

How has Cyber Technology Created Opportunities for Workplace Deviance

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Details

The ease of access to cyber technology in the work place creates a greater opportunity for work place deviance to occur. The Cyber Criminal Journal reports that “Cohen and Felson (1979)... proposed the [routine activity theory]... these researchers developed a criminal theory that focused on the environmental ‘opportunities for crime’ to occur...” (cybercrimejournal.com).

The Routine Activity Theory encompasses the idea that for crime, or deviant activity, to occur three factors must be present: “a suitable target, a motivated offender, and the absence of a capable guardian” (cybercrimejournal.com). Should any one of these factors not be present then, in theory, the opportunity for the crime should also not be present. The presence of technology in today’s typical work environment creates opportunities for deviant acts to occur in the following industries: the health industry, education sector, military, and other non-governmental organizations.

In the health industry, it is not uncommon for doctors to financially abuse their patients by overcharging their insurance provider; the most common targets of these attacks are Medicare and Medicaid. Within the education sector, students will find themselves at risk; however, they are at risk of their personally identifiable information being exploited. In order to combat this, written consent must be provided by the student to prevent accidental disclosure.

Since most industries, if not all, utilize some form of an internet connected device risks are present. Between the years of 2005 and 2009, 721.9 million breaches occurred; although the number went down to 16.1 million in 2010, this is still a significant number of vulnerabilities that exist in the modern working world.

References

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