

## **SWITS 2008 Legal aspects of information security**

As society is getting more dependent on the use of ICT the importance of information security is growing rapidly. Finance, healthcare, industries and e-government are all areas where there is a great need of protecting the confidentiality, integrity and availability of information, whether electronic or not.

Because of the rapid development of ICT building information security is a complex task. It is truly a multidisciplinary issue, involving technical, organisational, ethical, legal etc tools. To be able to handle vulnerabilities and threats it is essential that

1. The tools are used in an efficient way
2. The different tools are combined

Research and development in the information security area have mainly focused on technical (in a broad sense, from system design to cryptography) and partly organisational solutions. The interface between law and information security, despite the fact that law is a very powerful tool, has not been examined in the same extent, almost not at all. The reasons behind this are many, but the facts that technical knowledge/interest is almost a prerequisite for studying information security as well as legal questions connected to information security are to be found in almost every part of the legal system (the traditional way of structuring the law is of no or little use) make it harder for the lawyer to access the information security field.

There is a mutual dependency between law and information security. As mentioned above, law is a powerful information security tool. In order to achieve an acceptable level of information security it is of great importance that this tool is used in an efficient way, closely connected to the rest of the information security tools. At the same time is an acceptable level of information security a prerequisite for maintaining many of the legally protected human rights and freedoms in an electronic environment.

The initial aim of the PhD project was to examine how the law supported information security in a specific area – CII Critical Information Infrastructures. As the project developed it became more and more apparent that there was a greater need to develop a model for lawyers to use when working with information security in general.

The model that has been developed is called RISA (Rättsinformatisk Informationssäkerhets analys). The model aids in:

- Identifying information security related law
- Analysing the legal solutions in search of inconsistencies etc
- Developing new law in a way that will enhance the efficiency of the legal information security tool.

Both risk analysis and check lists are used within the framework of the model. RISA has already been used, aiding the Swedish National Audit Office (Riksrevisionen) in their study of information security in Swedish agencies.