

Power



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Power is the combination of decision-taking authority and control over resources, including the ability to threaten, coerce, or impose sanctions. Power can be delegated by sharing control over a subset of resources. Power is lost when control over resources is lost.

Power allows the assignment of authority and responsibility and the enforcement of accountability.

Authority

Authority is the permission granted by a higher power to make decisions. It can be used — or abused— to seize power by gaining control over resources.

Alternatively, authority may also arise from trust, built through demonstrated competence or experience in making or recommending sound decisions.

Responsibility

Responsibility is the obligation to care for, maintain, deliver, or develop something.

Responsibility arises naturally from ownership but can also be directly assigned by a higher power.

Responsibility can be limited by restricting the scope of activities.

Accountability

Accountability is the implicit threat by a higher power that a person may be required at any time to justify their conduct, actions, decisions, and the achievement of their goals.

Accountability implies that delegated power, granted authority, or assigned responsibility may be withdrawn if expectations are not met.