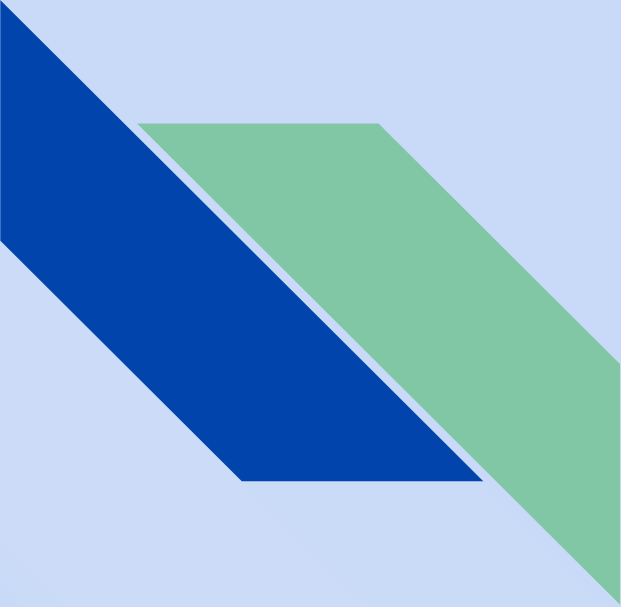
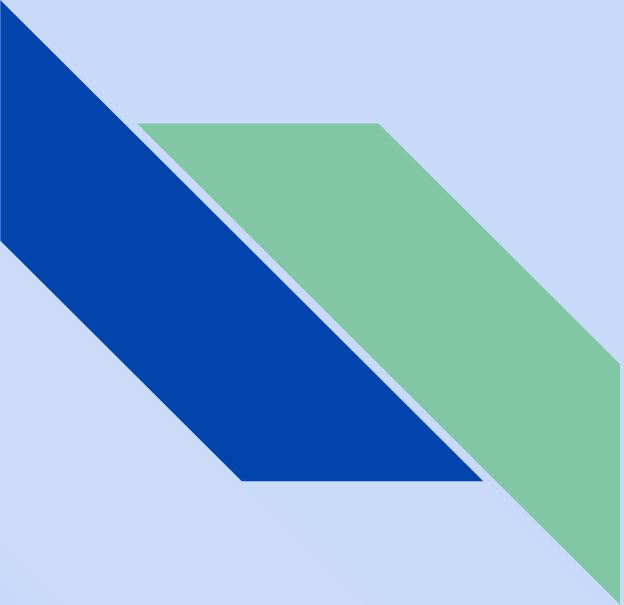




Cybersecurity Awareness in the Digital World

The Social Impact of Cybercrime
Zakiyyah Dunston/CYSE 201S/04/25/2026



What is cybersecurity?

- Protection of data, systems, and personal information
- Prevention of cyber-attacks and breaches
- Beneficial for businesses and individuals



The Social Sciences Lens

- The study of human behavior
- This includes psychology, sociology, and economics
- An explanation on why humans behave the way they do

“While technology plays a critical role in tackling cybersecurity issues, more recently human aspects have gained serious attention” (Michael, 2008; David et al., 2020; Maalem Lahcen et al. 2020)(Akter et al., 2022).



Human Behavior and Cybersecurity

- Weak passwords
- Ignoring security warnings
- Opening suspicious emails

Simple habits like using weak passwords or clicking unknown links can make systems vulnerable. These behaviors are often the easiest way for attackers to gain access.





Why individuals Fall for Scams

- Lack of awareness
- Trust
- Fear

“Cybersecurity awareness is a state of consciousness in which users are fully aware of risk and security policies, supported by necessary knowledge and recognition of security threats” (Akter et al., 2022). This is why cybersecurity awareness and educating the people of such scams can mitigate future cyber-attacks.

