

Navigating the Challenging Cyber Landscape for Young Adults

Introduction

The article "*Navigating the Digital Frontier: The Intersection of Cybersecurity Challenges and Young Adult Life*" shows a bad trend between cyber threats and the experiences of college-age individuals, shedding light on the important need for heightened cybersecurity education and awareness. The article discusses how young adults are often victims of identity theft, phishing attacks, and social engineering (Lee, 2024, p.1). Mainly because of how enriched young adults are by social media and smartphones. While smartphones have revolutionized the world they have also made it easier for people who do not know how to stay safe online to get hacked or have their identity stolen.

How it Relates to Social Sciences

The article relates to mostly these three social science realms education, psychology, and sociology. First, the article aims to educate the reader about the dangers of not being secure on the internet. It shows the need for comprehensive cybersecurity education. Next, the article goes into the psychological aspects of cybercrime, and how these criminals manipulate young adults into giving up sensitive personal information that can get your identity stolen. Lastly, it discusses the social impacts cybercrime has on people that extends way beyond the internet. Cybercrime can reach into young adult's personal, academic, and work lives. (Lee, 2024, p.1).

Hypothesis, Research Methods, and Data Analysis.

The two hypotheses that were formed within this article were that offering cybersecurity education and training in the native language of non-English speaking people will lead to a better outcome similar to those observed among English-speaking people (Lee, 2024, p.1). The research method for this hypothesis was likely a mix of both surveys and questionnaires and interviews or focus groups. The findings were promising that people were able to learn more from the training in the native language.

The other hypothesis was that cyberbullying among young adults has increased during the pandemic due to increased reliance on the internet and digital devices (Lee, 2024, p.1). The research method used for this experiment was mostly interviews and content analysis of online interactions people may have had seeing if the interactions were more positive or more negative. They found that there was an increase in cyberbullying over the pandemic.

How Concepts From our PowerPoint Presentations Relate to the Article

Concepts from our PowerPoint presentations that relate to the article are things like making sure people have a sufficient education to stay safe on the internet, and not fall for phishing emails and other social engineering these cybercriminals use to steal your personal information. It also addresses the importance of including marginalized groups of people in a cybersecurity education process to make sure everyone knows the danger cybercriminals pose whether they have immediate access to the internet and digital devices or not.

Concerns and Contributions of Marginalized Groups

There are some concerns when it comes to marginalized groups. People who grow up in certain areas do not always have access to the internet and other digital devices, especially in lower-income areas. Without this access to these devices then it is harder to teach them how to stay safe online or they may just not be taught at all, so when they end up getting a device that can connect to the internet they will not know how to stay safe on the internet. Furthermore, marginalized groups are at more of a risk of being cyberbullied just based on their race, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or language. With this, it can make it hard emotionally for people in marginalized groups to access the internet and be at risk of being cyberbullied based on things mentioned before.

The Overall Contributions of the Studies to Society

The overall contributions to society this study gives are good. This article educates people that many young adults are not “cyber-safe”. Many young adults are super technology dependent especially after the pandemic. Knowing this means that many young adults are at risk of getting their identity and other personal information stolen from them. This article can help educate these young adults to see their possible flaws and the consequences of having their identity stolen, and fixing these problems before it is too late. The article also talks about cyberbullying and how it can affect individuals in a bad way, harming their mental health.

Conclusion

In conclusion, young adults are more and more dependent on digital devices and the internet, and this dependency has just become more extensive because of the pandemic. However, these young adults spend more time on the Internet but do not have adequate education on how to stay safe on the Internet. Many young adults are getting their identity and other personal information stolen through phishing attacks or other social engineering attacks which can affect them in their personal, educational, and work lives. We need to continue to educate young adults and people even younger, on how to stay safe on the internet now that the world is becoming more and more encompassed in doing most things online.

References

- Lee, H. (2024). Navigating the digital frontier: The intersection of cybersecurity challenges and young adult life. *International Journal of Cybersecurity Intelligence & Cybercrime*, 7(1), -. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.52306/2578-3289.1178>

