Journal Entry 4: Overlap Between Criminal Justice and Cybercrime

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Details

When thinking of cybersecurity, many scholars choose to focus on the technology and engineering side of the discipline. However, cybersecurity is an interdisciplinary field, meaning that it overlaps with many others. A significant number of crimes are committed through technology, making cybercrime a relevant topic for people who work in criminal justice to study (Payne & Hadzhidimova, 2019). Concepts explored in criminal justice help in understanding cybercrime, although they may need to be applied in different ways to suit the discipline. For example, criminologists study neutralization theory, which states that criminals justify their behavior to themselves in ways that neutralize the crime, even though they know right from wrong. In cybercrime, this theory is also helpful in understanding the motivations of cyber offenders, even though the crimes committed are different (Payne & Hadzhidimova, 2019).

The overlap between cybercrime and criminal justice is also related to other disciplines. Many cybercrimes are committed by white-collar criminals: criminals who commit a crime in connection to their work (Payne, Hawkins, & Xin, 2018). This means that the overlap is relevant to those who focus on the business applications of cybersecurity. One of the most common cybercrimes committed is hacking (Payne, Hawkins, & Xin, 2018). This would be relevant to engineers, as one of their jobs is to make networks safer from hackers.

Payne and Hadzhidimova (2019) state that one problem facing the study of this overlap is that it's "'cyclical' in that when professors do not research the topic, there is less information for professors to teach about and there is less new knowledge which would encourage new scholarship" (p. 15). Other disciplines don't seem to have this problem to the same extent. Businesses see that cybersecurity is important to protect their assets and engineers study it because their aim is to thwart cybercriminals. However, by not having a strong system in place to prosecute cybercriminals, this process is left incomplete. Because many cybercrimes are

committed internationally, or in ways that make it hard to catch and prosecute the offender, studying cybercrime from a criminal justice perspective is crucial.

References

Payne, B. & Hadzhidimova, L. (2019). Cybersecurity and Criminal Justice: Exploring the Intersections. Retrieved November 10, 2019, from https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AJ5R5Ia7KLp7GK9Ndt6uAF6ESWYQ9Hql/view

Payne, B, Hawkins, B. & Xin, C. (2018) Using Labeling Theory as a Guide to Examine the Patterns, Characteristics, and Sanctions Given to Cybercrimes. Retrieved November 10, 2019, from https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nVyXy0Ty1v5f6U5oClx2LMz-TIOuQehE/view