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The Perception Analysis of Cyber Crimes In View of Computer Science Students

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Abstract

Computer Technologies growing rapidly has become an indispensable part of modern life. While making social life easier, the changes that technology has brought also bring forth some security issues. Thus, it is easier to commit crimes and we are faced with cyber-crimes. This study examines the differences among the cyber-crime perceptions of undergraduate students at Trakya University in terms of demographic factors. The method of the study was a questionnaire that was given to lecturers and students at Trakya University sample and it was designed to measure and assess the levels of interest in technology, the severity of cyber-crimes and the individuals' perceptions of cyber-crimes in terms of ethics and law. The findings of the study can help us define the level of common perception of cyber-crimes and the meaningful differences between separate groups.

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1. Introduction

Informatics has been defined as the science of processing of the information used in technical, economic and social communication areas, and on which science has its own basis, properly and logically via electronic machines in particular (Koksal, 2006). The developments in computer and information technologies have penetrated into anything in everyday life. Globalization has gained speed with the internet becoming more popular and the physical

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boundaries have disappeared. This popularity of the internet has brought forth the issues like storing and processing information. The developments in informatics have both pros and cons for humanity. Since the economic, social and political value of the information has increased, the people who want to cut corners to gain power and money have begun to tend towards using information technologies to commit crimes, sometimes targeting the technology itself. Herein, the term “cybercrime” becomes evident.

Cybercrime is “any kind of illegal, unethical and unauthorized behavior in a system which processes information automatically or transfers data” (Keskin, 2009). Cybercrime can be divided into two main categories where the computer is used as a tool or as a target. Harassing and threatening people on the internet or mobile phones, and publishing music or books without having the copyrights are two examples of cybercrime. The authorities prefer to extend the scope of the punishments for classic crimes instead of adding cybercrime clauses to the present codes. On the other hand, acts like distorting, replacing data and blocking access to a system are crimes where the information systems are targeted directly and there are independent codes and regulations in law defining the scope of these crimes.

Today cybercrime is an important problem growing rapidly. Therefore, the need for legal acts combining both law and technology has risen dramatically. However, there is much to be done to reduce the number of cybercrimes. The first recorded cybercrime was released to the public in a Minneapolis Tribune article “Computer Expert Accused of Cooking the Account Books” on October 18th, 1966. In 1973, one of the classic early data diddling frauds was “Equity Funding” with 64,000 fake client records in Los Angeles (Johnson, 2005)

The first legislative proposal was delivered by Head of Operations Committee, Senator Abe Ribicoff in February 1977. Although the proposal was declined, it helped the concept of computer crime to be discussed in the U.S.A. and other international platforms (Cybercrime Law, 2012). Council of Europe started to work through the electronic data banks to determine the principles to protect the privacy of the individuals. As a result, Committee of Ministers of Council of Europe affiliated two recommendations showing the principles to be applied in electronic data banks in public and private sector and member countries like Germany, France, Austria, Denmark and Norway acknowledged certain codes for data protection. “The Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data” was ratified on January 28th, 1981.

The most comprehensive regulation is The Convention on Cybercrime realized within Council of Europe which took four years to issue. It was opened for signature in Budapest, on 23 November 2001. As of October 2014, 44 states have ratified the convention, while a further nine states had signed the convention but not ratified it. Turkey has not ratified the convention yet (Avrupa Konseyi Siber Suclar Sozlesmesi Taslagi, 2007).

2. Materials and Method

2.1 Problem Statement

Do the survey scores of the students studying at the Department of Computer Technologies and Information Systems at the School of Applied Disciplines differ by gender and year of study?

2.2 Method

In order to describe the attitudes of Computer Technologies and Information Systems students towards cybercrime from on moral and legal grounds, descriptive survey model was used as the method as descriptive studies help define the related situations as they are in reality (Karasar, 2008).

Relational screening model is also used to determine the relationship between two or more variables. Screening research is a type of research conducted using larger samples which identifies the attitudes, interests, skills in certain areas (Buyukozturk et al., 2008).

Questionnaire forms were given to describe the internet use habits and the attitudes of Computer Technologies and Information Systems students at Trakya University, Kesan Yusuf Capraz School of Applied Disciplines towards cybercrime from on moral and legal grounds and to obtain demographic information.

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