

Thesis Introduction: The Role of Cybercrime in Modern Society

1. Introduction

1.1 Background and Rationale

The advent of the digital age has brought unparalleled convenience and opportunities for global connectivity. However, it has also introduced a new set of challenges, most notably in the realm of criminal activity. Cybercrime, a term encompassing a wide range of illicit activities conducted in the digital sphere, has become an increasingly prominent issue in contemporary society. These activities include hacking, data breaches, cyber fraud, online harassment, and state-sponsored cyber attacks, among others.

The significance of cybercrime cannot be understated. It transcends geographical borders and affects individuals, businesses, and governments on a global scale. From the theft of personal information to financial fraud, from the dissemination of malicious software to politically motivated cyber espionage, the impacts of cybercrime are wide-ranging and multifaceted.

This thesis seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of the role of cybercrime in modern society. It will explore the evolution of cybercrime, the motivations driving individuals and groups to engage in such activities, the socio-economic implications for victims and society as a whole, and the responses employed to combat cybercrime. By delving into these facets, this research aims

to shed light on the multifaceted and rapidly evolving nature of cybercrime in contemporary society.

1.2 Research Objectives

The primary objectives of this research are as follows:

- To trace the evolution of cybercrime and identify emerging trends.
- To investigate the motivations behind cybercrime and assess their impact on the scale and nature of these activities.
- To analyze the socio-economic implications of cybercrime on individuals, businesses, and governments.
- To evaluate the effectiveness of responses and strategies employed to combat cybercrime.
- To provide recommendations and policy implications for addressing the challenges posed by cybercrime.

1.3 Research Questions

This research will address the following key research questions:

- How has cybercrime evolved in the digital age, and what are the emerging trends in cybercriminal activities?
- What motivates individuals and groups to engage in cybercrime, and how do these motivations shape the nature and scope of cybercriminal activities?
- What are the socio-economic impacts of cybercrime on individuals, businesses, and governments, and how do these consequences vary across different types of cybercrimes?

- What strategies and responses are currently in place to combat cybercrime, and what are the challenges in implementing these strategies effectively?
- What are the policy implications and recommendations for addressing the evolving landscape of cybercrime in modern society?