The Role of User Behaviour in Improving Cyber Security Management

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Information security has for long time been a field of study in computer science, software engineering, and information communications technology. The term ‘information security’ has recently been replaced with the more generic term cybersecurity. The goal of this paper is to show that, in addition to computer science studies, behavioural sciences focused on user behaviour can provide key techniques to help increase cyber security and mitigate the impact of attackers’ social engineering and cognitive hacking methods (i.e., spreading false information). Accordingly, in this paper, we identify current research on psychological traits and individual differences among computer system users that explain vulnerabilities to cyber security attacks and crimes. Our review shows that computer system users possess different cognitive capabilities which determine their ability to counter information security threats. We identify gaps in the existing research and provide possible psychological methods to help computer system users comply with security policies and thus increase network and information security.

Keywords: cyber security, social engineering, information security, phishing, cognitive hacking

INTRODUCTION

According to National Initiative for Cybersecurity Careers and Studies, cybersecurity is defined as 'the activity or process, ability, or capability or state whereby information and communications systems and the information contained therein are protected from and/or defended against damage, unauthorised use or modification, or exploitation.' Cyber and network systems involve at least four components: computer system users, security system analysts, cyber attackers, and computer systems. Cyber attackers can also manipulate the minds of computer system users, rather than a computer system itself, by, for example, using social engineering (e.g., tricking of computer system users to gain information, such as passwords) and cognitive hacking (e.g., spreading of misinformation) to break into a network or computer system (Cybenko et al., 2002; Thompson, 2004; McAlaney et al., 2015; King et al., 2018; Fraunholz et al., 2019). According to
Bowen et al. (2014), social engineering attacks account for 28% of total cyber security attacks and 24% of these attacks occurred due to phishing. According to CyberEdge Reports, more than 70% of social engineering attacks have been successful in the last few years. In the 2018 and 2019 reports by Telstra, human errors are the greatest threat in cybersecurity. The reports claim that phishing (and spear-phishing) attacks were the most common attacks and they utilised partial social engineering and fraud to scam victims into installing malware or illegitimate websites to acquire their credentials. In these types of attacks, victims are often sent emails or text messages that appear, for example, to be for a software upgrade, legitimate correspondence from a third party supplier, information on a current storm or crisis, or notifications from a bank or a social networking site. In addition to falling victim to phishing attacks, computer system users also conduct other cyber security errors, such as sharing passwords with friends and family and also not installing software updates.

It is important to note that there are individual differences among computer system users in terms of complying with security behaviours. Several studies found that individual differences in procrastination, impulsivity, future thinking, and risk taking behaviours can explain differences in complying with security policies. Importantly, given the existing human errors that can impact network security, we will discuss the use of psychological methods to improve compliance with security policies. Such psychological methods include using novel polymorphic security warnings, rewarding and penalizing good and bad cyber behaviour, and increasing thinking about future consequence of actions.

This paper is structured as follows. First, we discuss studies and measures related to complying with security policies. Second, we discuss kinds of cyber security errors done by many computer system users, including falling victim to phishing, sharing passwords, and not installing software updates and. Third, we discuss individual differences underlying cyber security behaviours in computer system users, including procrastination, impulsivity, future thinking, and risk taking behaviours. We conclude by suggesting psychological methods that could be used to move user behaviour toward secure practices.

**COMPLYING WITH SECURITY POLICIES**

Complying with security policies is one key behaviour to protect computer and network systems. There have been few studies on the psychology of compliance with security policies (Chan et al., 2005; Lee and Kozar, 2005; Hazari et al., 2009; Anderson and Agarwal, 2010; Maurushat, 2010; Guo et al., 2011). A lack of complying with security policies can significantly undermine information security (Greenwald et al., 2004; Mishra and Dhillon, 2006; West, 2008). For example, several studies have shown that computer system users often ignore security warnings (Schechter et al., 2007; Akhawe and Felt, 2013; Bravo-Lillo et al., 2013; Brase et al., 2017).

