



A Cyber Security Acronym Buster

by
Cyber Security Partners



2024

Acronym Buster

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Acronym Buster

Introduction

The cyber security industry uses a lot of acronyms and the team here at CSP, have assembled a list. We have attempted where possible, to identify where the acronym has originated from, and when it may have begun its use. This is not a complete list!

We have also included similar abbreviations that may occur in other subject matter areas, such as legal, computing and compliance sectors, to demonstrate where there can be cross over or mis-understanding . The aim of this guide is to support these teams and recognise that we need to come together and establish a common language.

About acronyms

There were no parameters set out in how long an acronym should be, when this guide was put together. The acronyms in this guide are longer than the usual TLA (three letter acronyms). In the creation of this guide, recursive acronyms are also included, that is, an acronym that refers to itself 'GNU' being an example meaning GNU's Not Unix.

How to use this document

For each letter of the alphabet, we have placed an index on the left-hand margin. Each letter in the margin, has a link behind it, to enable quick navigation around this document, and at the end of each paragraph, there are links to related acronyms in this document.



Figure 1 - Click on
alphabet sidebar



Figure 2 - Click on highlighted word at end of definition

Acronym Buster

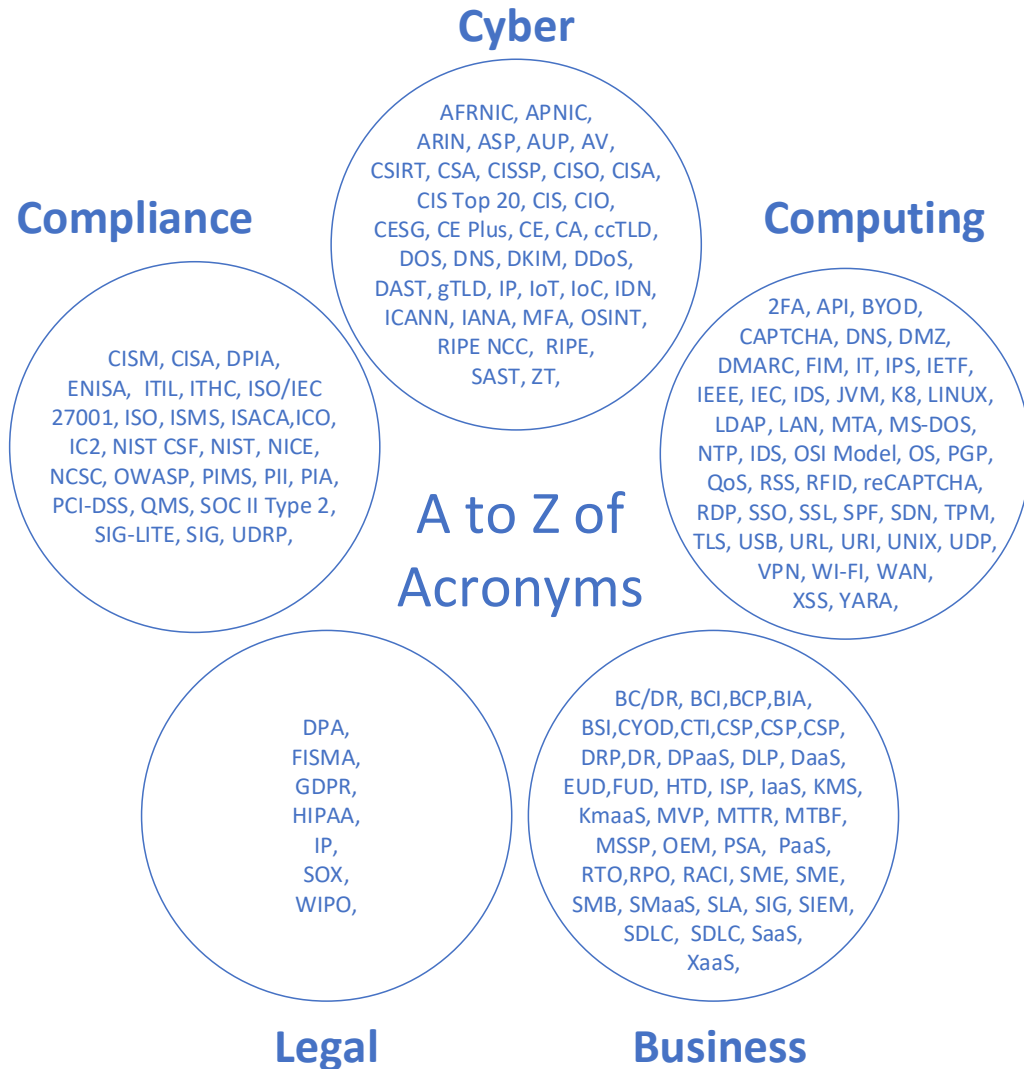


Figure 3 - A visualisation of acronyms by category

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2FA

Two Factor Authentication – cyber term used describe a process for access into information systems. Often applied to email accounts and bank accounts. It implies that more than one factor is required to open up an information system. The ‘factors’ being something you have, something you know or something you are. The term has been around since the 1960s. See also [2SA](#), [2SV](#), [MFA](#).

2SA

Two Step Authentication – See [2FA](#), [2SV](#), [MFA](#).

2SV

Two Step Verification - See also [2FA](#), [2SA](#), [MFA](#).

Letter A



ABAC

Attribute based access control - A term used to describe how an IT administrator applies attributes when granting users access to an information system such as a time restriction, a role type, a location type. It is often seen as an enhancement to Role based access control. See also [RBAC](#).

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AD

Microsoft develops Active Directory software. It stores information about network resources, such as users and computers. AD provides authentication and authorisation services, to verify the identity of users and controls access to network resources.

AES

Advanced encryption standard created by Belgian computer scientists, which is a symmetric block cipher. It was viewed as an open encryption standard. It was adopted by NIST in 2001. AES comes in three forms, 128, 192, 256 bits for the key length. See also [FIPS](#), [NIST](#).

AFRNIC

African Network Information Centre - Cyber term - Founded 11th October 2004, allocates internet protocol addresses for the Africa region. See also [ARIN](#), [APNIC](#), [IANA](#), [ICANN](#), [IP](#), [LACNIC](#), [RIPE](#).

AI

Artificial Intelligence – a cyber term that has been around as early as 1950. It refers to a systems or machines that are able to mimic human intelligence, using human input to perform tasks and can often self-improve based on the information that is collected, defined as machine learning. See also [ML](#).

AICPA

Association of International Certified Professional Accountants - Special interest group - Founded in 1928, Origin is the USA, and have created various accounting frameworks for large organisations. AICPA has also created a framework that crosses into the IT operational sector and is called a SOC II Type 2 attestation. See also [SOC II Type 2](#).

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API

Application program interface - Technical term- a piece of software code, that permits one application to talk to another application.

Think of it as a data translator. See also [ASP](#).

APNIC

Asia Pacific Network Information Centre - Cyber term - Founded 15th January 1993, allocates internet protocol addresses for the Asia Pacific region. See also [ARIN](#), [APNIC](#), [IANA](#), [ICANN](#), [IP](#), [LACNIC](#), [RIPE](#).

AR

Augmented Reality - Augmented reality - a term that describes a human interaction, with computer generated surroundings. The surroundings may well reflect a similar real-world experience. It has been around since the early 1990s, and is used in flight training simulators. More recently, the online gaming industry now offers augmented reality, usually with a headset and handsets. See also [VR](#).

ARIN

American registry for internet numbers - Cyber - Founded 18 April 1997, allocates internet protocol addresses for the North American region. See also [ARIN](#), [APNIC](#), [IANA](#), [ICANN](#), [LACNIC](#), [RIPE](#).

ASF

Apache software foundation, formed in 1999, as an opensource software development group. The log4j cyber incident publicised in November 2021, is a piece of opensource code (used in applications to log user activity) published by the Apache software foundation, under a derivative of an opensource licence. See also [FOSS](#).

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ASP

Application service provider - Cyber – a third-party (often referred to as a software house) who create applications. There are two types of providers 1) for the general public purchase and place them in application stores, or 2) create business to business applications. See also [API](#), [MSP](#), [MSSP](#).

AUP

Acceptable use policy - Cyber – Colloquialism, generally used in compliance. The policy provides guidance to end users on what their expected behaviour is, whilst using an organisation's IT systems.

V

Antivirus - Cyber - a piece of software (produced by third-parties) that is deployed onto end user devices, to detect and protect devices from downloading software code that is considered malicious (i.e., malware).

AWS

Amazon Web Services – Is a cloud compute platform, that offers several on-demand operations like compute power, database storage, content delivery, etc., to help corporates scale and grow. Launched in 2002, it is continuously developing new compute services for clients.

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Letter B



B

The capital letter B stands for byte of digital information and is the symbol designated by the International Electrical Commission and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. A byte is most commonly made up of 8 bits. The term has been around since 1956, and was coined by IBM.

BC/DR

Business continuity / disaster recovery - Business - the two subjects are often considered together when planning. See also [BCP](#), [BIA](#), [DR](#), [DRP](#).

BCI

Business Continuity Institute - Special interest group – a UK based organisation that provides guidance and advice on the large topic of business continuity.

BCP

Business continuity plan - a catch all term to describe what is documented about how an organisation prepares for different types of business continuity events. There are two types of plans 1) one large plan covering many scenarios, 2) Multiple plans, for different scenarios. See also [BIA](#), [DR](#), [DRP](#).

BIA

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Business impact analysis - Business continuity term - When documenting business continuity plans, a sub-process is to document 'what would happen to the business if' which is referred to as a business impact analysis. It can be carried out at a technology, people, or process level. See also [BCP](#), [DR](#), [DRP](#).

BOM

Bill of materials, often used in software organisations, as a list of all the types of software licences that are used in a software product. See also [SBOM](#), [FOSS](#).

BSD

Berkeley Software Distribution operating system created in 1978, as an add-on to the Unix operating system. Many more derivatives of BSD operating systems have since been created, such as FreeBSD (created in 1993). See also [FOSS](#).

BSI

British standards institute - special interest group. Founded in 1901, produces families of standards across industry, food, engineering, technology to name a few. This is a regional organisation of ISO, that publishes ISO standards in the English language. See also [ISO](#).

BYOD

Bring your own device - Colloquial term, generally is an approach by organisations that allow staff, to use their own technology for use on the organisations systems. See also [CYOD](#).

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CASB

Cloud access security broker – a technical platform that collates and manages access to cloud solutions within an organisation. This enables organisations to monitor and track what cloud services are being used from a technical perspective rather than being reliant on people to declare what cloud services they are using.

CCSP

Certified Cloud Security Professional a certification offered by (ISC)² Inc. To qualify for the exam, you require 5 years' experience in IT, 2 years in one of the 6 specified domains, 3 years in information security. See also [ISC2 or \(ISC\)²](#).

ccTLD

Country code top level domain - Cyber term – As part of an internet web address (or URL), letters rather than numbers are used, in order to make it easier for the general public to utilise the internet. Web addresses ending with .de, .uk, .fr, .us, are considered country codes, generally following the ISO standard for country code allocation (ISO 3166). See also [gTLD](#), [ICANN](#), [IDN](#), [ISO](#), [URL](#).

