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### CIA Triad

The CIA triad serves as a guide for protecting data, creating policies, and establishing controls within an organization. The CIA acronym stands for “Confidentiality, Integrity, and Availability” (GeeksforGeeks, 2025). The confidentiality part of the triad, according to GeeksforGeeks (2025), ensures that sensitive information is only accessible to users who have authorization. The integrity part of the triad “ Maintains the accuracy and trustworthiness of data, ensuring it hasn’t been tampered with or altered by unauthorized individuals.” (GeeksforGeeks, 2025). The availability of the triad “Guarantees that data and systems are accessible when needed by authorized individuals” (GeeksforGeeks, 2025). The CIA Triad is a cybersecurity model used to guide organizations to mitigate threats and protect sensitive data. The key distinction between authentication and authorization lies in the fact that authentication involves verifying a user's identity before granting them access to systems. For example, to be granted access to use a military computer a user must have a CAC identification card and an eight-digit PIN. Authorization refers to the actions an authenticated user can perform once access is granted. For example, after logging into my online banking app, I can view my balance, but I cannot make any changes to the app.