Surviving in the new cyber landscape

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Sources: Newsweek/ISW 25 September 2026 · Swedish Security Service · Google Threat Intelligence, February 2026 · ENISA Threat Landscape 2026 · CERT-EU, August 2026

Russia, China and Iran are acting against us today

RUSSIA

- **Last week: sabotage against a Starlink station in Poland and drones that closed Berlin's airport**
- Russian drones crashed in Romania and Moldova on 24 September
- The Swedish Security Service stopped a Russian espionage operation in Stockholm in August

CHINA

- Has breached over 50 telecom operators and government agencies in 42 countries to spy
- Spies on shipping in at least seven EU countries, according to the EU cybersecurity agency
- Breaks in quietly and waits, often for years

IRAN

- Hires Swedish criminal gangs as proxies, according to the Swedish Security Service
- Sweden expelled an Iranian embassy employee on 16 September
- An Iran-linked cyberattack shut down a British power plant in August

This is not war. It is (still) peacetime.

Sources: MCF Preparedness Week 2026 · CERT-SE weekly newsletter, week 39 · SVT Öst, September 2026 · Netnod

Kinda municipality does the job and doesn't just tick boxes

PREPAREDNESS WEEK

- 21–27 September, themed "You are part of Sweden's total defence"
- **Thursday 24 September: evening meeting on digital preparedness in Kinda**
- The municipality trained its employees in cybersecurity during the week

MAPPING

- Netnod and Kinda mapped which systems, suppliers and networks the municipality depends on
- And what happens if they stop working
- Kinda was the pilot municipality for Robusthetskollen (the Robustness Check)

EXERCISE

- **Two days: managers, officials and the municipal executive board exercised together**
- From ordinary IT disruption to war with communications knocked out
- Result: an action plan for the leadership

Following rules is one thing. Surviving is another.

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None of us can fix this alone

Nothing you run stands alone

- You are one link in someone else’s chain

An attack that misses you can still stop you

- Contracts move the risk, not the dependency

A chain is no stronger than its weakest link

- Several suppliers or solutions help only if they are completely separate

Your own risk analysis isn’t enough

- It stops at your perimeter. Your dependencies don’t

Sources: Swedish Security Service · Swedish Armed Forces Intelligence (MUST) · MCF · Cybersecurity Act (2025:1506)

Threats have moved from chance to intent

HOW IT USED TO BE

- Threats were random: faults, breakdowns, natural disasters
- Probability could be calculated from history
- Computers were a complement
- It took weeks to detect and fix faults

HOW IT IS NOW

- Threats include state actors who choose their targets
- Probability is driven by intent, not statistics
- Everything is digitalised
- With AI the attack chain gets shorter and everything moves faster

Before, chance hit you. Now someone chooses you.

Your dependencies are where you will be hit

YOU DEPEND ON OTHERS

- Nothing you run stands alone
- An attack on others can still stop you
- Contracts move the risk, not the dependency
- Several suppliers help only if they are completely separate

OTHERS DEPEND ON YOU

- You are one link in someone else's chain
- A chain is no stronger than its weakest link
- Your risk analysis stops at your perimeter. Your dependencies don't

None of us can fix this alone.



“Plans are worthless, but planning is everything”

– Dwight D. Eisenhower

Three things you should do

1. **Change the starting point of your risk and vulnerability analysis**
   Someone chooses you, not chance. Weigh consequence before probability.

2. **Find out what is expected of you**
   Which functions must work, when and for how long?

3. **Keep track of all dependencies, especially external ones, not just your own**
   Map them and verify continuity. Documenting them is not enough.

Read more about Robusthetskollen and the work with Kinda: https://netnod.se/security/robusthetskollen

Compliance is one thing. Being able to deliver is another.

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