

# Computer Security Documentation for a Non-Technical Audience

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## Abstract

This research project investigates the development of computer security documentation. Computer security includes the protection of hardware, software, and/or digital information from theft and/or damage, along with preventing disruption or misdirection of the services a computer may provide. The scope of the research was to develop a document detailing the basic fundamental concepts of computer security that individuals of all backgrounds can use without requiring prerequisite knowledge of computer security. The core concepts of the document encompass phishing, social engineering, password security, trusted/untrusted networks, viruses, malware, and antivirus software. Both technical and non-technical individuals can utilize the document to learn how to be safe online and make informed decisions on the internet. The evaluation of the efficacy of the document relies on two surveys. The methodology involved participants taking a pre-survey before reading the document. Followed by reading the developed document, and afterward taking a post-survey. The results of the first survey in comparison to the second survey are used to determine the efficacy. The participants are selected on a voluntary basis, with the focus being on non-technical individuals of varying backgrounds.

## Hypothesis

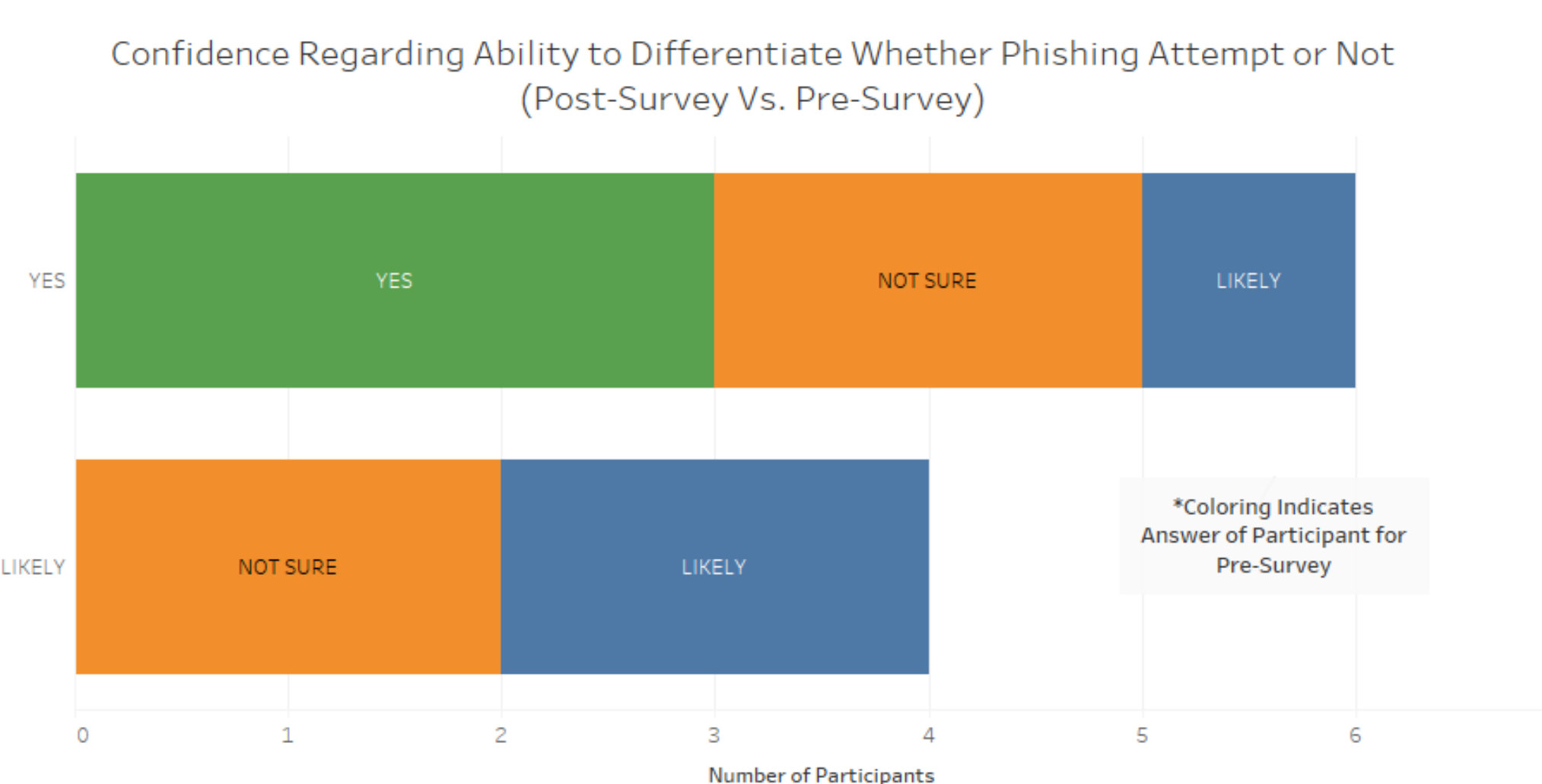
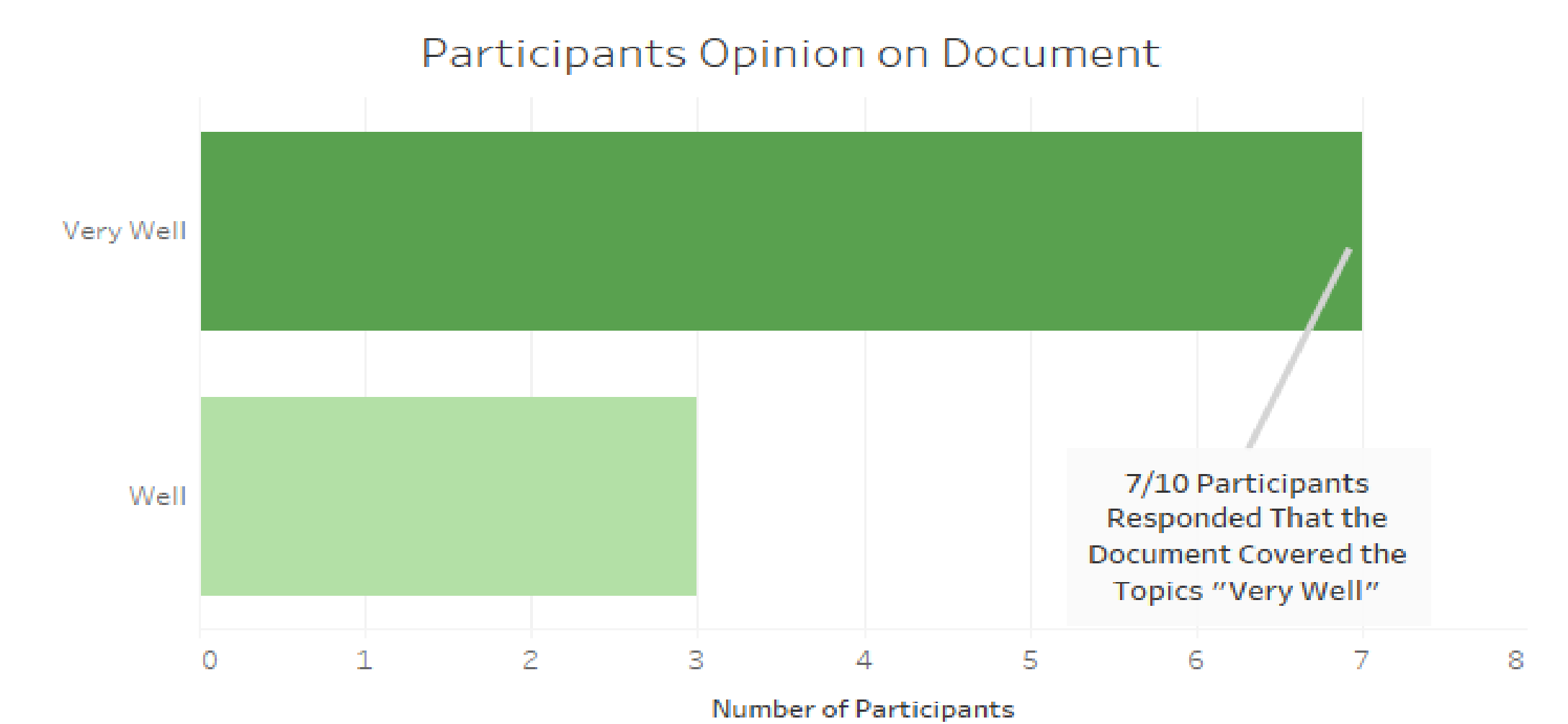
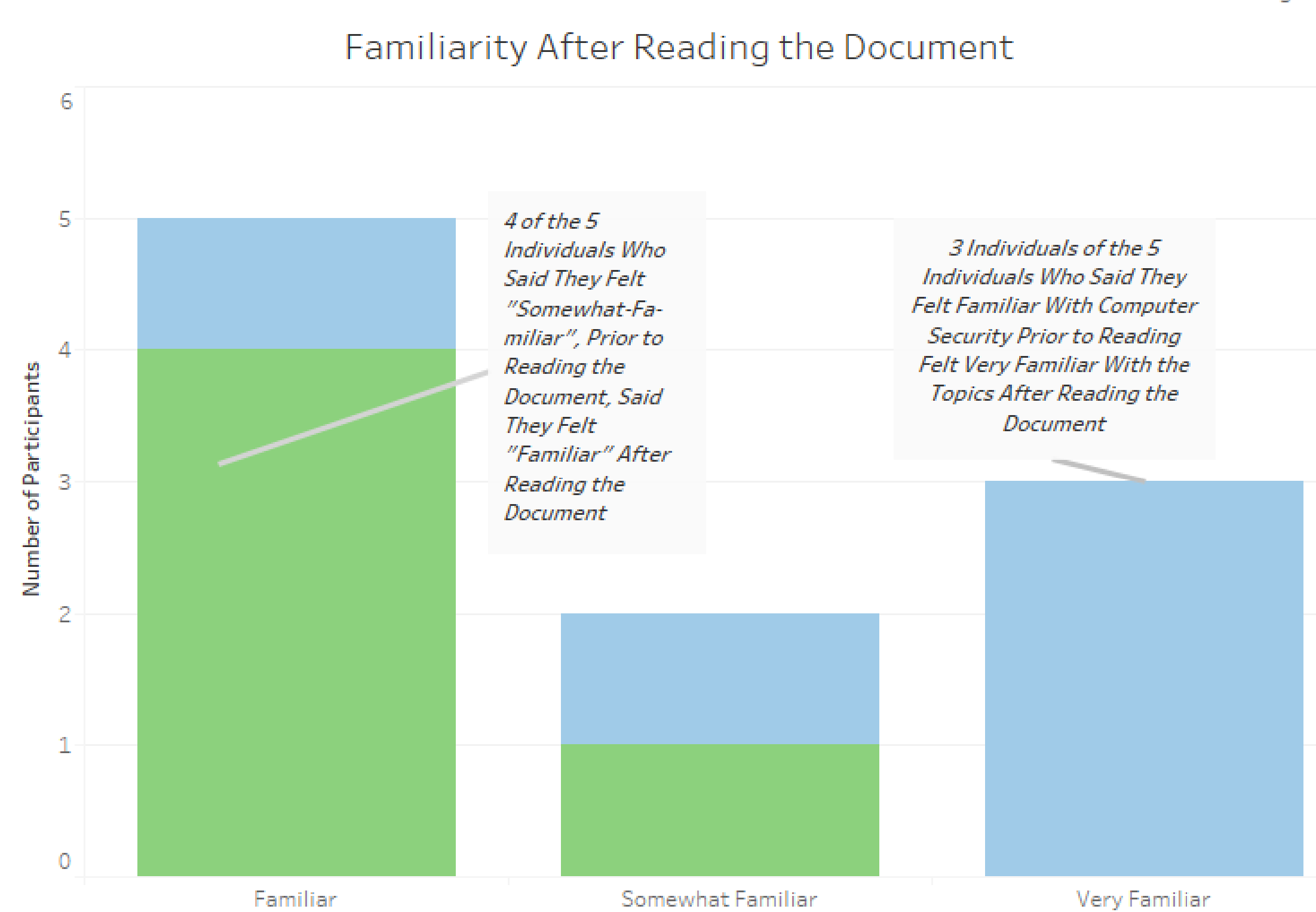
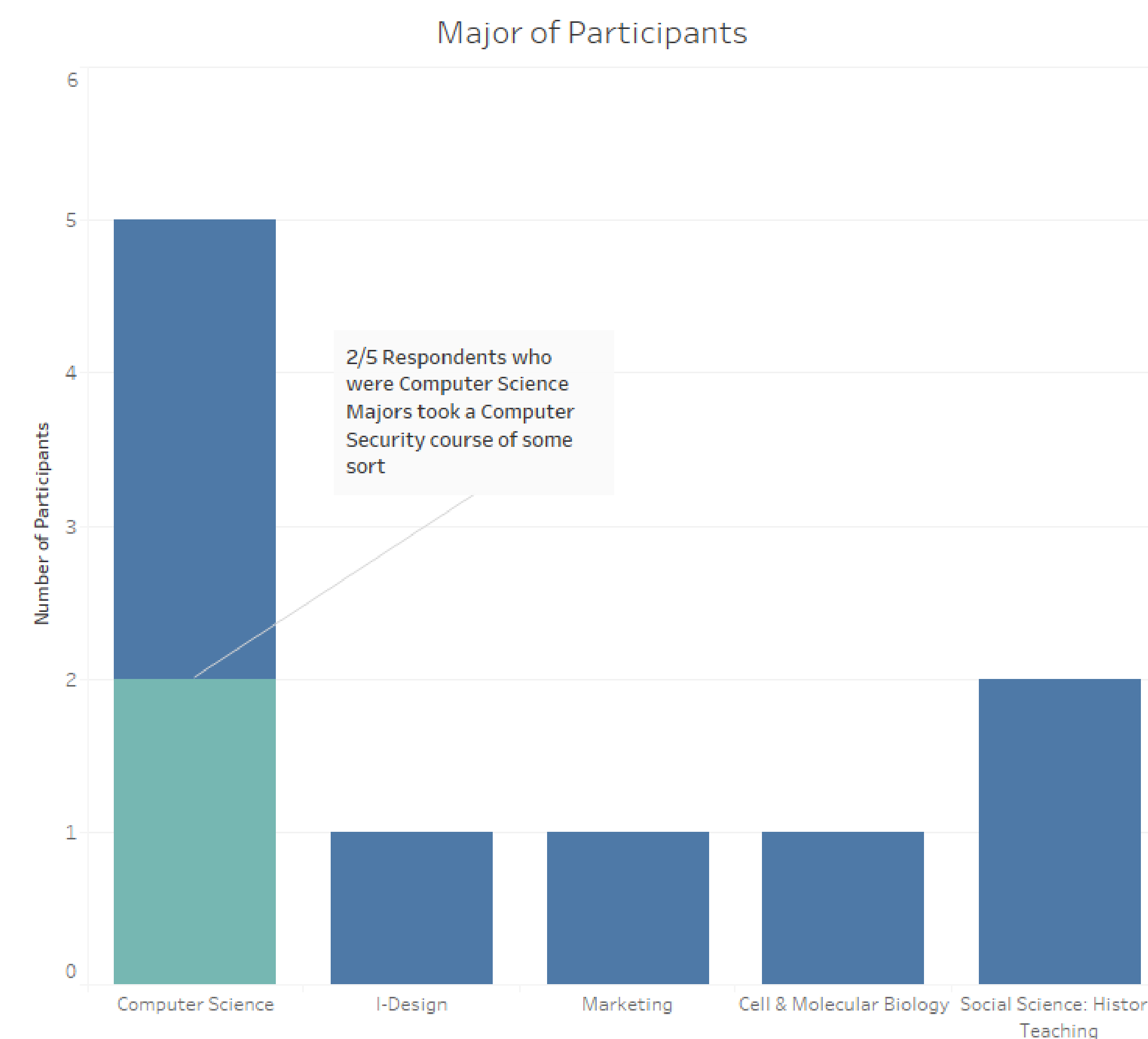
The developed document detailing the basics of computer security increased how informed individuals were regarding computer security based on a pre-survey followed by a post-questionnaire.

