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## Rational Information Security

Information systems that cannot defend themselves against attack have no place in today's corporations. Systems must provide not only *availability* of information but also *confidentiality* and *integrity*. The question of how to build a secure infrastructure remains.

### *Cost-Effective Security*

Many believe that information security can be achieved by allowing builders to go about their business, while having a periodic "penetration test" performed to see "whether someone can break in." The builders will then translate those test results into lists of things to fix, and the process starts all over again.

Applying the same strategy elsewhere shows its waste. To connect two towns together with a bridge, we do not send builders off to construct it, then have "auditors" drive heavy trucks on it to see "whether it will break." We have engineers design the bridge to support the load in the first place.

Imagine the cost of building a bridge, breaking it, and rebuilding it. No wonder so many IT vendors take this approach to security.

Cost-effective information security is rational. It looks at assets and understands risks presented to them. It then designs to support both operational and security loads. Just as an engineer can tell you the load that will make a bridge collapse, a rational security program can tell you the load that will make the systems fail. Armed with this understanding, you can decide your optimal position: how much to spend to bring the frequency and impact of failure into acceptable bounds.

### *Effective Risk Management*

Effective risk management puts information security into perspective. It isn't about defending against every single attack that could possibly be launched, it's about managing the probability and impact of compromise. It draws the line that says "we will defend up to here, and insure against the high-impact, low-probability events beyond."

### *Why Interhack?*

Recognized throughout the world as an authoritative voice in information security, Interhack has the unique expertise and depth to address the hardest of problems. Our clients understand their assets at risk and how they're managing their risks, rather than struggling through an endless "build-break-fix" cycle. Interhack's clients address risk at a strategic level, having a rational basis for their security expenditures. The result is the right balance of risk, utility, and expense.