



IRB and Intro

Hello, we are researching online victimization and offending, and we would like to invite you to participate in our study. The following information is provided to inform you of the research project (IRB APPROVAL NUMBER HERE IF APPROVED) that will be conducted by Dr. Kati Parti, Dr. Thomas Dearden and Dr. James Hawdon.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY: The purpose of this study is to investigate the experiences people have on the internet as it relates to both their victimization and offending experiences. We are trying to better understand the attitudes, behaviors, and situations that relate to said experiences.

PROCEDURES: You are being asked to complete an online questionnaire about computer use and online behaviors. If you decide to participate, completing the survey will require about ten minutes. The survey will include questions about demographic information, trust levels, political affiliation and beliefs, personal beliefs, social learning patterns, and self control. You will not be identified in any way, and your answers will remain confidential. There will be no way anyone will find out who you are or how you answered these questions. All results of this research will be reported in aggregate form so no individuals could be identified.

CONFIDENTIALITY: Collected survey data will be made publicly available after closing the study. Again, in the dataset no identifiers will be included, so no individuals could be identified.

RISKS: This survey will ask you questions about your online experiences. The questions include online behaviors that may be illegal though this information cannot be tied to anyone and is not sensitive enough to be incriminating. We believe this research poses no more than minimal risk. This risk includes potentially negative feelings such as anxiety, guilt, or general discomfort that may come when answering questions personal questions such as those about trust, victimization, and offending behaviors online. Typically, online surveys collect general information about the computer you are taking the survey on including IP Address. This feature has specifically been turned off to ensure anonymity in the survey.

BENEFITS: There is a societal benefit of increasing the understanding online behaviors, what relates to victimization and offending, and how beliefs and behaviors influence these situations.

COMPENSATION: There is no compensation for participation in this project other than that possibly provided by Survey Sample International (SSI).

FREEDOM TO WITHDRAW: By agreeing to participate in the study, you do not waive any rights that you may have regarding access to and disclosure of your records. Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. If you choose to participate, your responses will be held in confidence. You are free to withdraw at any time without penalty. In addition, you also understand that you may skip any question that you do not want to answer. Finally, if the results of this study were to be written for publication, no identifying information will be used.

APPROVAL OF RESEARCH: This study has been reviewed by Virginia Tech's Institutional Review Board (IRB). The IRB has determined that this study meets the ethical obligations required by federal law and University policies. If you have questions or concerns regarding this study please contact the Investigator or Advisor. If you have any questions regarding your rights as a research subject, please contact the Virginia Tech Institutional Review Board at irb@vt.edu or (540) 231-3732.

PARTICIPANTS RESPONSIBILITY: You are responsible for answering the questions you choose to answer. If you have any questions or concerns about this research, please contact Dr. James Hawdon at 540-231-7476. You can also contact Dr. Hawdon at hawdonj@vt.edu or by mail at Center for Peace Studies and Violence Prevention, Virginia Tech, 205a Norris Hall, 495 Old Turner St. Blacksburg, VA 24061.

PARTICIPANTS CONSENT: I have read and understood the Informed Consent Statement and conditions of this project. By highlighting "Begin Survey" below, I hereby acknowledge the above, I assert I am 18 years of age or older, and I give my voluntary consent for participation in this project.

- ☐ Begin the Survey
- ☐ No thank you. I'd rather not participate

Introduction Questions

In a typical week, how many hours do you spend. . .

	Hours
playing online video games	<input type="text"/>
reading news or other articles online	<input type="text"/>
browsing social media like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.	<input type="text"/>
on a computer while working at a job	<input type="text"/>
shopping online	<input type="text"/>
other online activities	<input type="text"/>

In the past 1 month which of the following services have you used?

- ☐ Facebook
- ☐ YouTube
- ☐ Instagram
- ☐ Twitter
- ☐ Google+
- ☐ MySpace
- ☐ Wikipedia
- ☐ Tumblr
- ☐ Pinterest
- ☐ Snapchat
- ☐ Newspaper message boards
- ☐ General message boards
- ☐ 4chan or 8chan
- ☐ Image boards other than 4chan or 8chan
- ☐ Instant messengers (e.g. Windows Live messenger)
- ☐ Online role-playing games or MMO (e.g. World of Warcraft, Runescape, etc.)
- ☐ First-person shooter games or FPS (e.g. Call of Duty, Battlefield, etc.)
- ☐ Dating services (eHarmony, Match, Kik, Tinder, etc.)
- ☐ Blogs or Forums
- ☐ Email
- ☐ Skype
- ☐ Anonymous network (e.g. Tor, Freenet, I2P, YikYak)
- ☐ Reddit
- ☐ TikTok
- ☐ WeChat
- ☐ Weibo

How many hours per week do you spend on the dark web?

