

Article Review #2

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BLUF (Bottom Line Up Front)

Trinh's article argues that cybercriminal behavior cannot be understood solely through technology; it must be examined through the lens of psychology, social science, and human behavior. The study demonstrates that motivations, traits, and social environments are key drivers of cybercrime, making prevention efforts more effective when they target people as well as systems.

In *Exploring the Psychological Profile of Cybercriminals*, Trinh (2025) offers a comprehensive look at the behavioral and psychological foundations of cyber offending, challenging the stereotype of the lone, antisocial hacker driven only by technical curiosity. Instead, the article frames cybercrime as a socially influenced behavior shaped by learning, environmental exposure, and opportunity structures. This perspective aligns strongly with what we have studied in class, where social science theories emphasize that crime—whether physical or digital—is rarely random. It emerges from a combination of motivations, social contexts, and the availability of vulnerable targets.

Trinh's central research question asks what psychological and behavioral characteristics distinguish cybercriminals from the general population and how those traits can inform prevention. To explore this, the author reviews dozens of empirical studies, psychological assessments, and case analyses. While the article does not rely on a single experiment, the synthesis of data reveals clear hypotheses: that cyber offenders tend to share certain personality traits (including low empathy or impulsivity), that their behavior is shaped by social exposure to deviant online groups, and that cybercrime arises from both internal traits and external environmental conditions.

The study draws from a wide range of data, including offender interviews, surveys, online community analyses, and psychological evaluations. Trinh organizes these findings

through thematic analysis, identifying consistent patterns across sources. This approach is appropriate because cybercrime involves diverse offenders whose motivations and behaviors cannot be captured by one dataset. By comparing results from different methodologies, the author creates a more complete and reliable psychological profile.

One of the strongest aspects of this article is its direct connection to major theories discussed in class. For example, Social Learning Theory helps explain how cyber offenders acquire skills, norms, and even status through communities and forums. Rational Choice Theory appears in the way offenders weigh low risks against high rewards, especially in anonymous online spaces. Trinh also ties cyber offending to Routine Activities Theory, noting that the lack of digital guardianship and the abundance of suitable targets make offending easier. These theoretical connections reinforce the idea that cybercrime is not purely technical; it is fundamentally human.

The article also carries important implications for marginalized groups. While Trinh does not center the study on these populations, the findings highlight how communities with limited digital literacy or fewer cybersecurity resources face higher levels of online victimization. This point aligns with class discussions on how unequal access to technology and education can increase vulnerability to exploitation or targeting.

Ultimately, Trinh's work contributes to society by shifting the perspective of cybersecurity professionals, policymakers, and educators. Instead of focusing solely on hardening systems, the article argues that prevention should incorporate psychological insight, early intervention, and community-level education. By understanding who offenders are, what motivates them, and how their environments shape their behavior, organizations can design strategies that address both the human and technical sides of cybercrime.

APA Citation

Trinh, D. T. (2025). Exploring the psychological profile of cybercriminals: A comprehensive review for improved cybercrime prevention. *International Journal of Cyber Criminology*, 19(1), 1-22.