

Cyber Criminals on the Internet Super Highways: A Technical Investigation of Different Shades and Colours within the Nigerian Cyber Space

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ABSTRACT

The internet has impacted the lives of individuals, organisations, and governments all over the world. However, it is now viewed and adopted with caution due mainly to the criminal tendencies of some misguided elements within the society. The internet technology has evolved to become a weapon of “mass robbery” in the hands of criminals. Fraudulent mails emanating from Africa, in general and Nigeria in particular have received world wide attentions. These and more have dented the image of the country home and abroad. This study presents the various ways in which the internet is used for criminal purposes within the Nigerian polity. It further examined the various crime related laws, their adequacies, and implications. Findings revealed the interplay of different methods through which vulnerable individuals and organisations are defrauded. The strategies proposed for addressing these crimes with a view to giving the country a clean bill of health in the international community are as well applicable to other developing countries. The findings also lay solid foundations for further research within different strands of crimes. It also concludes with recommendations for policy makers, businesses, and internet services providers with emphasis on the need for greater awareness creation.

Keywords: Cyber Crimes, E-Mails, Internet, Nigeria, Stakeholders

INTRODUCTION

Cyber or online crimes, a crime, hitherto committed over the internet highway, have assumed a gargantuan status. CIA (2010) estimated that two to three billion are made from this per year. The internet since its inception and subsequent adoption by businesses and individuals has

provided a viable platform or channel for genuine business transactions, communications, socialization, as well as for frauds. The next section examined the various definitions of crime, followed by a review of the internet services in the sub-Saharan Africa in general and Nigeria in particular. The Nigerian crime related laws were further examined with specific emphasis on its adequacies. The implications of the study are highlighted in the last section

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