

Why Do I Need an Asset Register?

How else will you know ~~what~~ you are protecting?





Asset Registers

One of the most neglected pieces of the cybersecurity puzzle is an asset register.

Without one, how do you know **what** you have, **where** your data is, and where to **focus** your security?



What is an Asset?

An asset is anything where information is stored or processed, whether it's digital or physical.

For example

- 1. It could be a cloud service (e.g. Microsoft 365)**
- 2. It could be an internal system (e.g. backup tape library)**
- 3. It could be a filing cabinet (e.g. storing financial records)**



**So what
information
should your
asset register
contain?**



1

Asset Name

The name of the asset.

It should help you easily identify it.

For example: “Microsoft 365”,
“Tape Backup System” or
“Finance Department
Filing Cabinet”



2

Asset Owner

Every asset needs an **owner**.

This is the person that is financially responsible for the asset, and wears any risks it has.

These should be owners from **across the business**.

All assets should not be lumped with IT!



3

Asset Manager

Responsible for day-to-day management of the asset.

Sometimes called the
custodian.





4

Confidentiality

How sensitive is the information held by the asset?

This will dictate the level of security controls needed to secure the asset.

It will also identify potential compliance requirements e.g. PII or cardholder data



5

Integrity

How important is it that this information maintains its integrity?

This will help define access controls (read vs write access) but also DR requirements like RPOs.



6

Availability

How long can users be ~~without~~ this asset before it heavily impacts business operations?

This will support DR requirements, such as RPOs & RTO's, but also backup, crisis management and BCP processes.



7

PII

Does the asset hold personally identifiable information (PII)?

This will identify ~~compliance~~ requirements such as the Privacy Act, APPs and GDPR when engaging EU citizens.



8

Security Assessment

Has the asset ever had a security assessment?

CIA ratings allow you to define which assets need an assessment, and at what intervals, so you can identify and manage potential risks to sensitive data.



9

Comments / Notes

Any additional information that provides context for anyone reading the asset register.

This is especially helpful if critical roles or personnel change.



Slowly Improve

**This is just a start.
With anything in security,
start small and grow your
processes over time.**

**Don't try and make
everything 100%
from the start or you will
never get started!**

**It's a journey,
not a sprint.**



Want More Information?

Read more on our blog about how to create your first asset register, the questions to ask, and why you should start today!

<https://morrisec.com.au/insights>



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