## Results

The results were largely indicative that the developed document was indeed effective for the given population. After reading the document, participants gave more definitive and accurate answers. The level of familiarity increased after reading the document, which is evident in both the answers and opinions of the participants.

In all the critical areas of assessment, reading the document, increased the accuracy of answers, familiarity of concepts, and a better understanding of the topics for the given population.

However, to guarantee the universal efficacy of the developed document, additional refining of the document, surveys, and a larger population sample would be required. These all considerations for future work.



## Conclusion

For the given population, the document was effective in informing the participants and familiarizing them with several basic concepts of computer security. The results of the pre-survey in comparison to the post-survey enabled the assessment of the document's efficacy. The document was developed with the intention of increasing information regarding computer security. Individuals of all backgrounds should be familiar with computer security. In an increasingly digital world, technology is part and parcel of everything we do, and we must be secure in the process. There is hope that ventures such as this research open a more technical dialogue in all facets of society, including in business, politics, in science, and all other fields.

### PRE-SURVEY

Participants completed a survey prior to reading the security document. The results of this survey were used to gauge the level of information the individuals had on various security concepts before reading the document. These results provided a baseline for later comparison and assessment.

### SECURITY DOCUMENT

Participants read the security document informing them on several basic computer security concepts to help them make safer decisions on the internet. The document covers phishing, social engineering, password security, trusted networks, malware, and antivirus software.

### POST-SURVEY

Participants completed a survey after reading the security document. The results of this survey were used to gauge the level of information the individuals had after reading the document. These results were compared to the results of the pre-survey to determine the efficacy of the document.