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The Psychology of Cyber Crime: Concepts and Principles

Gráinne Kirwan (Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Ireland) and Andrew Power (Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Ireland)

As more individuals own and operate Internet-enabled devices and more critical government and industrial systems rely on advanced technologies, the issue of cybercrime has become a crucial concern for both the general public and professionals alike.

The Psychology of Cyber Crime: Concepts and Principles aims to be the leading reference examining the psychology of cybercrime. This book considers many aspects of cybercrime, including research on offenders, legal issues, the impact of cybercrime on victims, punishment, and preventative measures. It is designed as a source for researchers and practitioners in the disciplines of criminology, cyberpsychology, and forensic psychology, though it is also likely to be of significant interest to many students of information technology and other related disciplines.

Topics Covered:
- Copyright Infringement
- Crime in Virtual Worlds
- Cyberbullying, Cyberharassment, and Cyberstalking
- Cyberterrorism
- Defining Cyber Crime
- Forensic Psychology and Cyber Crime
- Identity Theft and Fraud
- Internet Child Pornography
- Internet-Specific Crimes
- Malware


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Dr. Gráinne Kirwan is a lecturer in psychology in the Institute of Art, Design and Technology (IADT), Ireland. She led the development of the MSc in Cyberpsychology programme in IADT, and co-ordinated the programme during its initial years. She has been teaching in higher education for twelve years and her primary areas of research are forensic psychology, virtual reality and cyberpsychology. Her doctoral research examined the motives and psychological characteristics of hackers. Her current research examines the use of virtual reality as an aid to police investigations and public attitudes towards cybercriminals and their victims. She has been quoted by several major publications regarding her expertise in the field of cyberpsychology, and she has also been interviewed by both regional and national radio and television stations. She regularly presents work at international psychological conferences and reviews articles for ‘Cyberpsychology, Behaviour and Social Networking’ and ‘Computers in Human Behaviour’.

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