



What is Information Security?

INFORMATION SECURITY TERMINOLOGY

This tutorial has already given you some terms that are likely new to you. There are terms, however, that are very commonly referred to when discussing information security. These are defined in user-friendly terms below.

ASSET AND RISK

Let's assume that one day I park my car in the parking lot. I purposely leave my laptop in the car and lock the car; however, I forget to close my window before I walk off to my office. In this scenario I just defined both an **asset** and a **risk**. See the images below.



Asset - something I want protected, so I lock it up in my car.



Asset (with open window - vulnerability)



Risk - of losing both my car and my laptop. I have insurance, so some of the risk is transferred to my insurance agent.

THREAT AGENT

That day a man dressed like a thief (maybe that's because he was one) approached my car. This man is a **threat agent**. He has the power and potential to steal my assets from me if he so chooses. See image below.

Threat Agent



VULNERABILITY

Normally, the parking lot is very secure, however, that day the parking lot security man was sleeping. This sleeping man created a **vulnerability** or weakness in the security of the parking lot that will allow the threat agent (the man looking like a thief) to bypass security and rip me off. See image below.

Vulnerability in the security of the parking lot.



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Threat Agent



Assets

EXPLOIT

Well, the man that looked like a thief actually became one. He chose to steal my laptop by **exploiting** the security weakness (vulnerability). Fortunately, he did not steal my car. See image below.



Exploit