

The Risk Analysis Workbench (RAW): A Tool for Risk Assessment

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Abstract

The Risk Analysis Workbench (RAW) is a collaborative software system for risk analysts and decision/policy-makers to assess terrorism threats (e.g., FMD infection and spread), to evaluate strategies for countering these terrorist threats, and to undertake comparative analysis for risk-based funding allocation. Its coverage spans risk assessments and models, decision support tools, scenario and threat definitions, supporting data, and presentation and review tools. Based on a semantic network, the workbench is being developed to also enable composition of different risk and consequence models in a common user and data set management interface. The current user interface allows for the creation and specification of new scenarios and models for analysis, management of existing scenarios, and sharing of scenarios and other resources among multiple analysts. The ultimate target is an environment in which questions can flow from decision/policy makers to analysts, triggering both composition of software and formation of teams to gain insights. Meanwhile, conversely, analysts can develop synergies with each other which produce new findings that need to be brought to the attention of those decision-/policy-makers. RAW is currently populated with resources from the Texas A&M National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Diseases (FAZD), the University of Southern California's Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events (CREATE), and the University of Maryland's National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START).