Summary Post

by Jens Kolby - Thursday, 6 November 2025, 2:16 PM

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After working through Units 1– 3, I have expanded my understanding of fairness and accountability in human rights investigations, as well as how these concepts relate to security and risk management. The materials encouraged me to think more critically about how technical and organisational decisions influence fairness in practice. In my initial post, I discussed how digital tools can increase transparency but may also introduce new risks if they ignore local context. Hancock et al. (2024) found that data systems may perpetuate inequalities if they fail to incorporate all relevant perspectives.

Peer feedback from Nikunj Bhalotia (2025) supported my argument about the influence of private digital infrastructure on accountability. They highlighted that my point about companies such as Starlink controlling internet access added a valuable perspective to Hancock et al. (2024). This feedback helped me refine my understanding of how ownership and access control can shape fairness in data-driven investigations. Nikunj also raised an interesting question about whether increasing connectivity could actually solve existing data gaps or create new inequalities. This made me reflect on how technological solutions can sometimes introduce new dependencies even when they aim to improve access.

Unit 3 examined several threat modelling frameworks, including STRIDE, DREAD, PASTA, OCTAVE and Attack Trees. I found STRIDE particularly relevant because it clearly links technical threats with management decisions. Khan et al. (2017) describe STRIDE as a practical method for understanding security issues in complex systems, which connects well with the module’s focus on fairness and accountability.

References

Bhalotia, N. (2025) Peer feedback on Initial Post, Collaborative Discussion 1, Security and Risk Management module. University of Essex (unpublished communication).

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R. Khan, K. McLaughlin, D. Laverty and S. Sezer, "STRIDE-based threat modeling for cyber-physical systems," 2017 IEEE PES Innovative Smart Grid Technologies Conference Europe (ISGT-Europe), Turin, Italy, 2017, pp. 1-6, doi: 10.1109/ISGTEurope.2017.8260283.

Author's note:

This post is my own original work. Grammarly supported language refinement

for proofreading purposes only.