

Information security strategizing practices in developing economy public sector contexts: A case of Namibia

Background

Why It Matters

Global cyber-attacks cost billions of dollars yearly (Hammouchi et al., 2019).

Developing Economies

Low funding + weak security culture = high vulnerability in public sectors (Masrek et al., 2018).

The Problem

Strategies are rigid, top-down, and ignore people & adaptability (Safa et al., 2016).

Research Gap

Little research on information security strategy in information systems (Aigbefo et al., 2021).

Context

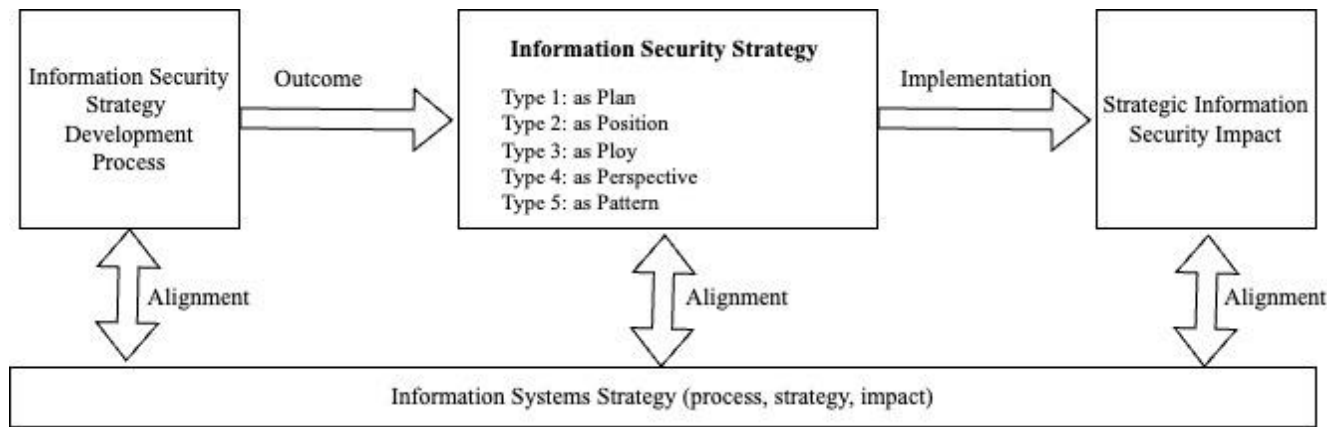
Namibian state-owned entity: recent breaches, ineffective strategies (Morolong et al., 2022).

Research Question

How do public sector organizations in developing economies practice strategizing for information security?

Literature Review

Approach: Systematic review using deductive paper selection and abductive analysis (Gioia methodology).



