

How to Interpret Survey and Assessment Results

A practical method for turning responses and assessment findings into reliable security decisions.





What the results represent

Survey and assessment results provide evidence about perceptions, conditions or performance.





Return to the original purpose

Interpretation should remain connected to the question the survey or assessment was designed to answer.





Understand the method

The collection method affects how confidently the results can be interpreted.



For professional discussion and reflection • Illustrative, not exhaustive • Apply alongside appropriate organisational risk, evidence and decision-making processes



Check who responded

The respondent group determines whose experiences the results describe.





Examine response rates

A low or uneven response rate can limit how widely the findings should be applied.



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Read the measures correctly

The wording and scale of each measure affect what the result means.





Averages can hide important differences

Group differences can disappear inside a single average.





Compare results with a baseline

Change becomes meaningful only when results are compared with a clear reference point.

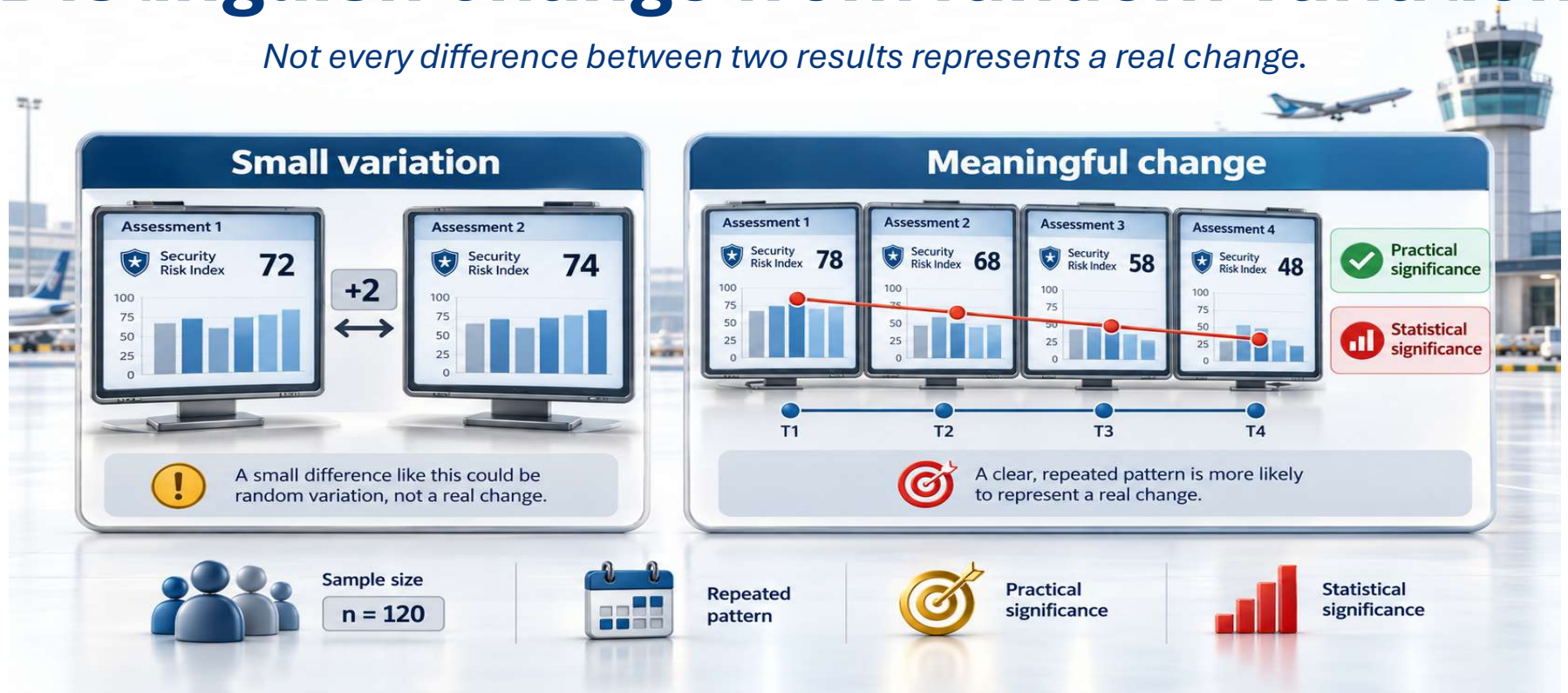


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Distinguish change from random variation

Not every difference between two results represents a real change.





