

**Article Review #1: Exploring the Psychological Profile of Cybercriminals**

Kyle Dunker

Old Dominion University, School of Cybersecurity

CYSE 201S: Cybersecurity and the Social Sciences

Professor Yalpi

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## **Introduction/BLUF**

The article by Trinh, Dinh, and Tran (2025) reviews 1,200 studies to understand cybercriminals' psychological and behavioral patterns. They argue that understanding offenders' traits like narcissism, impulsivity, and technical proficiency can improve prevention, deterrence, and policy development. Their findings highlight that cybercrime is a technological and social issue influenced by behavior, culture, and opportunity.

## **Relation to Social Science Principles**

This article integrates social science principles, including human behavior, motivation, and institutional influence. It explores how individual dispositions and social contexts shape cybercrime, drawing on criminology, psychology, and sociology. Routine activity theory, deterrence theory, and social learning frame the argument that opportunity, rational choice, and the absence of capable guardians contribute to cyber offenses. The research also connects to the interdisciplinary principle of linking human and technical systems, mirroring how social sciences approach behavior within technological environments.

## **Research Question, Hypothesis, Independent & Dependent Variables**

- Research Question: What psychological and behavioral characteristics define cybercriminals, and how can understanding them improve cybercrime prevention?

- Hypothesis: Cybercriminals demonstrate identifiable psychological traits—especially impulsivity and narcissism—that influence their likelihood of offending.
- Independent Variable: Psychological and behavioral traits of offenders.
- Dependent Variable: Frequency, method, or success rate of cybercrime behavior and the effectiveness of preventive strategies.

### **Research Methods**

The authors conducted a systematic review guided by PRISMA and CASP frameworks. Data was collected from various databases such as PubMed, IEEE Xplore, ACM Digital Library, and Web of Science. The approach was primarily qualitative, with a limited quantitative synthesis. NVivo software was used to code and identify recurring themes connected to motivation, opportunity, and offender psychology.

### **Data and Analysis**

Analysis categorized cybercrime case studies (e.g., Sony Pictures, Target, Colonial Pipeline) by psychological and organizational factors. Content coding, cross-case comparison, and descriptive statistics interpreted results. Common offender behaviors and organizational weaknesses enabled breaches.

### **Connection to Course Concepts**

The article reinforces course concepts from the Cybersecurity and the Social Sciences modules, such as the CIA Triad, risk mitigation, and human factors in security. It mirrors theories discussed in class, framing cybercrime as a product of motivation, opportunity, and capability.

The study supports the notion that effective cybersecurity requires integrating technical measures and behavioral insights.

### **Marginalized Groups and Social Impact**

While not centered on specific marginalized populations, the authors acknowledge unequal digital access and psychological vulnerability. Cybercrime victims often face anxiety, isolation, and financial instability, disproportionately affecting lower-income and less digitally literate groups. The study advocates inclusive cybersecurity education and awareness programs to reduce these disparities.

### **Conclusion and Societal Contributions**

Trinh et al. (2025) contribute to the interdisciplinary understanding of cybercrime by emphasizing psychological prevention. Their review demonstrates the importance of integrating behavioral science into cybersecurity frameworks, advancing policy, education, and law enforcement collaboration. The study encourages a proactive, cooperative, and globally

coordinated response to emerging digital threats, bridging social science insights with cybersecurity practice.

## Reference

Trinh, D. T., Dinh, T. C. H., & Tran, T. N. K. (2025). Exploring the psychological profile of cybercriminals: A comprehensive review for improved cybercrime prevention. *International Journal of Cyber Criminology*, 19(1), 114–137. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.47661906>

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