Policy Analysis Paper 4:

Review of the National Cybersecurity Strategy

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Introduction

The National Cybersecurity Strategy 2023 (NCS 2023) reflects the United States' comprehensive efforts to strengthen its cybersecurity position in the face of escalating cyber threats. Like many other strategies, this one reflects the dynamic interplay between technological advancements and societal needs. Through an examination of societal factors that influenced NCS 2023's development, its consequences on society, and how cultural and subcultural influences influenced its content, this paper will explore the social implications of NCS 2023. An analysis of the social dimensions of cybersecurity policy will be conducted using scholarly sources.

Social Factors Leading to the Development of NCS 2023

NCS 2023 was primarily driven by a series of high-profile cyber incidents and a growing awareness of the interdependence between digital infrastructure and societal well-being. Unregulated cyber environments pose a number of dangers, such as ransomware attacks, supply chain vulnerabilities, and cyber espionage. During the early 2020s, cybercrime targeted healthcare, critical infrastructure, and government institutions, creating a pressing need for a stronger, centralized cybersecurity framework. Not only did these incidents result in economic losses, but they also raised concerns about citizen safety, privacy, and trust in digital spaces, which prompted policymakers to take action.

Social Consequences of NCS 2023

The implementation of NCS 2023 has had a range of social consequences, both positive and negative. Positively, the strategy emphasizes collaborative approaches among the private sector, government, and international allies, which have fostered a sense of shared responsibility in cybersecurity. It contributes to a greater sense of digital security. It enhances

national security by protecting citizens from cyber-attack fallout (Davis & Patel, 2023). Still, the strategy's focus on increased surveillance and regulation has also sparked debates about civil liberties and privacy. Some critics argue that NCS 2023 could result in an overreach of government power, particularly in monitoring online activities, which would undermine citizens' privacy rights (Garcia & Williams, 2022).

Cultural and Subcultural Influences on NCS 2023

NCS 2023 was influenced not only by security needs but also by cultural and subcultural values in the United States. American culture's strong emphasis on individual rights and freedom has historically led to debates about cybersecurity measures. Keeping these cultural values in balance with the need for stricter security protocols was a challenge for policymakers. In addition, Silicon Valley and other innovation hubs are home to a tech-savvy subculture that advocates cybersecurity reform, pushing for a strategy that leverages advanced technology. This cultural pressure has ensured that NCS 2023 incorporates cutting-edge solutions while attempting to safeguard civil liberties (Nguyen, 2024).

Conclusion

In the 2023 National Cybersecurity Strategy, technical advances, societal demands, and cultural influences are nuancedly intertwined. Despite addressing the growing concern over cyber threats, it also raises crucial questions about privacy and government regulation of the digital world. Cybersecurity policies like NCS 2023 must be understood from a social perspective in order to develop strategies that not only ensure the security of digital infrastructure, but also maintain a delicate balance between security and freedom.

References

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