**Asset List for ISO 27001 Risk Assessment**

The risk assessment is a crucial step in Information Security Management System (ISMS) implementation, and a requirement in ISO 27001. Even though the asset-based approach for risk assessment is not mandatory anymore, it is still a dominant way of identifying risks because it provides a good balance of accuracy and investment of time.

The purpose of this paper is to be a guide for companies to start developing their asset lists for doing the asset-based risk assessment. The development of assets should consider at least these steps:

1. Assets identification, by interviewing managers and key users of areas involved in the ISMS scope, or by using existing asset inventories.
2. Assets owners’ identification, which is normally a person who operates the asset and who makes sure the information related to this asset is protected.
3. Assets information definition, such as asset name and its owner, asset category, location, manufacturer, model, serial number, etc.

**Asset table example**

| **Asset category** | **Asset element** | **Asset owner** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Hardware* | Computers (e.g., desktops, laptops, tablets, etc.) | User |
| Computer peripherical (e.g., printers, scanners, photocopiers, etc.) | IT administrator |
| Storage media (e.g., CDs, pen drives, external hard drives, backup tapes, etc.) | User |
| Servers (e.g., file, IDSs/IPSs, VPNs, etc.) | IT administrator |
| Network equipment (e.g., firewalls, switches, routers, hubs, wireless access points, Bluetooth devices, VoIP devices, network cabling, network cabinets, etc.) | Network analyst |
| Personal communication device (e.g., telephones, mobile phones, etc.) | User |
| Corporate communication equipment (e.g., telephone exchange systems, PBXs, fax machines, etc.) | Network analyst |
| Other hardware (e.g., measuring equipment, alarms, cards and card readers, safes, keys, etc.) | User |
| *Software* | Application software (e.g., office suites, word processors, spreadsheets, database managers, e-mail, etc.), both locally and cloud-based | System administrator |
| System software (e.g., operating systems, desktop environments, websites, ERPs, etc.) | System administrator |
| Programming software (assemblers, compilers, linkers, interpreters, etc.) | Head of software development |
| Driver software (printer driver, mouse driver, network driver, etc.) | System administrator |
| *Information (in physical or electronic form)* | Databases (e.g., salary, customer contacts, merchandise orders, etc.), which can be local databases or cloud databases | Database administrator |
| Contracts and agreements (e.g., with customers, partners, suppliers, etc.) | Legal head |
| Webpages and websites | System administrator |
| Correspondence with clients, partners, or suppliers | Customer relationship manager |
| Receipts, records, and logs | IT administrator |
| Manuals and standards (e.g., for personnel training or equipment operation and maintenance) | Administration head |
| Internal documents (e.g., decisions, reports, plans, etc.) | Administration head |
| Personnel documents | HR head |
| *Infrastructure* | Installations (e.g., offices, warehouses, buildings, datacenters, etc.) | Operation officer |
| Furniture (e.g., archives, safes, cabinets) | Operation officer |
| Electrical equipment (e.g., UPS devices, power generators, batteries, electrical cabling, transformers, etc.) | Operation officer |
| Cabling (e.g., network cables, power cables, underground cables, submarine cables, over-the-air cables, etc.) | Operation officer |
| HVAC equipment (e.g., chillers, air conditioning, heaters, cooling systems, fans, etc.) | Operation officer |
| Physical security systems (e.g., cameras, locks, fences, gates, security cabins, fire systems, etc.) | Operation officer |
| Vehicles | User |
| *People* | Top management (e.g., members of the management board, members of the supervisory board, business unit managers)  | HR head |
| Middle management (e.g., coordinators, team leaders, project managers, etc.) | HR head |
| Employees - experts (e.g., system administrators, designers, security architects, etc.) | HR head |
| Employees - general staff (e.g., operators, salespeople, etc.)  | HR head |
| External employees (e.g., consultants, contractors, etc.) | Contract manager |
| External people (e.g., visitors, government authorities, etc.) | Operation officer |
| *Outsourced services* | Electrical power supply | Contract manager |
| Communication links | Contract manager |
| Internet providers | Contract manager |
| ICT equipment maintenance | Contract manager |
| Information systems maintenance | Contract manager |
| Equipment suppliers | Contract manager |
| Mail and courier services | Contract manager |
| Outsourced services (e.g., consultancy, audit, legal services, cleaning services, etc.) | Contract manager |
| Supervisory institutions (e.g., certification bodies, regulators, etc.) | Contract manager |

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