
Defining the Commercial Security Body of Knowledge

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Overview

- Introduction & background
- Review of Literature
- Theory of study
- Research methodology
- Conclusion

Background

- The field of security is broad and fragmented
- Governments and persons spend billions of dollars to protect their assets
- No assurance that the security solutions will fulfill the expectations
- No research based decision making – decisions are made on sometimes faulty data/premise
- The security industry is largely unregulated with no universally accepted standards

WHY

- Security industry is broad and multi-faceted
- Security is not well defined
- Security cannot be considered singular in concept definition, as definition is dependant on applied context- Brooks (2009)

Aims & Objectives

The purpose of the study is to determine the universally accepted core concepts found within the security industry body of knowledge.

Objectives of the study

- Determine if commercial security is a distinct domain within the greater field of security.
- To identify key security concepts and topics within commercial security.
- Elicit, document and formalize tacit knowledge from the security industry.

Literature Review

- Characterize the term security
 - from the perspective of an individual
e.g. Maslow's Hierarchy of needs
 - from a state or national perspective
e.g. Criminal Justice
 - from an international perspective
Political Science/International Studies

- **Body of Knowledge**
- **Textbooks**
- **Journal articles**
- **Professional development**
- **Security Education**
- **Industry bodies**
- **Security standards & regulatory**

Literature Review

- The definition of “commercial security” in the context of this study

“the means and methods of protecting commercial assets. The means may be provided by private enterprise or state funding. The methods of asset protection may incorporate physical security as well as security technology. Lastly, assets in a commercial context may be defined as physical property and life safety.”

- **Body of Knowledge**
- **Textbooks**
- **Journal articles**
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Theory of Study

- Cognitive Psychology - how people in the security industry acquire, process, perceive and store information related to the security industry - This information can be used to formally define security and subsequently the security body of knowledge.
- Expertise - knowledge is not simply facts or information. Knowledge is constructed and uses previous experience, existing knowledge and understanding to expand upon to develop new knowledge (Novak and Gowin, 1985).
- Multi dimensional Scaling – Statistical method to map perceived similarities/dis-similarities between topics/concepts/products

Methodology

Research Methodology

- Controls the collection of data and then helps to extract pertinent meaning to the data collected.
- The research design, target population, instrument, procedure
- reliability and validity

