Exploring the Influence of Behavioral and Organizational Dynamics on Organizational Cybersecurity Efforts

Abstract

The United States has lost billions of dollars-worth of intellectual property (IP) to other countries through corporate espionage. A seven-month investigation by the IP commission into China's theft of US intellectual property estimates losses to American businesses of between $225 billion and $600 billion annually. Intellectual property theft is primarily perpetrated through malicious insiders, intrusion into corporate networks by hacking, and forced technology transfers. National Security is also at risk to insider threats, as was demonstrated by the data breaches attributed to Edward Snowden and Bradley Manning. Since insider data theft continues to be a dominant factor in organizational security breaches, identifying ways to prevent insider data theft is critical to protecting the intellectual property of our nation. Dr. Johnston’s presentation will report on a number of research projects that address this on-going concern, applying behavioral theories to the study of malicious insider behavior and preventative strategies.