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CYSE 201S

1/30/2024

Journal Entry 5: Individual Motives

Objective: Rank motives from 1 to 7 based on which motives make the most sense (being 1) to the ones that make the least sense (being 7).

For me, the most understandable motive (1) is multiple reasons. There are many reasons why someone would turn to cybercrime, but I don't believe that they would do it for one sole reason. The more reasons there are to commit cybercrime, the likelier they are to do it.

The second-most understandable motive has to be money. Outside of the digital realm, money is a major motivator for crime. These days, everyone needs money to survive in society. Putting myself in an impoverished life, if I have to steal to survive, then I would. That is, if it's my only choice. What's disappointing about this article linked to the money motive is that only 15% of cybercriminals spent their money on immediate needs. The rest spent it on investing and other unnecessary outlets. I honestly thought these cybercriminals would focus more on their immediate needs.

The third-most understandable motive for me is the political motive. Some people may feel powerless in their lives to make a change in this world, so they may turn to hacktivism to get their point across. What is interesting in the article is that the prominent hacktivists are left-wing (American) in nature.

The fourth-most understandable motive is entertainment. There are times that people may get bored and want to do something for the sake of it. I honestly don't believe that the LinkedIn scraping was an illegal thing to do, as this is all public information (and what would the difference be if someone manually scraped all that information or didn't sell it?). If I were him, I would've scraped the LinkedIn profiles' information and kept it to myself. I don't intend to do anything with it. I'm keeping it because I view it as an achievement.

The fifth-most understandable motive is boredom. The reasons for it are the same as the motive for entertainment.

The sixth-most understandable reason is revenge. The article linked to the motive is simply sickening. I would understand if the revenge here was out of spite against a harmful person, a violent criminal–a person that most people would agree is "evil." But the victims of these revenge-porn videos are mostly innocent, young women who've done nothing to warrant this kind of abuse. It's humiliating and dehumanizing. There's no good justification for this type of revenge.

The least understandable reason is recognition. The last thing you'd want as a black-hat hacker is to be discovered by authorities or other criminals. All the young man wanted in the article was to get some pointless likes from strangers on the Internet. If he wanted fame, then he should have gone down the white-hat hacker route instead. Do something that benefits people, not just yourself.