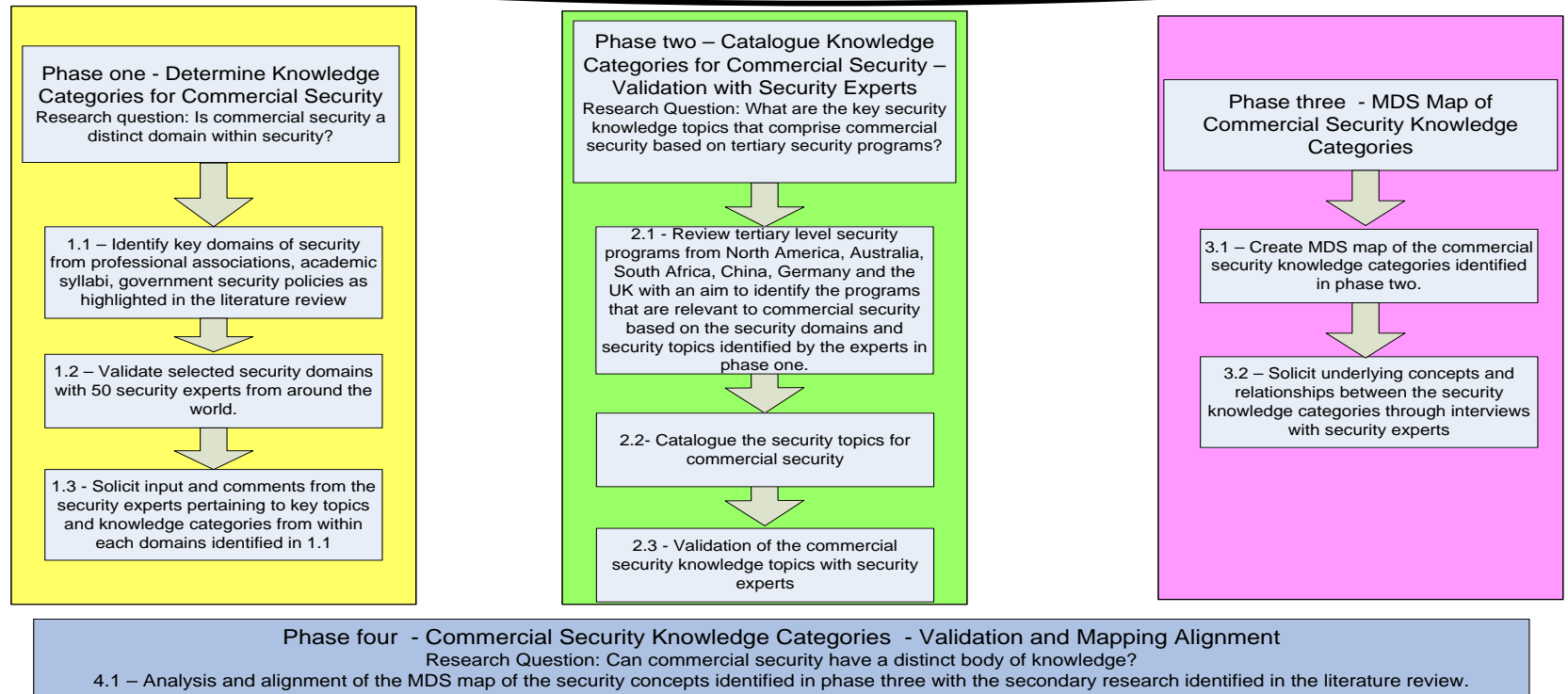
Methodology

Security Industry Body of Knowledge

Commercial security context

Objectives

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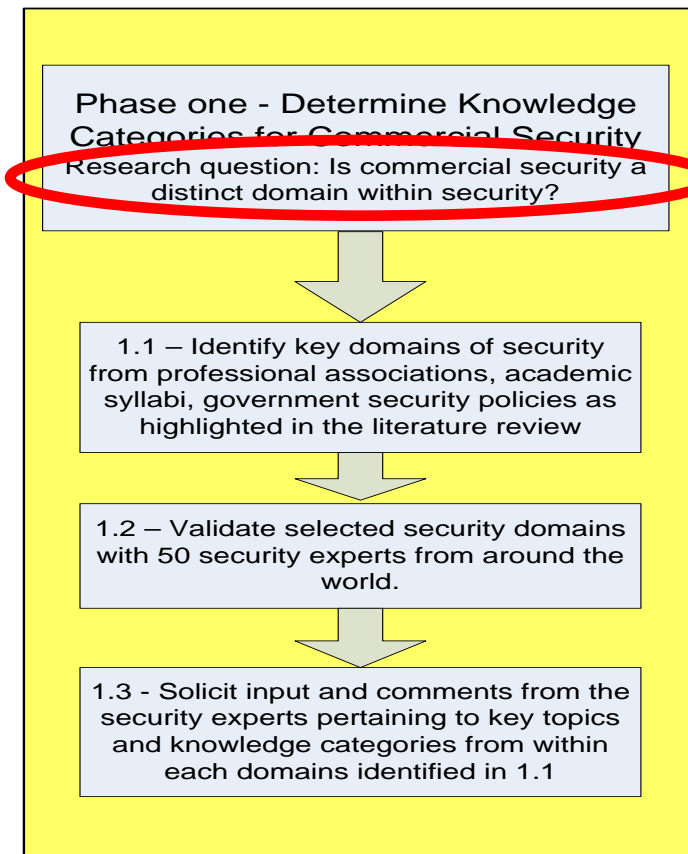


