Impacts of Generational Work Experience on Users’ Perceptions of Information Security

Emergent Research Forum (ERF)

Jeff Cummings
University of North Carolina Wilmington
cummingsj@uncw.edu

David Gomillion
Texas A&M University
david@gomillion.org

Amy J. Connolly
James Madison University
ajconnol@gmail.com

Abstract

Information security (InfoSec) is more important than ever. Organizations work hard to keep information secure and private from intrusion. While technology can help secure networks (i.e., via firewalls, IDS, etc.), the organization’s users more often cause security breaches than external actors. As the lines between work and personal devices blur together, we need to know how individuals approach the security of their personal devices – the very places where work occurs. This research explores individual perceptions of security in people’s daily, online activities. Specifically, we examine generational differences between those people about to enter the workforce (millennials) and older generations who are currently working. Findings show interesting differences in online activity between the groups, such as increased online purchases and bill paying for those currently in the workforce compared to millennials which impacts their perceptions of online security. Implications for securing organizational information resources are discussed.

Keywords

Information security mechanisms, online activities, generational differences, mTurk.