How familiar would you say you are with computers?

- ☐ I am uncomfortable using a computer
- ☐ I can "surf the 'net'", use common software, but not fix my computer problems
- ☐ I can use a variety of software and fix some of my computer problems
- ☐ I can use a variety of operating systems and fix most computer problems I have
- ☐ I am comfortable manipulating or writing computer programming

I find it easier to talk about private things online when others don't know who I am.

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Demographics

How much do you trust people in general?

- ☐ A great deal
- ☐ A lot
- ☐ A moderate amount
- ☐ A little
- ☐ Not at all

What sex were you assigned at birth? (For example, on your birth certificate)

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Intersex
- ☐ No answer

What is your current gender?

- ☐ Man
- ☐ Woman
- ☐ Transgender
- ☐ A gender not listed here
- ☐ No answer

In what year were you born?

Which is the highest level of education you have achieved?

- ☐ Less than a high school diploma
- ☐ High school degree
- ☐ Some college
- ☐ A college degree
- ☐ A master's degree, professional degree or higher

What is your race? Select all that apply.

- ☐ White
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

Are you Hispanic?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

What is the total combined income of all members in your household during the past 12 months?

- ☐ Less than \$25,000
- ☐ \$25,000 - \$50,000
- ☐ \$50,001 - \$75,000
- ☐ \$75,001 - \$100,000
- ☐ \$100,001 - \$150,000
- ☐ \$150,001 - \$250,000
- ☐ \$250,001 or more
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

Thinking about politics today, do you generally consider yourself to be:

- ☐ Very conservative
- ☐ Somewhat conservative
- ☐ Moderate
- ☐ Somewhat liberal
- ☐ Very liberal
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Prefer not to answer

Are you currently:

- ☐ Living alone
- ☐ Married or living with a partner, no children in the home
- ☐ Single parent
- ☐ Married or living with a partner, children in the home
- ☐ Living with parents
- ☐ Other family type arrangement (e.g., living with roommates)
- ☐ Other arrangements (e.g. living in a care facility; living in a communal setting)

What is your main occupation? Select all that apply.

- ☐ I'm in school
- ☐ I'm in a paid, full-time job
- ☐ I'm in a paid, part-time job and not looking for full-time work
- ☐ I'm in a paid, part-time job but looking for full-time work
- ☐ I'm unemployed/ looking for a job
- ☐ I'm unemployed/ not looking for a job
- ☐ Retired

Do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of President Trump?

- ☐ Approve
- ☐ Disapprove

How likely are you to vote in the upcoming 2020 presidential election?

- ☐ Very likely
- ☐ Likely
- ☐ Unlikely
- ☐ Very unlikely

If the 2020 election were held today would you vote for:

- ☐ Donald J. Trump
- ☐ Joe Biden
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Not vote/Not sure

Measures of Offending

In the past 12 months have you. . .

Yes No

posted hurtful information about someone on the internet

☐ ☐

threatened or insulted others through email or instant messaging

☐ ☐

excluded someone from an online community

☐ ☐

hacked into an unauthorized area of the internet

☐ ☐

distributed malicious software

☐ ☐

Yes No

illegally downloaded copyrighted files or programs

☐ ☐

illegally uploaded copyrighted files or programs

☐ ☐

used someone else's personal information on the internet without their permission

☐ ☐

bought prescriptions (without a prescription) or other drugs on online pharmacies or websites

☐ ☐

posted nude photos of someone else without his/her permission

☐ ☐

Measures of Victimization & Self-Protection

In the past 12 months have you . . .

Yes No

lost money due to an email, website or other computer scam?

☐ ☐

had your identity used by someone else to start a bank account, credit card or loan?

☐ ☐

had unknown transactions in your bank/investment account, credit card, or other online payment system?

☐ ☐

received notification from a company or organization that your private information, such as name, social security, credit card or password, has been stolen or posted publicly?

☐ ☐

Yes No

experienced hurtful comments, pictures or videos about you about posted online?

☐ ☐

experienced unwanted sexual comments or advances online?

☐ ☐

had a computer virus or malware that affected how your computer operated?

☐ ☐

Did you report any of these incidents to the police?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Which incidents did you report?

- ☐ » lost money due to an email, website or other computer scam?
- ☐ » had your identity used by someone else to start a bank account, credit card or loan?
- ☐ » had unknown transactions in your bank/investment account, credit card, or other online payment system?
- ☐ » received notification from a company or organization that your private information, such as name, social security, credit card or password, has been stolen or posted publicly?
- ☐ » experienced hurtful comments, pictures or videos about you about posted online?
- ☐ » experienced unwanted sexual comments or advances online?
- ☐ » had a computer virus or malware that affected how your computer operated?