Cognitive Psychology theory

Methodology

Phase one – Identify Security Knowledge Categories

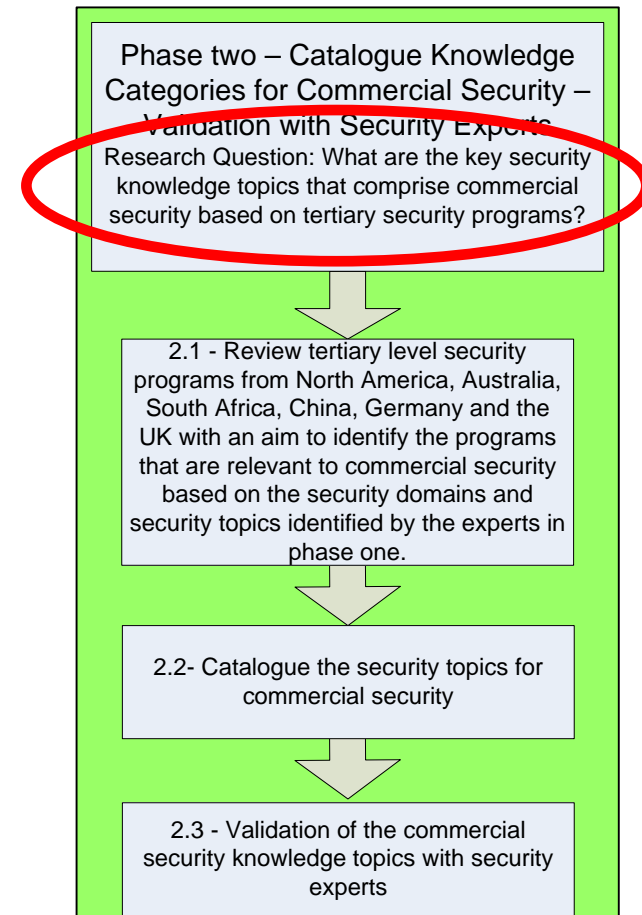
- Phase one will identify the knowledge categories found within the field of security
- The key domains that comprise security will be extracted from the literature review and presented to a cohort of ~50 experts from a broad range of domains within the field of security.
- Validate the domains from the field of security that have been presented.
- The experts list the most fundamental elements that make up each domain



Methodology

Phase two - Catalogue security categories – Validation with experts

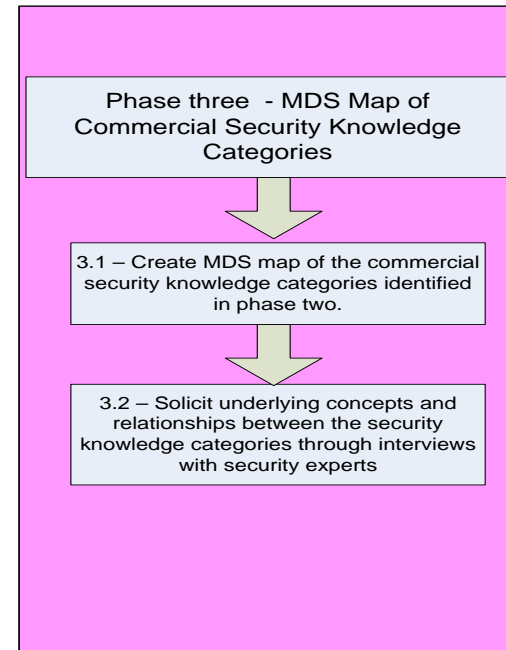
- Phase two will validate the security knowledge categories identified in Phase one of the study.
- Tertiary academic security programs that are offered in USA, Canada, UK, Germany, China, Singapore, Australia and South Africa.
- The relevant courses for commercial security will be extracted based on word count of the key elements of commercial security
- A cohort of security experts will review and validate the list of security knowledge topics.



Methodology

Phase three – Identification of Security Concepts

- ➔ MDS proximity scale to map the commercial security knowledge categories
- ➔ The output of Phase three of the study will be a MDS map with the commercial security knowledge categories plotted in a two-dimensional space.
- ➔ This MDS map will be presented to the security experts for validation and analysis through interviews to solicit and extract relational data between the commercial security knowledge categories.



