

A cybercriminal personality? A comparative research on personality characteristics of cybercriminals.

Marleen Weulen Kranenburg, Vrije Universiteit (VU) Amsterdam.

The stereotype of cybercriminals who commit technically advanced crimes is very different from the stereotype of other criminals. An important part of this image are the expected personality traits of these criminals. For example, a general assumption is that cybercriminals are introvert. However, the extent to which personality traits of cybercriminals are different from personality traits of other criminals has not yet been empirically tested. The goal of this study is to describe the personality traits of cybercriminals and compare these to personality traits of other criminals. Additionally, both groups will be compared to the general population. These comparisons will be based on a sample of 268 cybercriminals and 270 other criminals who had been in contact with the Dutch police. These participants completed a survey which included the HEXACO personality inventory. Based on this data, personality traits of both groups could be examined and statistically compared. The same comparison has been made with norm group (N = 525), to examine any differences with the general population. This presentation will first paint a picture of the personality traits of cybercriminals. Subsequently, it will describe the most striking differences and similarities, followed by a discussion of possible explanations.