
A recent Deloitte & Touche study of e-businesses <http://www.isaca.org/ecomm.htm> disclosed that no respondents were using risk analysis tools to guide risk management decisions. "This is easy to understand," said William H. Murray, senior researcher on the study, "because until recently there have been no efficient, realistic tools. On the other hand, these are decisions where the use of intuition can result in very expensive error. An efficient tool can easily cover its own cost."

F. Lynn McNulty <http://www.safersite.com/Company/McNulty.asp>, head of security consultants McNulty and Associates and a former Associate Director for Computer Security National Institute of Standards and Technology, US Department of Commerce as well as the Director of Government Affairs for RSA Security from January 1997 to December 2000, said, "I have found that CORA and its predecessor IST products to be powerful analytical tools for understanding security issues, and managing risks.” While serving as director of information systems security the Federal Aviation Administration, McNulty used these tools to analyze an Air Route Traffic Control Center. “This was the first quantitative risk analysis of an ARTCC. CORA makes it easy for an enterprise to quantify and manage all of its risks, and CORA-Web will make it easy for a team to collaborate on a project."

According to Jacobson, open-end questionnaires have limitations that are overcome by CORA-Web’s quantitative model of risk, which focuses attention on the specific details of the risk environment needed to make prudent management decisions. Each user defines exactly which risk factors to include in a risk analysis, and employs the results to evaluate the cost/performance of a full range of risk mitigation, risk transfer, and risk recovery measures.

The application service provider Dynamic Access Systems is hosting CORA-Web. Alan Duncan, CEO, said, "As an ASP, we put great emphasis on risk management to ensure that we achieve the service levels that our clients expect of us. CORA makes it easy to analyze our risks, particularly threats that can cause service interruptions, and to choose the optimum risk mitigation strategies. The CORA analysis of the DynAccSys ASP systems has made a very strong contribution to our marketing and sales promotion.”

For more information about CORA and CORA-Web, see Jacobson's Web site at <

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Disclaimer: I have no financial interest whatever in CORA or in International Security Technology, Inc. Because I have not yet evaluated the software, this column should not be construed as an endorsement.

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