

Threat Modelling

Computing

Four questions that surface most design-level security problems.

Adapted from the standard four-question frame.

1

What are we building?

Draw the data flow. Every arrow crossing a trust boundary matters.

2

What can go wrong?

Walk STRIDE: spoofing, tampering, repudiation, disclosure, denial of service, elevation.

3

What are we doing about it?

For each risk: mitigate, transfer, accept or eliminate. Write down which.

4

Did we do a good job?

Revisit when the design changes. A threat model is a document, not an event.

TRUST BOUNDARIES

Browser → server

Service → service

Application → database

Anything crossing an organisational edge

Most breaches exploit a design decision, not a coding bug. Design is the cheapest place to find them.