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CYSE 201S: Journal Entry 5

To begin, I believe financial gain is the most logical motive for cybercrime, as hacking can be extremely profitable if executed correctly. Cybercriminals engage in activities such as ransomware attacks, identity theft, and financial fraud to streamline income. The article *Sex, Drugs and Toilet Rolls: How Cybercriminals Spend Their Money* highlights how cybercriminals spend their earnings, highlighting that money is a strong driving factor.

Similarly, political motivations play a significant influence in cybercrime. Hacktivism has been on the rise, with individuals and groups engaging in cyberattacks to promote political agendas. The article details how young hackers are joining movements to support causes they believe in, making this a compelling connection to cybercrimes.

Another common motive is seeking revenge. People often commit cybercrimes as an act of retaliation. The article explores revenge porn and how victims feel disappointment towards legal systems. As a result, personal grudges can drive people to act maliciously online, causing revenge to rank high on the scale.

Additionally, some hackers seek recognition and want to experience fame or validation by demonstrating their skills. The article about the election DDoS attack explains how individuals may want acknowledgment for their technical abilities. While this motive makes sense, it is less damaging in comparison to financial or revenge motivated cybercrimes.

On the other hand, some cybercriminals act due to a combination of reasons, such as the influence of financial, political, and personal factors. The article provides insight into various influences on cybercriminal behavior, though a singular strong motive is often more probable.

A lower ranked motive would be entertainment, where individuals hack purely for amusement, as shown in the LinkedIn scraping case. While this motive exists, it is less justifiable and impactful than others. This motive is harder to understand.

Lastly, boredom gives the impression of the least rational motive. The article on cyberbullying and online grooming indicates how individuals engage in harmful activities simply because they have nothing better to do. The motive is unjustifiable and solidifies it as the weakest reason for cybercrime.