Analysis of The National Cybersecurity Strategy of the United States

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Cyberattacks have seen a rise within the last several years for various reasons. Malicious actors are only gaining more and more ability to breach systems each year. The National Cybersecurity Strategy released in March 2023 is just one of the many answers the United States has for cyberattacks. Ever since the first cyberattack on the United States in 1988, cyberattacks have been a pressing issue. They are able to cause devastating effects on a nation and can leave a nation in a vulnerable state. While the implementation of any policy, regulation, or strategy has its issues it takes time to evaluate the effectiveness. Some policies on paper sound effective in dealing with problems and offer up a solution to problems. Yet, they end up being less effective than intended and ultimately being a waste of resources. When evaluating this strategy, it is key to look at the ethical, political, and social implications in order to see the effects it may have. Additionally, to evaluate the success of this strategy it is key to compare the results to the potential negative impact it may have had on society.

When looking at the effectiveness of the strategy it is important to see what ethical implications it may introduce. The major concern with most policies is how will they be implemented and to what lengths they will go to reach the overall goal. This also brings forth the concern that the government may overstep individuals' rights to reach the goal. In order to make sure this strategy is effective they will have to find a balance between implementation and human rights. If the government does do this and they overstep to a degree that the public doesn't agree with then it could result in public backlash. This could result in the rejection of the strategy making it less efficient overall. Valuing public perception and monitoring how society feels about the implementation of this strategy is a good way to gauge its acceptance.

Introducing the National Cybersecurity Strategy like most policies has political implications that have to be addressed. In this strategy, there are many policies and regulations

that are going to be placed on corporations. Many of these regulations are set with the intention of ensuring that companies are meeting set standards when it comes to cyber defense. It is important to ensure that once the regulations are set it is easy to understand. Introducing a guideline or way to assist companies in developing their cyber defense capabilities should be in place. This would make sure that there is a way for corporations to abide by these new regulations since there will be clear communication. Additionally, this strategy touches on creating better communication between foreign nations. This could have major political impacts in the future. Potentially, creating new allies or expanding the nation's resources. One way to understand if this strategy is executed efficiently is by checking the rate at which companies improve their cyber defense programs. If it takes an extended period of time then this could mean the strategy is not clear and proper guidelines are not set to aid corporations in the implementation process. "To begin to evaluate a policy, evaluators must articulate the goals of the policy; a way to measure whether the goals have been met; and the outcomes that will be measured through those means." (Framework Institute). One major way to check if this strategy is effective is by comparing it to other nations that have cyber strategies already. This would allow the United States to see how their strategy and approach stack up in comparison. At the same time if other countries are implementing similar strategies the implementation of this strategy could be a good sign this strategy it effective.

When understanding the social implications that this strategy introduced it is key to check how the public is receiving this strategy. If the public feels that their right is being overstepped, then it could mean the strategy is implementing too many restrictions. Limiting what people can do or interact with while online. It is clear that the internet has allowed the world to become interconnected at a rate never seen before. This introduced problems and can pose great risks

when looking at it from national security. While it is a concerning issue it is important to not overstep on the public's rights otherwise there will be major ramifications for the successful implementation of this strategy.

One major way to understand if this strategy is effective is by looking at statistics after implementation. This strategy is attempting to introduce various regulations and policies across the nation to ensure that our nation is putting its best foot forward. Over the months that this strategy is being implemented statics should be looked at. By checking the statics from before the strategy was introduced to after the strategy was introduced. Would offer insight on how effective the strategy was. "Governments should make sure that performance measurement systems collect and report essential outcome data for all major programs" (MacArthur Foundation). If cyberattacks go down in the coming months to years. It could offer proof that this strategy was effective in creating a solution to our lack of cyber defense. Another way to check if this strategy was effective is to compare the rate at which individuals are reporting breaches or hacking incidents. This could prove that this strategy offered sufficient educational programs to the public. Making the public better at protecting themselves by practicing overall better digital hygiene. In addition, to check if a policy is effective is to determine if the cost of implementation is worth the benefits. "In implementing this strategy, the Federal Government will take a data-driven approach. We will measure investments made, our progress toward implementation, and ultimate outcomes and effectiveness of these efforts." (NCCS, 2023). By conducting a cost-benefit analysis it can offer insights if the money being spent is worth it. This can allow the government to check if this strategy is worth putting resources into or if resources should be placed elsewhere.

When determining the effectiveness of any strategy, policy, or regulation it is key to look at the strategies. Statistics can offer great insight into how well something is performing. This strategy is attempting to reduce and mitigate cyberattacks. This luckily is able to be quantified and can be measured year to year. In addition to measuring the effectiveness of this strategy through statistics, it is important to listen to public feedback. Understanding if things are being implemented safely and effectively. Without overstepping on individual rights or by making it unclear how to achieve such a goal.

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