

DESIGNING INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY: INTERPRETATIONS FROM A BRITISH NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES HOSPITAL

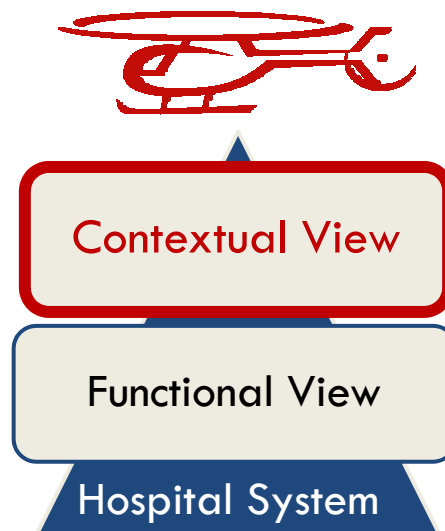
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G. Dhillon, "Designing Information Systems Security: Interpretations from British National Health Services Hospital", in *3rd Annual Symp. on Information Assurance*, School of Business, SUNY at Albany, pp. 20-28, 2008.
Available: <http://www.albany.edu/iasymposium/2007/8-dhillon.pdf>, 23 July 2008.

Paper Summary

It reviews the **logical form** of security measures in a British Hospital and argues that a fuller analysis of **organizational contexts** is necessary for secure environment.



Useful Insight



- Contextualist rather than functionalist
 - ▣ What actually is, rather than what ought to be
 - ▣ Requirements specification drives the technological security measures
 - ▣ A different perspective
 - top-down rather than bottom-up
 - ▣ Illustration using a case study from NHS
 - real context of a hospital

Critical Comment 1

- Scattered and unsupported recommendations
 - ▣ Too many concepts in one paper
 - ▣ Sudden switch from the importance of requirements to statement like:

“The **emphasis** however should be **less** on **the technical, programmable aspects** and **more** on the **requirement elicitation** and **specification criteria**”

without a clear justification on why we should put more weight on only one side

Critical Comment 2



- Weak proposal of solutions
 - ▣ Identification of the problem areas but without a solid proposal of resolution
 - ▣ Focus on “what” instead of “how”
 - ▣ Vague design principles

It makes me wonder...



How applicable are the design principles derived from this hospital case?

- ▣ Different setting?
- ▣ Technological focus?
- ▣ Other lessons learnt?