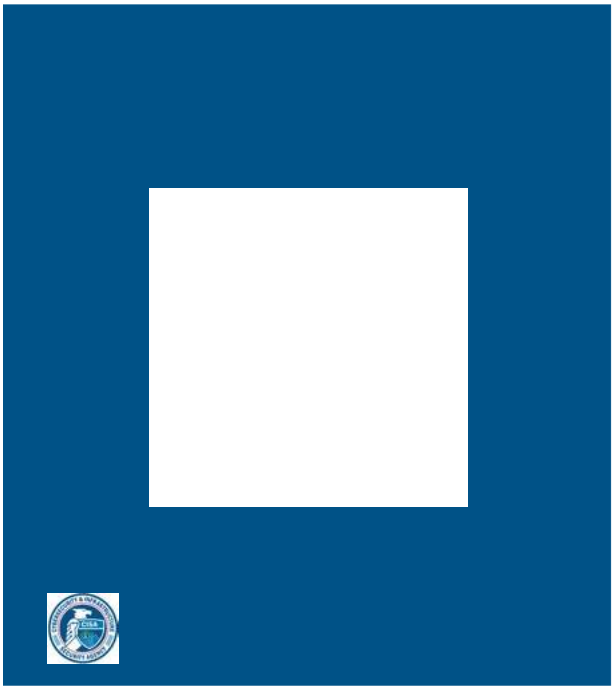
Strategic Analysis

Table of Contents



**032 Strategic analysis--

Strategic Analysis

- The process of conducting holistic analysis on threats and opportunities
  - Holistically assessing threats is based on analysis **of threat actor potential, organizational exposure, and organizational impact** of the threat. Strategic Analysis answers “who” and “why” questions related to threats and threat actors.
- Comprehensive and Anticipatory
- Enables executive leadership to make risk based decisions pertaining to organizational vital interests

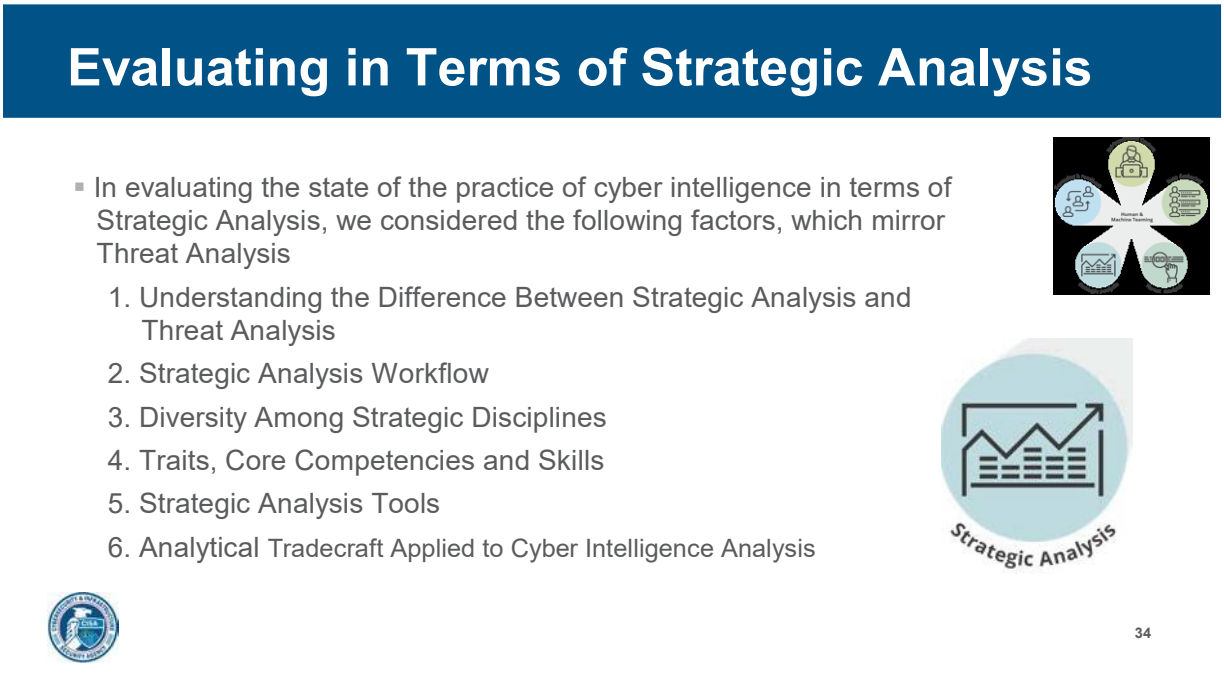
33

**033 --is another component of the cyber intelligence framework. It is the process of conducting holistic analysis of threats and opportunities. Holistically assessing threats is based on the analysis of threat actor potential, organizational exposure, and organizational impact of a threat. Strategic analysis answers questions like, "Who would be doing this to my organization, and why would they want to do this to my organization?" Who are the threat actors, and why do they want to attack my organization?

So one might also perform strategic analysis to provide deep clarity on not just the who and why behind the threat actors but also emerging technologies and geopolitics that could impact and provide opportunities for the organization

now and into the future. In light of this, strategic analysis is not only comprehensive, but it's also anticipatory. In other words, it can be actionable. It is more based on analytical judgments, enabling executive leaders to make risk-based decisions pertaining to organizational-wide financial health, brand, stature, and reputation, and when I talk about opportunities, again, it could mean everything from gaining insight into mergers and acquisitions, developments in your industry, technology developments such as 5G or AI, and opportunities for the military and defense for cyber operations, recruitment or other cyber offensive operations.

A practice of high-performing organizations is referred to the NIST NICE SP 800-181 as a guide for hiring individuals with the right knowledge, skills and abilities to perform strategic analysis and threat analysis. The following NIST NICE 800-181 KSAs map actually to critical thinking and problem solving. That's A0106, and A0118.



**034 In evaluating the state of practice of cyber intelligence in terms of strategic analysis, we considered the following factors, which actually mirror threat analysis. First though, the organizations understand the difference between strategic analysis, which is more holistic in nature, and threat analysis, which is more immediate, a threat based on a specific actor or what is happening that day on their network?

Do organizations have a strategic analysis workflow in order to do this type of strategic, more holistic-based analysis? Do they have diversity of analysts that are able to do this analysis, these traits, core competencies and skills, and fundamentals to do it? Do they have tools that will help them, and are they applying analytical tradecraft

applied to cyber intelligence analysis such as that is recommended in Intelligence Community Directive, ICD 203.

Notices

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