

# Cybersecurity policy analyst: The bridge between social science and cybersecurity

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CYSE 201S: Cybersecurity and the Social Sciences

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## Introduction

Cybersecurity policy analysts play a key role in molding the digital landscape. While people often view cybersecurity as a technological profession, a cybersecurity policy analyst uses social science principles. Professionals in this job analyze how people use technology and how policies influence society's relationships with digital systems. This essay will examine the connection between social science and cybersecurity policy analysts. Connecting the role to key concepts and highlighting how this role interacts with marginalized groups and society.

## Social science principles

Understanding human behavior is a major part of being a policy analyst. Using psychological studies to understand how individuals process information and evaluate risk helps them create policies to help prevent human error. Understanding human behavior and emotions, such as fear, stress, and biases, can help analysts create policies that can lessen the mistakes that stem from human error. Because policy analysts must combat cyber criminals and hackers, it is vital to understand the motivations behind their actions. Using psychological and criminal theory, they can map out policies that can deter attacks and reduce risk. Social science is vital for policy analysts, using theories, they can gain a better understanding of people in the workplace and criminals. Allowing them to create policies that maximize production in the workplace.

## Application of key concepts

A big part of this course is understanding the role that human error plays in cybersecurity. Analysts must take these errors into consideration and create policies that reduce the chances of these errors happening. For example, having a weak password is a consequence of human error, so policies such as multi-factor authentication were put in place to secure systems and minimize the impact that human error will have on the network. Another application of concepts from this course is objectivity. Creating policies requires research and evidence, excluding personal beliefs is a must for creating policies.

## Marginalized groups

Cybersecurity policies play a major role in protecting and harming marginalized groups. People who have limited access to technology or lack proper digital literacy are vulnerable to poorly designed policies. The steps that policy analysts can take to mitigate these problems are implementing sociological principles into their policies to ensure that it doesn't reinforce inequality.

## Connection to society

Cybersecurity policy analysts contribute to society by securing systems and networks for the public. For example, voting is mostly done digitally, and ensuring the integrity and safety of those votes is a vital part of their job. They not only protect the systems but also protect the integrity of the government.

## Scholarly source

Article Carley, K. M. (2021). *Social cybersecurity: An emerging science. Computational and Mathematical Organization Theory*. Introduces the concept of social cybersecurity, which focuses on how misinformation and political campaigns also operate as cyber threats. People who lack digital literacy are extremely vulnerable to false information being spread on the internet, especially older people. This article supports the use of psychology by discussing how networks spread misinformation to push narratives.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, cybersecurity policy analysts play a major role in laying out the foundation of cybersecurity. Using social science, they can understand human behavior and create policies that ensure equality and fairness among all groups. These policies not only sustain digital security but also protect society from future threats.

## Reference:

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