

Cybercrime Investigator/Detective

Job Description and Responsibilities

Cybercrime is on the rise and the damages that criminals in the cyberworld are creating is reaching a staggering level. It is estimated that the “cost of cybercrime breaches is projected to be around 10 trillion dollars or more by the year 2025, with an average attack from hackers occurring every 39 seconds”. (Palatty, 2024) The general public rely on the advancements in technology having become an integral part of society, however, with the presence of cyberattacks affecting millions of individuals and companies everyday, it is necessary to establish the importance of professionals to fight against these malicious attacks to decrease unlawful activity. Law enforcement is encouraging people to pursue a career as a Cybercrime Investigator to help stabilize cyber traffic and bring to justice the criminals that are committing these malicious crimes.

A Cybercrime Investigator or Detective is a cybersecurity professional that is responsible for “recovering files/computers that have become vulnerable, testing strength of security systems, gathering evidence to testify in court, and analyzing cyber-related crimes” to identify culprits to help in their arrest/apprehension. (Bowcut, 2023) The crime-solving they influence and cases they help close can range from identity theft & scams all the way to hacking and anti-terrorism. Their education requires a “bachelor’s degree in criminal justice or cybersecurity, due to the fact this job straddles the line between the intersection of both”. (Bowcut, 2023)

Relation to Social Sciences

Cybercrime Investigators will often find themselves gathering information and evidence against cybercriminals they are trying to track down. That information and evidence can be collected in the form of “interviewing victims of cybercrime without victim blaming, consulting with clients/managers, working in multiple jurisdictions, and training law enforcement officers to

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prevent more problems arising". (Borges, 2024). There's an important feature of the job that

revolves around profiling typical aspects of human nature and vulnerabilities, relating to the

criminal or the victim alike. Oftentimes, Cybercrime Investigators will dive into the psychology

behind why a cyber criminal commits his crimes, such as revenge, financial gain, and

economic/political influence, then subsequently link that to the criminal's personal

characteristics. Cybercriminals are known to exhibit addiction-based personalities, high levels of

intelligence, introvertedness, and have a history of difficulties in upbringing/childhood. It can also

be noted that it is usually concluded that the malicious hacker is a male, simply because in a

male-dominated industry, only "28% of computer programmers are female". (Palatty, 2024).

Conclusion

Cybersecurity Investigator categorized as a job layered with difficulty but the positive impact they have on society and the safety of the cyberworld they contribute to is undeniable.

The world is suffering from a global threat of the violation of privacy and it continues to evolve,

so the value of a diligent and vigilant CyberSecurity Investigator cannot be measured. Having a

job of this magnitude will come with obstacles and challenges, however. "On average, it takes

6.7 hours to resolve a single cybercrime" which further exemplifies the tiring effort to close a

criminal case. (Palatty, 2024) In addition, challenges could be "collaborating with international

law enforcement if cases aren't in local jurisdiction, difficulty in locating global perpetrators due

to the flexibility and mobility of technology, and high stress levels" with demanding hours that will

be taxing for the Investigator mentally and physically.(Borges, 2024). The quicker we raise

awareness of cybercrime and help law enforcement/investigators, the better our quality of life

can be in the cyberworld.

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Resources

Borges, E. (2024, February 5). *What is a Cyber Crime Investigation?* (n.d.).
<https://www.recordedfuture.com/threat-intelligence-101/incident-response-management/cyber-crime-investigation>

Bowcut, S., & Bowcut, S. (2023, October 23). *How to become a cybercrime investigator*. Cybersecurity Guide. <https://cybersecurityguide.org/careers/cyber-crime-investigator>

Palatty, N. J. (2024, January 24). 90+ Cyber Crime Statistics 2024: Cost, Industries & Trends. *Astra Security Blog*. <https://www.getastra.com/blog/security-audit/cyber-crime-statistics>