



# **JOURNAL #5**

**CYSE 201S**

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# ***RANKING CYBER CRIMINAL MOTIVES***

After reviewing the seven articles of cyber offending and the individual motives behind them I ranked the motives that made sense to me as follows

- 1. Multiple Reasons** I believe having one reason is not enough to make an individual commit to a life of cyber crime. In my opinion having a combination of at least two motives such as money and the “thrill factor” is what usually entices individuals to fully commit cyber crime.
- 2 . For money** Cybercrimes such as credit card scams and ransomware are ways that individuals can get large amounts of money quickly and easily if they know what they are doing. Money is a huge motivation for criminals because of the allure of being able to live a luxurious lifestyle of other people’s money. Money can also be used to expand cybercrime operations which makes sense why an individual would engage in cybercrime for money.
- 3 . Entertainment** Cybercrime, such as hacking without being caught, is very difficult and provides a challenge and a “thrill factor” for cybercriminals. Entertainment, or challenging oneself to hack a hard target like a government agency is a realistic motivation for individuals to engage in cybercrime. I believe cybercriminals also get a “kick” or a emotional gratification that is addicting when they know they have done something illegal that others wont dare do.

# **RANKING CYBER CRIMINAL MOTIVES**

## 4. Revenge

I believe strong emotions, such as revenge, are realistic motivators that push individuals to commit cybercrime. One example is Revenge porn, where one individual publishes explicit content of an intimate party without their knowledge just to shame and harass them.

## 5. Political

I rank political motivations lower on the list of motives because I believe engaging in cybercrime for political outcomes are often group actors and less of an individual motivation. Hacking to make a political point such as hacktivism has no guarantees that it can actually cause political change and is not worth the possible repercussions of being caught.

## 6 . Boredom

Although there are cases in which individuals engage in cybercrime because of boredom I personally do not think it is a strong motivator. In the example article, individuals have other ulterior motives than simply being bored in committing cyber crimes such as cyber bullying and cyber grooming.

## 7 . Recognition

I ranked recognition as the least motivator because I believe the culture of cybercrime nowadays is to remain anonymous. I believe recognition or fame could be a second motivator for individuals to engage in cyber crime like being famous for being a hacker that stole a lot of money.