CE

Cyber essentials - Cyber - UK Government scheme - launched on 5th June 2014, a technical scheme aimed at UK government supply chain organisations, to improve their security controls. The cost of the scheme is kept at a low price, to encourage organisations to be able to easily comply. The scheme is based on an annual certification cycle, with new scheme improvements made at least annually. See also [CE Plus](#).

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CE Plus

Cyber essentials plus - Cyber - UK Government scheme - launched on 5th June 2014, a more complex scheme than cyber essentials, with a vulnerability scan that is conducted by a third-party, using specialist vulnerability scanning tools, to check and verify that the system(s) being certified, are actively managed and patched for any security weaknesses. The scheme is based on an annual certification cycle, with new scheme improvements made at least annually. See also [CE](#).

CESG

Computing and engineering specialist group - Cyber - UK Government – the precursor to the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) that was launched in October 2016. See also [NCSC](#).

CI/CD

Continuous integration / continuous development pipeline used when describing the software development and system development lifecycles. See also [SDLC](#).

CIO

Chief information officer - Cyber – Senior job role in cyber security, often presented as a sales position to ‘gather’ or ‘gain’ data for an organisation. See also [CISO](#) job role.

CIS

Center for Internet Security - Special interest group - Center for Internet Security Inc. - Founded in 2000, based in New York, USA. Known as CIS, the CIS publishes many technical standards for computer equipment and identifies what the optimal configurations should be on devices to enable relatively secure configurations. It crowdsources its information from other affiliated special interest groups See also [CIS Top 20](#).

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CIS Top 20

Center for Internet Security produce a framework that comprises of the top 20 information security issues that they recommend organisations should address. The top 20 issues are revised periodically. See also [CIS](#).

CISA

Certified information systems auditor - Cyber - Professional qualification issued by ISACA. Examination + 5 years' experience required to display credentials. See also [ISACA](#).

CISA

Cybersecurity & infrastructure security agency - Special interest group - US Government - Formed in 2018.

CISM

Certified information security manager (issued by ISACA) - Cyber - Professional qualification issued by ISACA, Examination + 5 years' experience required to display credentials. See also [ISACA](#).

CISO

Chief information security officer - Cyber - Senior job role in cyber security, tasked with defending organisational data, See also [CIO](#) job role.

CISSP

Certified information systems security professional - Cyber Professional qualification issued by ISC2. Launched in 1994, consists of an examination and three of years' experience to hold the accreditation. See also [ISC2](#).

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COBIT®

Control Objectives for Information Technology – compliance framework created by ISACA and launched in 1996.

- COBIT 1st edition - 1996
- COBIT 2nd edition - 1998
- COBIT 3rd edition - 2000
- COBIT 4th edition - 2005
- COBIT 4.1 edition - 2007
- COBIT 5 edition - 2012
- COBIT 2019 – 2018 is the last known version in 2022.
- See also [ISACA](#).

CPNI

Centre for Protection of National Infrastructure - Special interest group - UK Government Agency - Founded in 2007. Set up to provide guidance to UK national infrastructure and provides guidance and recommendations about what needs to be secured and protected.

CSA

Cloud Security Alliance - Special interest group - Formed in 2008. A vendor neutral organisation, designed to promote the use of the cloud, and provide a framework for how cloud services should be managed. Organisations are encouraged to perform self-assessments of the CSA CCM framework and publish their self-assessments on the CSA website. See also [CSA-CCM](#).

CSA-CCM

Cloud Security Alliance - Cloud Controls Matrix - Compliance term created by the Cloud Security Alliance - for organisations using cloud services, to self-assess against the cloud framework of controls. Further independent third-party assessments are also encouraged. See also [CSA](#).

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CSA-STAR

Cloud Security Alliance – Security, Trust, Assurance and Risk Registry. A publicly available register of organisations wishing to state their compliance against the Cloud Security Alliance’s Cloud Controls Matrix. See also [CSA](#), [CSA-CCM](#).

CSIRT

Cyber security incident response team - Cyber term – A team that gets together when a cyber incident has occurred and work through a documented procedure to capture information and act as damage limitation when an organisation is under attack. The team is a multi-disciplinary generally made up of staff that are usually from IT support, IT helpdesk, development and security incident managers, and they are expected to call upon relevant expertise when needed. For example, this may be from other disciplines such as financial, legal, human resources.

CSP

Content service provider – Business term for marketeers who provide written articles, videos, blogs on a regular basis (perhaps a new term for newspaper publishers).

CSP

Cyber Security Partners - Business – The team behind this guide!

CSP

Cyber security providers - Business term for information technology providers.

CSP

Cloud service providers - Business term for type of information technology providers.

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CTI

Cyber threat intelligence - Cyber term used to describe what information can be found on the internet, about an organisation (i.e., already exposed data) or information that a cyber-attack may be about to occur against an organisation. See also [OSINT](#).

CYOD

Choose your own device - Colloquial term, an approach by organisations to provide a stipend to staff, to choose and purchase their own preferred technology, this could be within a pre-selected list of preferred manufacturers. See also [BYOD](#).

Letter D



DaaS

Desktop as a Service - Business term, IT service providers will provide organisations with a basic computer device, with very little capability and deploy an image of a desktop computer (located in the cloud) but projected onto the basic computer, that staff log into every day. The desktop image is stored in the cloud, eliminating the issue of data stored on the actual device. Multiple desktop images can be automatically backed up all at the same time.

DAST

Dynamic application security testing – Technical term - a method that tests an application for vulnerabilities via the application front end, using different types of known attacks. This method of application security testing, does not require access to source code. See also [SAST](#).

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DCMA

Digital Millennium Copyright Act - legal term for a USA federal statute created in 1998. See also [DRM](#).

DDoS

Distributed Denial of Service - cyber term – an attack on a website that comes from multiple devices and sources, which prevents customers from being able to access their normal services. See also [MS-DOS](#).

DKIM

Domainkeys identified mail - cyber term - an email authentication method designed to detect email spoofing (forged sender addresses in email) which is a technique often used in phishing and email spam. It attaches a digital signature that's linked to a domain name to outgoing emails, which is checked against the sender's public key published in the DNS. See also [DNS](#).

DLL

Dynamic Link Library - A container that stores smaller software programs. The container/library is acts as a directory for larger software programs running on a computer. In cyber terms, a DLL container, has been known to be utilised as an attack method, called a DLL injection. Which ultimately can drive a computer software program to behave in a way that was not originally intended.

DLP

Data loss prevention - cyber term stems from an old business term of 'loss prevention' when guarding or protecting physical stock. The cyber term, aims to protect an organisation's data from being lost or leaked. There are tools that monitor data leaving the organisation. See also [IDS](#), [IPS](#).

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DMARC

Domain-based message authentication, reporting & conformance - cyber term – An email authentication protocol designed to protect email domains from unauthorised use. Once the DMARC DNS entry is published, any receiving email server can authenticate using rules published by the domain owner within the DNS entry. If it passes authentication then it is trusted and delivered.

DMZ

Demilitarised zone – technical term – A perimeter network that adds an extra layer of security to the local-area network from untrusted traffic. The goal of a DMZ is to allow access to untrusted networks, such as the internet, whilst protecting a company’s private network.

DNS

Domain name system - Cyber term origins will have been defined by the working groups that designed the public facing internet system in the 1980s and 1990s. Words chosen over numbers, to help general public remember websites rather than numbers.

DNS

Domain name server - Cyber term, in order to find a website, directory servers were created and act as a ‘telephone directory service’ pointing people in the correct direction of the website. See also [DNS](#).

DOS

Denial of service - Cyber term – an attack on a website that which prevents customers from being able to access their normal services, this could be due to a high volume of customers attempting to access the service (genuine needs) or could be from an external bad actor. See also [DDoS](#), [MS-DOS](#).

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DPA

Data Protection Act - Legal - UK Government - First created in 1984, second act created in 1988, latest version in 2018. See also [DPaaS](#), [DPIA](#).

DPaaS

Data Privacy as a Service – Legal compliance term – specialist consultancy services provide expertise in the area of Data Privacy, which may include guidance on Data subject access requests, Data Privacy Impact Assessments and is dependent on the legal jurisdictions that may apply to an organisation. See also [DPA](#), [DPIA](#) and [GDPR](#).

DPIA

Data Protection Impact Assessment - Legal compliance – This is a requirement of the GDPR regulations that have been in place for several years. It consists of a review of the types of data being collected, with a particular focus on personally identifiable information and further special category information. See also [DPA](#), [DPaaS](#) and [GDPR](#).

DR

Disaster recovery – Business term used in the IT department when a disaster has occurred and IT systems need to be recovered or restarted from a very low baseline. Scenarios include buildings becoming unavailable for example due to fire and flood, and systems need rebuilding in another location. The cloud has reduced some of the disaster recovery impact, as major cloud vendors are able to sell capacity at a very cheap price, removing the need for organisations to have to buy full computing equipment sets. See also [BCP](#), [BIA](#), [DR](#), [DRP](#).

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DRM

Digital rights management a method applied to items that enjoy copyright protection. TPM technology can be employed to protect digital songs as an example, there are many different methods available, dependent upon what is being protected and the technology that is used. See also [DCMA](#), [TOGAF](#), [TPM](#).

DRP

Disaster recovery plan – Business term, an outline of what needs to be done, across an organisation when disasters have occurred. The disaster recovery plan usually fits into the business continuity plans. It does often remain separate to business continuity, as disaster recovery focuses on systems and processes as a priority order. People aspects of business continuity and disaster recovery is often handled by the business continuity work stream. See also [BCP](#), [BIA](#), [DR](#), [DRP](#).

Letter E



EB

Exabyte - Calculated in a decimal system, a Exabyte is 1000^6 . The more precise calculation is a base 2 system, at 1024^6 . Byte is the name given to a unit of digital information. A byte is most commonly made up of 8 bits. . An exabyte is can be considered as total monthly internet traffic, which was measured in 2004. See [lists](#) for summary of Byte information. See also [B](#), [kB](#), [MB](#), [GB](#), [TB](#), [PB](#), [EB](#), [ZB](#), [YB](#), [RB](#). [QB](#).

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EBD

Extreme big data, according to the Journal of Supercomputing Frontiers and Innovations 2014, Vol. 1, No. 2, describes the era of Extreme big data, currently in the era of the Zettabyte. See also [kB](#), [MB](#), [GB](#), [TB](#), [PB](#), [EB](#), [ZB](#), [YB](#), [RB](#). [QB](#).

EDR

Endpoint Detection and Response, used to describe cyber security systems that will seek, detect and respond to end user devices. There are a wide variety of tools produced by vendors, that look to provide management solutions to administer the end user devices.

EDRM

Electronic Discovery Reference Model a model created by the EDRM Global Advisory Council (EDRM Global, Inc) to provide guidance on electronic discovery practices¹.

ENISA

Uses 'European union agency for cyber security' as the primary name, but was originally – 'European network and information security agency' - Special interest group - European Union - Formed in 2004 and publishes guidance on security matters for the European Union about the various data protection regulations. See also [GDPR](#).

EMS

Environmental management system, Compliance term used in relation to ISO standard ISO14001. The standard was first published in 1996 and has gone through various iterations (2004, and 2015) and is often used by hardware manufacturers to manage their electrical equipment waste. See [ISO](#), [WEEE](#).

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EoP

Escalation of privilege- An attack method a threat actor will often attempt when attacking a company. This involves using a token or user account, and trying to give that account a higher level on control. This can often be admin account access on a user account.

