

Behavioral Context & Motive Analysis

(KA-MOD-019)

Understanding the intent behind an action by placing observed behavior within a structured, contextual framework.

1. Action vs. Motive: The 'What' vs. The 'Why'



Observed Action (Behavior)

What the subject did. This is verifiable, quantifiable evidence (e.g., file transfer, system access, communication pattern).

Factual Data



Inferred Motive (Intent)

Why the subject acted. This requires analytical interpretation and must be consistent with the subject's persona and context.

2. The 4 Stages of Motive Analysis

1

Baseline Establishment

Define the **Normal Operating Procedure (NOP)** for the subject. What is their typical behavior, access level, and communication style?

2

Anomaly Identification

Identify the **deviation** from the established baseline (the observed action). Quantify the severity of the anomaly.

3

Contextual Placement

Map the anomaly to known situational factors (e.g., project deadlines, financial stress, operational changes) to build a **Behavioral Context**.

4

Motive Hypothesis

Propose the most **parsimonious** (simplest, best-supported) motive that explains both the action and the context. (e.g., Financial Gain, Espionage, Retaliation).

3. Primary Motive Categories (The WHY Framework)



Financial / Material

The action directly leads to profit, resource acquisition, or debt evasion. (e.g., Insider Trading)



Ideological / Political

The action is driven by a belief system, social objective, or political aim. (e.g., Whistleblowing, Activism)



Retaliation / Emotional

The action is a response to perceived injustice, anger, or workplace dispute. (e.g., Sabotage, Data Deletion)



Coercion / External

The subject is acting unwillingly due to blackmail, threats, or duress from an external party.