

Week 5 Journal Entry

*Review the articles linked with each individual motive in slide/page #3.
Rank the motives from 1 to 8 as the motives that you think make the most sense (being 1) to the least sense (being 8).
Explain why you rank each motive the way you rank it.*

I would rank the motives in the following order:

1. Financial
2. Political
3. Multiple Reasons
4. Recognition
5. Revenge
6. Curiosity
7. Entertainment
8. Boredom

When ranking motives for cybercrime, I believe financial gain stands out as the strongest. As shown by the amount of ransomware attacks in recent years, most large-scale cyberattacks are profit-driven. I believe that political motives come next, since state-sponsored attackers funded by governments and the super-rich can cause severe disruption to critical infrastructure. I placed “multiple reasons” third because it would appear that a lot of hackers combine multiple motives, switching from curiosity or recognition to financial or political motives over time. Recognition comes next. In many hacker groups, the way to prove yourself is by hacking into networks “just because”.

I would rank revenge in fifth place. While devastating for victims of revenge porn or personal attacks, it tends to be more personal and less systemic than other motives. New forms of revenge have emerged over the last few years such as “VaaS”, or Violence as a Service. Curiosity

is next; while it often sparks initial hacking behaviors in multiple areas of life - not only computers - but it typically evolves into other motives such as recognition or financial gain.

Entertainment is placed seventh because hacking for entertainment purposes is typically not as damaging as other motives. Finally, we have boredom. Many hackers might start off hacking due to boredom but then move on to curiosity and other motives.