



**National Federated
Compute Services**
NetworkPlus

Spring Conference
26 - 27 February 2026

NFCS Cybersecurity Roadmap Development

David Crooks david.crooks@stfc.ac.uk

Martin Hamilton m@martinh.net





Motivation

- The threat from cyber security attacks to the UK research and education sector is acute having growing over recent years
- We must work together to protect and defend our community in the face of determined and well-resourced attackers
- We must share information about ongoing incidents between our organisations



DRI Cyber Security and scope

- Existing activity looking at cyber security aspects across the DRI landscape
 - 2 previous workshops with next one May 11-12
 - Sessions at other conferences including DRI Congress
- Scope is deliberately expansive to include up to all research compute in the UK to avoid missing domains
 - Need specific work within this scope
 - Significant potential international nature of this work



Project Goals & Deliverables

- Engage NFCS participants to build a **Cyber Security Community of Practice** through community events.
- Deliverables centred around Objective A of the NCSC Cyber Assessment Framework: **Managing Security Risk**
- Work with the community to develop a **Cyber Security Roadmap** for NFCS.
- Provide feedback to UKRI, DSIT, NCSC etc around potential policy and strategy directions.



Key Project Themes

- 1. Taking stock** - what does the community do now, identifying common shared practice and potential gaps.
- 2. Federation direction of travel** – what does DRI Federation change, and how can the DRI provider community work together to ensure cyber security is properly addressed?
- 3. Roadmap sense checking** – review the draft Cyber Security Roadmap and provide feedback to the project.



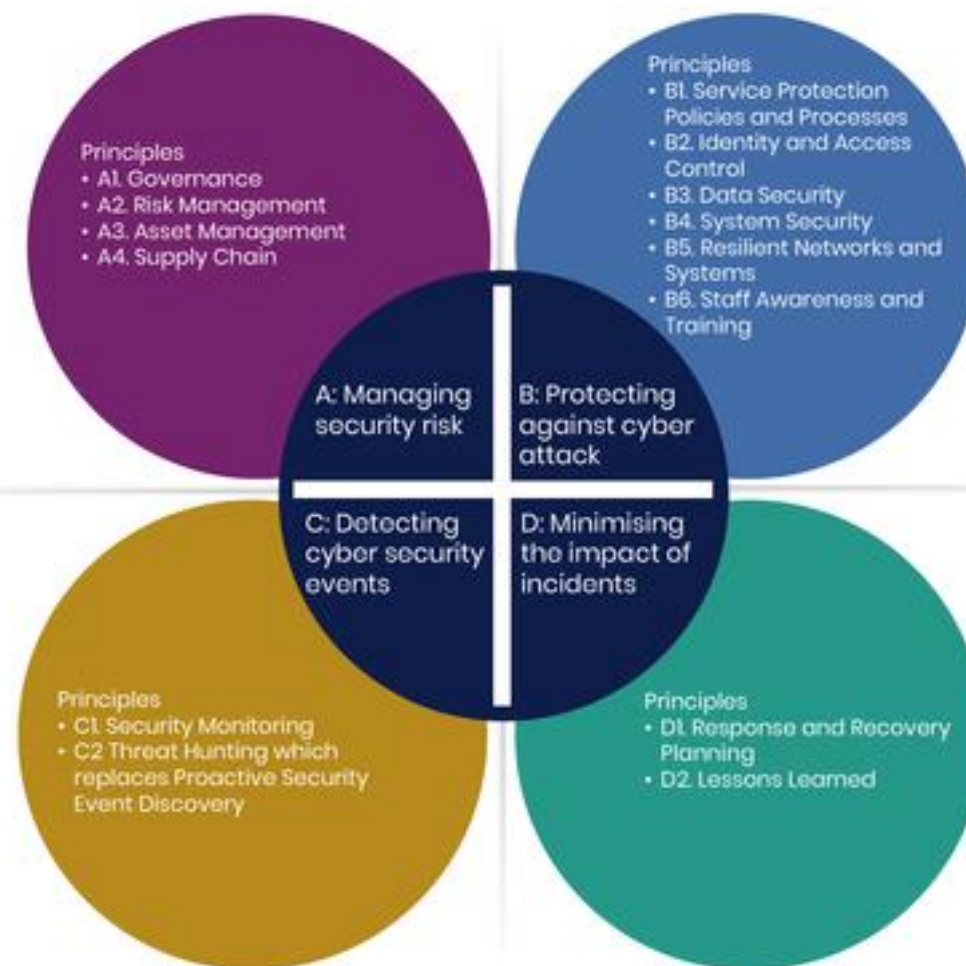
Cyber Security Community of Practice

- Develop Community of Practice as part of overall DRI Cyber Security Community.
- It will help establish the interpersonal trust relationships which will be essential to the success of DRI Federation.
- It will play a vital role in informing and sense checking the developing Cyber Security Roadmap.
- The CoP may also provide feedback to stakeholders on policy, strategy and regulatory aspects.



Role of NCSC CAF

- NCSC’s Cyber Assessment Framework is core to the Government’s Cyber Strategy to 2030
- Government departments and Arm’s Length Bodies such as UKRI have to be assessed against the CAF.
- DRI NCR call identified requirement for enhanced profile CAF in proposal
- The project will focus on foundational Governance and Risk elements of CAF





Project Activities

The project will hold around four workshops driven by CAF Objective A “Managing Security Risk”: Governance, Risk Management, Asset Management and the Supply Chain.

Two key areas of CAF will be explored with the community in depth:

- 1. CAF is focussed on the organisation, but DRI Federation will be delivered by a number of organisations working in collaboration.
- 2. Research and innovation has unique characteristics which set it apart from conventional “enterprise IT”, and may require a custom CAF profile, overlay or implementation to be developed.
 - Feedback from this community is vital here



Developing the Roadmap

- Workshop outputs and recommendations and other feedback received from the community will be assembled to form the draft Cyber Security Roadmap.
- This will articulate and evidence the requirement, setting out an options appraisal and a series of actionable recommendations for inclusion in the overall DRI Federation Roadmap.
- The project will liaise closely with other NetworkPlus projects as appropriate, and related activities such as the DRI AAI project as well as DRI Cyber Security.



Modus Operandi

- Due to the sensitivity of the topics which the Community of Practice will cover, membership will be drawn from by DRI providers and communities by invitation.
- We will invite members of the NFCS community to participate in the set of workshops once details have been finalised
- The project will engage with the NFCS community prior to the workshops to identify challenges and opportunities, in discussion with the NFCS+ team and other projects.



Science and
Technology
Facilities Council

Thank you



Science and
Technology
Facilities Council



Science and
Technology
Facilities Council

Thank you



Science and
Technology
Facilities Council



Science and
Technology
Facilities Council

Questions?



Science and
Technology
Facilities Council