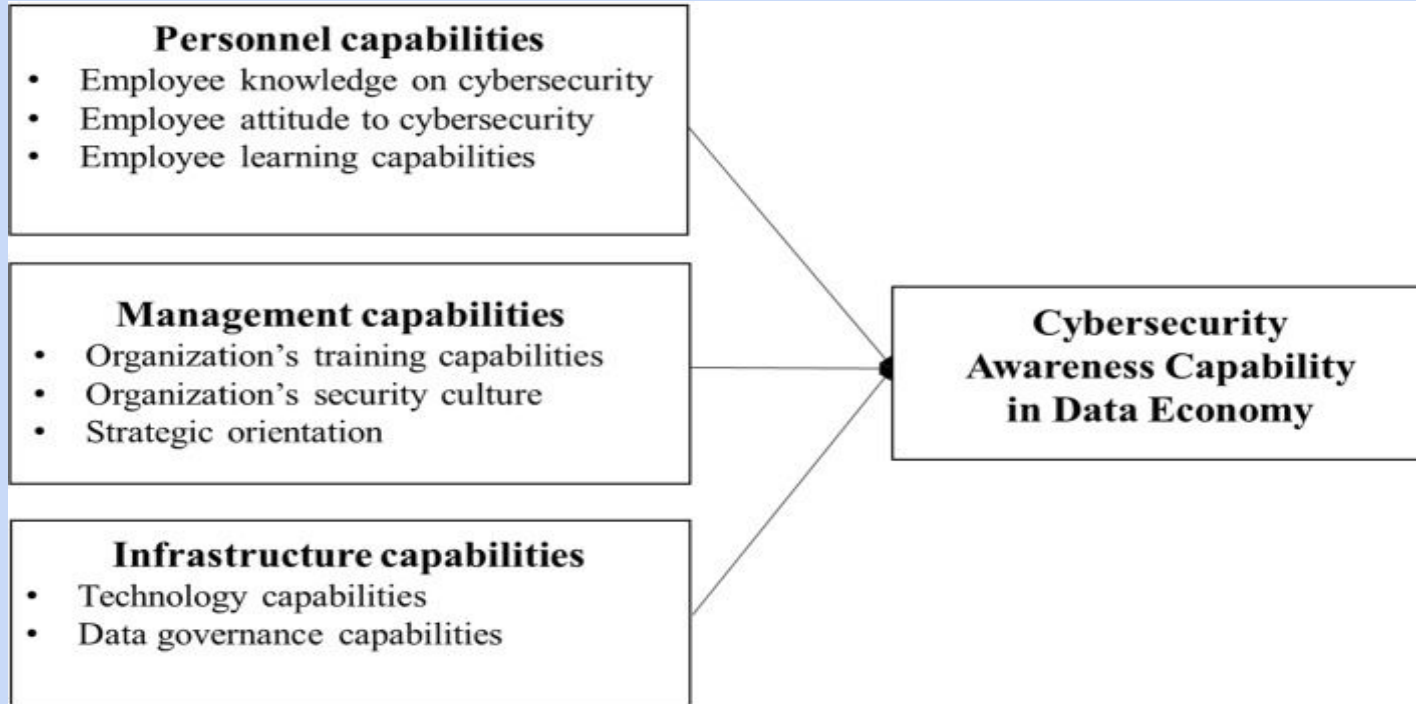


Solutions

- Education and awareness
- Multi-factor authentication
- Strong passwords
- Security policies

To improve cybersecurity, we need both technical solutions and better awareness. Educating people is one of the most effective ways to reduce risks. The article in review conducted a research study to identify what is lacking in the areas of awareness.

“Finally, firms need to establish the right infrastructure with data governance and technology to build CSAC” (Akter et al., 2022) This highlights the areas of social science awareness capabilities



Conclusion

Cybersecurity is not just technical. It is social. It is not just about systems, it is about the people and their behavior. By staying aware and making good decisions, we can all improve and maintain digital security. Humans are the biggest threat, and also the biggest defense.





Reference:

1. Akter, S., Uddin, M. R., Sajib, S., Lee, W. J. T., Michael, K., & Hossain, M. A. (2022). *Reconceptualizing cybersecurity awareness capability in the data-driven digital economy. Annals of Operations Research.* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10479-022-04844-8>
2. Google pics