

THREAT MODELING

READ MORE ABOUT ASSESSING YOUR RISKS AT
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THREAT MODELING helps you identify threats to the things you value and who you need to protect them from. When building a threat model, you can ask yourself the following questions.

- What do I want to protect?
- Who do I want to protect it from?
- What are the consequences if I fail?
- How likely are these consequences?
- How can I address the most likely risks?

THREAT MODELING GLOSSARY:

Asset: What I want to protect

Adversaries: Who I want to protect my assets from

Threats: How bad the consequences are if I fail

Risk: The likelihood that a particular threat against a particular asset will actually occur

Adversary capability: What it is able to do to achieve its aims. For example, a country's security services might have the capability to listen to telephone calls while a neighbor may have the capability to watch you from their window. To say that an adversary "has" a capability does not mean that they will necessarily use that capability. It does mean that you should consider and prepare for the possibility.

Try it! Make a threat model for a jewelry store owner:

THREAT MODEL FOR A JEWELRY STORE OWNER

YOU inherit a JEWELRY STORE in the city.
The JEWELRY STORE has:



- \$1 million worth of diamonds.
- A staff of five people.
- An alarm system.
- A safe.
- A cash register.
- A camera monitoring the door.
- A pin-protected alarm for the door.

1

What assets are you protecting?

- \$1 million worth of diamonds
- Money in the safe
- Alarm code
- **Anything else?**

2

Who are your adversaries?

- Jewelry thieves
- **Anyone else?** (Consider: Who might have access to the jewelry store safe? What about cleaning crews, or maintenance staff?)

3

What are the consequences if you fail?

- Theft of jewelry
- Any other threats? (What if the safe code or alarm code is stolen?)

4

How likely are these consequences?

Map the likelihood of these threats occurring on the back!