To measure such humans’ security behaviours, Egelman and Peer (2015) developed the Security Behaviour Intentions scale. The scale measures attitudes toward choosing passwords, device security, regularly updating software, and general awareness about security attacks. The scale has 16 questions, such as (a) I use a password/passcode to unlock my laptop or tablet, (b) When I’m prompted about a software update, I install it right away, (c) I manually lock my computer screen when I step away from it, and (d) If I discover a security problem, I continue what I was doing because I assume someone else will fix it. The scale itself represents very basic aspects of security protection and mitigation techniques. As we discuss below, several studies have used this scale to measure types of security errors done by computer system users.

Non-compliance with a security policy can go beyond mere ignoring warnings, choosing poor passwords or failing to adopt recommended security measures. In a recent study, Maaßberg et al. (2020) found that the dark triad traits (machiavellianism, narcissism and psychopathy, machiavellianism, narcissism and psychopathy, Paulhus and Williams, 2002) correlate with malicious behaviour intentions such as insider threats. Harrison et al. (2018) recently reported that the dark triad can explain unethical behaviour such as committing cyber fraud. The concept of Dark Triad and Big Five Methods will be explored and critiqued further in the following section.

**HUMAN CYBER SECURITY ERRORS**

In this section, we describe the kinds of cyber security errors conducted by many computer system users. Several reports have shown that humans are considered the greatest vulnerability to security (Schneier, 2004; Furnell and Clarke, 2012), which has been also confirmed by recent reports. One report estimated that 95% of cyber and network attacks are due to human errors (Nobles, 2018). In our context, humans are either computer system users or security analysts (King et al., 2018; Andrade and Yoo, 2019), though most research on this area focuses on errors done by computer system users. According to Ifinedo (2014), company employees are the weakest link in ensuring system security (for discussion and analysis, also see Sasse et al., 2004; Vroom and von Solms, 2004; Stanton et al., 2005; Guo et al., 2011).

Some human errors related to cyber and network security include, but not limited to, sharing passwords, oversharing information on social media, accessing suspicious websites, using unauthorised external media, indiscriminate clicking on links, reusing the same passwords in multiple places, opening an attachment from an untrusted source, sending sensitive information via mobile networks, not physically securing personal electronic devices, and not updating software (Boyce et al., 2011; Calic et al., 2016). Along these lines, one main issue underlying information and cyber security is the dilemma of increasing availability and ease to access a network or data but, at the same time, maintain security (Veksler et al., 2018). To increase security, organisations often require computer system users to have complex passwords, which makes usability quite difficult. Computer system users, however, tend to take the path of least resistance, such as using a weak password and
using the same password for several websites. Below, we discuss prior studies on three kinds of human security errors: falling victim to phishing, sharing passwords with others, and installing software updates.

**Falling victim to phishing:** Some phishing studies have used a laboratory-based phishing experiment (Jakobsson and Ratkiewicz, 2006; Jagatic et al., 2007). The use of laboratory-based phishing experiment has been shown in a recent study to relate to real-life phishing (Hakim et al., 2020). One study found that over 30% of government employees click on a suspicious link in this phishing email, and many of these have provided their passwords (Baillon et al., 2019). In another study using a similar phishing experiment, around 60% of university students clicked on suspicious link in a phishing email (Diaz et al., 2018). Accordingly, several studies suggest that human factors, behavioural studies, and psychological research must be considered in cyber and network security studies (Hamill and Deckro, 2005; Jones and Colwill, 2008). In another study, Bowen et al. (2014) studied how Columbia University students and academic staff respond to phishing emails, and found that it took people around 4 rounds to discover they are receiving phishing emails.

One recent study also found that a successful phishing attack is related to the Dark Triad traits of the computer users, including machiavellianism, narcissism, and psychopathy (Curtis et al., 2018). In this study, it was found that high scores in narcissism is related to a higher tendency to fall victim to phishing attempts. Along these lines, it was found that neuroticism is related to falling victim to phishing attacks (Halevi et al., 2013). In another study by Gonzalez and colleagues (Rajivan and Gonzalez, 2018), it was found that the use of some cyberattack strategies, such as sending excessive amount of notification and expressing shared interest, were more related to successful phishing.

