Career Professional Paper: Cybersecurity Consultant Under a Social Science Lens

The job of a cybersecurity consultant is to go around a business assessing risks and finding solutions for security problems. These problems can be found at the physical level of security and on the digital plane. For a cybersecurity consultant to understand possible risks there is a need to understand human behavior and properly communicate problems to clients who are more concerned with business.

This would involve the need for studying the social sciences of criminology, psychology, and sociology. The understanding of sociology is important for human factors as the social norms of the workplace can leave it open for more attacks. Some examples are, the relationships bosses have with their employees, the messaging system, and bringing work home can all lead to a company having greater risk. The need for psychology is because the greatest risk for a system would be human factors and understanding human management. This would be studying victim behaviors that make people more likely to be a target. An example of this would be an employee that overshares on social media. The amount of information given can make that person an easier target as the amount of work going into the attack lessens. There is a need to understand criminology for examining possible risks that criminals find appealing. This would be connecting criminal thought processes to take advantage of psychological weaknesses created by social pressure.

This job mainly works in relativism in the idea that everything is connected. According to Cyberseek US, an organization that published a tool used for observing different cybersecurity career paths, the expectations for a cybersecurity consultant would be obtaining the most skills and certifications over all the other career choices. This is because they look at security as a whole system rather than individual parts to properly assess risk. Another important scientific

principle for this job would be parsimony, the idea that explanations should be kept simple. This is because when explaining the risks to clients, it would be best that they understand the importance of the problem and the proper actions they can take to remediate the situation.

One of the main problems in diversity when it comes to cybersecurity consulting is the assumption that it is just technical; however, there is still a need for humanities. This is because around 80% of cybersecurity consultants have a high technical background but are unable to properly communicate the risk experienced to employers (Baker, 2020). There is also a problem in including women in cyberspaces. As women only make up 11% of the workforce and get paid less than men for the same job. For women to be seen more in cybersecurity there needs to be a better understanding of what exactly cybersecurity is, a way to engage women in the workforce, and better gender-neutral marketing for the job (Baker, 2020). There are still gender-coded words in job descriptions which turn women away from technical jobs as communication is not as expressed in the description. There is a need for diverse perspectives especially when it comes to cybersecurity consultants as risk can be built from unseen circumstances that others are not familiar with.

As society moves to heavier reliance on the internet and sharing of information there is a greater need to assess risks for private information. Information needs to be properly secured, and the way this is understood is the CIA triad. The job of a cybersecurity consultant is to find the balance that works best for the client and to properly explain the risks involved. Being able to properly inform others about risks can lower concerns about human factors and put systems in place that make it easier to safely share confidential information. Cybersecurity consultants also need to properly communicate the economic benefits of their safety plans to make them appealing to clients that look for a cost, risk, and benefit analysis model. Information security is

greatly important to cybersecurity specialists, but being able to advocate for information security

is the job of a cybersecurity consultant.

Reference List

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