

# Cybercrimes: Are you an easy target?

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## **Preparatory cybercrimes (ESI Member Publication)**

How can the actions and behaviours of victims when online be better understood, leading to better self-protection and guardianship behaviours?

This study focuses on 'preparatory cybercrimes' and proposes a locally nuanced early intervention approach to protection.

Particular types of cyber-attacks may be conceptualised as primarily preparatory acts, putting the offender in a position to more easily target and exploit the potential victim at a

later date. Focusing on this first preparatory act may make it possible to more effectively interrupt and prevent specific cybercrimes that flow from these initial preparatory and credential-harvesting methodologies.

The authors set out to identify online behaviours of potential victims that put them at increased risk of fraudulent emails and malicious software. To do so, they recruited representative samples from Spain and Australia to complete a survey assessing the extent of their online behaviour and victimisation history.

The evidence indicates that, for Spaniards, online shopping is the riskiest type of activity, with increased risk for two out of three victimisation outcomes (scam and spam). For Australians, downloading files is associated with increased risk of all victimisation outcomes, including contact with strangers (scam and spam) and pornography use (spam and malware).

The results suggest that targeted prevention advice for particular populations is likely to be most effective in curbing cybercrime. In particular, education and disruption efforts, regardless of the country of residence, should focus on the increased risk of downloading files.

### **Full Paper access**

## **Articles That Caught Our Attention: Summaries**

### **Disaster management and resiliency**

The sixteen years between Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Ida highlight the need for more intensive, locally based and multi-factoral investment in resiliency in the context of climate change.

### **Industrially produced food is no bargain**

The hidden costs of input-intensive industrial agriculture include massive environmental, human rights and public health impacts. On the other hand, integrating ecological principles with social equity promotes individual and collective resilience and security.

### **Cybersecurity and health systems**

There has been an increase in cyberattacks on hospitals, national health systems and the WHO. The increasing digitisation and connectedness of healthcare, including the management of personal identifiable information, has made these systems particularly vulnerable, but this has not been accompanied by a proportionate adoption of cybersecurity networks.

### **'Half the truth is often a great lie'**

How can the international community better understand how to use open source information to build cases around grave international crimes, while taking account of the increasing volume and technical quality of 'deep fakes'? This essay suggests possible legal, pedagogical and technological responses to this challenge.

### **Transformative biosphere stewardship and the governance of a global commons**

The Brazilian Amazon, once a carbon sink, is now a carbon source. We have reached a new risk landscape - we see signs that humanity may no longer be able to count on the capacity of the biosphere to continue dampening greenhouse gas emissions and hold on to its carbon stocks. However, a number of developments are opening a historic window of opportunity for driving sustainable change and promoting resilience-building strategies.

### A Tale of Horns and Hides (ESI member, podcast)

#### Headlines That Caught Our Attention

**Bugs and Climate Change:** What a warmer, wetter world means for insects and the crops they eat.

What is **Zero Trust**? It depends on what you want to hear.



#### Books / Reports of Note

Report on the **Cybersecurity Risks of Smart City Technology**

Eating Tomorrow by Timothy Wise, reviewed in **Agriculture and and Human Values**

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