

# Cybersecurity Career Professional Paper

## Introduction

For my Cybersecurity Career Professional Paper I selected white hat hackers, also known as ethical hackers. According to Froehlich (n.d.), the definition of white hat hackers or ethical hackers is “an individual who uses hacking skills to identify security vulnerabilities in hardware, software or networks.”. The difference, however, is that white hat hackers do so lawfully when it comes to hacking. I selected this career to write about because I think that being able to use hacking skills in an ethical way is not only amazing but also a fun way to use such unique skills in order to benefit society. White hat hackers look for opportunities to exploit only when they are legally allowed to and disclose any findings on vulnerabilities to the owner. By doing this, the white hat hackers are able to beat the malicious hackers to the vulnerabilities, and the organizations can improve their weaknesses before it is too late.

## White Vs. Black Hat Hackers

There is a parallelism between white hat hackers and black hat hackers. Black hat hackers are simply the “bad” hackers who use their skills for their own personal gain. In this class, we studied how cyber offenders may be influenced by any of several different motives. The motives we discussed are: entertainment, political, revenge, boredom, recognition, money, or a combination. These motives are reasons that hackers might commit crimes, but not all hackers. While black hat hackers might exploit vulnerabilities in order to blackmail organizations for entertainment, boredom, or money, white hat hackers exploit vulnerabilities in order to strengthen organizations and improve defensive flaws.

Most white hat hackers were at one point black hat hackers who used their skills negatively for personal gain. In order for black hat hackers to turn into white hat hackers, they must have at some point developed a higher sense of morals that pushed them to utilize hacking in order to make a positive impact on society. Thanks to the findings of white hat hackers, laws and policies can be strengthened in order to benefit the defenses of organizations. White hat hacking also provides a career for those who strayed down the wrong path. The cost of cybercrime is projected to continue to grow along with the number of unfilled security positions. There are many unfilled jobs as a result of a lack of experts and education. Ethical hacking is a road for black hat hackers to use their skills for the betterment of organizations.

### Ethical Hacking and Criminology

White hat hackers also use knowledge of criminology in order to understand how cyber criminals might think and act. Criminology is impacted by studies of “psychology, economics, statistics, and anthropology” as well (Maryville University, n.d.). Ethical hackers may observe how minority groups or small businesses could be more susceptible to cyber crime due to lesser income. Using the motivations for crime as mentioned previously along with knowledge of criminology allows white hat hackers to move and think like a malicious hacker, which will be even easier if the ethical hacker was once a black hat.

### Conclusion

White hat hacking is an extraordinary career that is rooted in the interdisciplinary nature of cybersecurity. One of the most notable relationships between ethical hacking and the social sciences is that between ethical hacking and criminology. Using their knowledge of criminology intertwined with psychology and economics just to name a couple, white hat hackers can put

themselves into the shoes of their black hat counterparts and use their skills to protect individuals and organizations.

## References

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