One study found that even warning people about phishing does not change their response to phishing emails (MohebZada et al., 2012). Using the Human Aspects of Information Security Questionnaire (HAIS-Q) (Calic et al., 2016; Parsons et al., 2017), it was found that individuals who scored high on the HAIS-Q performed better on a laboratory-based phishing experiment, in which a randomly selected sample of participants (from a firm, university, school, or so) are unknowingly sent a phishing email that urges them to share their password. Herath and Rao (2009) found that computer system users generally underestimate the probability of security breaches and cybercrimes happening to them.

**Sharing passwords:** Sharing passwords with friends and family, and even strangers is a prevalent example of human cyber security errors. According to Whitty et al. (2015), older adults who score high on perseverence and self-monitoring are more likely to share passwords. Sharing passwords may lead to financial exploitation of older adults, which is among the most common forms of abuse (Bailey et al., 2015). This is the case as many older adults are very trusting of others and strangers, especially on the internet. Like older adults, younger adults also share passwords, especially ones for streaming systems. Younger users (who had grown up with computers) perceived security as an obstacle they had to work around (Smith, 2003). Sharing passwords is generally problematic as most people often use the same passwords for several websites, and thus by sharing a password, others can access their other secure information. One problem with using the same password in many systems is that cybercriminals, once find these passwords in one system, can use these passwords in many other websites.

**Installing software updates:** One common error underlying cybersecurity behaviours is a delay in or even not at all installing software updates (Rajivan et al., 2020). Using an experimental behavioural decision making study, Rajivan et al. (2020) found that risk-taking behaviours can partly explain some individuals behaviours regarding installing software updates, such that individuals who are more risk taking tend to delay the installation of software updates. Unlike sharing passwords and phishing, the area of installing software updates has not received much attention in the field.

**INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES UNDERLYING CYBER SECURITY BEHAVIOURS**

Individual differences in personality, cognitive and behavioural traits are related to cyber security behaviours. Dawson and Thomson (2018) argue that individual differences in cognitive abilities and personality traits can play a key role in success to secure computer and information systems. Below, we discuss some of these psychological traits.

**Procrastination:** Complying with security policies is possibly related to cognitive processes, such as working hard to achieve certain goals. One scale, known as “the need for cognition” scale measures working hard, enjoying and participating in activities that require efforts and thinking (Lin et al., 2016). Along these lines, Egelman and Peer (2015) found that performance in the Security Behaviour Intentions Scale is related to the Need for Cognition (NFC), which refers to inclination to exerting cognitive efforts (Cacioppo et al., 1984). Interestingly, a new study has developed a scale to measure procrastination in children and adolescents, which is suitable for the increasing number of young internet users (Keller et al., 2019). Along these lines, Shropshire et al. (2006) reported a link between the intent to comply with information security protocols and conscientiousness (i.e., doing work thoroughly and accurately) (McBride et al., 2012). Further, using the General Decision-Making Style (GDMS) scale (Scott and Bruce, 1995), Egelman and Peer (2015) found that performance in the Security Behaviour Intentions Scale is related to procrastination, such that, individuals who procrastinate were less likely to follow security policies. This is plausible as procrastination is negatively correlated with active participation in activities (Sarmany-Schuller, 1999).

**Impulsivity:** Complying with security policies may be also related to individual differences in impulsive behaviours. Egelman and Peer (2015) found that performance in the Security Behaviour Intentions Scale is related to Barratt Impulsiveness Scale scores (Patton et al., 1995). Another study found that internet addiction and impulsivity predicts risky cyber behaviours (Hadlington, 2017). Along these lines, Hu et al. (2015)
found that individual differences in self and cognitive control (a key feature of impulsive behaviours) is related to violation of information security policies. Wiederhold (2014) also found that people fall victim to cybersecurity attacks in the pursuit of immediate gratification. One key feature related to impulsivity is thinking about future consequences of one's actions (e.g., saving money now to buy a house in the future vs. spending all money now to enjoy life).

