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**Cybersecurity 201S Career Paper: Risk Analyst**

Introduction

Many jobs in the cybersecurity field require insight into the social sciences to operate, and the specific career that I’ve chosen is the risk analyst. This profession utilizes the data at their disposal and knowledge about human factors to predict, assess, and mitigate potential risks to systems. The risk analyst position requires experience in sociology and psychology due to the focus it can have on human behavior and its vulnerabilities.

Key Concepts

Two of the social sciences that pertain to the risk analyst position, sociology and psychology, are both particularly relevant because they both have to do with understanding human behavior in various settings. Sociology is the study of social life, social behavior, and social institutions while psychology is the study of understanding human behavior in education, health, military, business, and everyday interactions. Other key concepts that relate to the risk analyst job include the usage of frameworks to aid in mitigating risks, such as the NIST Cybersecurity Framework, and threat modeling as a strategy to proactively identify potential attacks. Furthermore, qualitative and quantitative risk assessments are utilized for both subjective judgements based on likelihood and using numerical values to estimate risks and their financial impacts.

Marginalization

The risk analyst position is relevant to marginalized groups because of certain challenges they face online. Groups like low-income communities and individuals with disabilities may face higher risks online due to lower security, whether it be on the technology side or the human side. Low-income communities are likely to have outdated devices and use public, unsecure Wi-Fi networks; additionally, they will likely be unable to reinforce their online presence with VPNs and anti-malware services. People with disabilities, depending on the disability and its severity, may be more susceptible to common social engineering tricks used by cybercriminals in order to gain access to their information. Risk analysts need to comprehend these disparities to properly assess and mitigate risks to these groups.

Connection to Society

The risk analyst position connects to society in multiple ways. As society and technology both change and evolve, cyber threats will too; subsequently, the mitigation methods that risk analysts must utilize to counteract these threats will also change and evolve. Additionally, the degree to which society is educated on digital literacy will also affect how risk analysts will conduct their duties. If society as a whole is more digitally literate, then the average citizen will be safer from hackers; on the other side of that same coin, the more digitally literate society is, the more people will likely be able to develop new cyberattacking strategies and find new methods to exploit others online.

Conclusion

Risk analysts are an important career in the cybersecurity industry for mitigating risks online by understanding human factors and system vulnerabilities, comprehending both the social and technological aspects of cybersecurity. The profession takes multiple social sciences and multiple marginalized groups into account when conducting its work to achieve the best results.

Links

* <https://www.wgu.edu/career-guide/business/risk-analyst-career.html>
* <https://carnegieendowment.org/research/2023/03/cyber-resilience-must-focus-on-marginalized-individuals-not-just-institutions?lang=en>
* <https://www.cfainstitute.org/programs/cfa-program/careers/risk-analyst-risk-manager>
* <https://www.cisa.gov/audiences/high-risk-communities>