

Decision support in privacy and security – The PRISMS DSS

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PRISMS – Privacy and security mirrors

- FP7-SEC-2011-1
- 2012-2015
- Fraunhofer ISI, Trilateral, VUB, TNO, Uni. Edinburgh, Eötvös Károly Policy Institute, ZUYD & IPSOS MORI
- Challenge the metaphor/model of the “trade-off” between privacy and security.
- Includes a Decision support system to allow security decision makers to implement security measure which minimise the impact on privacy

The particular problem of

DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEMS IN PRIVACY AND SECURITY

Security and privacy decisions

- The security investment decision in response to a security problem
 - These decisions are made
 - And there is some limit or problem with the way they are made
 - Institutional or cultural privileging of security over privacy
 - Responsibility for security (not for privacy)
 - Focus on (new, shiny, surveillant) technologies / solutionism
 - Push from security vendors (“look at this cool toy!”)
 - Path dependency (“this is how we did it before”)
 - Lack of evaluation (“of course CCTV prevents crime”)
 - Discounting externalities (“benefits us, costs elsewhere”)
 - Lack of transparency (“security through obscurity”).

Security and privacy decisions

- How to move from:
 - “How to maximise security?”
- To:
 - “how to implement appropriate security measures and respond to a threat, whilst minimising the impact on privacy of individuals and groups?”
- (without ending up with:
 - “how can this security measure be legitimated?”)

Problems and criticism

- “Problem solving theory”
 - Accepting of status-quo security politics, institutions, securitisation, privileging of security etc.
- Manipulatable / gameable
- Don't/won't/can't solve important privacy problems

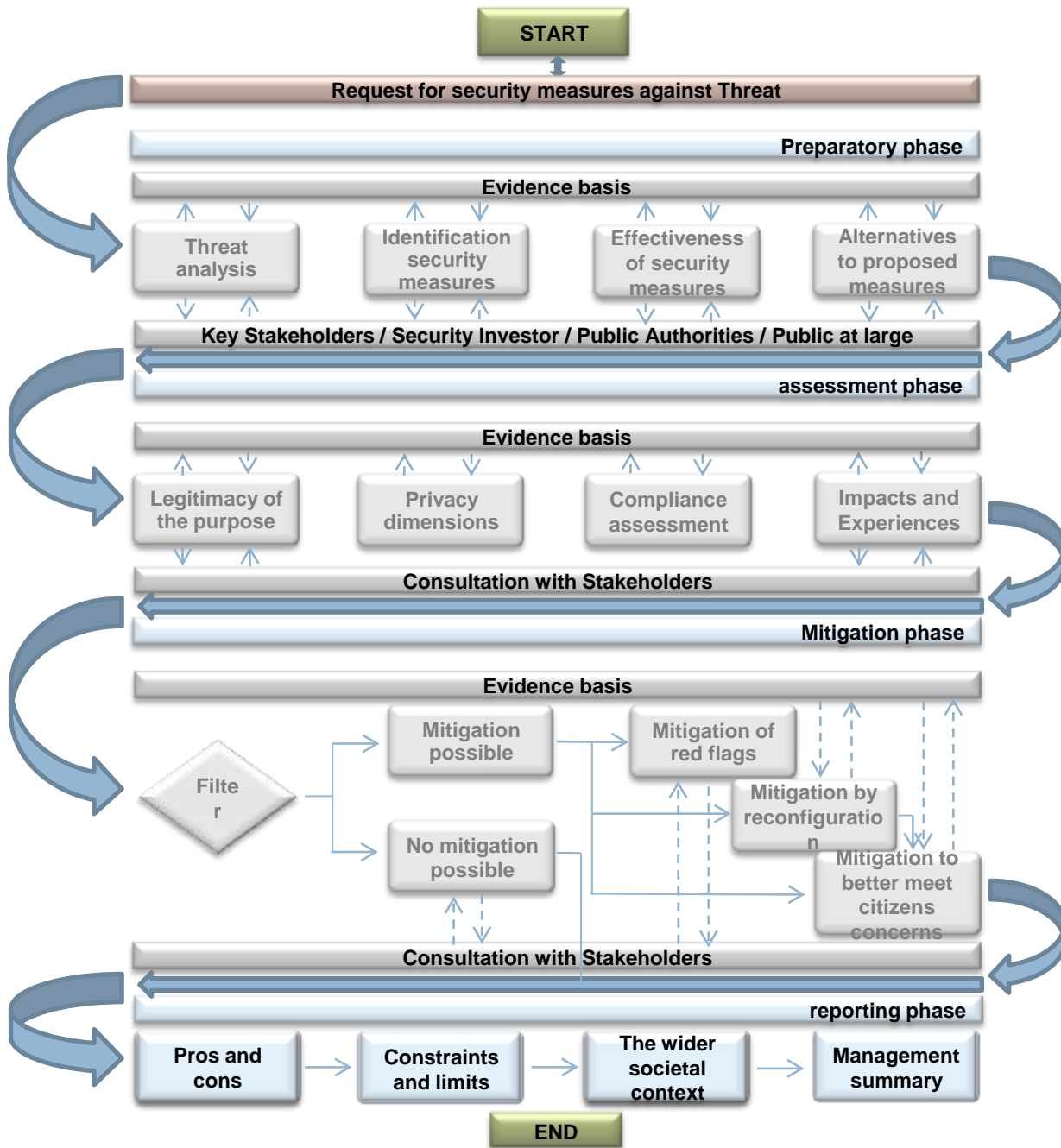


Designing and building

THE PRISMS DSS

PRISMS DSS approach

- Hybrid of a Privacy Impact Assessment and a participatory technology assessment exercise
 - (in a framework built around the theoretical assumptions and empirical findings from the PRISMS research).
- Not automated
 - Doesn't contain all the data needed to spit out answers
 - prompts data collection



Methods

- Procedurally equal footing for privacy with security
- Challenge the problem definition (and enrich it with external perspectives)
- Reflexive questioning
- Inclusion of genuine alternatives
- Mitigate as many sources of privacy harms as possible
- Social impacts and surveillances harms, not just individual privacy



Transparency?

Procedural justice vs
outcomes?

Necessary design
activity & skills?

DSS as research intervention:
open questions...



Thank you.

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