Title

Name

Course name and number

Instructor’s name

Submission date

**Literature review**

Cybersecurity refers to the protection of individuals’ electronic data against criminal or unauthorized use of the data. It also encompasses the measures taken to achieve this. In the United States, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has a central role to play in cybersecurity. In as much as Homeland Security has the lead for the federal government to secure public government computer systems, it appears to have no formal authority to probe federal government agencies to apply recommended cybersecurity mitigation measures (Skinner, 2010). This lack of clarity on the nature and implication of authorities presents a loophole for potentially dangerous mission failure. Due to lack of clarity, judging the adequacy of the department and the fundamental nature and extent of the role played by the DHS in securing cyberspace security is difficult. There are legal authorities in place that prove the DHS can act. These authorities fall under two categories namely; primary and secondary authorities. Primary authorities include the U.S constitution, legislation, executive orders, administrative regulations, court opinions, and treaties, among others (Tribe, 1999). These authorities carry the force of law and can bring perpetrators to justice.

On the other hand, secondary authorities provide a summary and interpretation of the meanings and implications of primary authorities and are non-binding. These authorities include executive agency plans and reviews, legal texts, journal articles, for example, law review articles (Stein and Mitchell, 1990). Cyberspace continues to evolve quickly, meaning that current cyberspace authorities are increasingly outdated (CSIS, 2008). The United States lacks an integrated cybersecurity strategy that can stand if the nation passes laws that ensure effective regulations by the administration (CSIS, 2011). There is a higher need to develop, promulgate, and update guidelines, codes, rules, and accepted standards that ensure confidentiality, integrity, and availability of systems, networks, and data without impairing innovation (DHS, 2010d).

**Research variables**

Research variables are entities that can take on different values, which means they are typically any entity in research that varies under different conditions. In this research, the variables selected will help collect, analyze and interpret available data. They will also help validate my hypothesis.

**Research variable 1: Survey on the activities of homeland security**

As the independent variable, the survey put into action by investigative research to help determine the efficiency and adequate preparedness of Homeland security in cybersecurity matters. Contrasting the independent and dependent variables, (effect of homeland security activities on their efficiency in reducing cybercrime) will help bring out the truth of this research.

**Research variable 2: Outcome of homeland security activities on cybersecurity**

This intervening variable cuts across both independent and dependent variables to bring out the link between the two. It reflects on the measures in place and factors that reduce or increase cybercrime. The variable helps predict the outcome of the research.

**Research variable 3: Understanding cybercrime-related activities**

This antecedent variable plays part to help justify the hypothesis. It brings to light the crime and explores the causes of cybercrime as a phenomenon on its own. According to the course book, Empirical Political Analysis, hypotheses statements represent the relationships between variables (Craig, 2016). Based on this statement, using both intervening and antecedent variables in the research will help thoroughly explain the hypothesis. The use of these research variables plays a major role in answering the hypothetical questions that could help create strategies to ensure preparedness for homeland security in dealing with cybersecurity in the future.

References

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