EOP

Exchange Online Protection – A Microsoft cloud-based filtering service that protects against spam, malware, and other email threats.

ERM

Compliance terminology, Enterprise risk management. Used to describe a wide set of risks for the whole of an organisation.

ETDR

Endpoint Threat Detection Response, is a cyber security technology that calls and expects responses from endpoints. Endpoints are usually classed as mobile phones, laptops, other internet of things type devices.

EUD

End user device - Technical term to cover the multitude of devices that users have at their disposal. For example, laptops, mobile devices, tablets, personal digital assistants.

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Letter F



FIM

Federated identity management - Technical – The means of linking an individual’s electronic identity and attributes, stored across multiple distinct identity management systems. It’s related to Single sign on (SSO), in which a user’s single authentication token is trusted across multiple IT systems. See also: [SSO](#)

FIPS

Federal information processing standards – a US Federal Government standards that comprise of cyber security standards, and cover topics such as encryptionⁱⁱ.

FISMA

Federal information security modernization act - Legal - US Government - First established in 2002, signed by President George W. Bush. 2nd version established in 2014, signed by President Barack Obama.

FOSS

Free and Open-Source Software – acronym given to the collection of software code that is pasted on many forums across the web such as github.com (social network created for software programmers in 2008, bought by Microsoft in 2018). See also [ASF](#), [BOM](#), [FOSS](#), [BSD](#), [GPL](#), [SBOM](#).

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FOIR

Freedom of information request, a legal mechanism built into the UK's Freedom of Information Act 2000, that allows people to make requests to government, with the aim of transparency regarding information that is being handled or processed. This may consist of facts and figures, as opposed to information about living individuals, which falls under data protection requirements. See also [SAR](#), [DPA](#).

FSF

Free Software Foundation founded in 1985, by the same creator of GNU and the GNU GPL licence. One of the many types of organisations in the Free and Open-Source Software community. See also [FOSS](#), [GNU](#), [GPL](#).

FUD

Fear uncertainty and doubt – Colloquial term used in security incident management, in that this aspect can often be amplified above what is a normal baseline for an organisation that trades online.

FTP

File Transfer Protocol is used to communicate and transfer files between computers via the internet. Users, who have been granted access, can receive and transfer files.

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Letter G



GB

Gigabyte - Calculated in a decimal system, a gigabyte is 1000^3 . The more precise calculation is a base 2 system, at 1024^3 . Byte is the name given to a unit of digital information. A byte is most commonly made up of 8 bits. A gigabyte is considered to be approximately 30 minutes of video. See [lists](#) for summary of Byte information. See [lists](#) for summary of Byte information. See also [B](#), [EBD](#), [kB](#), [MB](#), [TB](#), [PB](#), [EB](#), [ZB](#), [YB](#), [RB](#), [QB](#).

GCP

Google Cloud Platform became available to general business consumers in 2011, and comprises of a number of general business applications that host email, office capabilities and much more.

GIF

Graphical interchange format created by CompuServe and launched in 1987 to compress digital images. See also [JPEG](#), [PNG](#), [SVG](#).

GDPR

General Data Protection Regulation – Legal term - European Union law, and subsequently other legal jurisdictions outside of the European Union may have also adopted this terminology for data protection legislation.

Acronym Buster

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gTLD

Generic Top-Level Domain – Cyber term – As part of an internet address, letters rather than numbers are used, in order to make it easier for the general public to utilise the internet. Web addresses ending with ‘.com’ ‘.net’ ‘.org’ are considered generic. See also [ICANN](#), [ccTLD](#), [IDN](#).

GNU

A recursive acronym, for an opensource operating system meaning **GNU’s Not Unix**. The operating system was created in 1983 and is licensed under GNU General public license conditions. See also [BSD](#), [FOSS](#), [LINUX](#), [HP-UX](#), [UNIX](#), [OS](#).

GPL

General public licence – A short hand term for a type of free software licence. Associated with GNU General public license (GNU GPL). There are thousands of free software licences that also have their own acronyms. See also [FOSS](#), [FSF](#), [GNU](#).

GRC

Governance risk and compliance, an acronym to cover business services and platforms that track, monitor and measure compliance requirements.

GUI

Graphical user interface – technical term, used in the 1970s, in early development of computers, creating images using pixelation (grid systems) to help people navigate their way around computer menus.

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Letter H



HDD

Hard disk drives created by IBM in 1956, which is an electromechanical data storage device. The disk retrieves data from a magnetic storage mechanism. Over time, physical disk size has reduced and capacity has greatly increased onto smaller and smaller disks. There is a new type of technology also competing in this market space: solid state drives (SSDs). See also [SSD](#).

HIDS

Host-based Intrusion Detection System - a network security system that protects computers from malware, viruses, and other harmful attacks. This is normally an application that resides on the computer rather than being on a server.

HIPAA

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act - Legal - US Government – Federal law enacted in 1996.

HTD

Happy to discuss - colloquialism – shorthand seen in emails!

HTTP

Hyper Text Transfer Protocol – technical term –written by Tim Berners-Lee in 1990ⁱⁱⁱ, one of the protocols used to transfer data over the web. It is part of the internet protocol suite and defines commands and services used for transmitting webpage data, See also [URI](#).

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HTTPS

Hyper Text Transfer Protocol Secure – technical term – An extension of HTTP, it is used for secure communication over a computer network. With HTTPS, the communication protocol is encrypted using Transport Layer Security ([TLS](#)). See also [TLS](#).

HP-UX

Hewlett Packard – UNIX; Hewlett Packard, an original computer hardware manufacturer designed its own derivative of the UNIX operating system to run on its own hardware. See also: [LINUX](#), [OEM](#).

HSM

Hardware Security Module -This is a dedicated cryptographic processor that is designed for the protection of cryptographic key lifecycle. HSM's act as trust mechanism that protect keys by securely managing, processing, and storing cryptographic keys inside a hardened, tamper-resistant device.

HSTS

HTTP Strict Transport Security (HSTS) – Published as a protocol in 2012, by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), under RFC 6797, as a website coding protocol, to assist in the protection of a 'man in the middle' attack and 'cookie hijacking'. Training courses on this topic aimed at web developers are available. See also [HTTP](#), [HTTPS](#), [IETF](#), [RFC](#).

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Letter I



IaaS

Infrastructure as a service - Public cloud term- - With the move from on premise equipment to the public cloud, a shared responsibility model has developed, where the term 'as a service' developed.

Prefixing which part of the shared responsibility model, identifies what type of service is being offered. See also [PaaS](#), [SaaS](#), [XaaS](#).

IAM

Identity access management – an information governance term and technical term, usually in the form of a documented policy and technically a software module that manages access to different systems. An IAM portal may provide access to a system, or multiple systems, depending on the product developed by the manufacturer.

IANA

Internet Assigned Numbers Authority - Cyber - US Government - Founded in 1988 by the US government. Management of DNS Root Zones, and one of the internet's oldest institutions. See also [DNS](#), [ARIN](#), [APNIC](#), [ICANN](#), [IP](#), [LACNIC](#), [RIPE](#).

ICANN

Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers – Cyber term - US Government - Founded in 1988 by the US government, sets policy and guidance of how generic top-level domains should be managed. See also [APNIC](#), [ARIN](#), [IANA](#), [LACNIC](#), [RIPE](#).

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ISC2 or (ISC)²

International Information System Security Certification Consortium, Inc., or (ISC)² founded in 1989 and is best known for the professional certification CISSP and CCSP amongst others. See also [CCSP](#), [CISSP](#).

ICO

Information Commissioner's Office - UK Regulatory Body, set up to review organisations compliance with the UK data protection laws.

IDN

Internationalised domain name. Used for languages outside of the roman alphabet. There are seven types of Chinese internationalised domain names, Cyrillic (Russian) and many more different types of non-roman languages. See also, [ccTLD](#), [gTLD](#), [ICANN](#).

IDS

Intrusion detection system - Network tool usually created by specialist third-parties that monitor network traffic to detect what is normal network activity and anomalous activity. The system is made up of agents (items of software) placed at different ingress and egress points around an organisation's network. This tool looks at the inside of a network connections and looks to detect non-authorized intruders from proceeding further in a network. See also [IPS](#), [NIDS](#).

IEC

International Electrotechnical Commission – Special interest group, founded in 1906 and publish standards for electrotechnology. Notation of IEC is sometimes seen in conjunction with ISO standards, such as ISO/IEC 27001:2013, ISO/IEC 11889-1:2015. See also [ISO](#), [ISO27001](#), [TPM](#).



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IEEE

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers - Special interest group - Founded in 1963.

IETF

Internet Engineering Task Force - special interest group - Formed in 1986.

IoC

Indicator of compromise - cyber term, information that is handled by security incident teams, that provides a signal that a network may have an intrusion from an unauthorised entity.

IoT

Internet of things - cyber term, used to describe all peripheral items that connect to the internet. Including but not limited to: watches, wearables, glasses, toys, white goods, heating systems.

iOS

iPhone operating system created by Apple Inc., created in 2007. Part of a family of operating systems developed by Apple Inc. iOS operating system was applied to the iPad in 2010, however, the iPad now has its own operating system. See also [iPadOS](#), [MacOS](#).

iPadOS

iPad operating system created by Apple Inc., was rebranded specifically for the iPad in 2019 (the first iPad was launched in 2010 and used the iOS operating system). See also [MacOS](#), [iOS](#).

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IP

Internet protocol - Cyber term, a series of numbers that ensures servers that are internet facing can talk to each other. The numbers are allocated dependant on the geographical region in which the server resides, generally allocated by continental registries. See also [ARIN](#), [IANA](#).

IP

Intellectual property - Legal term applied to knowledge and items that are constructed under an organisations time and funding, for an organisation to sell their knowledge and expertise.

IPS

Intrusion protection system - Network tool usually created by specialist third-parties that monitor network traffic to detect what is normal network activity and anomalous activity. The system is made up of agents (items of software) placed at different ingress and egress points around an organisation's network. This tool looks at incoming network connections and looks to prevent non-authorized intruders from entering a network. See also [IDS](#), [NIDS](#).

ISACA[®]

Information Systems Audit and Control Association - Special interest group - founded in 1967, by a group of people who were auditing computing systems and recognised a need to pool information and share knowledge. Now goes by the acronym ISACA. It offers a range of professional qualifications via examination and experiential requirements. See also [CISA](#), [CISM](#), [COBIT](#).

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ISF

Information Security Forum – a special interest group formed in the UK, in 1989. Membership is via a paid subscription.

ISMS

Information Security Management System - a term used in the application of the ISO27001 standard (published by ISO.org) which is a framework to help organisations structure how it manages its information and how it manages its information via policies, processes and procedures. See also [ISO](#), [ISO/IEC27001](#).

ISO

International Organization for Standards (French version)
International Standards Organisation (English version) - special interest group - Formed in 1947. Regional organisations are created to publish standards in local languages. See also [BSI](#), [ISO/IEC 27001](#).

ISO/IEC 27001

An international standard, published by ISO.org, created by the International Electrical Committee (ISO/IEC) for certification to Information Security Management System requirements. There are 141 controls, 26 that are mandatory, the rest are optional and are dependent on the type of organisation that is pursuing certification. To be certified, an independent third-party will review the ISMS, often called 'accreditation bodies'. See also [BSI](#), [ISMS](#), [ISO](#).

