



ISM SEMINAR

Spring Term 2015-16

Speaker: Professor Kai-Lung Hui, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Title: See No Evil, Hear No Evil? Dissecting the Impact of Online Hacker Forums

Date: Wednesday 27 January 2016

Venue: M2, WBS Teaching Centre

Time: 14:00

Abstract: Using a field data set culled from multiple sources, we study the impact of online hacker forum discussion on the extent of DDoS attack. We find evidence that hacking discussion reduces the number of DDoS attack victims. This effect is more pronounced among protection oriented posts, but follow-up discussion of censored posts increases the number of victims. We also find indicative evidence that the orientation of contributing authors may help explain the reduction in DDoS attack victims. Our results are robust to a series of robustness and falsification tests, including the use of additional hacker forums from other countries and with different languages. We conclude the sharing of hacking knowledge may not be bad for the society. We draw related managerial implications, particularly on the continuing debate of whether to censor harmful online materials.

Biography: Kai-Lung Hui is a professor in the Department of Information Systems, Business Statistics, and Operations Management at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. His research interests include information privacy and security, information technology policies, and electronic commerce. His research has been published in Management Science, Information Systems Research, MIS Quarterly, and Journal of MIS, among others. He has served on the editorial boards of various journals and conferences, and is currently a senior editor of Information Systems Research.

Dr. Hui has provided consulting services to various government and non-government organizations, including the Intellectual Property Department of the Hong Kong SAR Government, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and the Ministry of Law of Singapore. He has taught courses in business strategy, privacy and security management, and technology management, among others. He obtained his BBA and PhD degrees from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

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