

**Cybersecurity Career Professional Paper**

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Cybersecurity is defined as “the activity or process, ability, or capability, or state whereby information and communications systems and the information contained therein are protected from and/or defended against damage, unauthorized use or modification, or exploitation.” (**Armistead, 2023**). Social science is defined as “a group of scientific disciplines that study social phenomenon.”(**Armistead, 2023**). The social sciences include anthropology, criminology, economics, geography, psychology, and sociology. It is important to note that Cybersecurity is not entirely technical. There is a different approach to viewing Cybersecurity; through an interdisciplinary lens, this can be defined as “the interdisciplinary study of the technological and social domains relevant to securing cyberspace” (**Armistead, 2023**). Through this lens, there is now a focus on human behavior and interactions.

As mentioned earlier, it is believed that cybersecurity is purely technical. However, this is only partially true. Many professionals within the Cyber workspace are not performing technical work but rather work that can improve an entity through a social aspect. A career that works from a social approach is a Cybersecurity Consultant; this is a career where an individual looks to help protect their client's data from cyberattacks and similar risks. The primary responsibilities of a consultant are the focus on risk prevention, detection, and response (**What is a cybersecurity consultant? (and how to become one)**). Not only does a consultant require technical skills, but **Interpersonal skills** as well. A skilled consultant will understand that to secure a business; you would need to think and understand the mind and behavior of cybercriminals. Understanding the **psychological** makeup of a criminal, the consultant will be able to think like one and begin to familiarize themselves with how cyber criminals approach crime. This way of thinking is often defined as Cyberpsychology- which “examines how we interact with others using technology, how our behavior is influenced by technology” (**What is a**

**cybersecurity consultant? (and how to become one)).** A consultant would want to research cyber-attack motives to develop a robust protection plan. By understanding motives, the consultant will be able to develop a hierarchy of importance in protecting company assets.

Skilled consultants will also look at the study of **victimization (Armistead, 2023)** (study of the entity) and ask the questions, “What are we doing wrong? Why were we subject to an attack?”. This process is known as victim precipitation, referring to the “efforts to identify how the victim’s behavior contributed to victimization. A self-reflection will allow the consultant to identify everything wrong; through this reflection, solutions can be delivered, such as training for user knowledge, implementation of access controls, etc. By studying the behavior of these **human factors**, consultants can construct plans, frameworks, and training programs that can help an entity secure itself and reduce the risk of an attack without even diving into the technical aspect of cybersecurity.

The makeup of Cybersecurity Consultants heavily relies on research and analysis, seeing what works and what may not work for an entity. Research can sometimes be complex and overbearing if a consultant cannot identify the flaws and know what they are researching. Every organization is different; the research and solutions delivered for one will not be the same for another; think of nurturing the wants and needs of a baby (entity).

Jessica Barker is a cybersecurity consultant with a strong sociology, politics, and urban regeneration background. Through these skills, Jessica was able to land a position in a field in which she never imagined she had a place. Her day-to-day duties focus on the human nature of cybersecurity; through this, she can “help people be more secured, less worried and more engaged with technology.” (**Harford, 2021**). In an interview, Jessica mentions that with her employer, “They had all the technical expertise they needed, but they wanted someone who

could look at cybersecurity from a human angle” (**Harford, 2021**). It is one thing to understand how technology works, but understanding human interaction with technology is how they may react. It is opening the door to a different field of study, hence the opportunities for Cybersecurity Social Science careers. One could argue that through Social Science, we can still keep humanism intact with technology.

Many believe that the work done in a field like Cybersecurity is purely technical. However, this has been proven incorrect as the world of Social Science has integrated its way into cyberspace, opening the door to a new field of careers. Discussed in this paper were the duties of a Security Consultant and how their work on the social and human side of cybersecurity can help develop and improve an entity, proving that cybersecurity is not bound to one field of study.

## References

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