ISP

Internet service provider - Business term – a third-party that provides internet protocol addresses, routers and access to the internet. These are usually businesses in the telecoms sector.

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IT

Information technology. A term that was published in the Harvard Business review in 1958 as new technology was emerging into commercial business life.

ITHC

IT Health Check - UK Government compliance framework – Designed for organisations that are connecting to the UK Government public sector network. It comprises of a series of various technical vulnerability scans across the devices that are to be connected to the UK Government public sector network.

ITIL®

Information Technology Infrastructure Library - IT scheme to standardise IT practices across UK Government departments. The scheme has gone through various iterations, and has been around since the early 2000s. It is now routinely adopted by UK businesses. Individuals rather than organisations are trained and certified to various disciplines within IT, for example Change Management, Incident Management, Problem Management to name a few.

- ITIL V2 published in 2000/2001
- ITIL V3 published 2007 - discontinued end of 2021
- ITIL V4 published in 2019

ITSM

Information Technology Service Management – a collection of policies and procedures for managing an IT helpdesk function to help service end users.

Letter J



JML

Joiners, movers, leavers, compliance term used to describe human resource and IT user access provisioning.

JSON

Java script object notation – a data format invented by Douglas Crockford an American computer programmer. It is a data format deriving from the programming language of JavaScript (published in 1995), and has its own website since 2002: www.json.org.^{iv}

JVM

Java virtual machine - Technical – A virtual machine that enables a computer to run Java programs along with programs written in other languages that are compiled to Java bytecode. JVM has a specification that formally describes what is required for JVM implementation. JVM was released as free and open source software.

JPEG

Joint Photographic Expert Group who created a standard for compressing digital images. A standard was created in 1991, and there are now several different types of JPEG standards. See also [GIF](#), [PNG](#), [SVG](#).

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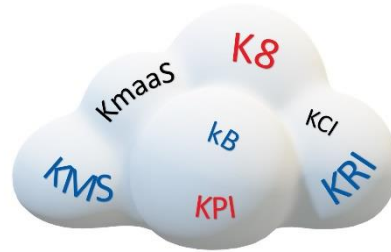
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Letter K



K8

Kubernetes - Technical – An open-source container orchestration system for automating scaling, software deployment, and management. Originally designed by Google, the project is now maintained by the Cloud Native Computing Foundation.

kB

Kilobyte - Calculated in a decimal system, a Kilobyte is 1000 Bytes. The more precise calculation is a base 2 system, at 1024. Byte is the name given to a unit of digital information. A byte is most commonly made up of 8 bits. A small web browser tab icon (favicon) is considered the size of a Kilobyte. See [lists](#) for summary of Byte information. See also See also [B](#), [EBD](#), [MB](#), [GB](#), [TB](#), [PB](#), [EB](#), [ZB](#), [YB](#), [RB](#), [QB](#).

KCI

Key control indicator – a compliance performance measurement, that summarises what are the total number of ‘most important’ controls in place, to mitigate a risk. See also [KPI](#), [KRI](#).

KmaaS

Key management as a service – cyber term - allows a business to deploy a key management service in the cloud. This can be used over running one on physical hardware see HSM or KMS. It keeps all keys secured and accessible within the cloud, regardless of location.

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KMS

Key management system - cyber term – Also known as *cryptographic key management system*, or *enterprise key management system* is an integrated strategy for generating, managing and distributing cryptographic keys for devices and applications.

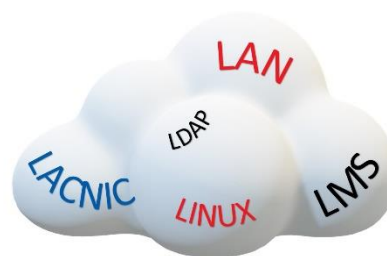
KRI

Key risk indicator - a compliance performance measurement, that summarises what are the total number of events that affect key risks. For example, 8 laptop losses, indicate a need for encryption, otherwise an organisation may be exposed to a monetary penalty if the laptops were not encrypted and had company data on them. See also [KCI](#), [KPI](#).

KPI

Key performance indicator - a compliance performance measurement, that summarises what are the total number of successes of a defined metric. For example, an organisation has seen the monthly security awareness training be taken by 80% of employees, and average pass mark is 68%. See also [KCI](#), [KPI](#).

Letter L



LACNIC

Latin America and Caribbean Network Information Centre - Cyber - Founded 22 August 1999, allocates Internet protocol addresses for the region. See also [ARIN](#), [APNIC](#), [IANA](#), [ICANN](#), [IP](#), [RIPE](#).

Acronym Buster

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LAN

Local area network - Technical term, used in defining computer network protocols. Think of a LAN, as the network that connects all parts of a castle together. See also [SD-WAN](#), [VLAN](#), [WAN](#).

LDAP

Lightweight directory access protocol - Technical - Industry standard, open and vendor-neutral application protocol for accessing and maintaining distributed directory information services over an IP network. A common use is to provide a central space to store usernames and passwords.

LINUX

A derivative of the UNIX operating system created by a Finnish American developer called Linus Torvalds. The operating system was created in the early 1990s. [HP-UX](#), [OS](#), [UNIX](#).

LMS

Learning management system – business description given to a technical platform that contains training material and training records. There are opensource learning management systems and proprietary management systems. They often contain security awareness content and records, which aides with implementation of security compliance standards.

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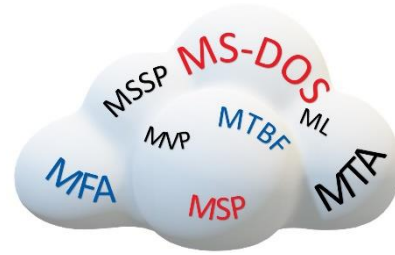
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Letter M



MAM

Mobile Application Management – cyber term – The services and software responsible for provisioning and controlling access to internally developed and commercially available mobile apps used in business settings. It provides granular controls at application level which allows system administrators to manage and secure app data.

MacOS

Macintosh Operating System (proprietary software) created in 1984 developed for personal computers. Part of a family of operating systems developed by Apple Inc. See also [iPadOS](#), [iOS](#), [OS](#).

MB

Megabyte - Calculated in a decimal system, a megabyte is 1000². The more precise calculation is a base 2 system, at 1024². Byte is the name given to a unit of digital information. A byte is most commonly made up of 8 bits. A megabyte is considered to be the size of a large book, over 190,000 words. See [lists](#) for summary of Byte information. See also [B](#), [EBD](#), [KB](#), [GB](#), [TB](#), [PB](#), [EB](#), [ZB](#), [YB](#), [RB](#), [QB](#).

MDM

Mobile device management- Software for the administration of smartphones and other mobile devices. MDM is generally implemented with the use of a third-party product that uses management features for specific vendors of mobile devices.

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MFA

Multi-factor authentication – cyber term – An electronic authentication method where a user is granted access to a website or application only after presenting two forms of evidence of your identity from two or more of the following: 1) something you know, 2) something you have and 3) something you are. See also [2FA](#), [2SA](#), [2SV](#).

ML

Machine learning- cyber term, is the process of developing an artificial intelligence (AI) machine(s) to become self-learning. Often business will use machine learning with large amounts of data, to train a machine into reading and manipulating the data to find trends and patterns. See also [AI](#).

MS-DOS

Microsoft disk operating system - technical term, as this was the underlying operating system for Microsoft machines released to the general public in 1981. Colloquially this has been shortened to 'DOS' or 'DOS command prompt'. Not to be confused with 'Denial of Service attack'. See also [DoS](#).

MSP

Managed service provider- This is when a business outsources services to specialist companies. Typically, a business will use a MSP for the IT infrastructure and end-user systems like laptops. MSPs can set up these devices and run the day-to-day IT support for the businesses.

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MSSP

Managed service security provider - Cyber term, a subset of Managed service providers, with a speciality in security services. The range of security services can vary, and may include: Security incident management, Forensic services, Monitoring services. See also [ASP](#).

MTA

Message transfer agent - Technical term, an email handling service, with an agent likely to be an email server. Most large cloud platforms now outsource email handling services to third-party providers.

MTBF

Mean time between failures - Business continuity term, a calculation that reflects on how often failures happen, so estimates can be prepared for the next set of actions.

MTTR

Mean time to repair - Business continuity term, a calculation that reflects on the average time to repair a computer system, so estimates in restoration of services can be generated.



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MVP

Minimum viable product - Software code term, originated in the Leanstartup methodology and is now used in the Agile software method. The minimal amount of effort for a product to work, is often 'shipped' or 'posted' into production and then various new iterations will follow often under quick succession.

ⁱ <https://edrm.net/about-us/edrm-advisory-council/>

ⁱⁱ <https://csrc.nist.gov/publications/fips>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://webfoundation.org/about/vision/history-of-the-web/>

^{iv} www.json.org

Acronym Buster

Letter N



NCSC

National cyber security centre - Cyber - UK Government - Relaunched from CESG, in 2016. See also [CESG](#).

NICE

NIST's national initiative for cyber education - Cyber - US Government - This is a framework to help provide a set of building blocks for describing the tasks, knowledge, and skills that are needed to perform cybersecurity work performed by individuals and teams.

NIDS

Network intrusion detection system - Technical – An application that monitors networks or systems for malicious activity or policy violations. Any unauthorized activity is reported to either an administrator or collected centrally using a security information and event management (SIEM) system. See also, [IPS](#), [SIEM](#).

NIS Directive

Network and Information Systems Directive enacted by the European Union in 2016. The aim of the NIS Directive is to create a higher level of cybersecurity in the EU. It significantly affects digital service providers and operators of essential services.

NIST

National institute of standards and technology - Special interest group - US Government - Formed in 1901.

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NIST CSF

National institute of standards and technology, Cyber Security Framework, published in 2018. There are 5 Function, 23 Categories and 108 sub-categories and the overall premise of the framework is designed to help organisations identify, protect, detect, respond and recover information that belongs to them. See also [NIST](#).

NTP

Network time protocol - Technical term. All devices on a network, refer to a nominated time source, so that devices and systems can talk to each other. The time source is usually located in the country where a device or system is located. There may be multiple time sources, so that the load and availability of the time source is spread evenly.

NVD

National Vulnerability Database – this is a US Government managed database, that has been around since the early 2000s and categorises vulnerabilities and bugs that are detected in software code bases. Each vulnerability detected, is given a reference called a common vulnerability exploit (CVE) and it is then given a score, on a scale of 1 to 10, 10 being the highest. The score is called a common vulnerability severity score (CVSS)⁹.

Letter O



OEM

Original equipment manufacturer - Technical term for producers of computing hardware such as: chipsets, motherboards, fans, disk drives, laptops, servers. See also [HP-UX](#), [iOS](#), [LINUX](#), [MS-DOS](#), [OEM](#), [UNIX](#).

OS or O/S

Operating system – Technical term, which is software that runs on a computing device. The operating system is often designed to be user friendly and designed in such a way, that the general public can navigate their way around a computer screen. There are some operating systems that are proprietary (for example, Microsoft Windows, Apple iOS) and some that are opensource (for example Linux,). See also [HP-UX](#), [LINUX](#).

OSI

Open-Source initiative Open-Source Initiative - a group that was formed in Palo Alto 1998, that documented the definition of Open Source, and being able to award certification of Open Source^{vi}.