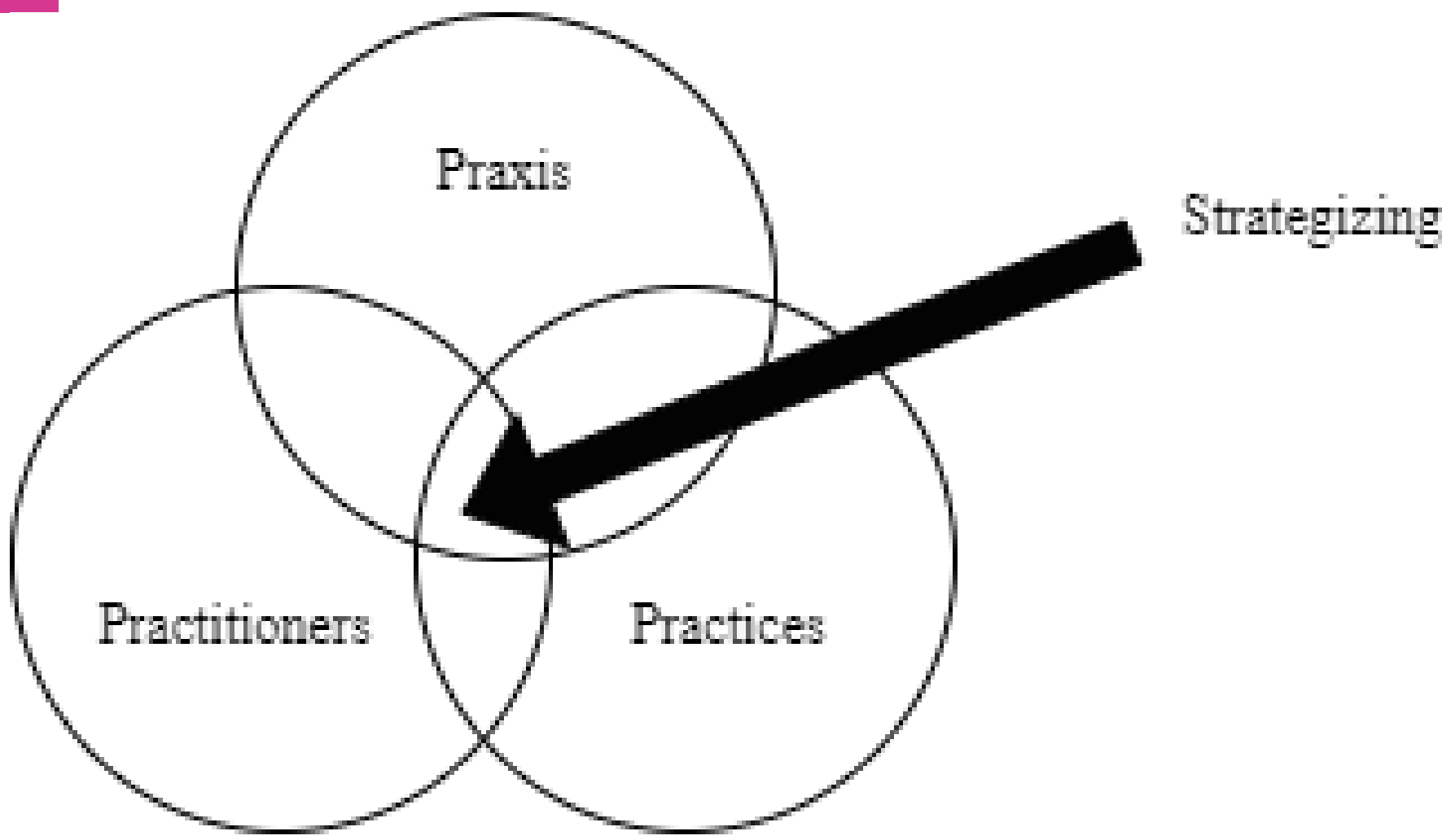
Information Security Strategy Types in Literature (Mintzberg's 5Ps):

- As Plan: Top-down, threat-focused planning.
- As Position: Security within broader strategies.
- As Ploy: Competitive advantage via security.
- As Perspective: Top management-driven decisions.
- As Pattern: Reactive to incidents.

Limitations: Over-reliance on top management, neglect of everyday practices.

Proposed: Information Security Strategy as Practice for a socio-technical, inclusive approach.

Theoretical Foundation



- Strategy as Practice:** Views strategizing as a socially accomplished activity involving all organizational actors.
- Sociomateriality:** Examines practices through the entanglement of social (human actors) and material (tools, technologies).
- Dimensions of SaP:**
- Practices: Social and material tools used in security strategizing from a sociomateriality lens.
 - Practitioners: All individuals, not just top management, shaping security strategy.
 - Praxis: Everyday activities contributing to strategy work.

Outcome: Sociomaterial lens with SaP humanizing the understanding of information security strategy.

Research Methodology

Research Paradigm

Interpretivist: Focus on subjective meanings in info-sec practices.

Research Strategy

Single case study with embedded units in a Namibian state-owned entity.

Theory Approach

Abductive: Builds & tests theory via context interactions.

Data Collection

Interviews, observations, documents. Sample: Employees, managers, board.

Data Analysis

Grounded theory methodology techniques

Ethical considerations

Permission to be obtained before study commences; anonymity to be ensured.

Potential Contribution

Theoretical Contributions: Introduces "information security strategy as practice," extending the strategy-as-practice framework.

Practical Contributions: Offers practical recommendations for enhancing information security practices, reducing vulnerabilities by incorporating socio-material tools and everyday practices.

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