

# Week 5 Journal Entry

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After reading seven articles entailing details about various cyber crimes and their perpetrators, I have come to understand a little more about the mind of cyber criminals. Where I once thought that cyber criminals were only motivated by one of two things, anger or boredom, I now know that they can be compelled to commit cyber crime by a multitude of motives. Being tasked to rank each of the motives mentioned throughout the seven articles from making the most sense to making the least, I would say that revenge makes the most sense as a motivator. I've placed revenge at the top of the list, because it is one of the most basic yet powerful human emotions that almost everyone has acted on at some point in their lives. Revenge doesn't always have to present itself nefariously, but there is something almost primal about the human urge to get even. When coupled with the ability to actually do it (and potentially *anonymously*), revenge can make even the best of us fall victim to darker impulses.

The motive that makes the second most sense to me, is committing the cyber crime for recognition. Similarly to revenge, I feel that the desire to be recognized as great or skilled in something is a foundational human. There's a dopamine rush that comes with praise, and what could possibly be more thrilling than having millions of people witness how skilled you are at something? Ego, after all, is often the downfall of many. At number three on my list is committing a cyber crime for multiple reasons. Admittedly this was going to be my top choice, but I think the urges that stem from revenge or the desire to be recognized might be just a tad stronger than even those that derive from multiple sources. Additionally, life is complicated, humans are complicated, and it is unlikely that anything we do is ever truly just for one reason alone.

My number four spot was given to money as a motivator. Money, as the saying goes, is the root of all evil. While money itself isn't something that's naturally occurring, what it

represents for us is. We connect money to our accomplishments, our failures, it can give us access to a world of luxury, and the lack of it could lock us in a lifetime of struggle. Even without technology, history has shown that people will go to far extremes for money if they're desperate enough. At number five on my list, though on an equal level as money as a motivator, is committing the crime for political reasons. Similarly to money, politics can change our lives for the better or for the worse, and each generation fighting more and more for equality, it's a motivator that seems like a no-brainer.

In sixth place, the motivator that made the second-to-least amount of sense for committing a cyber crime, is entertainment. Not that I don't understand engaging in risky activities for the fun of it, but committing a crime because it seemed fun? I just fail to see what fun could be had when you've acknowledged that risk could be your freedom. Finally, in seventh place and the motivator that makes absolutely no sense to me whatsoever, is committing a cyber crime out of boredom. Just by the nature of *cyber* crimes alone, and the fact that the person is using the *internet* to execute them, I don't understand how a person could run out of so many things to engage with that they then resort to ruining someone else's life. Even more so when the victim is likely someone that they've never met.