**Future thinking:** Importantly, complying with security policies may also be related to thinking about the future as well as impact of present actions on future consequences (A. A. Moustafa et al., 2018a; Moustafa et al., 2018b). In other words, individuals who think more about the future may abide by security rules to make sure their computer system is safe in the future. Along these lines, Egelman and Peer (2015) found that performance in the Security Behaviour Intentions Scale is related to Consideration for Future Consequences (CFC) (Joireman et al., 2012). This scale includes items that are very relevant to cybersecurity behaviours, such as ‘I consider how things might be in the future, and try to influence those things with my day to day behaviour’, ‘I think it is important to take warnings about negative outcomes seriously even if the negative outcome will not occur for many years’, and ‘When I make a decision, and I think about how it might affect me in the future’.

**Risk taking behaviours:** Another personality trait related to cyber security is risk taking behaviours. Some studies have found that computer system users who are high in risk taking may be more likely to fall victims to cybercrimes (Henshel et al., 2015; King et al., 2018). Risk is defined as engaging in a behaviour with an uncertain outcome, usually for the benefit of gaining more (Saleme et al., 2018). For example, robbing a bank is risky, as one may get caught. A lack of complying with security policies is risky as the benefit is not doing any additional work, such as software update (which is rewarding), but the risk is falling victim to cybercrimes and phishing. Another example is finding out that there has been a data breach where your personal information such as your username and password has been compromised, but then not doing anything to change your password. The dilemma computer system users face is doing additional work to secure their network or computer systems (too much work but more safe) or not (less work but less safe). Importantly, Egelman and Peer (2015) found that performance in the Security Behaviour Intentions Scale is related to performance in the Domain-Specific Risk-Taking Scale, which has items on general risk taking behaviours in everyday life (Blais and Weber, 2006; Saleme et al., 2018; Saleme and Moustafa, 2020). In several studies, by using the Risky Cybersecurity Behaviours Scale, Security Behaviours Intentions Scale (SeBIS), and Attitudes toward cybersecurity and cybercrime in business (ATC-IB), Hadlington and colleagues (Hadlington, 2017; Hadlington and Murphy, 2018) found that heavy media multitasking is associated with risky cybersecurity behaviours and increased cognitive errors.

Optimism bias is related to risk-based decision making. There have been few psychology studies on optimism bias in humans (West, 2008; Sharot, 2011; Moutsiana et al., 2013; Garrett and Sharot, 2017). Generally, people assume that the best will happen to them, and they do not think they are at risk (West, 2008), that is, humans tend to be more optimistic and discount the likelihood of negative events happening to them. For example, people generally do not assume they will have cancer disease, and often discount the likelihood of it happening. This is relevant to research on the psychology of cyber and network security as computer system users may tend to discount the impact of cyber-attacks or crimes happening to them. For example, one study found that people fall victim to cybersecurity attacks due to optimism bias (Wiederhold, 2014). Importantly, future work should investigate individual differences in optimism bias and its relationship to risky cybersecurity behaviours.

Other areas of study that have examined individual differences in cybersecurity are considered under the framework of the Dark Triad and the Big Five Model. The majority of these studies are in the field of cyber bullying which falls outside of the scope of this paper, but other studies have been incorporated into sections of this paper (West, 2008; Goodboy and Martin, 2015; Jacobs et al., 2015; Alonso and Romero, 2017; Rodriguez-Enriquez et al., 2019; Curtis et al., 2021). The Big Five Scale has also been used in cybersecurity and psychology studies. The Big Five Scales refers to Agreeableness, Neuroticism, Openness, Conscientious and Extraversion. We have found, however, that the literature refers to only Neuroticism, Openness and Extraversion. Instead of examining the individual differences of the limited approach of the dark triad and the Big Five Scales we have instead pulled out the multi-dimensional aspects involved with the triad. For example, impulsivity is one component that expands across the different indexes of measurement. The other factors are grouped in Table 1.

