

Research project

“Social aspects of organizational system design and their influence on cyber-security”

I am looking for a duo of senior managers, one with experience in security, and one with experience in a business function, who would be interested to participate in research interviews.

Background and research objectives

Cyber-security is often said to be based on three pillars: people, processes and technology. Yet, today's cyber-security very often focuses on technical and policy aspects alone. Based on existing research, managers should jointly optimize social and technical aspects to achieve a better-performance cyber-security organisation and controls benefiting from human-centred design.

To gain a better understanding of people's roles in cyber-security, this research project will:

- Investigating the influence of social aspects on cyber-security
- Understanding how social and technical aspects interact in the context of cyber-security
- Jointly optimize social and technical aspects to obtain better-performing cyber-security

To this end, we will interview two senior managers per company; one with a cyber-security focus and one with a business focus. Business expertise may range from, e.g., HR to Sales or Marketing, and the interviewee is not required to have prior cyber-security knowledge.

Participants' firms can have various sizes and may operate across industries. We will use the interviews for research purposes only and treat them confidentially and anonymously. The interviews will be conducted virtually and will last around 60 minutes.

Expected benefits for interview partners

By supporting our research project, you will get access to:

- Insights on the practical implications of social aspects in cyber-security, beyond the current focus on awareness, driven by technology and policies

- Understanding joint optimization of social and technical aspects to improve cyber-security performance
- Strategies of how organisations can improve cyber-security robustness and performance through a more comprehensive design

About me

I am both a researcher and an active cyber-security practitioner, consulting international organisations on strategic, operational and tactical levels. In my research, I combine scientific practices with almost 2 decades of real-life experience in the field. This project is part of my Master thesis at the Hasso Plattner Institute in [Prof. Falk Uebernickel](#)'s research group [Design Thinking Research Program](#). I explore the application of human-centred design in cyber-security. My goal is to establish and exchange knowledge and best practices between the applied and academic cyber-security communities.

Please feel free to contact me:



email: hofmann.tom@pm.me
Mobile phone: [+41 79 228 46 25](tel:+41792284625)
Threema: <https://threema.id/WJK2SPE5>
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/onlinesecurity/>