

# THE SECURITY CARDS: A Security Threat Brainstorming Toolkit

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## PURPOSE

To facilitate the exploration of potential security threats for a particular system; and more broadly, to help develop a security mindset.

If your system is compromised, what **human assets** could be impacted?

Who might attack your system, and **why**?

What **resources** might the adversary have?

**How** might the adversary attack your system?

## AUDIENCE

Educators (for their students), Researchers, and Practicing Professionals

## CARD TITLES

### HUMAN IMPACT

- The Biosphere
- Emotional Wellbeing
- Financial Wellbeing
- Personal Data
- Physical Wellbeing
- Relationships
- Societal Wellbeing
- Unusual Impacts

### ADVERSARY'S MOTIVATIONS

- Access or Convenience
- Curiosity or Boredom
- Desire or Obsession
- Diplomacy or Warfare
- Malice or Revenge
- Money
- Politics
- Protection
- Religion
- Self-Promotion
- World View
- Unusual Motivations

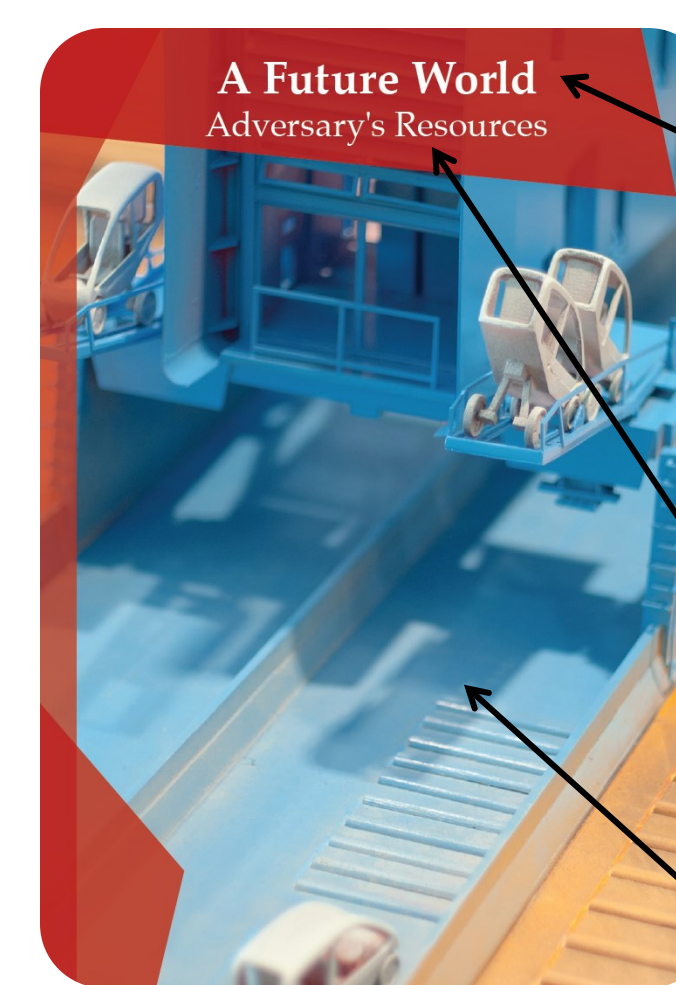
### ADVERSARY'S RESOURCES

- Expertise
- A Future World
- Impunity
- Inside Capabilities
- Inside Knowledge
- Money
- Power and Influence
- Time
- Tools
- Unusual Resources

### ADVERSARY'S METHODS

- Attack Cover-Up
- Indirect Attack
- Manipulation or Coercion
- Multi-Phase Attack
- Physical Attack
- Processes
- Technological Attack
- Unusual Methods

## EXAMPLE CARD



Card topic

Card dimension

Evocative photograph

Human Impact  
Adversary's Motivations  
Adversary's Resources  
Adversary's Methods



Questions for clarification and to jumpstart thinking

Illustrative examples

## EXAMPLE ACTIVITY

Full writeup and other activities available at [securitycards.cs.washington.edu](http://securitycards.cs.washington.edu)

1. Work in groups of 3-5.
2. Consider an example technology system or a system that you are designing.
3. Go through the deck and familiarize yourself with the dimensions and the cards. Make sure to read at least one card from each dimension in its entirety.
4. Within each dimension, rank cards in order of how relevant their topics are to your system and how much risk they present overall.
5. Why did you rank the cards in that order?
6. Have you surfaced particular attack scenarios? Do particular attacker profiles begin to emerge?

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