OSI Model

Open system interconnection reference model - Special interest group - ISO/IETF – Developed in the late 1970s, a conceptual model that describes the universal standard of communication functions of a telecommunication or computing system, without regarding the system's underlying internal technology. See [OSI Model diagram](#).

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OSINT

Open-source threat intelligence - Cyber term, used by cyber security threat intelligence specialists, utilising information already displayed on the world wide web.

OWASP

Open web application security project - Special interest group - Open source - Formed in 2001, aimed at encouraging application software developers to utilise a 'security' framework when coding. It highlights the top 10 coding weaknesses most often detected and reviews the top 10 approximately every 3 years. The 2017 top 10 different to 2021 top 10.

Letter P



PaaS

Platform as a service - Public cloud term- - With the move from on premise equipment to the public cloud, a shared responsibility model has developed, where the term 'as a service' developed. Prefixing which part of the shared responsibility model, identifies what type of service is being offered. See also [IaaS](#), [SaaS](#), [XaaS](#).

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PB

Petabyte - Calculated in a decimal system, a petabyte is 1000⁵. The more precise calculation is a base 2 system, at 1024⁵. Byte is the name given to a unit of digital information. A byte is most commonly made up of 8 bits. Google processed 20 Petabytes of data a day, in 2008^{vii}. See lists for summary of Byte information. Google processed 20 Petabytes of data a day, in 2008^{viii}. See lists for summary of Byte information. See also [B](#), [EBD](#), [kB](#), [MB](#), [GB](#), [TB](#), [EB](#), [ZB](#), [YB](#), [RB](#), [QB](#).

PDCA

Plan do check act, often associated with Dr Deming, who is considered one of the main proposers of Quality Control, however, his work was based on another scientists work, called a Shewhart Cycle. See [PDCA model](#).

PDF

Portable Document Format created by the co-founder of Adobe Systems Inc, in 1991. The format moved from being proprietary software, into an open document format and was accepted as an ISO standard ISO 32000-1 in 2007. The ISO standards are then reviewed periodically and are updated on an approximate 5-year cycle. There are various different types of portable document format, intended originally to be able to create a common document format, to be able to print information on any type of technology. There are different types of PDFs, for accessibility PDF/UA (which has its own ISO standard - ISO 14289) and PDF/A (ISO 19005) and II) for the most commonly used status for printing purposes.

PECR

The Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations - UK – enacted in the UK in 2003 and covers a number of areas, such as marketing and cookies on websites.

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PCI-DSS

Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard – Compliance term, a set of standards created by major credit card vendors and published in 2004, in response to increasing levels of credit card fraud. The PCI council publishes the standard. There are various requirements, dependant on whether an organisation is a merchant or a vendor. There is no predictive published pattern to the standard, to date, there have been 4 major versions in 14 years.

PGP

Pretty good privacy - Technical term, an encryption protocol invented in 1991, that is used in part to encrypt email messages.

PIA

Privacy impact assessment - Legal compliance term, a shortened term of 'data privacy impact assessment that is required in order to comply with data protection legislation. See also [DPIA](#).

PII

Personally identifiable data – a group of data characteristics that can identify natural (living) persons. The elements that make up a group of PII, may differ, depending on the type of legislation and regulation relevant to a legal jurisdiction.

PIMS

Privacy Information Management System – Compliance term – Linked to the ISO27000 family. See also [ISO](#), [ISO/IEC 27001](#).

Acronym Buster

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PIN

Personal identification number, usually 4 digits long, but some computer systems are now setting a minimum of 6 digits. The numbers are issued to individuals to act as a secondary method of authenticating to an electronic system.

PKI

Public key infrastructure – this usually refers to the tools used to create and manage public keys for encryption. PKI is built into all web browsers used today, and it helps to secure internet traffic.

PSA

Please see attached - colloquial – sometimes seen in emails!

PNG

Portable Network Graphic – created in 1994, as an alternative opensource graphical format for digital images to the GIF format. The creators originally suggested it could be a recursive acronym for **P**NG is **N**ot **G**IF. See also [GIF](#), [JPEG](#), [SVG](#).

Letter Q



QA

Quality assurance, used in compliance terminology, when reports are being checked, or in manufacturing and the product being made is being inspected.

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QB

QuettaByte - Calculated in a decimal system, a megabyte is 1000^{10} . The more precise calculation is a base 2 system, at 1024^{10} Byte is the name given to a unit of digital information. A byte is most commonly made up of 8 bits. The world has not yet reached QuettaByte, we are currently at Zettabyte (1000^7). See [lists](#) for summary of Byte information. See also [B](#), [EBD](#), [KB](#), [MB](#), [GB](#), [TB](#), [PB](#), [EB](#), [ZB](#), [YB](#), [RB](#).

QMS

Quality management system - Management System - - Used in ISO standards and the most well-known standard is ISO9001. See also [ISO](#).

QoS

Quality of Service - Technical term used to measure various aspects of a network, one of the components being packets lost in network transmission.

QR code

Quick Response code - This is a type of barcode that can be scanned using a smartphone camera. When scanned, the code can contain a variety of information, such as a website URL, a phone number, or even a plain text message. QR codes are often used to make it easy for people to access information or take a specific action, such as visiting a website or making a call. ISO/IEC 18004:2015 defines the requirements, it specifies the QR Code symbology characteristics, data character encoding methods, symbol formats, production quality requirements, and user-selectable application parameters.

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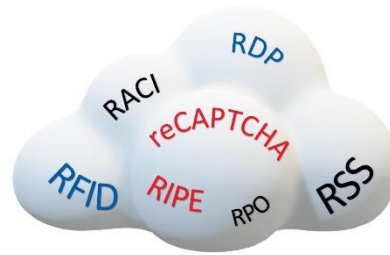
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Letter R



RACI

Responsible, accountable, consulted, informed - Business term – Responsibility assignment matrix, describes the participation by various roles in completing tasks or deliverables for a business process or project. It is used for clarifying and defining roles and responsibilities in departmental projects and processes.

RAID

Redundant Array of Inexpensive Disks - This is when a user or business will use a combination of multiple disks drives instead of using a single disk. To give an increase in performance, data redundancy or both. The idea is if a disk in a RAID array fails, another disk can take its place and carry on with performing tasks until the failed disk can be fixed.

RAM

Random-access memory – technical term – a form of computer memory that can be read and changed in any order. This is typically used to store working data and machine code. RAM allows data to be read and written in almost the same amount of time, no matter the physical location of data inside the memory.

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RB

Ronnabyte- Calculated in a decimal system, the size of a ronnabyte is 1000^9 . The more precise calculation is a base 2 system, at 1024^9 Byte is the name given to a unit of digital information. A byte is most commonly made up of 8 bits.. The world has yet to reach or accumulate to a ronnabyte. See [lists](#) for summary of Byte information. See [lists](#) for summary of Byte information. See also [B](#), [kB](#), [MB](#), [GB](#), [TB](#), [PB](#), [EB](#), [ZB](#), [YB](#), [RB](#), [QB](#).

RBAC

Role based access control – A term used to describe how an IT administrator applies access permissions to a type of user account. Users are grouped in roles, according to their job requirements, and a template role is copied or mirrored for the new user. Further granularity can be applied to RBAC, by considering attributes such as a time limit, locations. See also [ABAC](#).

RDP

Remote desktop protocol - Technical term, a proprietary protocol created by Microsoft around 2008 and came in the form of a graphical user interface (GUI). The purpose was to be able to connect to other computers over a network remotely via a GUI. There are other flavours of remote desktop connectivity. See also [GUI](#).

reCAPTCHA

New software code to "completely automated public Turing test to tell computers and humans apart" - Technical - Google - Invented in 2007. See also [CAPTCHA](#).

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RFC

Request for Comments - A term used by the Internet Engineering Task Force, for publishing standards and protocols for the internet. Each RFC is then proceeded a digit. The first RFC “RFC-1” was published in 1969. Currently there are over 9000 RFC’s. See also [HSTS](#), [IETF](#).

RFID

Radio frequency identification – Technical term used in access control passes and can be referred to as ‘near field communications’.

RIPE

Réseaux IP Européens - Cyber - Founded 22 May 1989 and responsible for issuing of IP addresses to European region. See also, [ARIN](#), [APNIC](#), [IANA](#), [ICANN](#), [IP](#), [LACNIC](#).

RIPE NCC

Réseaux IP Européens network coordination centre - Cyber – The regional internet registry for Europe, the Middle East and parts of Central Asia. Headquartered in Amsterdam, Netherlands with a branch office in Dubai UAE. The RIPE NCC supports the technical and administrative coordination of the infrastructure of the internet.

RPO

Recovery point objective - Disaster recovery term – The maximum targeted period during which transactional data is lost due to a major incident. See also [RTO](#).

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RSS

Really simple syndication - Technical term– A web feed allowing users and applications access to updates and websites in a computer-readable standard format. RSS feeds allow users to track many different websites in a single news aggregator, which monitors sites for new content without requiring the user to manually check them.

RTO

Recovery time objective - Disaster recovery term– The target duration of time and service level within which a business process must be restored after a disruption to avoid unacceptable consequences in association to a business continuity break. See also [RPO](#).

Letter S



SAR

Subject access request – is a term used in data protection circles, under some statutes such as UK GDPR, Data Protection Act 2018, under ‘Article 15 - Right of access by the data subject’. An individual, or someone requesting information on someone else’s behalf, is entitled to make a subject access request to understand what data is held about an individual. The UK Information Commissioners Office provides useful guidance on how to achieve this.^{ix} The term and process of subject access requests has been around since approximately 1998. See also [GDPR](#), [ICO](#).

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SaaS

Software as a Service – Public cloud term- - With the move from on premise equipment to the public cloud, a shared responsibility model has developed, where the term 'as a service' developed. Prefixing which part of the shared responsibility model, identifies what type of service is being offered. See also [IaaS](#), [PaaS](#), [SaaS](#), [XaaS](#).

SAST

Static application security testing – Technical term - a method to review source code for security weaknesses. Fixing code weaknesses in development are thought to be cheaper than fixing weaknesses when source code is in a live environment.

SBOM

Software Bill of Materials – A list of software licences that make up a software product, usually referred to in organisations that sell software as their primary product. See also [BOM](#), [FOSS](#).

SDLC

System development life cycle – Systems engineering term – a life cycle to describe ten parts of a lifecycle process, from concept, through design to operation and disposal. The software development lifecycle can sit outside of this process. See also software development lifecycle ([SDLC](#)). See [SDLC model](#).

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SDLC

Software development life cycle – Software engineering term, Generally the life cycle has been noted to be in six phases, 1 – Planning, 2. Analysis, 3. Design, 4.Implementation, 5.Testing & integration, 6.Maintenance. There are a number of software design methodologies that organisations use; waterfall, spiral, agile, rapid prototyping, incremental. See also System development life cycle ([SDLC](#)).See [SDLC model](#).

SDN

Software defined networking - Technical - A network management approach that enables dynamic, programmatically efficient network configuration that improves network performance and monitoring. The goal of SDN is to address the static architecture of traditional networks.

SD WAN

Software Defined Wide Area Network – It is a way to manage and route internet traffic for a business more efficiently and securely. It uses software to control the flow of data over a network, rather than relying on traditional hardware-based systems. This allows for better performance and flexibility, as well as cost savings. See also [LAN](#), [VLAN](#), [WAN](#).

