

## **The effect of perceived formal and informal social control on cyber-offending**

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Compared to the offline world, cyberspace is more anonymous and therefore less easily controlled. Criminological theories generally show that people are more likely to commit crime when they experience less formal or informal social control. Consequently, one could assume that people are more likely to commit crimes online than offline. In addition, there may be differences between people in the way they experience control online. In this paper we therefore examine to what extent differences in experienced or perceived formal and informal control online are related to the likelihood of a person to commit a cybercrime (hacking or malware use). We answer this question by analyzing survey data from a sample of 471 first-year undergraduate Israeli students of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem between November 2014 and January 2015. Three different types of online formal social control will be analyzed: 1. from the police, 2. from the justice system, and 3. from administrators. In addition, for informal social control, the perceived control of other internet users will be measured. While controlling for other factors that might be related to cyber-offending, our results will show if and how perceived formal and informal social control online are related to cyber-offending. Implications will be discussed.