



Facilitated Discovery Process (FDP)

Does the business need to identify critical business assets, identify threats, evaluate risks, evaluate controls, and develop an action plan quickly?

Does the business need to maintain availability of business assets while controlling costs?

Has the business identified potential undesirable events or unauthorized events and need to take the next step?

Benefits of Facilitated Discovery Process

- Utilizes the skill of experienced facilitators to convene the appropriate management “owner” and internal subject matter experts to identify the assets, threats, risks and solutions.
- Identifies threats, prioritizes them and identifies controls that will help mitigate the risks from those threats.
- Complete the process of identifying critical business assets, identifying threats, evaluating risks, evaluating controls, and developing an action plan in days versus weeks or months.

Changing technology and business goals offer both increased productivity and risk to the organization. There is an overwhelming awareness of the need for availability across all industries. Availability however comes at a cost that must be weighed against the value of the assets. Organizations do not have resources available to provide total protection to all of their assets. To be able to identify cost-effective controls, the risks of doing business in the current or planned environment must be examined. To achieve business objectives, cost-effective controls must be identified and applied to protect the organization’s assets.

The facilitated discovery process encompasses techniques used to determine the relationship between the value of a client’s assets and the cost of the measures required to protect them. The greatest benefit to the client of the facilitated discovery process is the acquisition of sufficient information to decide if it is prudent to proceed. It allows management to examine all currently identified concerns, prioritize the level of vulnerability, select an appropriate level of control or decide to accept the risk.

Service Overview

As part of the Avoidance layer of ESAAG’s Information Protection Model, the Facilitated Discovery Process (FDP) service offers the most cost-effective, rapid and practical risk analysis methodology in use today. FDP was developed as an efficient and disciplined process for ensuring that availability related risks to business operations are considered and documented. The FDP objectives are to manage potential undesirable or unauthorized events. These are risks that could have a negative impact to the business objectives or mission of the client. Once a risk has been identified and prioritized, appropriate controls are identified to help mitigate the risk.

The goal is not to eliminate all risk. Few controls can be 100% effective. The cost to do so would be prohibitive. The ultimate goal is to achieve an acceptable level of availability. FDP is a technique that allows management to make informed decisions and to reduce risk to an acceptable level

Driven by the owner of the business process system, this process is conducted by an experienced facilitator, is subjective and is completed in days rather than weeks or months. To meet the needs of an organization, the facilitated discovery process must be completed quickly with a minimum of impact on the busy schedules of those who will be involved.

Scope of Service

Facilitated discovery is a formal methodology designed to:

- Identify assets
- Determine the value of those assets



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More Benefits of Facilitated Discovery Process (FDP)

- Focus on issues that provide highest ROI.
- Demonstrates management's due diligence.
- Maintain competitive advantage by identifying and protecting intellectual capital components.
- Identifies and prioritizes risk to address them in the order that best utilizes limited time and resources.
- Identifies the critical business assets and the appropriate controls needed to provide the necessary level of availability.
- Determines the relationship between the value of the business assets and the cost measures required to protect them
- Complete the process in days versus weeks or months – very cost effective

- Identify risks to those assets
- Analyze exposure to threats
- Identify measures to reduce or manage risk
- Determine the relationship between the value of the information assets and the cost of measures to required to protect them

Facilitated discovery can be used to review any task, project or idea. By learning the basic concepts of facilitated discovery, the organization can use it to determine if a project should be undertaken, if a specific product should be purchased, if a new control should be implemented, or if the enterprise is at risk from some threat.

When to Use

Companies need to conduct a facilitated discovery to determine what amount of risk they are willing to accept when:

- Upgrading the company information infrastructure
- Developing new or updated application systems that will process sensitive data (i.e., data that should not be disclosed, that must be accurate, and that have requirements for ready availability)
- Designing new facilities
- Determining if the hardware/software you are about to purchase supports your business model.
- A need to exercise due diligence in protecting the information of others based on contractual or legal obligations.
- Business Continuity Program development
- Major changes are made in the way business uses the IT infrastructure
- Results of an audit mandates that a risk/business impact analyses be performed

About ESAAG's Availability and Security Practices

ESAAG provides thought leadership and best-in-class professional services in information security and business continuity management. ESAAG's Availability and Security Practices are staffed with internationally-recognized senior availability and security professionals who are leaders in their profession. By listening to, and understanding, the needs of its clients, ESAAG provides practical, time-tested and cost-effective availability solutions to ensure availability, data integrity and confidentiality. ESAAG integrates these solutions into any application environment, helping clients to realize their vision and expectation for a "trusted" and secure infrastructure.

ESAAG: The Key To Security and Availability

ESAAG provides a set of related professional services to help make your business more secure and available to accomplish business objectives. These services can be used individually or in various combinations, according to the business need. ESAAG can help identify what these needs may be, design a program and infrastructure that meets those needs, and lead or train your staff to meet those needs. These services will enable your business to create controls that anticipate and prevent business impacts, monitor the effectiveness of these preventive measures, detect the inevitable impacts, and manage those impacts to conclusion.