In sum, in this section, we reviewed prior studies showing that personality traits and individual differences in procrastination, impulsivity, and risk-taking behaviours, are related to cyber security behaviours.

**IMPROVING SECURITY BEHAVIOURS USING PSYCHOLOGICAL METHODS**

As discussed above, cyber attackers often use social engineering and cognitive hacking methods to break into a network or computer systems (Cybenko et al., 2002; Thompson, 2004; McAlaney et al., 2015; King et al., 2018; Fraunholz et al., 2019). Some computer system users may have some personality traits that make them likely to fall victims to phishing. Accordingly, it is important to equip vulnerable computer system users (i.e., those who may not comply with security policies) with capabilities to mitigate these effects. In this section, we discuss several psychological methods to increase compliance with security policies.

**Using novel polymorphic security warnings:** According to Anderson et al. (2015), most people ignore security warnings on the internet due to habituation. In the field of psychology, habituation refers to a decreased response to repeated exposure to the same stimulus over time (Rankin et al., 2009). That is, we do not pay attention to objects that we repeatedly see. West (2008) also argued that most warning messages are similar to other message dialogs. Accordingly, computer system users
Using unique and novel security messages is important, as they increase alertness and attention in computer system users. Various studies have found that polymorphic security warnings over time will help increase attention to such security warnings. For example, Anderson et al. (2015) found that the use of polymorphic warnings did not lead to habituation, that is, computer system users can still pay attention and respond to these security warnings. Similar findings were also found by Brustoloni and Villamarín-Salomón (2007). Responding to novel and anomalous activities often ignore them, as our brain is not likely to show novelty and attentional allocation response to such security warnings (Moustafa et al., 2009).

According to Wogalter (2006), the use of different polymorphic security warnings over time will help increase attention to these warnings. Along these lines, Anderson et al. (2015) found that the use of polymorphic warnings did not lead to habituation, that is, computer system users can still pay attention and respond to these security warnings. Similar findings were also found by Brustoloni and Villamarín-Salomón (2007). Responding to novel and anomalous activities are aspects of situational awareness, and key for detecting phishing attempts in a cyber or network systems (D’Amico et al., 2005; Barford, 2010; Dutt et al., 2013; Knott et al., 2013; Tyworth et al., 2013; Mancuso et al., 2014; Aggarwal et al., 2018; Veksler et al., 2018). Software engineers should develop attention-capturing security warnings and not standard message dialogs, and these also should change over time in order to increase alertness and attention in computer system users. Using unique and novel security messages is important, as research have reported that these messages can increase brain activation and attentional processes (Moustafa et al., 2009, 2010).

In addition, other studies have compared security warning design differences between Firefox, Google and Internet Explorer browsers (Akhave and Felt, 2013). Akhave and Felt found that browser security warnings can be effective security mechanisms although there were a number of important variables that contribute to click through rates after warnings including warning type, number of clicks, warning appearance, certificate pinning and time spent on warnings.

**Rewarding and penalizing good and bad cyber behaviour:**
In everyday life, we learn from negative (e.g., loss, penalties, etc.) or positive (e.g., reward) outcomes. Humans are often motivated to do certain actions to receive reward and avoid negative outcomes (Frank et al., 2007; Moustafa et al., 2008, 2013, 2015, 2017; Bodi et al., 2009; Piray et al., 2014; Myers et al., 2016). However, in the case of cyber security behaviours, the reward is that nothing bad will happen; that is, the user’s computer system will not be attacked if they comply with security policies. In other words, complying with cyber security behaviours is an example of negative reinforcement in which actions (i.e., complying with cyber security policies) prevent the occurrence of a negative outcome (Sidman, 2006; May et al., 2020).

