

A Reverse Digital Divide: Comparing Information Security Behaviors of Generation Y and Generation Z Adults

Debb, Schaffer, and Colson (2020) look at cybersecurity from a social science point of view in their article "A Reverse Digital Divide: Comparing Information Security Behaviors of Generation Y and Generation Z Adults." They do this by looking at how people of different ages act when it comes to information security. The study does not just look at technical defenses; it also looks at how people act, how they see things, and how they make decisions. This is directly related to social science fields like psychology and sociology because it looks at how age, experience, and personal beliefs affect how people behave when it comes to security.

The main question of the research is whether or not individuals from Generation Y and Generation Z act differently when it comes to cybersecurity. The authors say that age and experience may affect how seriously people take cybersecurity and how well-regulated they are when it comes to following the rules. To investigate this, the researchers employed a quantitative research methodology by gathering survey data from college-aged individuals through the Online Security Behaviors and Beliefs Questionnaire (OSBBQ). The study employed statistical comparisons of survey responses to discern significant behavioral disparities between the two groups. The findings indicated that Generation Y participants exhibited more robust cybersecurity practices, including scrutinizing privacy policies, sustaining antivirus software, and identifying potential threats, whereas Generation Z displayed diminished involvement in certain aspects.

This article is very similar to what we have learned in class about things like human factors in cybersecurity, risk perception, and user behavior. It supports the idea that how people view threats, not just technical weaknesses, can affect cybersecurity risks. As we talked about in class, people who feel less vulnerable may not take as many safety measures, which increases the chances of security incidents. This topic also has to do with groups that are often left out, especially younger or less experienced users who may not have access to cybersecurity resources, which makes them more prone to cyber threats. This shows how important it is to be aware, include everyone, and get the right training to lower security risks.

Overall, this study aids society by showing that cybersecurity strategies need to take into account how different groups of people act online. These results can help companies and teachers make training and awareness programs that are specific to different age groups. Cybersecurity efforts can be more successful at alleviating risks and making the internet safer for everyone if they focus on both human behavior and technical solutions.

Reference

Debb, S. M., Schaffer, D. R., & Colson, D. G. (2020). A reverse digital divide: Comparing information security behaviors of Generation Y and Generation Z adults. *International Journal of Cybersecurity Intelligence & Cybercrime*.

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