# CWE Detail – CWE-397

## Description

The product throws or raises an overly broad exceptions that can hide important details and produce inappropriate responses to certain conditions.

## Extended Description

Declaring a method to throw Exception or Throwable promotes generic error handling procedures that make it difficult for callers to perform proper error handling and error recovery. For example, Java's exception mechanism makes it easy for callers to anticipate what can go wrong and write code to handle each specific exceptional circumstance. Declaring that a method throws a generic form of exception defeats this system.

## Threat-Mapped Scoring

Score: 0.0

Priority: Unclassified

## Modes of Introduction

**•** Implementation: N/A

## Common Consequences

**•** Impact: Hide Activities, Alter Execution Logic — Notes: Throwing 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)

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

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

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

## Demonstrative Examples

**•** While it might seem tidier to write

**•** In the example above, the code declares that myfunction() can throw an exception of type "std::exception" thus hiding details about the possible derived exceptions that could potentially be thrown.

## Notes

**•** Applicable Platform: For C++, this weakness only applies to C++98, C++03, and C++11. It relies on a feature known as Dynamic Exception Specification, which was part of early versions of C++ but was deprecated in C++11. It has been removed for C++17 and later.