

In reviewing the articles associated with the cybercriminal motivators of money, politics, revenge, recognition, and boredom. On a scale of one to seven I rank monetary or financial motivations as number two. The global cost of cybercrime in 2022 was eight trillion dollars and with a robust ransomware economy incentivizing criminal groups to engage in low risk, high reward activities, it's easy to see how this could be viewed as a leading motivation. Coming up as a close second would be political motivations. Whether hacktivist groups defacing government websites or proxies supported by peer competitors like pro-Russian hacktivists Killnet conducting a DDoS attack against the EU's parliamentary website.

Revenge is the next motivator to discuss. I rate that as a three. Victims of cybercrime driven by revenge can suffer financial loss, reputation damage and emotional distress and the harms caused by doxing, revenge porn or other privacy breaches are no less egregious to the individual. But I don't find revenge equating the same level of motivation as I would monetary and political due to the financial and ideological incentives in play.

Interestingly, I have a hard time differentiating the motivations of recognition and boredom in terms of rating which might be higher on the scale. These two motivators can easily feed on each other as a toxic combination. Although when considering cyberbullying or sexual grooming of children. I would say that boredom rates higher at a four on the scale. Recognition on the other hand in terms of some kind of accolade or acceptance ranks at a five. The harm twenty-one-year-old National Guardsman Jack Teixeira when he leaked classified military intelligence over a gaming channel on discord is significant.

Finally, I rated multiple motivators or reasons as number one. While financial and political gain are significant incentives. It's rarely the case that multiple reasons are not factors motivating cybercrime. Boredom for example might be an initial vector for cybercriminal

activity, but any combination of monetary, political, revenge and recognition can provide the “icing on the cake” as it were to incentivize continued criminality.