

Article #2 Review: Exploring the Psychological Profile of Cybercriminals

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Introduction

The article examines the escalating problem of cyber crime by focusing more on the psychological and social factors behind cybercriminal behavior. Because cybercrime impacts individuals, corporations, and governments the topic connects well to social science principles such as behavior, motivation, social structures, and the interaction between individuals and corporations. The authors that created this article aimed to synthesize the existing studies to understand who cybercriminals are, why they offend, and how psychological traits influence digital crime patterns.

Research Questions, Hypothesis, IV/DV

The article is more of a systematic review and doesn't conduct an experiment, it still addresses several guiding research questions: (1) What psychological traits are more commonly associated with cybercriminals? (2) How do social, cultural, and environmental factors influence cybercriminal behavior? and (3) How can understanding psychological profiles improve cybercrime prevention strategies? The article didn't really test a formal hypothesis but it strongly suggests that psychological traits such as narcissism, impulsivity, and technical proficiency contribute to cyber offending. The implied variables within the article are independent variable the analysis is psychological traits and social factors while the dependent variable is cybercriminal behavior.

Research Methods

The authors used a systematic review method as they screened 1,200 studies, ultimately selecting 45 peer-reviewed articles published between 2010 and 2023. The selection process required a full text screening, structured data extraction, and quality assessment using recognized tools such as PRISMA and the CASP. This approach ensured credibility, reproducibility, and comprehensive synthesis of current knowledge.

Types of Data and Analysis

The article relied on qualitative data extracted from previously published research instead of collecting new empirical data. The authors used tools such as NVivo to identify themes and patterns, while Excel and EndNote assisted with data organization and citation management. The analysis focused on identifying recurring psychological traits, behavioral tendencies, motivations for cybercrime, technological factors, and global cybersecurity gaps.

Connection to Powerpoints

The article reflected many of the concepts we discussed including the human factor in cybersecurity, the social dynamics behind digital crime, and the role of global systems in shaping technological risks. An example is, themes such as anonymity, social engineering, risk perception, and institutional responsibility directly aligned with key points from the slides.

Marginalized Groups: Challenges and Concerns

The article highlighted several ways marginalized groups are disproportionately affected by cybercrime. Individuals with limited online literacy or access to cybersecurity resources are

more vulnerable to identity theft, fraud, and phishing attacks. Small and medium sized enterprises face heightened financial and operational risk. Victims of cyberstalking, harassment, and online abuses experience serious psychological consequences, including anxiety, fear, social withdrawal, and long term emotional distress.

Overall Contributions of the Article

The article made several significant contributions to academic research and society. It integrated psychological insights with technical and criminological perspectives, emphasizing that cybercrime prevention must address both human and technological factors. The article also highlights the importance of global collaboration, strong legal frameworks, public education, and workforce development to enhance cybersecurity resilience.

Conclusion

Overall, *Exploring the Psychological Profile of Cybercriminals* offers an in depth and great examination of cybercrime. Through a systematic review of existing research, the authors illustrate how psychological traits, social influences, and technological vulnerabilities collectively contribute to cyber offending. The article effectively connects social science principles with cybersecurity challenges and emphasizes the need to understand human behavior alongside the technological solutions. This review contributed to the development of stronger prevention efforts, more effective policies, and a better understanding of the complex relationship between individuals, society, and digital crime.

References

Trinh, D. T., Dinh, T. C. H., & Tran, T. N. K. (2025). Exploring the psychological profile of cybercriminals: A comprehensive review for improved cybercrime prevention. *International Journal of Cyber Criminology*, 19(1), 114–131.

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