

Gaining in-depth understandings of cyberscams

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Online fraud, also referred to as cyber scams, is increasingly becoming a cybersecurity



problem that technical cybersecurity specialists are unable to effectively detect. Given the difficulty in the automatic detection of scams, the onus is often pushed back to humans to detect. Whilst these interventions hold some promise, they often fail due to ignoring human behaviours and predictors

of vulnerability. Arguably, cybersecurity scholars need to learn much more about the methods criminals employ to trick victims out of money. This knowledge may, in turn, inform more effective campaigns and novel methods to prevent cyberscam victimisation.

Objectives: The main objective of this project is to gain deeper understandings of the scam journey and the manipulation tricks employed by the scammers.

What will you do?: You will choose a scam to focus on (e.g., investment scam, impersonation scam, consumer scam, phish) and

- Examine the steps involved in the scam (e.g, where the victim encountered the scam, how the criminal initiated contact, which online platforms were involved, the scam narrative and introduction of characters into the scam).
- Examine the manipulation techniques used by the criminal - guided by scholarly theories.

What's in it for you?: You will be mentored and part of a network of scholars and an industry partner. You will have the opportunity to work with a team of researchers that conduct research on cyberscams, lead by a leading scholar in the field. Prof Whitty is also on the panel of experts of IDCARE <https://www.idcare.org/> which is Australia and New Zealand's national identity & cyber support service and your work may be used to help protect Australian citizens from cyberscams. You will also have the opportunity to be involved in writing a paper that will help develop your CV.

