



Insider threats in higher education



23 September 2020 Workshop Insider Threat Awareness & Mitigation



Insider threats in higher education

- ❑ Based on scientific article 'A typology of insider threats in higher education'
- ❑ Categorisation of 8 types of insider threats
- ❑ Examples obtained from publicly available media reports

Typology

	Four W's and (derivates of) How	Domain	Question
1.	What	Objective	What is the goal of the insider?
2.	Who	Subject	Who is affected by the insider threat?
3.	Why	Motivation	Why does the insider intentionally misuse his access/knowledge?
4.	When	Time	When does the insider get untrustworthy?
5.	How	Modus operandi	How does the insider misuse his access/knowledge?
6.	How serious	Severity	How serious is the impact of the insider threat?
7.	How many	Number	How many insiders are involved in the insider threat?
8.	How much	Complicity	How much is the insider involved in the insider threat?

1. Objective: what is the goal of the insider?

WHAT?

Expressive

Instrumental



“It is the end that justifies the means”

3. Motivation: why does the insider intentionally misuse his access or knowledge?

WHY?

Personal strain

Coercion

Love and empathy

Negligence

Personality disorder

Well-meaning

Greed

Grievance

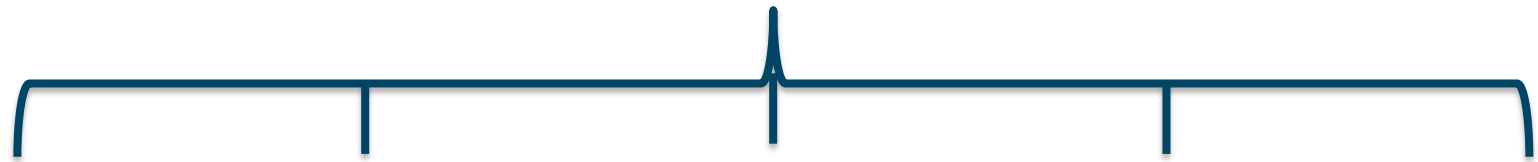
Ideology

Moral concerns



5. Modus Operandi: how does the insider misuse his access/knowledge?

HOW?



Financial

Sexual

Violent

Information

Other

misconduct

misconduct

misconduct

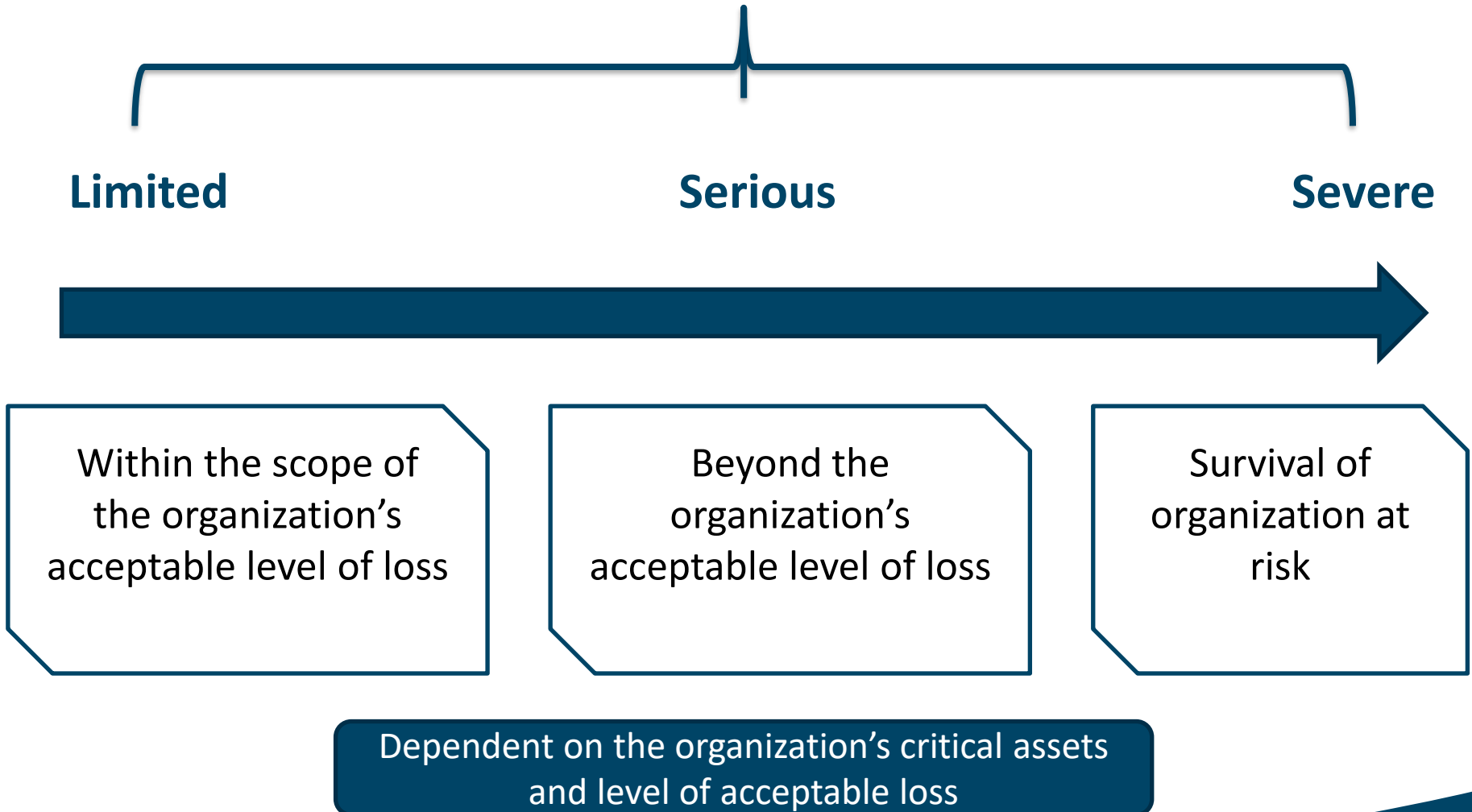
misconduct

misconduct



6. Severity: how serious is the insider threat?

HOW SERIOUS?



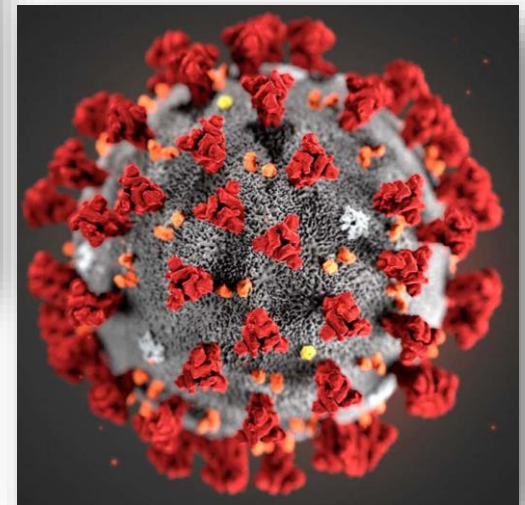
7. Number: how many insiders are involved?

HOW MANY?

Lone wolf

Group of insiders

Combination of insider(s) and outsider(s)



Conclusion and recommendations

- ❑ Need for more awareness about insider threats in higher education
- ❑ The importance of the presented typology
- ❑ The impact of a strong security culture
- ❑ Future research



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