Methodology

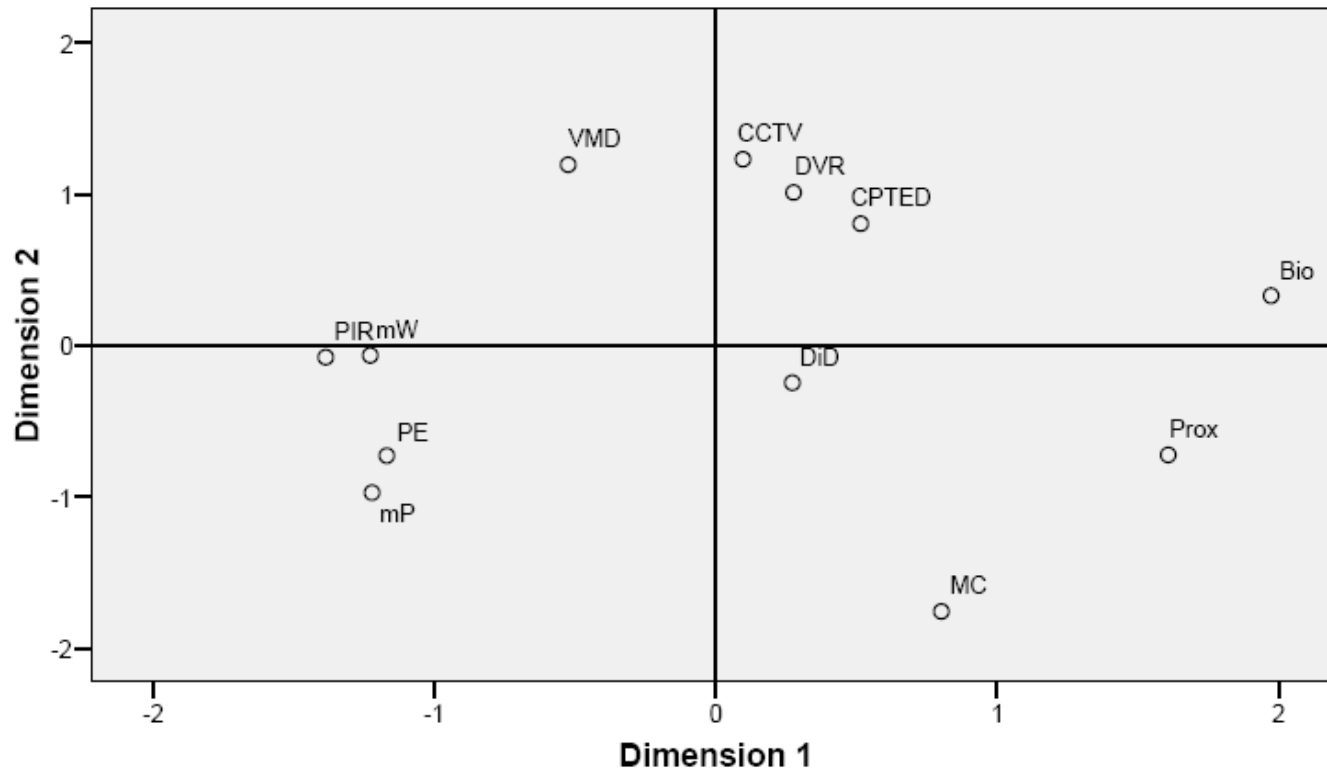
Phase three – MDS Proximity Scale

- The topics and concepts that will be compared by the subjects will include those that are identified from Phase two of the study where each topic and concept will be compared with each other and rated on a scale of one to seven based on the perceived degree of similarity or dissimilarity between the two topics/concepts
- The context will be in conjunction to the purpose of this study being to identify the core concepts that comprise commercial security.

	Very Similar	→	→	→	→	→	Very Different	
Magnetic contacts	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Passive Infrared sensors
Microwave sensors	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Microphonic cable
Magnetic contacts	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Microwave sensors

Methodology

Analysis – MDS Concept Map - Sample Output



Methodology

Phase four – Validation and Mapping

- ➔ Phase four will be the analysis and validation phase of the study
- ➔ The MDS concept maps defined in Phase three of the study will be analyzed during interviews with security experts to verify the core concepts of commercial security are relevant for security academia according to Phase two of the study.
- ➔ Phase four of the study will compared and contrasted the study findings with the available literature that was reviewed for this study.

Phase four - Commercial Security Knowledge Categories - Validation and Mapping Alignment

Research Question: Can commercial security have a distinct body of knowledge?

4.1 – Analysis and alignment of the MDS map of the security concepts identified in phase three with the secondary research identified in the literature review.

Conclusion

- The expected outcome of this study will identify and map the core concepts that comprise commercial security.
- the study will provide an in-depth analysis of the perceptions of the security industry body of knowledge from a broad range of security industry experts.
- Tertiary education institutions may focus their curriculums for academic security programs to better suit the industry
- As the security industry continues to develop and mature into a true profession, governments will listen to the security industry more when developing policy pertaining to security.