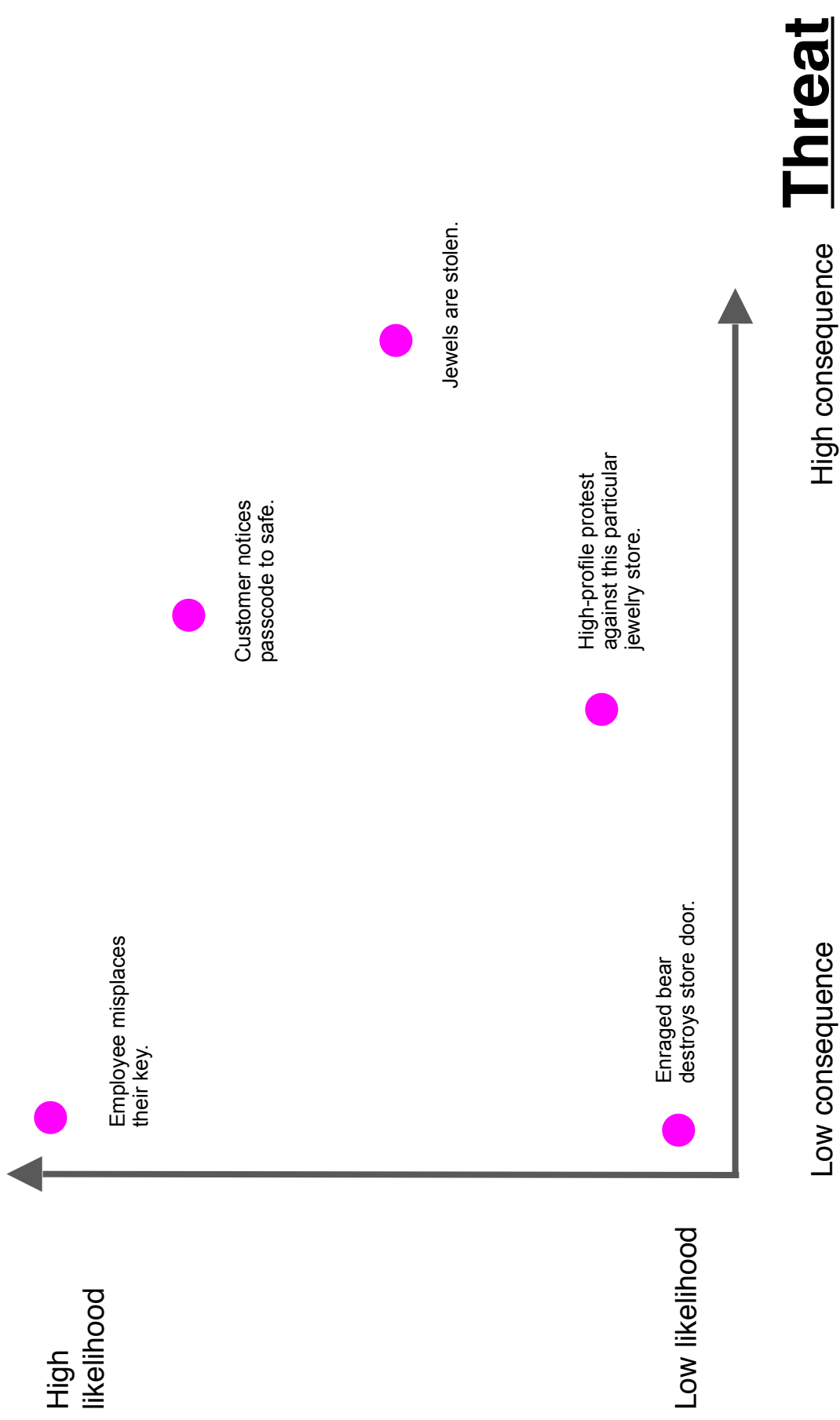
5

How can you address the most likely risks?

- Changing the passcode every month, and after an employee leaves.
- **What else?**

Risk

How likely are these consequences? This depends on your adversaries' **capabilities**.



ASSESSING YOUR RISKS

1 **ASSETS:** What do you want to protect?

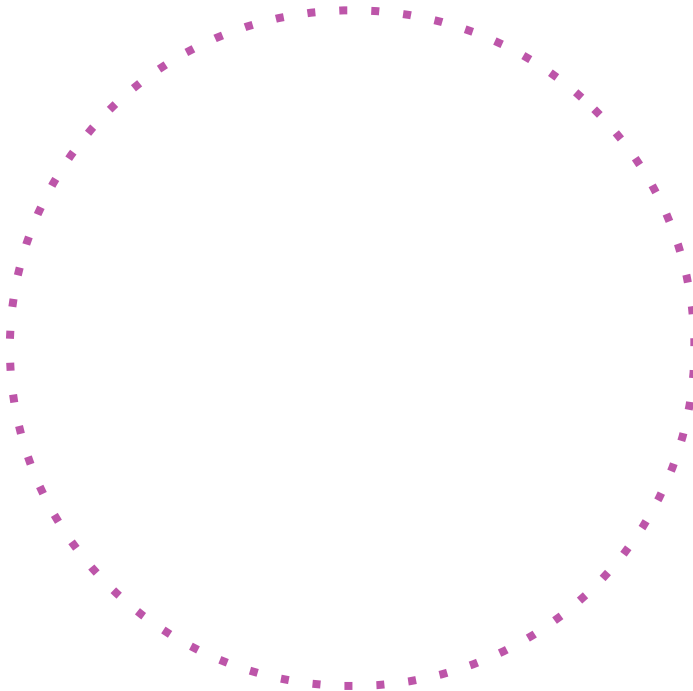
2 **ADVERSARIES:**
Who do you want to protect it from?

What would motivate your adversaries?

What are your adversaries' capabilities?

5 What kinds of protections make sense in response?

Fill this section out after completing #4 on the back.
Determining appropriate measures depends on your appetite for risk.



6 Technologies and threats change.
Plan to reassess your risks.

3 **THREATS:**
How would they threaten your assets?

Map the likelihood of the threats on the next page!

I will reevaluate my threat model on: _____

4

How likely are these threats? This depends on your adversaries' capabilities.

Risk

High
likelihood

Low likelihood