SIEM

Security incident and event management - Network tool that collates and analyses data from a network. The tool will usually ingest data from different proprietary systems and create meaningful data reports on network activity. Reports showing normal and anomalous activity can be generated. Staff are required to operate the tools, in order to create meaningful data.

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SIG

Special interest group – a community within an organisation with a shared interest in the advancement of a specific area of knowledge, learning or technology where the members cooperate to affect or produce solutions within their field, and may communicate, meet, and organise conferences.

SIG

Standardized information gathering (questionnaire) - Compliance - Santa Fey Group - Special interest group who have created a large questionnaire, for organisations to respond what their security compliance is.

SIG-LITE

Standardized information gathering, (questionnaire) short version - Compliance - Santa Fey Group - Special interest group who have created a large questionnaire, for organisations to respond what their compliance is.

SLA

Service level agreement – Business term, usually an addendum to a contract between suppliers and customers that details who, what, when and how the supplier will provide its service to the customer. Targets and deliverables are often detailed in the agreement.

SMS

Short Messaging Service – a term now used to describe a protocol of sending wireless text messages from one mobile device to another. The method of communication was developed from radio technology, and the first text message was sent in 1992 and said ‘Merry Christmas’^x.

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SMAaaS

Security manager as a service – Business term – Name of a service provided by managed service security providers. An alternative from installing a permanent member of staff.

SMB

Small to medium business - Business – there are various criteria published to describe what is a small to medium enterprise, either by revenue, or size of staff.

SME

Small to medium enterprise - Business – Colloquialism, there are various criteria published to describe what is a small to medium enterprise, either by revenue, or size of staff.

SME

Subject matter expert - Business term, used to describe staff in an organisation who perform functions daily.

SOC II Type 2

Service operations controls type 2 (framework published by AICPA) - Compliance – See also [AICPA](#).

SOX

Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 - Legal – A US federal law that mandates certain practices in the record keeping of finance and the reporting for corporations. It contains eleven sections that place requirements on all U.S. public company boards of directors, management and public accounting firms. Several provisions also apply to privately held companies.

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SPF

Sender policy framework - Cyber – Email authentication method that is designed to detect forged sender addresses during the delivery of an email. SPF alone is limited to detecting a forged sender claim in the envelope of an email, which is used when the mail gets bounced. Once in combination with DMARC, it can detect email spoofing. See also [DMARC](#).

SSD

Solid-state drive – Technical – A storage device that uses integrated circuit assemblies to store persistent data, typically through flash memory and functioning as secondary storage. See also [HDD](#).

SSL

Secure socket layer - technical -term Secure Sockets Layer (sometimes referred to as SSL/TLS) is an authentication and encryption protocol (launched in 1995). It is used as a digital signing document that verifies the identity of a website to a trusted third-party certificate authority, by using cryptographic key exchanges^{xi}.

SSO

Single sign on - Technical – An authentication scheme allowing users to log in with a single ID to several related, but independent software systems. SSO allows users to log in once and access services without re-entering authentication factors.

Acronym Buster

SVG

Scalable Vector image format launched in 1999 by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). See also [GIF](#), [JPEG](#), [PNG](#), [W3C](#).

v [NVD - Home \(nist.gov\)](#)

vi <https://opensource.org/>

vii [What does a petabyte look like? \(archive.org\)](#)

viii [What does a petabyte look like? \(archive.org\)](#)

ix [How do we recognise a subject access request \(SAR\)? | ICO](#)

x ['Merry Christmas': 30 years of the text message - BBC News](#)

xi <https://www.ssl.com/faqs/faq-what-is-ssl/>

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Letter T



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TADPF

Trans-Atlantic Data Privacy Framework a new agreement being developed in 2022, between the European Union and the United States, since previous agreements were declared invalid by the European Union, examples such as the US-EU Privacy Shield (2016–2020) and its precursor International Safe Harbor Privacy Principles (2000–2015)^{xii}.

TB

Terabyte - Calculated in a decimal (base 10) system, a terabyte is 1000^4 . The more precise calculation is a base 2 system, at 1024^4 . Byte is the name given to a unit of digital information. A byte is most commonly made up of 8 bits. A terabyte of data is considered to be a long-animated video series. See [LISTS](#) for summary of Byte information. See also [B](#), [EBD](#), [kB](#), [MB](#), [GB](#), [PB](#), [EB](#), [ZB](#), [YB](#), [RB](#), [QB](#).

TCP/IP

Transmission Control Protocol part of a suite of Internet protocols developed by one of the main architects of the early internet, Vint Cerf and Bob Kahn, in 1974. It is a protocol that specifies how servers should connect to each other, before receiving packets of data. In 2004, Vint Cerf and Bob Kahn were awarded the Turing Award for this protocol^{xiii}.

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TIP

Threat Intelligence Platform – a cyber security product offering, that gathers data from various sources around the web, or purchases specific data sets and provides the data in an aggregated form to customers, about themselves and their supply chains.

TLS

Transport layer security - Technical – A cryptographic protocol designed to provide communications security over computer networks. It is widely used over applications such as email or instant messaging. Its use in securing HTTPS remains the most public use. It is strongly recommended to use TLS 1.2 or 1.3, and you should start to disable TLS1.1 and 1.0 as these are known to be less secure.

TOGAF®

The Open Group Architecture Framework, launched in 1985 created by a US based group that named themselves The Open Group. The architecture framework is aimed at IT architects to create an ‘enterprise architecture’. Various iterations of the framework have been developed since its launch.

- TOGAF Version 7 ("Technical Edition"), published in December 2001
- TOGAF Version 8 ("Enterprise Edition"), first published in December 2002 and republished in updated form as
- TOGAF Version 8.1 in December 2003
- The TOGAF® Standard, Version 9.2, published 16 April 2018
- The TOGAF® Standard, Version 10, published April 2022.

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TPM

Trusted platform module – Technical term and a term for software. A microchip (with an inbuilt software routine) that stores encryption data, which allows the disk on a computer to become encrypted. Around 2006, hardware manufacturers (OEM) started to implement TPM chips as part of standard builds. In 2009, the International Standards Organisation, published a standard: ISO/IEC 11889-1:2009, and the most recent version is ISO/IEC 11889-1:2015. The standard comes in 4 parts: (1) architecture, (2) structures, (3) commands, (4) supporting routines.

TPRM

Third-party risk management is a compliance term, that suggests an organisation should have processes for reviewing their third-party supply chain. Some organisations approach this in a manual way, via a self-assessment questionnaire process, other organisations with larger budgets often utilise the services of third-parties to grade and risk assess supply chains.

TTL

Time To Live – a technical term, applied to Domain Name Servers about how long to wait before resolving a new query. TTL is generally input in digits totalling seconds and fractions of seconds.

TXT

Text file format. A simple file format, without many word editing features. The structure of the file format is limited.

Letter U



UDP

User datagram protocol - Technical – A network communications method, it is one of the core members of the Internet protocol suite. It is used to send datagrams (messages) to other hosts on an IP network, it uses a simple connectionless communication model with a minimum of protocol mechanism. See also [IP](#).

UDRP

Uniform domain-name dispute-resolution policy - Legal/Cyber term, a written protocol used by special interest groups such as WIPO when there is a dispute over a domain name and various parties wish to claim usage. See also [ICANN](#) and [WIPO](#).

UI

User Interface a term usually used in the description of a job role, as a UI/UX developer, which means User Interface/User Experience developer. There are many different types of interfaces that a user interacts with on a computer, 1) a graphical user interface (how Windows cornered the market) 2) Command line interface (usually a black screen, with white text, and a user had to learn a series of commands to retrieve data from a mainframe computer, or a server). See also [UX](#).



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UNIX

Turns out, this operating system is not an acronym, it is an proprietary operating system invented in 1969 by Bell Laboratories, of which many derivatives have been created. Some of the derivatives have become an acronym. Other derivative names included LINUX, HP-UX. See also [BSD](#), [GNU](#), [HP-UX](#), [LINUX](#), [OS](#).

URI

Uniform Resource Identifier a name given to a working group in created the early 1990s that established syntax for web protocols. See also [URL](#).

URL

Uniform Resource Locator – Technical term, invented in 1994, by Tim Berners Lee. It is specific to naming a web page. URL is a derivative of URI – Uniform Resource Identifier. See also [URI](#).

USB

Universal serial bus - Technical - An industry standard that has established guidelines for connectors, cables, connection protocols, communication and interfacing between computers, peripherals and other computers. It has largely replaced various interfaces and has become commonplace on a large variety of devices.

UX

User Experience - a software development term to describe how the end user 'navigates' their way through a website, or an application as examples.

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Letter V



VB

A programming language developed by Microsoft and has been around since 1991. Various versions of the language have been published. It is commonly used to develop "macros" for the Microsoft Office Suite, which enable users to run repetitive task routines using visual basic code.

VDI

Virtual Desktop Infrastructure - is a computing architectural concept, that centralises a user's desktop (for example, Windows 10 desktop operating system). A reason to provide this centralisation, is for data storage purposes, to remove the option of storing data on a user's physical desktop device. It also allows users to be able to login from different locations, and not require a fixed workstation.

VLAN

Virtual Local area network - Technical term, used in defining computer network protocols. Think of a VLAN, as the network that connects all the physical devices which can make up a LAN. See also [LAN](#), [SD-WAN](#), [WAN](#).

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VoIP

Voice over Internet Protocol – technology developed by hobbyists in the mid-1990s, that meant people could send voice calls over the internet, rather than use the analogue telephone system. Reducing the costs of long-distance telephone calls, and just paying for the local call costs for the internet dial up. Hardware manufacturers got on board and began to produce VoIP hardware and software.

VPC

Virtual Private Cloud – Technical – An on-demand configurable pool of shared resources in a public cloud environment. This provides a certain level of isolation between the different users using the resources.

VPN

Virtual private network - Technical - A VPN extends a private network across a public network, enabling users to send and receive data across shared or public networks as if their computing devices were connected to the private network. Benefits include increased functionality, security and management of the private network.

VR

Virtual reality in computing terms, can be applied to video games, where people might as an example participate as an avatar, and participate in an online world, in real-time^{xiv}. See also [AR](#).

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Letter W



WAI

Web accessibility initiative (WAI) a group formed under the W3C to develop standards for accessibility for the web, which has translated into the Web content accessibility guidelines (WCAG). See also [W3C](#) and [WCAG](#).

WAF

Web application firewall – technical term – A specific form of application firewall that filters, monitors and blocks HTTP traffic to and from a web service. It can prevent attacks exploiting a web application’s known vulnerabilities such as SQL Injection. See also [HTTP](#).

W3C

World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) founded in 1994, by Tim Berners-Lee, to create international standards for the world wide web. See also [HTTP](#), [HTTPS](#), [SVG](#), [URI](#), [URL](#), [WAN](#).

WAN

Wide area network – Technical term – A telecommunications network that extends over a large geographic area and are often established with leased telecommunication circuits. This mode of telecommunication allows a business to effectively carry out its daily function regardless of location. See also [LAN](#), [SD-WAN](#), [VLAN](#), [WAN](#).

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WCAG

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, developed by the W3C, under a group called the Web Accessibility Initiative. The WCAG guidelines, have also translated into an ISO standard, ISO/IEC 40500:2012. See also [W3C](#), [WAI](#).

WEEE

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive originates in European Union in 2003 and various amendments have been made since then. Its aim is to manage the safe disposal of hazardous substances contained in electrical equipment.

