectives and requirements), EBIOS® is a valuable negotiation and decision-making tool.

A tool for increasing awareness

EBIOS® provides greater awareness for everyone involved in a project (top management, financial, legal or human resources departments, contracting authorities, prime contractors, users), increases the involvement of information system actors and standardises the vocabulary.

Recognition

Tested experience

Created in 1995 and maintained by the DCSSI, EBIOS® is based on tested experience in ISS consulting and support for contracting authorities. It enhances the reputation of the DCSSI's methodological tools.

A tool compatible with international standards

EBIOS® contributes to the international recognition of security projects by guaranteeing compatibility with international standards such as ISO 13335 (GMITS), ISO 15408 (Common Criteria) and ISO 17799.

A large number of users

EBIOS® is widely used in the public sector (all ministries and bodies under their administration), in the private sector (consulting firms, small and large companies), in France and abroad (European Union, Quebec, Belgium, Tunisia, Luxembourg, etc.), by numerous organisations using or benefiting from ISS risk analyses.
It is available free of charge on the DCSSI site: (http://www.ssi.gouv.fr).

High added value

A wide range of deliverables

EBIOS® can be used for many different purposes and security initiatives, such as preparing ISS master plans, policies, trend charts or various types of specifications such as FEROS statements, protection profiles or security targets (in the sense of ISO 15408), action plans or any other form of ISS specifications. This global approach guarantees the consistency of ISS methodological tools.

Used at the system design phase or for existing systems

EBIOS® can be used during the design phase or on an existing system. At the design stage it can be integrated into project management to determine security specifications as the project progresses. For an existing system it takes into account the existing security measures and integrates security into the operating systems.

Advantages of EBIOS®

A fast method

The time requirement for an EBIOS® study is optimised because it is designed to provide the necessary and sufficient elements for the required result.

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An exhaustive approach

The ISS risk is the combination of a threat and the losses it can cause.
Unlike scenario-based risk analysis approaches, the structured approach of the EBIOS® method allows the component elements of risks to be identified (entities and vulnerabilities, attack methods and threat agents, essential elements and sensitivities, etc.). This methodical construction guarantees an exhaustive risk analysis.

A reusable tool

EBIOS® is designed to provide on-going risk analysis and global ISS consistency.
The specific study of a system can be based on a global study of the organisation; a study can be updated at regular intervals to provide continuous risk management; the study of a comparable system can also be used as a reference.

An adaptive approach

The EBIOS® method can be adapted to any specific context and adjusted to existing methodological tools and habits without compromising the general philosophy of the approach.
This flexible approach provides ISS actors with a wide range of tools.
Its scope covers everything from a global study of an organisation's complete information system to a detailed study of a specific system (Web site, electronic messaging, recruitment management, etc.).
Selected parts of the approach can be used separately to conduct, for example, a vulnerability analysis (just the threat study) or to identify the strategic elements (context study, non-detailed expression of needs, non-detailed study of threats).

The EBIOS® baseline

Its knowledge bases

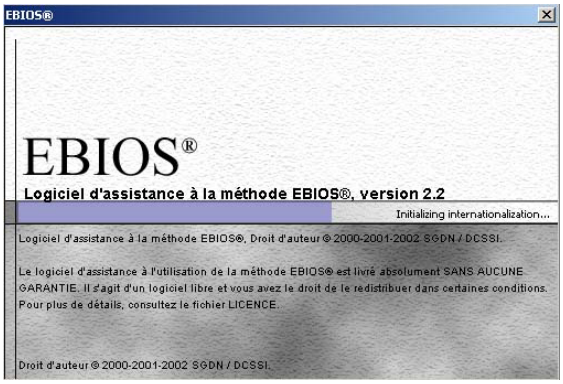
The EBIOS® knowledge bases introduce and describe the types of entity, attack methods, vulnerabilities, security objectives and security requirements. They are directly applicable to most sectors, but they can be easily acquired and adapted to any specific context.

Its training programme

The DCSSI training centre provides regular training sessions for the EBIOS® method, as well as instructor training.

Its software

The user support freeware for the method can be obtained by sending a request to the DCSSI (ebios.dcssi@sgdn.pm.gouv.fr).

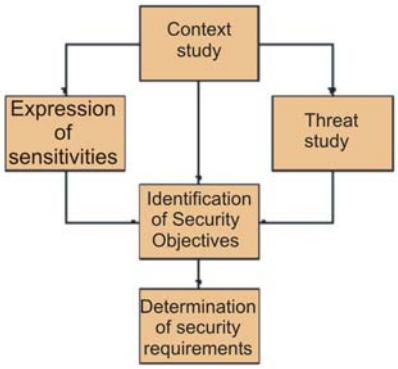


Its best practices

The EBIOS® best practices describe the use of the results for the various security approaches:

- preparing ISS master plans,
- preparing ISS policies,
- preparing certification policies,
- writing a FEROS,
- writing protection profiles,
- writing security target descriptions,
- writing System-specific Security Requirement Statements (SSRS) for NATO,
- comparison between the study prior to design and the study of existing systems, etc.

Its user community



The EBIOS® method users' club is a regular meeting place for a community of users keen to contribute to the development of the method and obtain the latest information about it.

All these benefits make EBIOS® the essential tool for conducting effective ISS risk analyses.

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