Do you use or do any of the following?

	Currently in place		Put in place because of a prior online victimization	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Cover your web camera on your computer or laptop	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use identity theft protection monitoring	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Freeze your credit when you do not plan to use it	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use virus software and/or firewalls on your computer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Elder Scam Block

In the past 12 months, did you get a phone call or an email from a company that asked you to go to your computer and send them private information about yourself and/or your family members, and/or send them money?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

What was the product or service the company/person advertised?
(select all that apply)

- ☐ Banking and investment
- ☐ Medicare / health insurance
- ☐ Prescription drugs
- ☐ Funeral / cemetery services
- ☐ Healing service
- ☐ Alternative healing services
- ☐ Anti-aging products
- ☐ Found a large sum of money and want to split it with them
- ☐ Charity
- ☐ Political campaigns
- ☐ Retirement and savings
- ☐ Mortgage
- ☐ Sweepstakes / lottery

☐

Other (please specify)

Some scammers call people pretending they are from an IT company or personnel, ask to allow remote access to the computer, and once they are given access, they lock the owner out. Then they ask for credit card details to repair the owner's computer. In the past 12 months, did you witness the above scenario?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

Some scammers call people pretending they are their grandchildren, asking for money to solve some unexpected financial problem (overdue rent, payment for car repairs, bail, etc.). At the same time, the caller begs the grandparent "please don't tell my parents." In the past 12 months, have you got a call from such a scammer?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

In the past 12 months, have you received email from a legitimate company or institution (e.g. IRS, bank, etc.) asking you to ‘update’ or ‘verify’ your personal information via email or on a website provided by the email?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

In the past 12 months, have you received a call or email according to which you would have been required to send money to someone so that at the end of the cycle (when everyone pays a certain amount of dollar) you get back a greater amount of money?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

In the past 12 months, have you been asked by someone you met on an online dating platform to send them money or other donations (e.g. plane tickets, travel expenses, etc.) or finances (e.g. pay for surgery or other medical expenses, pay custom fees to retrieve something, pay off gambling debts, pay for visa or other official travel documents, reload cards or gift cards)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

If you witnessed one or more of the above scenarios, who did you contact for help? (Check all the apply)

- ☐ The same people who called / contacted me
- ☐ IT personnel or team
- ☐ Civic organizations
- ☐ Federal Trade Commission Consumer Information
- ☐ Lawyer
- ☐ Family Member
- ☐ Senior Living Facility Administrator
- ☐ Other
- ☐ No one

If you witnessed one or more of the above scenarios, did you provide money or other monetary donations in order to fulfill the request of the persons who contacted you?

- ☐ Yes, once
- ☐ Yes, twice
- ☐ Yes, 3 or more times
- ☐ No
- ☐ I'm not sure

Theory - Self Control

How much do you agree with the following statements?

	Not true	A bit true	Very true
I get very angry often and lose my temper	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I do dangerous things for fun	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I do exciting things, even if they are dangerous	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I'm a risk taker	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I often act before I think about what I'm doing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Theory - GST

In the past 12 months, you have. . .

	Yes	No
been treated unfairly?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
received a bad grade, performance review or evaluation?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
got into a disagreement with a family member?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
had a death or hospitalization of a close friend or family member?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
got into a disagreement with a friend?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Yes	No
had to deal with money problems?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
broke up with a significant other?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
parents divorced?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
been a victim of a crime?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Rate your level agreement or disagreement with the following.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree
I feel like I easily hold grudges against others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I get irritated a lot more than people know about me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Even small things irritate me	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I find myself feeling like a powder keg ready to explode	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel as though I am carrying a chip on my shoulder	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Theory IAT

How much do you agree with the following statements?

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	S
Being successful is more important than being happy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
I intend to do whatever it takes to have some of the really expensive things in life	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
I expect to make as many sacrifices as are necessary in order to advance my work/career	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
I expect to devote whatever time and energy it takes to move up in my job/career	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
I will sacrifice a lot of other things to have a lot of money	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
I don't need help from others to succeed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
I am getting/have gotten education because it is expected by my friends or parents	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Success is measured by the amount of money a person makes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	S
Having lots of money is one of my major goals in life	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Education is only helpful to get a good job	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	
Education is useful because it helps you make more money	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	

Theory DA/Social Learning

In the past 12 months, how frequently have you. . . ?

