

Cybercrime Investigators and The Social Sciences

Nicholas Rossler

Old Dominion University

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Professor Diwakar Yalpi

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As investigators investigate real life crime scenes, the growth of cyberspace has led to the development of cybercrime and the need to have trained professionals to investigate cybercrimes. Cybercrime investigators look into digital evidence to investigate numerous kinds of cybercrimes such as ransomware, identity theft, and other hacking crimes. The career of cybercrime investigators requires a technical background to analyze networks, computers, and malware to further understand the crime. While the need for technical skills is there, it also requires a strong skillset in skills not related to the cyber field and more towards other social sciences.

Psychology

Psychology plays a big role in the career of cybercrime investigators. Psychology helps look into the human mind and why humans behave the way they do. Understanding psychology helps cybercrime investigators understand the mindset behind cybercrime offenders and get a further understanding of why offenders will commit. An important aspect is the motivation of an offender to commit the cybercrime, as for offenders “the motivation for the attack will make sense to the criminal during the time of preparing for and committing the offense” (Edwards, 30). The reasons for motivation can be extensive such as monetary gain, revenge, and opportunity can be big motivators. Another growing motivator can be politics, someone “who conducts cyber activities on behalf of that government” that has hired them would also be known as a state actor (Edwards, 32). These state actors may commit cybercrimes on other nations that their nation views as an enemy to hinder the hostile nations operations.

Criminology

Cybercrime investigators also relate to the criminology social science. In criminology criminal profiling is a big role, it draws from both psychology and criminology social sciences. Criminal profiling helps investigators “identify and understand the criminal” to help assist in solving a crime, in the case for cybercrime investigators the cybercrime (Garcia, 16). Using criminology can help categorize cybercriminals and list traits and motives that normally fall into those categories. This helps cybercrime investigators further understand the offender and help further understand what happened and how they should go forth and find the culprit. Garcia shows a chart in her book that helps display this, novice hacker would be between 13-18 years old and main motive is bragging rights (Garcia, 33). Another is the internal attacker, which traits show normally a male resentful employee, and main motives are sabotage and revenge (Garcia, 33). Having these categories help cybercrime investigators get an idea of who the culprit is and understand how they may behave and respond to certain situations.

Social Science Skills

Cybercrime investigators have other duties that will need to tend to such as interviews of victims or suspects involved in cybercrime. Investigators also may be required to work “as part of a consulting firms, serving law enforcement agencies, corporations or government organizations” meaning they need to be able to work well in a team (Moore). Those in the cybercrime investigator roles need to have good teamwork and communication skills to fulfill their duties. The teams they work in for cybercrimes are likely to have individuals who are not as knowledgeable in technical skills, it will be important for investigators to have good communication skills to be able to communicate with those members. They will have to be skilled in many forms of communication as they will have to write reports about their findings

when brought up in court. The reports brought up in court will be read to many individuals varying in technical knowledge and being able to write a report and present any information in a way for any to understand will be an important aspect of the job.

Conclusion

Cybercrime Investigators need to have a strong set of technical skills along with social skills that relate to social sciences such as psychology and criminology. These skills are important in understanding the behavior of cyber offenders and how to properly profile them to help further the investigation. They will also need soft skills such as good teamwork and communication skills as they will be working in teams with varying skills with some who are not knowledgeable in technology at all. Being able to communicate with and work with these individuals will be very important for their career.

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