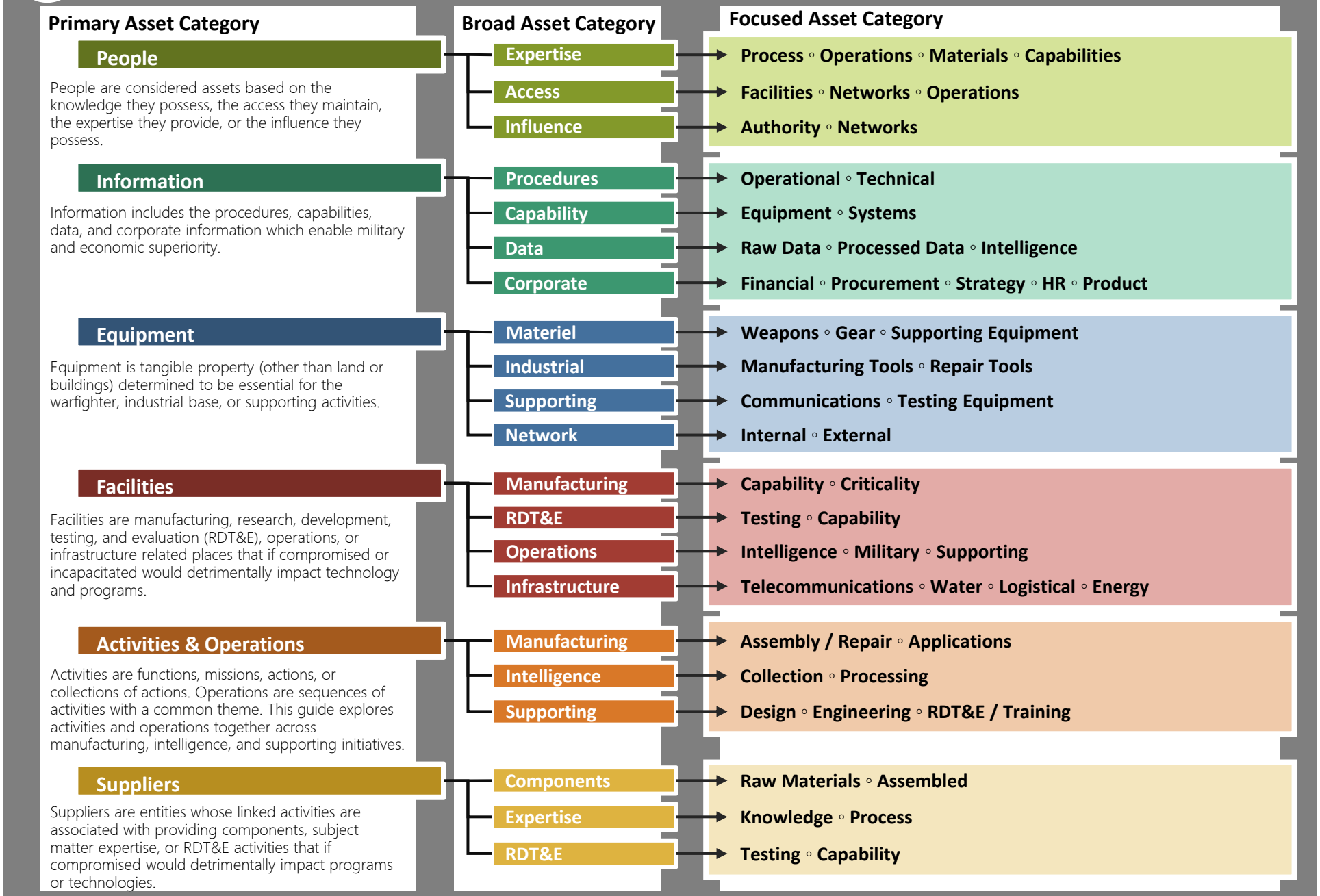
Asset Identification Guide: Quick Look



USING THE AIG

The AIG is designed to help security professionals better understand their organizations and programs in the context of critical assets. It provides seven primary asset categories, and further breaks them down to an increasing degree of specificity. This AIG is not all encompassing; local security professionals may – and are encouraged to - recognize assets they believe to be critical to our national and economic security and superiority.

This guide breaks assets down into three tiers. Security professionals are encouraged to identify assets at the lowest level possible, as it will help with the level of threat information which can eventually be provided in return.

These three tiers are:

- Tier 1 – Primary Categories
- Tier 2 – Broad Categories
- Tier 3 – Focused Categories

Illustrative examples are provided for specific categories

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The AIG helps security experts explore each Tier 1 asset type by providing a guide into each category to assist with identifying and cataloging assets.

WHERE TO DRAW THE LINE?

You wouldn't have hired them if they weren't important, right? The argument can be made that every employee, as well as every tool, supplier, and nugget of data is an asset critical to a program's uncompromised delivery. True though that is, security professionals lack the resources to truly protect everything. Some determination must be made to prioritize all the items that need to be protected.

This Asset Identification Guide seeks to help security professionals with an important question:

"What could be an asset?"

The items identified by using this guide are just that: Potential assets. From there, a determination must be made to prioritize those items which are most likely to lead to compromise of programs. How security professionals decide to focus their efforts once potential assets are identified is not covered in this guide. However, it is recommended that professionals use a logical model which includes both Likelihood and Consequence of loss or compromise.

CRITICAL THINKING

Security professionals will need to think critically about their programs, technologies, and facilities when using this Asset Identification Guide. Working with program managers, scientists, engineers, marketing, finance, and other employees around the firm will help identify what subject matter experts in your firm would consider exploitable pieces of information to compromise our critical programs.

LAYERING

One construct to consider is whether a potential asset sits across multiple categories. This layered approach might be used to assess likelihood and consequence from multiple angles, or to compare the criticality of potential assets.

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1 The six Tier-1, Primary Asset Categories