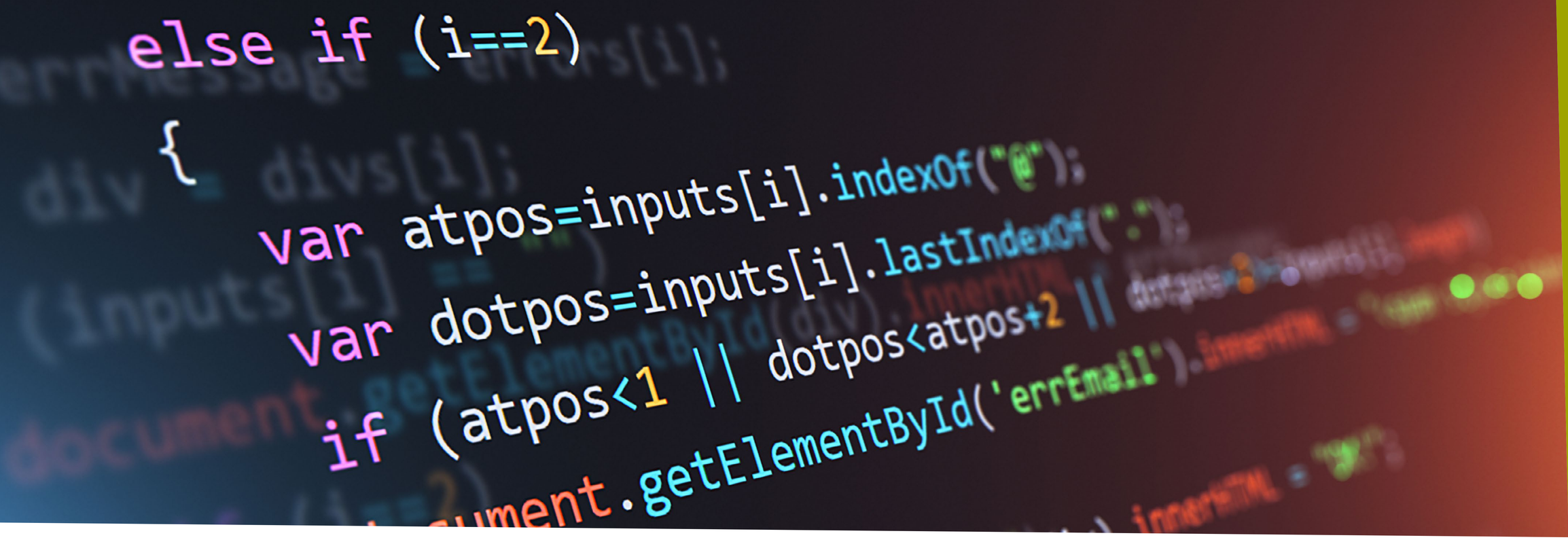

PhD Projects 2023 - Centre of Expertise Cyber Security

Hacktivism: honourable cause or serious threat?

M. (Marco) Romagna, The Hague University of Applied Sciences – Leiden University

Hacktivism is described as the use of hacking techniques in order to promote a socio-political agenda to bring a change in society. Using diverse theoretical backgrounds rooted in social psychology and criminology, this project investigates:

a. the motivations for individuals to engage in hacktivism and the process they follow to become hacktivists;
b. the reasons that prompted them to use hacking as their main form of protest;
c. the organizational dynamics within different hacktivists' groups and networks.

Victimisation in a digitised society: perception and impact

R.J. (Raoul) Notté, The Hague University of Applied Sciences - Tilburg University

Research into the impact of Image Based Sexual Abuse and Romance Scams, the public discourse on victimization and the relationship between these two to gain further insight into the depth of impact, victim- and self-blaming.

Nature and prevention of ransomware

S.R. (Sifra) Matthijsse, The Hague University of Applied Sciences

This research project will investigate the crime-commission process of ransomware attacks to gain insight into how cybercriminals and victims act and the aspects that are essential for criminals to successfully carry out the crime. Moreover, it will provide a starting point for the development of interventions to counter ransomware.

Towards cybercrime prevention: unraveling money mule involvement mechanisms

L.M.J. (Luuk) Bekkers, the Hague University of Applied Sciences

Money mules are key in the execution of financially-motivated cybercrime. By using both qualitative and quantitative methods, the project aims to explain how money mules become involved in criminal networks. Knowledge on this matter can be used to disrupt cybercriminal activities.

The intersection between the Internet of Things and cybercrime-as-a-service

H. (Hannah) Kool, Nederlands Studiecentrum Criminaliteit en Rechtshandhaving (NSCR)

This research will examine the decision-making process of cyber offenders targeting IoT devices for illicit purposes. The goal is to get insights in the cybercrime-as-a-service markets which focusses on targeting IoT devices. To do so, expert interviews will be held and characteristics of a cybercrime-as-a-service markets will be examined.

Ethics of care as a corporate governance model

J. (Jasmijn) Boeken, The Hague University of Applied Sciences – Leiden University

Putting the social in the technical can be considered an act of care. In this PhD project, a corporate governance model that facilitates security by design is suggested. Defining security by design in a new, broader way, the social aspects of cybersecurity are included. Care ethics will be the theoretical lens in this research. It distinguishes itself by looking at relationships, empowerment and the obligation of care.

Pathways into cyber-dependent crimes and prevention strategies against it

J. (Joeri) Loggen, The Hague University of Applied Sciences

Cybercrime is a growing threat worldwide. However, research into this relatively new phenomenon remains underdeveloped—especially regarding initiation and desistance processes. This project aims to get a better understanding of the steps a person takes before becoming involved in cybercrime, and to develop and evaluate an intervention aimed at disrupting this process.

Follow the Honey: real world experiments on cybercriminal decision-making

D. (Danielle) Stibbe, Nederlands Studiecentrum Criminaliteit en Rechtshandhaving (NSCR)

To what extent do cybercriminals take into account costs and benefits in their target selection? In this project, we test hypotheses from criminological decision-making theories in a real-world cybercriminal environment by utilizing innovative research techniques to try to answer this question.

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