VISTA Insider Threat Taxonomy

The Dodo doesn't know how to behave securely. They are unaware and likely to become an insider threat.

Blissfully Ignorant Dodo



Fallible humans can be deceived by a cyber criminal or make mistakes because they are tired or burnt out.

Fallible Frog



A marionette's movements are constrained & controlled by existing sets of rules which cannot address the Gen Al threat

Disempowered Marionette



Renaud, K., & Warkentin, M. (2024). The insider threat zoo. Computer Fraud & Security, 2024(5).

Insider Threat Types



Whistleblowing Dolphin

The whistleblower acts from an inner moral compass in the face of unethical behaviours



Misbehaving Magpie

The misbehaving insider might be insatiably curious and is challenged by the security rules.



Ideologue Ant

Ideologue insiders serve an ideology, so policies do not deter them.



Malicious Mamba

The malicious mamba decides to hurt the organisation to retaliate.

VISTA Insider Threat Taxonomy

Retrain and ensure that the concepts are understood

Blissfully Ignorant Dodo



Provide support and understanding, and if the cause is burn out or overload, address the situation

Fallible Frog



Abandon unthinking faith in rules: help employees to contemplate a whole new kind of threat fuelled by generative Al

Disempowered Marionette



Renaud, K., Warkentin, M., Pogrebna, G., & van der Schyff, K. (2024). VISTA: An inclusive insider threat taxonomy, with mitigation strategies. Information & Management, 61(1), 103877.

Insider Threat Mitigations



Whistleblowing Dolphin

Behave ethically and have an internal whistleblowing channel so that issues can be internally addressed



Misbehaving Magpie

Continuous insider monitoring can detect misbehaviours



Ideologue Ant

Ensure that people are thoroughly vetted before they are employed. Monitor employee behaviours



Malicious Mamba

Use technical measures to control access to core systems. Managers should monitor employees