

Presentation title:

Automated online messages as a crime prevention tool

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This presentation makes the case for the use of online warning messages as a cybercrime prevention tool. Cybercrime is complex and dynamic – new opportunities for offending emerge with technological advances, or during periods of social upheaval as we have witnessed in the Covid era. It is argued that the extent of the cybercrime problem we now face cannot be tackled through traditional law enforcement tactics alone; we must explore prevention approaches aimed at reducing the incidence of cybercrime. Internet warning messages are worth considering as one technique – ideally among many others – that could help make the Internet a safer environment for users and work to alleviate pressure on the conventional detect-arrest-prosecute-imprison model. The results from a series online ‘honeypot’ experiments are presented that tested the effectiveness on automated online messages in deterring Internet users from visiting websites purporting to contain sexually deviant material.