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IST 110 | Cybercrime Assignment

Should Punishment for Cybercrime Be More Severe for Repeat Offenders?

Cybercrime is an escalating global threat as technology is becoming increasingly apparent in every part of life. This paper argues that the punishment for cybercrime should be more severe for repeat offenders, reflecting that they pose a greater threat than first time offenders. This paper also discusses the variations based on the form of cybercrime and where the severity of the punishment matters.

Repeat cybercriminals, more likely than not, pose a unique threat. Unlike first-time offenders who could possibly have acted out of ignorance, repeat offenders purposely exploit systems or loopholes for personal gain. Studies from Europol and the FBI show that many cybercriminals actually reoffend after serving their sentences. This proves that there is a need for harsher punishments such as longer prison sentences or technology restrictions. This could help protect the public from ongoing threats.

The argument that harsher punishments may not reduce cybercrime surfaces, specifically pointing towards the difficulty of enforcement. An approach where these first-time offenders are given education-based reform

opportunities may prove beneficial. However, due to the high probability of first-time offenders reoffending, there needs to be a strong line between rehabilitation and punishment enforcement.

To conclude, increasing the severity of punishments while also offering rehabilitation and education to these first-time offenders is justified as the chance of a first-time offender reoffending is very high. This will discourage offenders from exploiting systems and will promote a safer digital environment for everyone.

Works Cited

Enhanced Penalties for Repeat Offenders in Federal Computer Crime Cases - Leppard Law: Federal Criminal Lawyers. (2024, December 16). Leppard Law:

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<https://federal-criminal.com/computer-crimes/enhanced-penalties-for-repeat-offenders-in-federal-computer-crime-cases/>