

Improving our understanding of Critical National Infrastructure

The UK's Critical National Infrastructure (CNI) is increasingly interconnected and interdependent, making it harder for government to understand and manage the risk faced by the UK.

Government has developed a new methodology to collect this data – the Criticalities Process – and is building a new tool to visualise and interrogate the data produced – the CNI Knowledge Base.

The opportunity for the UK

An accurate, shared understanding of the most critical infrastructure in the UK will enable government to better understand and better manage the risk faced by our CNI.

Our world-leading approach will provide the UK with the tools it needs to take data-driven decisions to improve our resilience and protect our citizens' way of life now and in the future.

The Criticalities Process

Gives risk owners in government (i.e. each sector's Lead Government Department) a common approach to collect and structure data on the CNI they are responsible for. The process supports the systematic identification of the Essential Functions, the Systems that provide them (and their interdependencies), and the Organisations that operate those systems. This information is tied to the impacts that a system's failure would have (both within and across sectors).

Step 1 Map Essential Functions

Understanding what is important

Step 2 Determine Systems

Mapping the Systems that provide the function

Step 3 Assess Sector impacts

Understanding the impact of System compromise

Step 4 Identify supporting Systems, Organisations and Relationships

Mapping the Systems in more detail

Step 5 Assess Cross-sector impacts

Understanding the impact on other sectors

CNI Knowledge Base



The CNI Knowledge Base

The CNI Knowledge Base is the 'Single Source of Truth' for UK CNI, enabling government analysts to visualise the Criticalities data. This software lets risk owners view UK CNI on a map or as a network graph, with interdependencies mapped across it.

The tool and data are held in a secure environment, accessed only by appropriately cleared government officials.

How this helps

Supporting government in this work means you are helping protect the functions that everyone in the UK relies on every day to live and to work. This work will also help us help you:

- We can **provide you with targeted, practical advice** on the most critical technologies and products within the CNI
- We will be able to **make better-informed risk management decisions**, taking into account the cost and benefit of potential policies
- We will help equip you with **better evidence to catalyse change** within your organisations, including at board level



Cabinet Office



National Cyber
Security Centre

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National Protective
Security Authority