

Journal Entry # 5

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Whenever act of crime is committed, there are always some underlying reasons and motives that motivated the suspects in doing what they did. Whether it is monetary gain, personal gain, or just for fun, criminals and cybercriminals usually have something that trigger them to commit a crime. On the articles that were provided in class, I ranked the motives for cyber offending in order of the motive having the most sense, to the motive that having the least sense. Here are the orders in which I ranked them:

1. Multiple Reasons
2. Money
3. Political
4. Revenge
5. Entertainment
6. Recognition
7. Boredom

The first motive that I ranked the highest is “Multiple Reasons”. Often times, a criminal or a cybercriminal, got a multitude of reasons why they choose to live a life of crime. It can be a socioeconomic reason, where the suspect wants to gain financially in hopes of increasing his socioeconomic status in life. Or it can also be a psychological reason, where the suspect sees committing cyber offending or cybercrime as a form of power tripping. It gives the suspect a false sense of power when he commits a crime.

Second motive that I chose is “Money”. It is arguably, one of the main culprits, and one of the main factors why people commit crime. Whether it a complex breaching of a bank’s database or a simple phishing scam, these acts of cybercrime are primarily motivated by money. In the minds of these criminals and cybercriminals, a quick and easy way to make money is by stealing confidential and valuable information digitally, which can then be sold to the highest bidder to the black market.

I ranked “Political” third because nowadays the internet, along with social media plays a big factor politically. Certain cybercriminals can use platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to push their own political agendas. It can also be used to spread fake news, misinformation, and disinformation about pretty much anything. Politically motivated cybercrimes are rampant and will just continue to rise in the years to come.

“Revenge” is the fourth motivating factor that I think holds the most sense. Within the past decade, we have heard stories of both celebrities and everyday citizens that had their private photos posted online without their consent. The term “Revenge Porn” came to existence primarily because of these events.” Revenge Porn” normally happens when a disgruntled ex-partner, ex-boyfriend, or ex-girlfriend, post a private photos of their exes as a form of retaliation, revenge, and blackmail to shame and humiliate their exes.

For the fifth motive, I selected “Entertainment”. Criminals and Cybercriminals are egotistically individuals. They find pleasure in ways that can only be described as unethical. In a twisted and cruel way, they find amusement and entertainment in cybercrimes like cyberbullying and trolling people online.

The sixth and second to the last motive that I chose is “Recognition”. Some criminals and cybercriminals like to showoff and broadcast to the world the crimes that they have committed. Often times, these individuals have a low self-esteem and they want to be acknowledged for the fact they were able to do what they did. They want to be infamous and spread notoriety to the world.

Lastly, I chose “Boredom”. I ranked this motive the least because very few individual would commit a crime just because they are bored. Though it is possible, it most likely not a deciding factor that will put an individual to commit a life of crime.

To conclude, the motives mentioned above are just some of the few reasons why criminals and cybercriminals commit crime. In a psychological standpoint it is very hard to pinpoint exactly what motives these criminals and cybercriminals have. It can be one of these motives or it can be a combination of multiples motives. However, it does not matter which motives they have or had, it is not an excuse to break the law and commit a crime.