The Prospects for an International Attribution Mechanism for Cyber Operations: Lessons Learned from Past Attribution Attempts

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This whitepaper aims to provide an overview and analysis of case studies of cyber operations where states and private companies have attempted to attribute those operations to specific actors and in some instances to states who are affiliated with those actors. The paper hopes to draw on these past attribution attempts to highlight modalities that an international attribution mechanism should feature to provide a robust and credible agency of attribution that might serve to foster accountability for acts and omissions that are inconsistent with States' legal obligations under international law governing cyber operations.