



The Indicators Validator

Setting the Stage

The analyst (or the analytic team) has created several alternative scenarios (or future worlds). The analyst (or team) has also generated a set of indicators for each scenario (or world) that would appear if that particular world were emerging.

The Process

Analysts populate a matrix similar to that used for the Analysis of Competing Hypotheses, involving the following steps:

- List the scenarios or worlds on the top of the matrix (as is done for hypotheses in ACH).
- List the indicators on the left side of the matrix (as is done with evidence in ACH).
- In each cell of the matrix, assess whether, for each particular scenario, the indicator is:
 - Highly likely to appear.
 - Likely to appear.
 - Could appear.
 - Unlikely to appear.
 - Highly unlikely to appear.
- Once this process is complete, the software resorts the indicators placing the most discriminating indicators on the top of the matrix and the least discriminating indicators at the bottom.
 - The most discriminating indicator is Highly Likely to emerge in one scenario and Highly Unlikely to emerge in any other.
 - The least discriminating indicator is Likely or Highly Likely to appear in all scenarios.
- The analyst then goes down the reordered list of indicators and selects those worth including in his study.

The Output

- In the last stage of the analysis, the software produces the list of indicators selected for each scenario.
- The analyst then can consider whether each scenario has a sufficient number of discriminating indicators assigned to it. If not, more indicators need to be generated and validated by the software.

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