

In this article, Scott et al. hypothesized that, “attitudes and behaviors toward cybersecurity best practices vary greatly across groups and generational context might impact how individuals conceptualize their accountability related to digital technology” (p. 42). The group’s purpose was to determine if a person’s age influenced the importance one would place on cybersecurity best practices.

The topic relates to social sciences principles in three ways. Firstly, by relativism, generational gaps influence the behaviors and the accountability one places on the importance of cybersecurity. Secondly, by objectivity, the group wrote the article without including personal opinion. Lastly by ethical neutrality, this is evidenced by the way the study was conducted, the neutral mindset of the group, and the randomization of the group’s ages.

The type of research method utilized was an online survey. The survey used a portion of the items from the Online Security Behaviors and Beliefs Questionnaire.

Data and analysis conducted compared two age groups, Generation Y and Generation Z. Statistical data was collected from the nine online survey questions and a missing value analysis was conducted to look for a high percentage of missing answers. This resulted in question number five being removed. Levine’s Test of Equality of Variances indicated homogeneity between groups was of satisfactory levels.

This article relates to the concept of victim precipitation, since Generation Z was less likely to use cybersecurity best practices. Therefore, Generation Z has a higher probability of victimization due to their actions. The article has a strong correlation to the

concept of cyberpsychology by looking into different age groups and researching why different age groups behavior is influenced by technology. Victim behaviors can also relate because the concept is very similar to the article. The major difference is the breakdown in age groups in the article. Finally, I feel the article would fall under the human systems integration umbrella the articles focus on safety and the interactions between humans and the technological process.

Though the title would suggest that there would be a strong relation to marginalized groups because of the digital divide, this article focused more on the divide between age groups. Since my article did not focus on a marginalized group, I will list two ways that the survey could have been expanded to include marginalized communities. First, the survey could have taken income into account to factor in a socioeconomic aspect to see if it could have influenced cybersecurity best practices. Secondly, the survey could have been expanded to involve race to look for variations best practices have amongst different races.

The overall societal contribution this article provides alludes to the fact that the older humans get, the more paranoid we are. The older Generation Y tends to be more cautious when divulging online information and protecting their devices. This study could corollate to the fact that the older one gets, the more they have worked, and the more money they have to lose. This correlation would attest to why the older generation is more focused on using best practices in cybersecurity.

Reference

Scott, D., Schaffer, D., Colson, D. (2020) A reverse digital divide: Comparing information security behaviors of generation y and generation z adults. *International Journal of Cybersecurity Intelligence & Cybercrime*, 3(1), 41-55.

<https://vc.bridgew.edu/ijcic/vol3/iss1/4/>