Based on these findings, the use of more concrete rewards and losses may increase compliance with security policies. For example, companies should enforce fines (kind of punishment learning) on employees who do not adhere to security policies and reward ones who do. Maqbool et al. (2020) argued that penalizing individuals should increase security behaviours. Along these lines, Baillon et al. (2019) used a phishing experiment (in which participants click on a link which then ask them to provide their passwords) to study how simulated experience with prior phishing can impact future behaviour. They found that experiencing simulated phishing (i.e., a negative outcome) increases compliance with security policies in the computer system users. It has been found that providing information about the prevalence of phishing (i.e., negative outcome can occur to people) can decrease clicking on suspicious links in phishing emails (Baillon et al., 2019). Accordingly, computer system users should be provided with simulated experience of negative outcomes that may occur due to their erroneous cyber security policies. Further, future studies should explore whether rewarding compliance with security policies will increase future pro security behaviours (Regier and Redish, 2015).

Along these lines, according to Tversky and Kahneman (1986), most people prefer a certain small reward over uncertain big reward, but people prefer uncertain loss than a certain loss (for discussion, also see for discussion, also see Herzallah et al., 2013). In other words, people generally prefer to gamble on losses. This is evident in security behaviours. Given that the reward related to security behaviours is not direct (i.e., nothing bad will happen), using a strong reward should increase adherence to security behaviours. Future research should also investigate the relationship between individual differences in response

| Individual trait       | Test/theory                              | Instrument                                      |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Procrastination        | Big Five:                                 | Hunter and Schmidt Meta-Analysis Procedure      |
|                        | Neuroticism                               | Academic Procrastination Scale                  |
|                        | Dark Triad:                               | Adult Inventory of Procrastination              |
|                        | Machiavellianism and Psychopathy          | Attenken Procrastination Inventory              |
|                        |                                          | General Procrastination Scale                   |
|                        |                                          | Procrastination Assessment                      |
|                        |                                          | Scale—Students                                  |
|                        |                                          | Procrastination Log—Behaviour                   |
|                        |                                          | Procrastination Self-Statement Inventory        |
|                        |                                          | Test Procrastination Questionnaire              |
| Impulsiveness          | Dark Triad:                               | Hadlington’s Examination                       |
|                        | Psychopathy                              | Abbreviated Impulsiveness Scale                 |
|                        | Narcissism                               | Barratt’s Impulsiveness Scale                  |
|                        | Big 5 Scales:                            | Security Behaviours Intentions Scale (SeBiS)   |
|                        | Openness                                 | Ecological Momentary Assessment                |
|                        | Extraversion                             | Dysfunctional Impulsivity subscale of the Dickman |
|                        |                                          | Impulsivity Inventory                           |
| Future thinking        |                                          | Internet Addiction Test                         |
|                        |                                          | Wistful Thinking Scale                          |
|                        |                                          | Automatic Thoughts Questionnaire                |
|                        |                                          | Entrepreneurial Self-Efficacy (ESE) scale       |
|                        |                                          | Cyber Bullying Attitude Scale                   |
|                        |                                          | Cybersecurity Attitudes Scale                   |
| Risk taking            |                                          | Security Behaviour Intentions Scale             |
|                        |                                          | Domain Specific Risk Taking Scale               |
|                        |                                          | Risky Cybersecurity Behaviours Scale            |