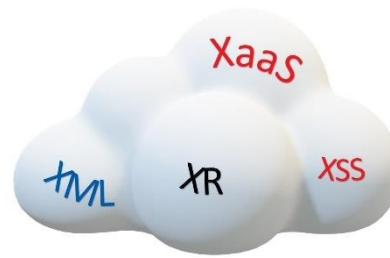
WI-FI

Wireless Fidelity - technical term, originating in Hawaii in 1971, WI-FI is a group of wireless network protocols based on the IEEE 802.11 set of standards. Commonly used for local area networking and Internet access, allowing nearby digital devices to use radio waves to exchange data. These are the most widely used computer networks in the world.

WIPO

World Intellectual Property Organisation – Legal and intellectual property special interest group. Interested parties are the domain registries around the world, who typically work with WIPO when engaged in domain name disputes. See also [ICANN](#) and [UDRP](#).

Letter X



XaaS

Anything as a service - Business - term- - With the move from on premise equipment to the public cloud, a shared responsibility model has developed, where the term 'as a service' developed. Prefixing which part of the shared responsibility model, identifies what type of service is being offered. See also [IaaS](#), [PaaS](#), [SaaS](#).

XML

Extensible Markup Language – is a structured information exchange. The language was started by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) in 1996 and was first published 1998. XML provides a categorisation structure to allow two systems to be able to match each other's data structures. XML is used in Scalable Vector Graphics Formats (SVG), and Open Office XML (an open-source Microsoft Office format)^{xv}. See also [SVG](#), [W3C](#).

XR

Extended reality is a catch all term for Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality. See also [AR](#) and [VR](#).

XSS

Cross site scripting - Cyber – A type of security vulnerability that can be found in some web applications. XSS attacks allow attackers to inject client-side scripts into web pages. This kind of vulnerability can be used to circumvent access controls.

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Letter Y



YARA

YARA: Yet Another Recursive Acronym, or Yet Another Ridiculous Acronym - Cyber – A malware research and detection tool, it provides a rule-based approach to create descriptions of malware families based on textual or binary patterns.

YB

YottaByte - Calculated in a decimal system, a yottabyte is 1000^8 . The more precise calculation is a base 2 system, at 1024^8 . Byte is the name given to a unit of digital information. A byte is most commonly made up of 8 bits. See lists for summary of Byte information. See also [B](#), [kB](#), [MB](#), [GB](#), [TB](#), [PB](#), [EB](#), [ZB](#), [YB](#), [RB](#), [QB](#).

Letter Z



ZB

Zettabyte - Calculated in a decimal system, a zettabyte is 1000^7 . The more precise calculation is a base 2 system, at 1024^7 . Byte is the name given to a unit of digital information. A byte is most commonly made up of 8 bits. A zettabyte of information was considered to have been the equivalent of approximate amount of global internet traffic in 2016. See [lists](#) for summary of Byte information. See also [B](#), [kB](#), [MB](#), [GB](#), [TB](#), [PB](#), [EB](#), [YB](#), [RB](#), [QB](#).

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0-9

A

B

C

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ZT

Zero-Trust – cyber term concept when describing access to a network that is believed to have been compromised. The idea that a device joining a network, should be treated in a manner that requires certain principles, such as minimum access requirements and verification checks such as devices must be scanned for viruses before joining a network.

ZTA

Zero Trust Architecture – cyber term – a security model that describes an approach to the design and implementation of IT systems. The main concept behind zero trust is “never trust, always verify.” This means no device should be trusted by default, even if connected to a corporate local area network (LAN), or even if they were previously verified.

^{xii} [Trans-Atlantic Data Privacy Framework \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/press-operations/infographic-116176/image.png)

^{xiii} https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turing_Award

^{xiv} [What is Virtual Reality? - Virtual Reality Society \(vrs.org.uk\)](https://www.vrs.org.uk/what-is-virtual-reality/)

^{xv} [Extensible Markup Language \(XML\) \(w3.org\)](https://www.w3.org/)

References

International Standards Organisation. (2017, 02). BS EN ISO/IEC 27001:2017. Information technology—Security techniques —Information security management systems —Requirements(ISO/IEC27001:2013) .

International Standards Organisation, ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 27 Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection committee. (2013, 10). Information technology—Security techniques —Information security management systems —Requirements(ISO/IEC27001:2013). (2). British Standards Institute. Retrieved 10 27, 2021, from <https://www.iso.org/standard/54534.html>

US - National Institute of Standards and Technology. (2018, April 16). Framework for Improving Critical Infrastructure Cyber Security. doi:<https://doi.org/10.6028/NIST.CSWP.04162018>

Useful URLs

Primary Sources

1. www.icann.org – Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
2. www.iana.net – Internet Assigned Numbers Authority
3. www.iso.org – International Standards Organisation
4. www.w3c.com – World Wide Web Consortium
5. www.ncsc.gov.uk – UK National Cyber Security Centre
6. www.nist.gov – US – National Institute for Standards and Technology

Secondary sources and organisations

1. www.aicpa.org – International membership organisation for accounting professionals
2. www.iasme.co.uk - UK Certification body for Cyber Essentials
3. www.isaca.org – International membership organisation for auditing professionals.
4. www.isc2.org – International membership organisation for technical professionals

Glossary

proprietary	a piece of intellectual property that has been created by an organisation.
natural person	a living individual

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Lists

Bytes^{xvi, xvii}

For ease of reference, in general spoken terms people often refer to a decimal (base 10) referencing system rather than referring to the more accurate and precise nature of a binary base 2 counting system.

The table below demonstrates the differences between the two counting systems.

Ref	Decimal	Decimal Name	Binary	Symbol	Binary name	Concept
1.		Byte	8 bits	<u>B</u>		
2.	1000	Kilobyte	1024	<u>kB</u>	Kibibyte	A Latin character
3.	1000 ²	Megabyte	1024 ²	<u>MB</u>	Mebibyte	Text of a large book
4.	1000 ³	Gigabyte	1024 ³	<u>GB</u>	Gibibyte	Approximately 30 mins of a video
5.	1000 ⁴	Terabyte	1024 ⁴	<u>TB</u>	Tebibyte	Hard disk drive technology is available in terabytes.
6.	1000 ⁵	Petabyte	1024 ⁵	<u>PB</u>	Pebibyte	2000 years of MP3 music files Or Google processed 20 Petabytes of data a day, in 2008 ^{xviii} .
7.	1000 ⁶	Exabyte	1024 ⁶	<u>EB</u>	Exbibyte	Global monthly amount of internet traffic in 2004
8.	1000 ⁷	Zettabyte	1024 ⁷	<u>ZB</u>	Zebibyte	Global yearly amount of internet traffic in 2016 ^{xix} .
9.	1000 ⁸	Yottabyte	1024 ⁸	<u>YB</u>	Yobibyte	Not yet reached
10.	1000 ⁹	Ronnabyte	1024 ⁹	<u>RB</u>		Not yet reached
11.	1000 ¹⁰	Quettabyte	1024 ¹⁰	<u>QB</u>		Not yet reached

Key people

Throughout this document, reference to groups of people and in some cases specific people have been named. It is impossible to know who is the creator of every term and or protocol, or it would be a very lengthy task. Where it is obvious, that the creators are well known and it is well established, their names have been mentioned. Where it is not as well known, or well established, references to the name of the founding group have been made.

1. Alan Turing. See [CAPTCHA](#) and [reCAPTCHA](#)
2. Linus Torvalds See [Linux](#), [UNIX](#)
3. Tim Berners-Lee See [http](#), [https](#), [URI](#), [URL](#), [W3C](#)
4. Vint Cerf See [TCP/IP](#), [HTTP](#), [HTTPS](#)

ISO standards

ISO standard review cycles are generally predictable and are reviewed every 5 years (exceptions will exist), the review cycle process is transparent and on the www.iso.org website to understand where a standard is in the review cycle.

1. ISO 3166; See [ccTLD](#)
2. ISO/IEC 11889-1:2015; See [TPM](#)
3. ISO 14001; See [EMS](#), [WEEE](#)
4. ISO/IEC 27001; See [ISO](#), [ISO/IEC 27001](#)
5. ISO 9001; See [QMS](#)
6. ISO/IEC 40500:2012; See [WCAG](#)
7. ISO/IEC 11889-1:2015; See [TPM](#)
8. ISO 14289; See [PDF](#)
9. ISO 32000-1; See [PDF](#)
10. ISO 14289; See [PDF](#)
11. ISO15930; See [PDF](#)

Frameworks

1. Agile – See MVP, Software Development Life Cycle [SDLC](#)
 2. Cyber Essentials – See [CE](#) .
 3. Cyber Essentials Plus – See [CE Plus](#).
 4. Center for Internet Security – See [CIS](#)
 5. Control Objectives for IT – See [COBIT](#)
 6. Cloud Security Alliance – Cloud Controls Matrix. See – [CSA-CCM](#).
 7. ISO27001 See [ISO/IEC 27001](#).
 8. IT Health Check – See [ITHC](#).
 9. Information Technology Infrastructure Library – See [ITIL](#).
 10. Leanstartup - See [MVP](#).
 11. NIST Cyber Security Framework – See [NIST-CSF](#).
 12. Open Web Application Security Project – See [OWASP](#) - OWASP top 10 – reviewed every 3 years
 13. Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard – See [PCI-DSS](#) No predictive published pattern, 4 major versions in 14 years
 14. Service operations controls – See [SOCII Type 2](#), [AICPA](#).
 15. The Open Group Architecture Framework – See [TOGAF](#).
-

^{xvi} [Total data volume worldwide 2010-2025 | Statista](#)

^{xvii} [Byte - Wikipedia](#)

