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Article Review #1 Modus Operandi and Blockchain Analysis of Romance Scams
https://vc.bridgew.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1220&context=ijcic

Intro

In their 2025 article, Lim and Choi looked into how romance scammers were able to employ cryptocurrency and blockchain techniques to defraud victims. By putting together fraud tactics and emotional manipulation, and complex laundering methods, their work connected technical blockchain forensics and social science theories of deception. This way made it well for a social science-oriented cybersecurity review.

How it connects to Social Science principle

The article is under the topic social science because it looks at the human behavior, trust, how it can persuade, and exploitation in online relationships. It connects cybercrime with criminology, sociology, and psychology. It also works on how scammers build rapport, exploit emotional vulnerabilities, manages social cues, and manipulate a victim into financial transaction. The study treats cyber fraud as a social problem not technical.

Research Questions, My hypothesis's, Iv and DV

Research Question: How does romance scammers work, Which financial deceit strategies do they use, and how do they launder proceeds using cryptocurrency?

Hypotheses:
The first thing I'll say is they maybe use mixers, swaps, and other tools that are associated with monetary losses or they have a certain scam tactics that connects with more victim losses.

My independent Variable would be scammers techniques, and laundering methods. My depend Variable would be Monetary losses for each victim, loss magnitudes at group level, connection of laundering complexity with loss.

Research method

Lim and Choi who are the authors of this used a mixed methods. They drawn on quantitative blockchain data and statistical regression to look at the patters of laundering while also working descriptive statistics to characterize scam features. Complementing that, they use qualitative coding of scam descriptions to group tactics and types of deception.

Data & Analysis

The run deep descriptive statsitcs, OLS regression to test what the correlation is between scam tactics and loss, and blockchain forensic mapping. They also look at the connection at individuals and cluster levels

The connection to Course Concepts

This article is related to the concepts from your presentation like social engineering, trust exploitation, routine activity's and etc.. The scammers exploit the human factor in cyberspace. They also laundering side connects to defense in depth, threat modeling, and network monitoring in the course. The use of anomaly detection, and segmentation, and monitoring the flow of transactions are still going on.

Targeted groups

Vulnerable or marginalized individuals for example old adults, socially isolated or people that aren't on the digital world as much are more prone to emotional manipulation and may not have a strong system. The article is able to help us look at these tactics used on these victims and inform us. It also looks at other issues with those that have fewer resources and may be less able to recover their losses, and law enforcement may under prioritize cases if victims are marginalized.

How they added to society

Lim and Choi work contributed by making what people didn't notice, noticeable. It showed how romance scams are built on a foundation, how criminals bypass detection via blockchain tools, and what other patters are associated with higher losses. Many different business and jobs are able to use their insight to create better detection, reporting, and design better prevention system.

Conclusion

Lim and Chois article is a strong interdisciplinary study that is able to blend social sciences perspectives with blockchain foreincs to look at romance scams in cryptocurrency time. It highlights that cybercrime is not just coding, but its about socially getting into your head and manipulating, trust, and human vulnerability. The findings gives many benefits like actionable insight to prevent it from getting it bad, as romance scams get better, this kind of integrated approach is needed to reduce harm and strengthen societal resilience.

Reference

Lim, A. H., & Choi, K.-S. (2025). *Modus Operandi and Blockchain Analysis of Romance Scams: Cryptocurrency-Driven Victimization*. International Journal of Cybersecurity Intelligence & Cybercrime. Retrieved from https://vc.bridgew.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1220&context=ijcic