

i.s.c. and the Comprehensive Security Check© (CSC) – An Overview

i.s.c. – information security consulting eU was founded in 1998 as the very first company offering strategic information security services in Austria and Europe. Based on its three business lines of Consulting, Investigation, and Training, i.s.c. has executed projects in 28 countries across the globe since 1998 and is a leading provider for all topics around ISO 27001 and the mitigation and resolution of severe information security breaches.

A core service product of i.s.c. is the Comprehensive Security Check© which enables customers to efficiently and effectively determine essential security vulnerabilities and risks and speedily gain a big-picture overview of their security status. It can be used pro-actively or reactively.

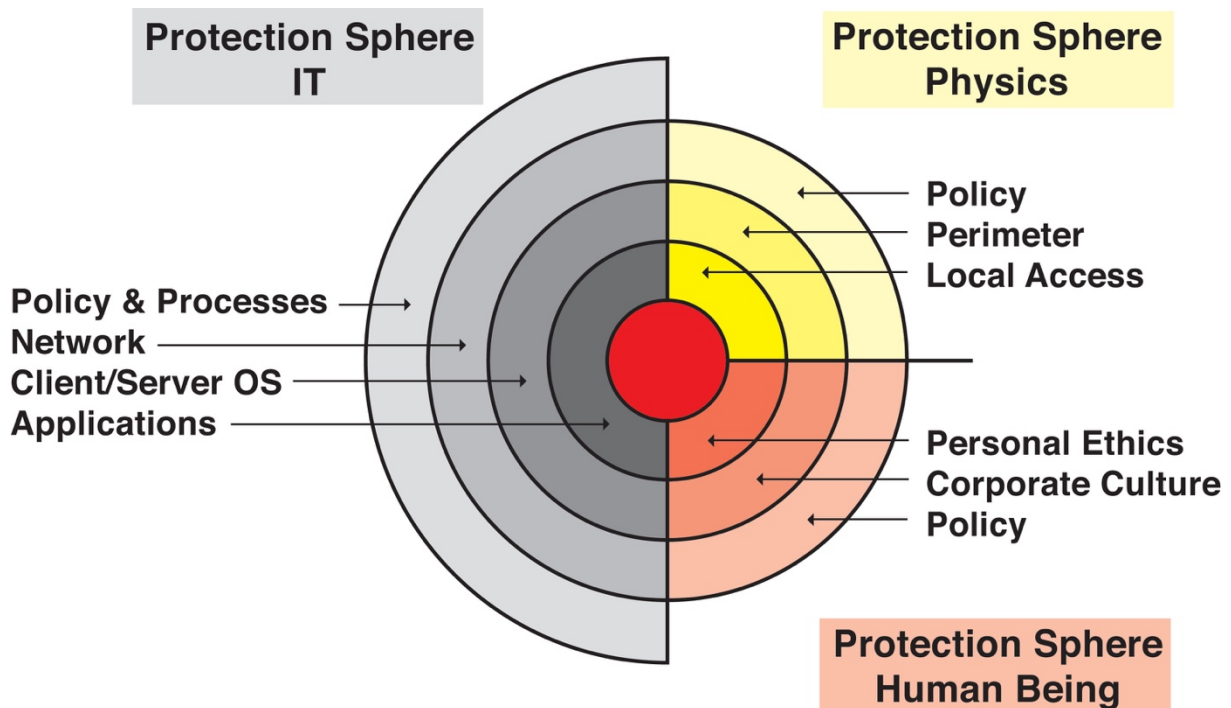


Figure 1: Comprehensive Security Check©

CSC© was developed in 1998 and is continuously adapted to the state of the art in regard to its technical layers. By placing the information/data requiring protection right at the core of the model, CSC© can be used to determine the current status of security measures within one or more layers or to determine attack paths across layers after an incident and to evaluate incident leads. The layers of a CSC© can be examined horizontally, vertically or in cross sections. Applying horizontal examination the protection measures (controls) existing within that layer are examined and checked whereas in a vertical examination the entirety of measures within a sphere is checked or put to the test.

How customers have used CSC© so far

These examples are highlights of more than 20 years of applying CSC© to customer situations:

- Execution of a complete CSC© after a case of fraud and theft of documents was detected at an investment bank. CSC© was used in the investment bank and in its mother company to examine the security status of both. A 4-person team identified 61 severe vulnerabilities within the organizational and technical layers.
- A partial CSC©, restricted to the policy layer of all spheres, executed for a client in course of their preparation for ISO 27001 certification.
- A cross-section CSC© for an engineering company as part of their ISO 27001 certification preparations.
- A partial CSC© (organizational and IT aspects) for a customer in the culture sector used to solve an organizational challenge.
- A partial CSC© (physical layer only) for a client to determine whether the outside perimeter was sound.
- A partial CSC© (IT layers only) to determine security status of a SCADA system for a building pertaining to critical infrastructure of a nation.