| Individual trait       | Test/theory                              | Instrument                                      |
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| Procrastination        | Big Five:                                 | Hunter and Schmidt Meta-Analysis Procedure      |
|                        | Neuroticism                               | Academic Procrastination Scale                  |
|                        | Dark Triad:                               | Adult Inventory of Procrastination              |
|                        | Machiavellianism and Psychopathy          | Attenken Procrastination Inventory              |
|                        |                                          | General Procrastination Scale                   |
|                        |                                          | Procrastination Assessment                      |
|                        |                                          | Scale—Students                                  |
|                        |                                          | Procrastination Log—Behaviour                   |
|                        |                                          | Procrastination Self-Statement Inventory        |
|                        |                                          | Test Procrastination Questionnaire              |
| Impulsiveness          | Dark Triad:                               | Hadlington’s Examination                       |
|                        | Psychopathy                              | Abbreviated Impulsiveness Scale                 |
|                        | Narcissism                               | Barratt’s Impulsiveness Scale                  |
|                        | Big 5 Scales:                            | Security Behaviours Intentions Scale (SeBiS)   |
|                        | Openness                                 | Ecological Momentary Assessment                |
|                        | Extraversion                             | Dysfunctional Impulsivity subscale of the Dickman |
| Future thinking        |                                          | Internet Addiction Test                         |
|                        |                                          | Wistful Thinking Scale                          |
|                        |                                          | Automatic Thoughts Questionnaire                |
|                        |                                          | Entrepreneurial Self-Efficacy (ESE) scale       |
|                        |                                          | Cyber Bullying Attitude Scale                   |
|                        |                                          | Cybersecurity Attitudes Scale                   |
| Risk taking            |                                          | Security Behaviour Intentions Scale             |
|                        |                                          | Domain Specific Risk Taking Scale               |
|                        |                                          | Risky Cybersecurity Behaviours Scale            |
to rewarding and penalizing outcomes and compliance with security behaviours.

**Increasing thinking about future consequence of actions:**
As mentioned above, some of the key features about lack of complying with cyber security policies is not thinking much about future consequences. It has been found that thinking about future consequences is related to reflective decision making and planning (Eskritt et al., 2014) and can decrease impulsive behaviours, which is related to risky behaviours on the web as we discussed above (Bromberg et al., 2015, 2017). Accordingly, using psychological methods to increase thinking about future consequences of actions can help increase reflective decision making, and thus improve cyber security behaviours (Altintas et al., 2020).

**CONCLUSION AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

Our review shows that some personality traits, such as impulsivity, risk taking, and lack of thinking about future consequences of actions, are related to a lack of compliance with cyber and network security policies. Future research should focus on developing a battery of tests to integrate personality traits and cognitive processes related to cyber and network security behaviours in one framework. This battery of tests should include cognitive processes discussed above, including impulsivity, risk taking, and thinking about future consequences of actions. Furthermore, here, we show that some psychological methods can increase pro-security behaviours, such as rewarding and penalizing security-related behaviours, using novel polymorphic security warnings, and using psychological methods to increase thinking about future consequences of actions. In addition, there are cognitive training methods, including working memory training, that help reduce impulsivity, risk taking and procrastination in the general population (Rosenbaum et al., 2017; Peckham and Johnson, 2018). Such cognitive training methods can be used to ameliorate these behavioural traits and help improve cybersecurity behaviours.

As discussed above, there are different kinds of human errors that can undermine computer and security systems, including sharing passwords, oversharing information on social media, accessing suspicious websites, using unauthorised external media, indiscriminate clicking on links, reusing the same passwords in multiple places, using weak passwords, opening an attachment from an untrusted source, sending sensitive information via mobile networks, not physically securing personal electronic devices, and not updating software. However, most of the research conducted on human errors has been on phishing emails and sharing passwords. Future research should also investigate individual differences and contextual information (e.g., mood status, urgency at work, or multitasking) underlying other kinds of cyber security errors, such as using same or weak passwords in several websites, not connecting with virtual private networks and not encrypting data.

There are computational cognitive models applied to cybersecurity (for a review, see Veksler et al., 2018; Veksler et al., 2020). Veksler et al. (2020) argue that such cognitive models can be used to detect social engineering attacks. The model was applied to phone conversation data, which include logs of phone calls. Each log includes date, time, where the call originated and terminated, and details of the conversation (Hoeschele, 2006). The model was used to analyse the text and detect any intrusions or social engineering attempts. Furthermore, Maqbool et al. (2020) used cognitive modeling and found that an excessive reliance on recency and frequency are related to cyber-attacks. However, future work should use computational models to better understand the relationship between cognitive processes and cybersecurity behaviours.

**AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

All authors listed have made a substantial, direct and intellectual contribution to the work, and approved it for publication.

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Conflict of Interest: The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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