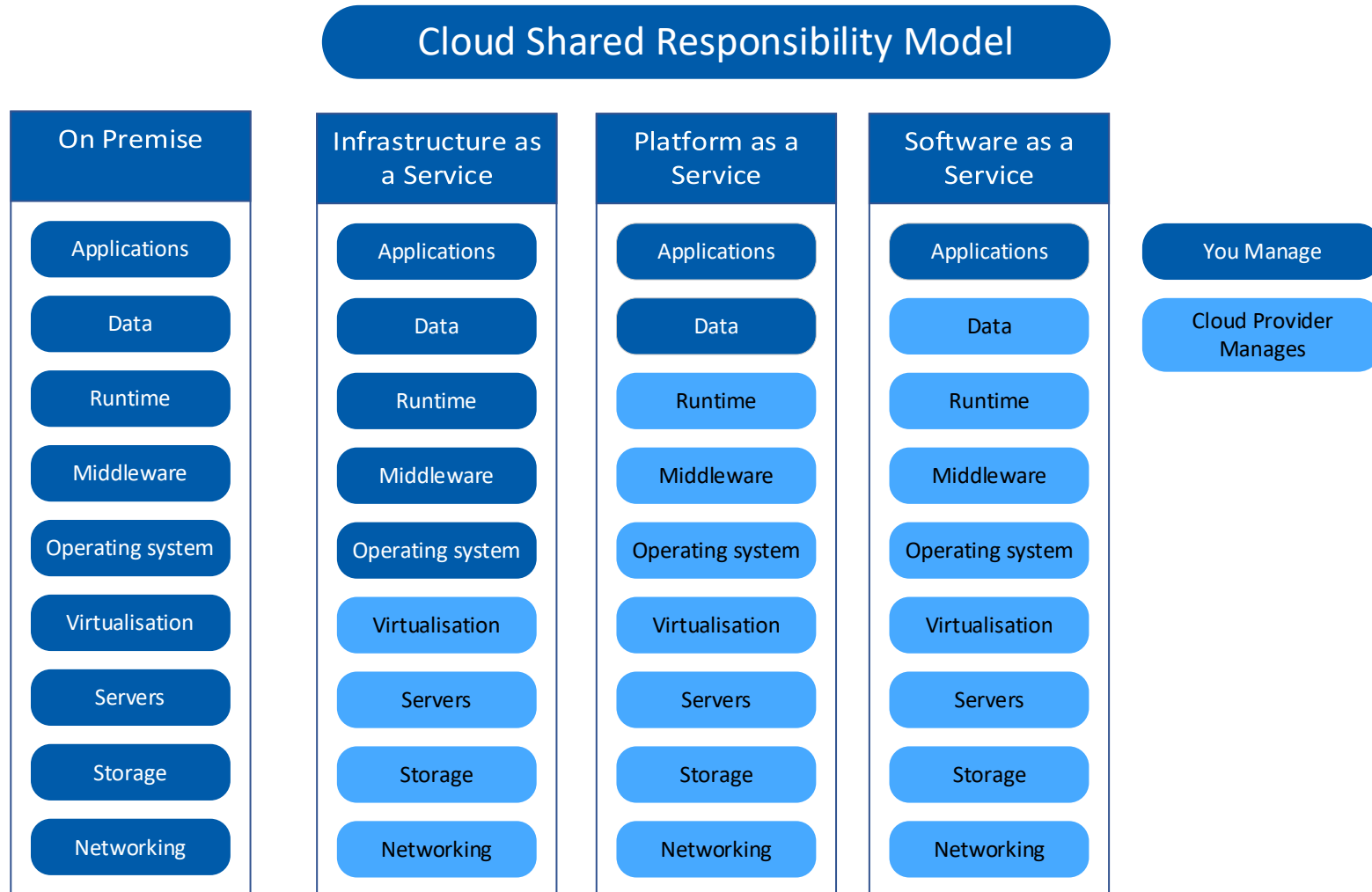
^{xviii} [What does a petabyte look like? \(archive.org\)](#)

^{xix} [Total data volume worldwide 2010-2025 | Statista](#)

Models

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1. Cloud shared responsibility model



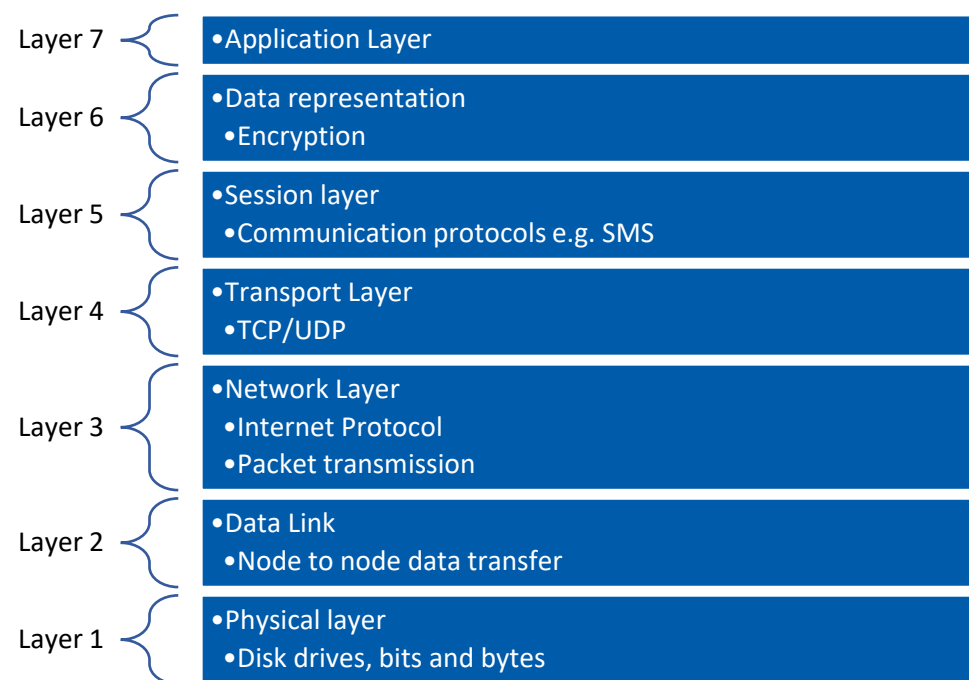
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2. OSI model

Below is a simple representation of the OSI Model.

See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OSI_model for further detail.

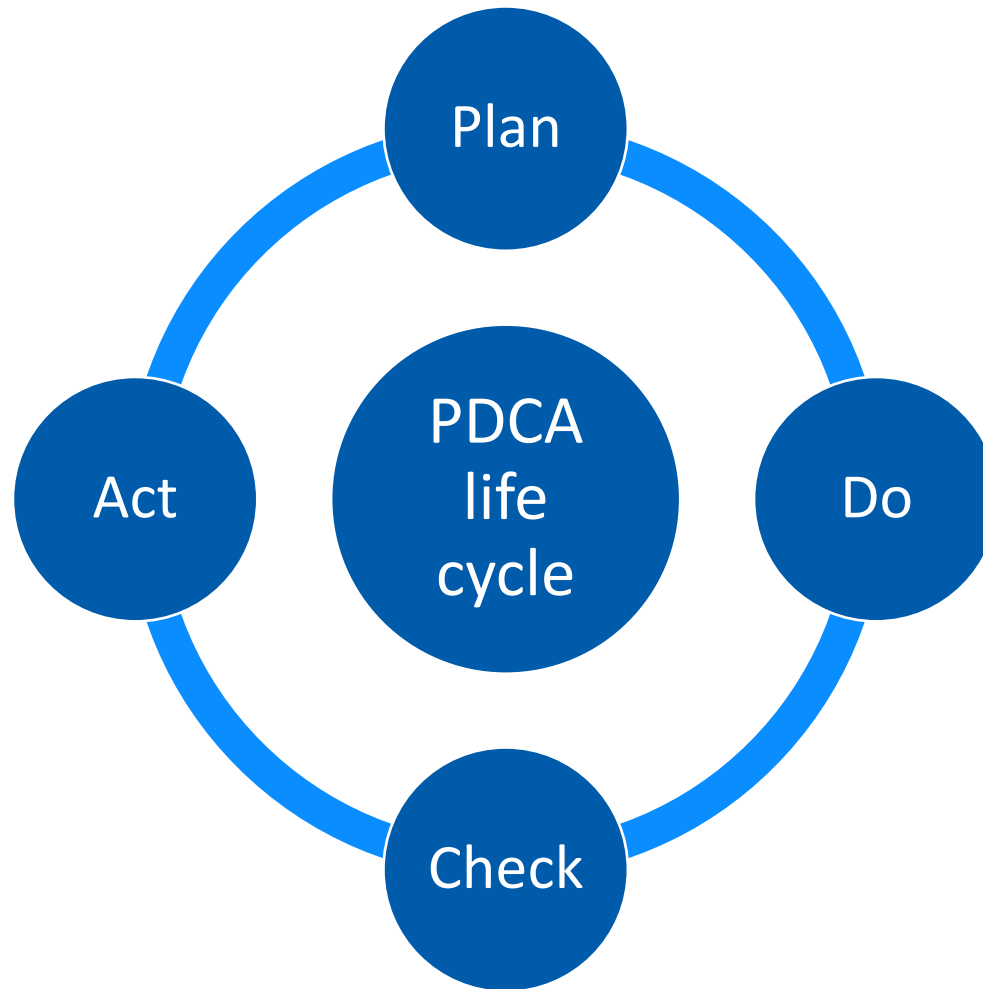
See [OSI Model](#).



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3. Plan do check act model

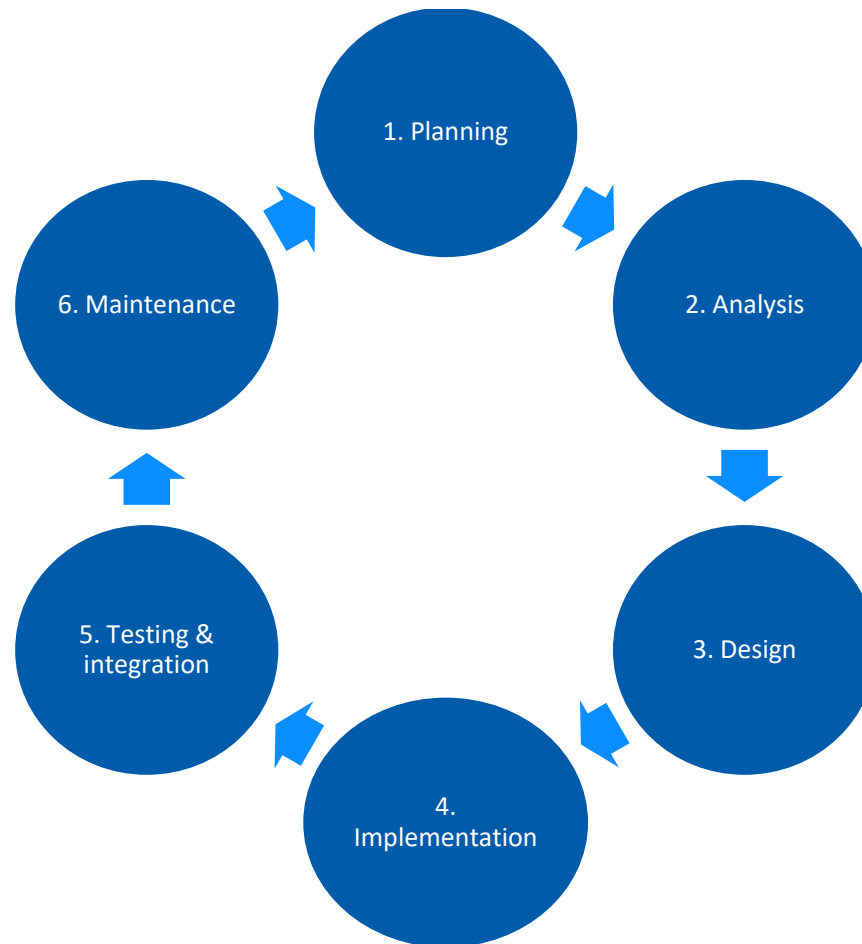
See [PDCA](#).



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4. Software development life cycle

See [SDLC](#).



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Document control

Document version.

Version	Author	Date
1.0	CSP Team	08/02/2023
1.1	Minor 21/02/2023	08/02/2023
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Document History

Version	Detail	Date
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Document review

Version	Reviewer	Date
V1.0	CSP Directors	08/02/2023
V1.1	CSP Directors	21/02/2023
V2.0	CSP Directors	26/01/2024

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Spelling:

Where appropriate, internationalised spellings have been used. The dominant dictionary is UK, British English.

Errors and omissions

Every effort has been made, to ensure that the information provided, is as accurate as possible and there may well be errors, for which we apologise in advance.

Format and style

- The font size of normal text in this document is size 12 and line spacing of 1.5.
- The document is intended to be navigable as possible with URLs and cross referencing throughout.
- Tables used for the presentation of data only.



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