



INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION TO THREATCASTING

THREATCASTING METHODOLOGY – BACKGROUND

The Threatcasting methodology is a human-centric process focused ten years in the future. This is a conscious timing decision to reduce innate biases from participant(s) when they participate in the Threatcasting Workshop and explore possible threat futures. The ten-year time horizon allows for and overcomes plausibility concerns. For most, envisioning ten years into the future is an intellectually freeing experience, allowing participant(s) to imagine a broader range of futures beyond their current state. Typically the ten-year time horizon is freeing because it is past the duration of:

- Political administrations
- Corporate executives' appointment
- The life cycle of most projects
- The current career or life position of the participant(s)

Threatcasting uses inputs from social science, technical research, cultural history, economic trends, and subject matter expert interviews. This input allows the participants to develop a specific person in a specific place, experiencing a specific problem, which leads to the creation of potentially threatening futures.

The Threatcasting Methodology in its traditional form is broken into five steps or distinct phases that contain tasks and activities. These phases are meant to provide the analyst(s) structure and guidance for conducting the Threatcasting. They are rigid and need to be followed closely. A phase cannot be omitted or skipped. The tasks and activities inside of each phase need to be performed before the analyst(s) can move on to the next phase. These phases include:

- Phase 1: Prompt Presentation, Research Synthesis and Discussion (Workshop)
- Phase 2: Futurecasting (Workshop)
- Phase 3: Backcasting (Workshop)
- Phase 4: Post Analysis, Synthesis, and Findings (Post Workshop)
- Phase 5: Output (Post Workshop)

The Threatcasting methodology is distinct from traditional futures thinking, planning, and modeling notions. The methodology combines both linear and creative thinking. It also requires that a diverse set of participant(s) gather and collaborate from both inside and outside of the industry or military. This diversity of participant(s) and the multidisciplinary nature of the sources it draws upon, paired with multiple guided exercises to explore possible threats, enables groups to envision a complex and evolving threat landscape.

THREATCASTING METHODOLOGY – BACKGROUND

Our age is defined by technology, the rate at which it refreshes, and the speed at which threats can be identified and effectively neutralized. The Threatcasting methodology is a complex analytical process that leverages open and secure sources of information and sensor data to model futuristic risk scenarios and produce actionable courses of action. The Threatcasting methodology is a human-centric process that focuses ten years in the future. Ten years is a conscious timing decision that yields two crucial benefits. First, the time period reduces innate biases from Threatcasting Workshop participants since the institutions, decision-makers, and environmental variables most active in the scenarios, statistically change over the span of ten years. For instance, a decade extends typically past the duration of several leading indicators:

- political administrations,
- corporate executives' appointment,
- the life cycle of most projects,
- the current career of life position of the participant(s).

These social indicators are among a spectrum of examples of human social processes and milestones that shape an understanding of a future threat environment.

Second, a ten-year period aligns with US military operating concepts, such as Multi-Domain Operations (MDO), where the rapid and continuous integration of all domains of warfare is a central objective. The Threatcasting methodology supports the planning of operations that traverse multiple domains and that address a variety of social, political, cultural, social, religious, and historical themes. Using inputs from social science, technical research, cultural history, economic and demographic trends, and subject matter expert interviews, Threatcasting Workshop participants work through choreographed tasks designed to yield potentially threatening futures. These futures are subsequently analyzed by subject matter experts (SMEs) whose domain expertise allow for a sophisticated level of analysis

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