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Journal Entry: Ranking Hacker Motives

After reviewing various sources, I have ranked the motives behind cybercrime from most to least logical based on frequency, intent, and relatability.

1. Financial Gain

Financial motivation is the most logical and widespread. Cybercriminals can earn large amounts of money through theft, fraud, or ransomware with relatively low risk (Infosecurity Magazine, 2021).

2. Recognition and Reputation

Hackers often crave credibility within online communities. Publicizing their skills through successful attacks builds status and digital “street cred” (Infosecurity Magazine, 2021).

3. Ideology and Activism

Hactivists use cyberattacks as a form of protest. This is evident in politically motivated attacks on surveillance systems or government websites (The Economic Times, 2021).

4. Revenge

Some individuals hack to get back at a person or institution that wronged them. While not strategic, revenge-driven hacking is very real and emotionally charged (Infosecurity Magazine, 2021).

5. Thrill or Curiosity

For some, hacking is about pushing boundaries. The adrenaline of breaking into a system or overcoming a security barrier can be highly motivating, especially among young tech users (HeraldLIVE, 2021).

6. Corporate Espionage

Although impactful, this motive is typically tied to nation-states or insider threats within corporations, making it less common among general hackers (Infosecurity Magazine, 2021).

7. Boredom

While boredom may lead to experimentation, it's not a strong or sustainable reason for cybercrime. Serious hacking requires intent and skill.

References

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The Economic Times. (2021, April 26). *New generation of angry youthful hackers join the hacktivism wave, adding to cyber security woes*. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/magazines/panache/new-generation-of-angry-youthful-hackers-join-the-hacktivism-wave-adding-to-cyber-security-woes/articleshow/81707844.cms>
