Mobile money is becoming fundamental

Secure access to money is a prerequisite for individuals to achieve economic advancement, political stability, and other crucial benefits like gender equity. People in developing countries increasingly use mobile devices to store, transfer, and save money. Modern money transfer involves a complex, non-linear movement of information in an ecosystem. Each part and associated technology creates risk of attack to the transfer’s integrity. Given limited resources we must invest in the solutions that most effectively increase this secure access. Finding these requires decision tools, like risk models, that can account for the multitude of ecosystem components that occasion risk to people, hardware, and software.

More risk model context

When system components (people and things) interact, even benign interaction creates risk to the system’s integrity. Risk models are decision frameworks that analyze how system actors and components, or multiple dependent systems, interact and create risks, and what can be done to protect the system(s).

And the mDFS risk model?

The Engenuity mobile digital financial services (mDFS) model enables users to identify and isolate components of relevant mobile money systems and then highlight likely system risks. It generates estimates of the impact of eight different kinds of technical threats to mDFS given specific circumstances, such as domains where 4G or 5G phones are rare. Our model can also recommend solutions that could reduce system risk when investment is focused upon them.

The model’s analysis is uniquely complete since it incorporates system components that are more than just technical:

Understanding how hardware and software interact, how adversaries can attack (vectors), and what improvements can stop attacks (mitigants).

Understanding how policies, laws, governance, and education affect people’s interactions with technology and can strengthen access to mobile money.