

## **Internet study of familiarity with cyber threats and fear of cybercrime**

**Gorazd Meško, Ph.D.**, Full Professor of Criminology and Dean of the Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security, University of Maribor, Kotnikova 8, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia.

**Igor Bernik**, Assistant Professor, Chair for the Information Security, Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security, University of Maribor, Kotnikova 8, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia.

The paper considers Slovene familiarity with cyber threats and cybercrime from the viewpoint of users' perception, awareness and their fear of crime. Wide access to and use of information and communication technologies and interactions of users by means of these technologies have opened the door to cyberspace, which has been misused by many for the commission of crimes. The increase of users has resulted in a growth of abuses but users are unfortunately rarely aware of dangers, on the one hand and, on the other, of possibilities of countering these threats effectively. The results of an internet survey carried out in March 2011 provide an insight into the perception of cybercrime and understanding of the fear of cybercrime. The findings of the survey, based on statistical analysis, show how respondents perceive cybercrime.

It was established that respondents are relatively familiar with the notion of cybercrime but are more aware of threats highlighted by the media. In this connection, it must not be overlooked that these threats, which are widely known, do not necessarily represent a threat to the safety of users, although they nevertheless increase their fear of cybercrime. The paper provides principal guidelines, formulated on the basis of knowledge and research results, which, if taken into consideration, could curb risks in cyberspace. These guidelines provide a starting point for a larger awareness of dangers, as well as a source of instructions for the safer use of cyberspace. It is likely that better understanding of threats and greater knowledge of measures against them could reduce the fear of cybercrime. These findings have practical implications and are useful for the study of cybercrime, as well as for cyberspace users.

**Key words:** cybercrime, perception, awareness, fear of crime, information security, Slovenia

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