Look for patterns across the evidence

Confidence increases when survey findings align with other relevant evidence.





Interpret comments and exceptions

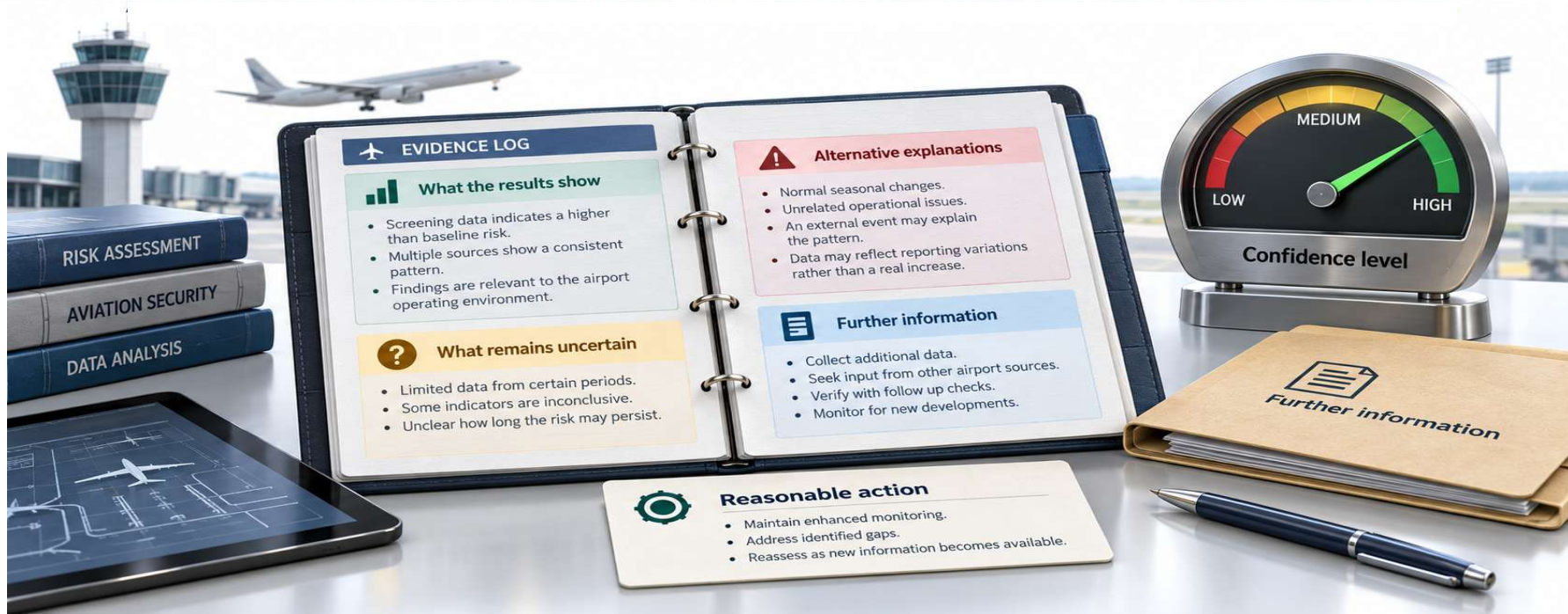
Open-ended comments and unusual results can explain what the summary numbers miss.



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Record confidence and limitations

A responsible interpretation explains what the results show and what they cannot prove.





The interpretation checklist

Use a structured review before turning results into security action.



Good interpretation turns results into informed judgement.

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