	With friends offline		Online in chat rooms or social media	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
shared pirated software	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
shared pirated music	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
talked about pirating techniques	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
discussed how to hack things online	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
demeaned others or other groups	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Fake News

In the past month, have you seen false or fake writings or speech online that you believe was deliberately trying to mislead others?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Thinking of the most recent time when you saw false or fake writings or speech online that you believe was deliberately trying to mislead others, how would you best describe those views? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ They advocated for a political candidate
- ☐ The advocated against a political candidate
- ☐ They blamed another person or group for their problems
- ☐ They blamed another person or group for the nation's problems
- ☐ They advocated hatred or violence of a group or person
- ☐ They suggested another group was incorrect or wrong

Did the fake information that you saw or heard online pertain to one or more of the following?
(Check all that apply)

- ☐ Ethnicity or race
- ☐ Nationality or immigrant status
- ☐ Sexual orientation
- ☐ Religious conviction/belief
- ☐ Political Views
- ☐ Disability
- ☐ Sex or Gender
- ☐ Gender Identity
- ☐ Appearance
- ☐ Other

Please indicate which of the following services you saw or heard the fake or misleading views.
Choose all that apply.

- ☐ Facebook
- ☐ YouTube
- ☐ Instagram
- ☐ Twitter
- ☐ Google+
- ☐ MySpace
- ☐ Wikipedia
- ☐ Tumblr
- ☐ Pinterest
- ☐ Snapchat
- ☐ Newspaper message boards
- ☐ General message boards
- ☐ 4chan or 8chan
- ☐ Image boards other than 4chan or 8chan
- ☐ Instant messengers (e.g. Windows Live messenger)
- ☐ Online role-playing games or MMO (e.g. World of Warcraft, Runescape, etc.)
- ☐ First-person shooter games or FPS (e.g. Call of Duty, Battlefield, etc.)
- ☐ Dating services (eHarmony, Match, Kik, Tinder, etc.)
- ☐ Blogs or Forums
- ☐ Email
- ☐ Skype
- ☐ Anonymous network (e.g. Tor, Freenet, I2P, YikYak)
- ☐ Reddit
- ☐ TikTok
- ☐ WeChat
- ☐ Weibo

Still thinking of the most recent time you saw fake material online, did you purposefully search for this material or did you find it by accident?

- ☐ I searched for it
- ☐ I got there by accident
- ☐ I got the link to the site from a friend or acquaintance of mine

To what extent did you agree with the opinions expressed in the material you saw or heard?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

In your opinion, how disturbing was this material? Please assess on a scale from 1–5, where 1= extremely disturbing and 5= not at all disturbing.

- ☐ 1= Extremely disturbing
- ☐ 2= very disturbing
- ☐ 3= disturbing
- ☐ 4= only slightly disturbing
- ☐ 5= Not at all disturbing

How frequently do you see material online that is deliberately fake or misleading?

- ☐ I never see this type of material
- ☐ I see this type of material very infrequently
- ☐ I see this type of material occasionally
- ☐ I see this type of material frequently

Have you ever produced online material that is deliberately fake or misleading?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

In the past 3 months, have you seen hateful or degrading writings or speech online that attacked certain groups of people or individuals?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Fake COVID Block

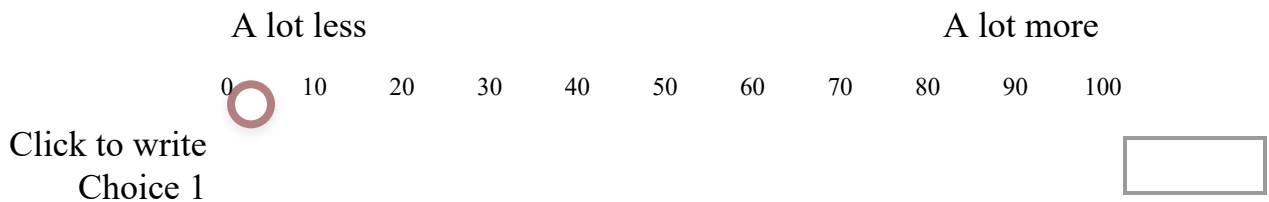
Have you seen any false or fake writings or speech online that related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Thinking about the most recent false or fake information about COVID-19 that you saw, which of the following topics comes closest to describing what it was about?

- ☐ About the virus itself
- ☐ About masks
- ☐ About social distancing
- ☐ About opening the economy
- ☐ About opening public schools
- ☐ About the government's handling of the pandemic

Thinking about the most recent false or fake information about COVID-19 that you saw, would you say it made the pandemic look LESS SERIOUS than it really is or MORE SERIOUS than it really is?



Thinking about MOST of the fake news you see about COVID-19, would you say it makes the pandemic look LESS SERIOUS than it really is or MORE SERIOUS than it really is?

