Cambridge Centre for Risk Studies

The Future of Cyber Risk Conference 2019

CYBERGEDDEN VS. CYBERTOPIA: KEY VARIABLES IN DETERMINING THE FUTURE OF CYBER RISK

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How might the many futures of cyber risk play out?

Cybergeddon

Refers to cataclysm resulting from a largescale sabotage of all computerized networks, systems and activities

Goodwin, 2014

Cybertopia

A utopia in cyberspace or achieved by means of computer technology and user education.



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Cybertopia

Hacker hordes rise

Constantly increasing attack surface

Vulnerable technologies

Powerful attack technologies

No data is safe

Splinternet

Consumer ecommerce dies

Cyber war



How might the many futures of cyber risk play out?

Cybertopia Cybergeddon Minimal to no organized cyber crime Complete trust in security Data is protected Secure technologies International cyber regulation and cooperation Growth of ecommerce Complete user education



Key Variables

The future of the cyber risk landscape is unknown, but there are a few key variables that indicate whether we are headed for a cybergeddon, cybertopia, or a mix of the two.

- 1. International cyber regulation
- 2. The cost / benefit balance of holding data
- 3. Logistical burden of cyber crime





Complexities of International Cyber Regulation:

- Jurisdiction: Unlike traditional physical crimes, cyber crimes are not necessarily easily placed on a map and often have a global spread.
- Conviction Rates: The traditional evidence needed for conviction of physical crimes are difficult to procure for cyber crimes.
- State-Sponsored: Cyber technologies are being developed for offensive and defensive warfare capabilities, leading to low transparency and coordination.
- Geopolitical Events: Political climate between countries affects cooperation in cyber regulation











- Lack of international cyber regulations
- Low conviction rate
- Issues of jurisdiction for criminal vs. crime
- Increased state investment in cyber warfare
- Decrease in budgets for attracting new talent to cyber defense



International Cyber Regulation and Cooperation





- Reinvention of law enforcement
- Establishment of international cooperation and regulation
- Political support for cyber crime reduction
- Higher conviction rate
- Close of dark web trading platforms



International Cyber Regulation and Cooperation

Cybergeddon Cybertopia Kaspersky Extends Cooperation with INTERPOL in Joint Fight Against Cybercrime International Cooperation in Cybercrime: The Budapest Convention **UK and Singapore Regulators Announce Enhanced Cybersecurity Collaboration** India, France pitch effective mechanism to combat terror in cyber space German police shut down one of world's biggest dark web sites UNIVERSITY OF Centre for CAMBRIDGE **Risk Studies**

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Complexities of the Costs and Benefits of Holding Data:

- Data is constantly being collected, analyzed, and stored. This data can inform trading patterns, customer purchase trends, the impact of news and monetary decisions.
- As personal data becomes more essential to business practices, its price to consumers, companies and criminals increases.
- Protection standards and fines for misconduct when done correctly can allow for trust in the security of data, but when these standards and fines begin to negatively impact the bottom line of companies, shortcuts are likely to be taken and security mistrusted.
- Migration of computing and storage to the cloud means security failures are likely to be rare, but catastrophic when they occur with the potential for hundreds of thousands of companies to be impacted by a single breach







Cybergeddon

Cybertopia

- The costs for maintain and safeguarding data become too high to make big data analytics profitable
- Clients withdraw their permissions for big companies to use their data
- Fines for data loss prevent companies from collecting data
- Third-party data stores are not trusted





Cybergeddon Cybertopia • Low costs for high quality products allow for data to be safely secured • Big data analytics allow for smarter and more efficient work practices • Data regulations keep companies from misusing externe date which instille sector burst and more efficient work practices

customer data which instills greater trust and allows for greater data transfer





Complexities of the Logistical Burden of Cyber Crime:

- The logistical burden of a cyber attack considers the amount of effort and capital it will take to receive a reward. Protection of a network does not necessarily have to be perfect but it has to require more effort than attackers are willing to give.
- Commoditized malware reduces skill and cost needed for development
 - Malware as a service, ransomware as a service
- Resources, capabilities and tools available to nation state hackers would result in much more severe and extensive attacks
- Many more well-educated hackers become active, as an alternative to increasing graduate youth unemployment
- The past year has seen one of the lowest conviction rates for cyber criminals in recent years despite record levels of cyber crime











Cybergeddon

Cybertopia

- Unchecked growth of IoT leaders to billions of vulnerabilities
- Opacity of victims prevents sharing of dangerous vulnerabilities
- Increased in rate of production of software prevents the development of necessary safety measures and patch rollouts
- Little to no law enforcement to deter cyber criminals
- Increase in payments of ransomware
- Industrialization of Malware





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Cybergeddon

Cybertopia

- Software providers take responsibility and liability of software provided which increases security
- Patches are rolled out quickly and automatically which lowers the time cyber criminals have to take advantage of a vulnerability
- Transparency of victims allows for better prevention across industries
- High paying jobs for security professionals to defined
- High levels of law enforcement and conviction rate to deter crimes



Cybertopia Cybergeddon Three-Tiered Security for the Internet of Things **Govt invests \$8m into refreshed Cyber Security Strategy** World Economic Forum urges investors to prioritise cybersecurity



The cyber risk landscape is constantly changing, but key variables such as international cooperation, the costs and benefits of holding data and the logistical burden of cyber crime can help us to understand if we are headed for a cybertopia or cybergeddon.

There is a constant ebb and flow to where we fall on the spectrum but the these topics are **variable**. We have a say in what future of Cyber Risk will play out.



Source: BUSINESSTECH



Model of future society. Egor Orlov



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