# CWE Detail – CWE-396

## Description

Catching overly broad exceptions promotes complex error handling code that is more likely to contain security vulnerabilities.

## Extended Description

Multiple catch blocks can get ugly and repetitive, but "condensing" catch blocks by catching a high-level class like Exception can obscure exceptions that deserve special treatment or that should not be caught at this point in the program. Catching an overly broad exception essentially defeats the purpose of a language's typed exceptions, and can become particularly dangerous if the program grows and begins to throw new types of exceptions. The new exception types will not receive any attention.

## Threat-Mapped Scoring

Score: 0.0

Priority: Unclassified

## Modes of Introduction

**•** Implementation: N/A

## Common Consequences

**•** Impact: Hide Activities — Notes: A generic exception can hide details about unexpected adversary activities by making it difficult to properly troubleshoot error conditions during execution.

## Applicable Platforms

**•** C++ (Class: None, Prevalence: Undetermined)

**•** Java (Class: None, Prevalence: Undetermined)

**•** C# (Class: None, Prevalence: Undetermined)

**•** Python (Class: None, Prevalence: Undetermined)

## Demonstrative Examples

**•** At first blush, it may seem preferable to deal with these exceptions in a single catch block, as follows: