

**ASSESSING CYBER SECURITY AWARENESS AMONG INCOMING SENIOR HIGH
SCHOOL STUDENTS IN MEYCAUAYAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC
YEAR 2024-2025**

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Bulacan

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Practical Research 2

Information and Communication Technology (BABBAGE)

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ABSTRACT

Cybersecurity awareness has become increasingly crucial in today's integrated digital landscape, particularly for younger generations who are often the most active users of technology. To thoroughly evaluate the cybersecurity awareness of incoming senior high school students, it is essential to examine their understanding and practices related to password security, including their ability to create and manage strong, unique passwords browser security, surround their knowledge of safe browsing habits, the use of secure websites, and the importance of updating browser software to protect against the risk of virus and social network security, which involves their awareness of privacy settings, the potential risks associated with sharing personal information online. Senior high school students, Entering the stage of adulthood, are frequent targets of cyber threats yet may lack sufficient knowledge to protect themselves online. Despite the growing emphasis on cybersecurity education globally, limited research has been conducted to assess the cybersecurity awareness levels of incoming senior high school students.



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INTRODUCTION

According to Nayyar and Kumar Gupta (2024), Cyber Security is a practice on how we protect our privacy online. Cyber security has become a critical area of concern in today's increasingly digital world. With the rapid growth of online platforms and digital technologies, individuals and organizations alike are exposed to a wide range of cyber threats. As more students rely on technology for both academic and personal purposes, understanding their level of cybersecurity awareness is essential. In an era where digital technologies pervade every aspect of society, the realm of education stands as a beacon of innovation and progress. From interactive learning platforms to virtual classrooms, the digital transformation of education has revolutionized the way knowledge is acquired, disseminated, and applied. However, with this rapid evolution comes a pressing need for vigilance and preparedness in the face of cyber threats that risk the integrity and security of educational environments.

Global studies have shown that students' cybersecurity awareness often falls short, with many lacking key knowledge to protect themselves online. Research by Nayyar and Gupta (2024) highlights the importance of educating students on the risks of digital platforms and the growing need for cybersecurity programs in schools worldwide. Similarly, Jodelyn (2024) discusses how cybersecurity awareness varies among students, noting that many are unaware of basic online safety measures, leading to unsafe behaviors. This study focuses on the cybersecurity awareness of incoming senior high school students in Tanza, Cavite, during the 2022-2023 school year. It aims to assess students' knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors regarding online security in three schools: Tanza National Comprehensive High School (TNCHS), Tanza National Trade School (TNTS), and Amaya School of Home Industries (ASHI). The findings reveal a medium level of awareness, with students showing low self-perception skills and unsafe online behaviors, along with a moderate understanding of key cybersecurity concepts.

However, while several studies have explored cybersecurity awareness among other higher grade levels, there is yet one on the incoming senior highschool, who are equally vulnerable to online risks. This research focuses on upcoming senior high school students at Meycauayan National High School (MNHS) and aims to assess their cybersecurity awareness in terms of password and security, browser security, and social network security by understanding their knowledge, Behaviors, And attitudes towards online safety, This study seeks to identify potential gaps in their understanding of cybersecurity and provide insights into how these gaps can be addressed through targeted educational programs. This research specifically aims to:



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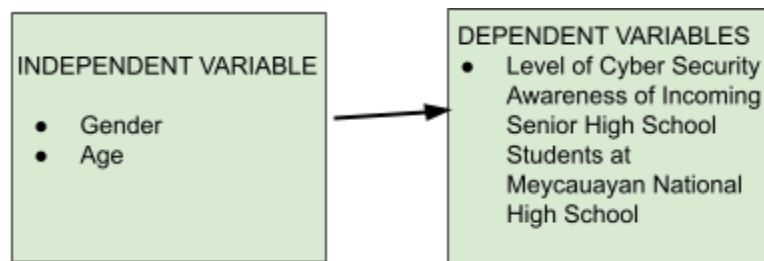
Given the critical role that cybersecurity plays in protecting sensitive data and preventing cybercrime, This study contributes to the growing body of research aimed at ensuring that students are better prepared to navigate the digital landscape safely. The findings of this research will not only benefit the students and educators at Meycauayan National High School but also offer valuable insights into improving cybersecurity education for high school students across various institutions

Statement of The Problem

The researchers aim to answer the question:

1. What is the current level of cybersecurity awareness among incoming senior highschool students in terms of:
 - a. password security;
 - b. browser security; and
 - c. social network security?

Conceptual Framework



Significance of the Study

The ones who will benefit from this research are the upcoming students, ICT teachers, future researchers, and parents. The result of this study will be an advantage to the following:



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Upcoming Senior High School students. Upcoming senior high school students will benefit from this because they can use it to ensure their information is protected and not misused to deceive others.

ICT Teachers. Information and Communication Technology teachers will benefit from this because they can use it to hide important information, such as answer keys and other sensitive data.

Future Researchers. Future researchers will benefit from this because they can use it as a reference for their next research project, potentially discovering new insights related to our study.

Parents of students. Parents will benefit from this because it will help them avoid scams and protect their information.

SCOPE AND DELIMITATION

Assessing Cybersecurity Awareness among Incoming Senior High School Students at Meycauayan National High School for the Academic Year 2024-2025. This study will be held at El Camino Road, Barangay Camalig, Meycauayan Bulacan.

The participants of this study are 220 Incoming Senior high school students. This study focuses on assessing cyber security awareness that could affect the students' access in technology to raising awareness at Meycauayan National High-school. And only the population of Grade 10 Incoming Senior High School Students.

METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH DESIGN

This study applied a Descriptive Cross-sectional design to know-how the researcher gathered the information, a type of Descriptive Quantitative design to assess the current level of cybersecurity awareness of incoming Senior High School Students in Meycauayan National High School. Using this approach allows for the collection of detailed, quantifiable data on students' knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors regarding cybersecurity at a single point in time. The research will involve the development of a structured questionnaire that addresses key topics such as phishing, password



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security, and safe online practices. The questionnaire will be administered to a sample of approximately 220 students selected through stratified random sampling to ensure diverse representation across different demographics, including age, gender, and prior exposure to technology.

POPULATION AND SAMPLE

The population for this study included a total of Grade 10 students from 8 different sections at Meycauayan National High School (MNHS) for a population of 1,000 students in Grade 10 incoming Senior High School students'. With the agreement of no bias selection for this study the respondents are chosen by random picking.

Using the Raosoft Calculator, a sample size of 278 respondents was recommended for an appropriate statistical power. However, due to time obstacles, the researchers were only able to sample 220 students. The final sample of 220 was selected using a non-probability response sampling, where students were chosen based on their willingness to participate in the study. While this sampling method does not guarantee a fully representative sample, it allows for the collection of data within the given time frame.

Research Instrument

These are the following 2 instruments that has been used to help the development of data gathering:

1. The researchers used a Custom-Designed, which used an exclusive thinking made by the researchers. Survey instrument created through Google Forms to assess the level of cyber security awareness among incoming senior high school students, this online tool was chosen for its accessibility, user-friendly interface, and ability to collect and analyze data efficiently.



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2. The researchers distributed the survey questionnaire VIA Google Forms to the 8 Section of Grade 10 students.

Data Collection

This study involved 220 grade 10 students from eight different sections. The researcher utilized a non-probability voluntary response sampling method, and participants completed a structured questionnaire distributed via Google Forms. This format facilitated easy access and ensured that students could engage with the survey at their convenience, promoting voluntary participation and a diverse range of responses.

1. *Conceptualization Phase.* During the conceptual phase, researchers looked at the world's current problems. The researchers aimed to determine the cyber security awareness of incoming senior high school students. After the researchers searched for articles that can help in this study about cyber security, the researchers noticed that no study has been conducted regarding cyber security awareness at the City of Meycauayan Bulacan, Philippines. After the researchers talked about it with the research instructor who gave ideas and information and provided an article that would be helpful in this study, the researchers decided to conduct it among the incoming senior high school students at Meycauayan National High School
2. *Design Phase.* During the design phase, The researchers planned the methods for their study and employed a descriptive cross-sectional design to assess cybersecurity awareness among incoming senior high school students. The researchers calculated the required sample size targeting grade 10 high school students, the researchers used non-probability voluntary responses to gather data. After being used in another study and verified by the research instructor to guarantee its applicability and clarity before distribution, the survey was carefully distributed VIA Google Forms.
3. *Empirical Phase.* During the empirical phase, the researchers gathered data via Google Form surveys to help collect important information. The researchers had a hard time while surveying the grade 10 students. The researchers make sure that the students that participated will not have any issues while answering the surveys like lack of internet connectivity and having access to a cell phone. To deal with these issues, the researchers



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opened their hotspots to make sure that the students had internet access, and to those who didn't have access to a phone, the researchers offered their cell phones in incognito mode. The goal is to reach 220 responses and through the students who voluntarily participated, the researchers managed to get the exact amount of 220 responses.

Data Analysis

This section aimed to assess the student's level of cyber security awareness. The researchers formulated a descriptive statistics table, including mean and standard deviation to verbal interpretation of the student's level of awareness.

On the level of cyber security awareness of the incoming Senior highschool students. descriptive statistics table, including mean and standard deviation to verbally interpret the students level of awareness.

Table 1.

Mean Range

Mean	Verbal Interpretation
1.1 - 1.74	Strongly Disagree
1.75 - 2.49	Disagree
2.50 - 3.24	Agree
3.25 - 4.00	Strongly Agree

Table 2.

Research Objective	Research Question	Instrument	Data Analysis
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RO To assess the current level of cybersecurity awareness among incoming senior highschool students in terms of:	RQ 1. what is the current level of cybersecurity awareness among incoming senior highschool students in terms of: a. Password Security b. browser security; and c. social network security?	VIA Google Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mean• Standard Deviation
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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data that have been gathered by the researchers will be discussed. The Research Objectives will be answered in this part of research.

Table 1

Password Security

Statement	Mean	Standard Deviation	Verbal Interpretation
1. All my passwords include: 12 upper and lower characters, numbers, and symbols.	2.85	9.26648	Agree
2. I must change my password periodically.	2.64	201	Agree



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3. I use one strong password across different websites and accounts.	3.10	1.00363598	Agree
4. It is better to have a long and strong password for each website and account.	3.15	9.52635	Agree
5. I shall not share my passwords with others.	3.36	1.057500048	Strongly Agree

Table 2
Browser Security

Statement	Mean	Standard Deviation	Verbal Interpretation
6. The web browser should be updated regularly.	2.95	9.02685	Agree
7. I should avoid installing extensions for third-party websites.	3.01	9.06414	Agree
8. I must check the security settings configurations of the web browser periodically.	3.10	9.2005	Agree
9. I must check the browser history and	3.21	9.62681	Agree



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find suspicious activities.			
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Table 3
Social Network Security

Statement	Mean	Standard Deviation	Verbal Interpretation
10. It is not acceptable to post personal pictures on social media.	2.55	9.98245	<i>Agree</i>
11. It is not okay to accept friend requests from strangers.	2.84	1.070026361	<i>Agree</i>
12. I should not share my current location publicly on social media.	3.26	1.039645819	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
13. We should not expose all personal information like date of birth, current job, etc. in social media.	3.30	9.81523	<i>Strongly Agree</i>
14. I know how to report any threat or suspicious activity in social media.	3.20	9.3726	<i>Agree</i>

Table 1
Summary of Results in Password Security

Mean	Verbal Interpretation
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3.02	Agree
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Table 2
Summary of Results in Browser Security

Mean	Verbal Interpretation
3.06	Agree

Table 3
Summary of Results in Social Network Security

Mean	Verbal Interpretation
3.03	Agree

The data analysis shows that although there is potential for improvement in habits like changing passwords on a regular basis and avoiding friend requests from strangers, the findings shows that participants generally show good online security practices, with a strong emphasis on using complex passwords and maintaining privacy on social media.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, grade 10 pupils at Meycauayan National High School have a better level of cyber security awareness than was anticipated. Consequently, the questions in the problem statement are in line with each other.

Based on the results that the researchers have gathered, the study concludes that the Grade 10 students show good online security practices, with a strong emphasis on using complex passwords and maintaining privacy on social media and are most likely to be aware of cyber security in terms of password security, browser security, and social network security.



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RECOMMENDATIONS

To enhance the overall understanding of cybersecurity among students, the following recommendations below are suggested:

- For the Students always use a strong password and avoid passwords that are easy to guess and change your passwords periodically.
- For ICT Teachers Keep your software and devices always updated. By updating your software and devices you are reducing the risk of cyber attacks and malware infections.
- For the Parents Always make sure to logout your account that holds important information.
- Future Researchers use printed media for your survey questionnaire.

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APPENDICES

CONSENT FORM

A Blessed day!

Greetings Grade 10 Students, You are invited to participate in a study titled "Assessing Cyber Security Awareness among Incoming Senior High School Students at Meycauayan National High School for the Academic Year 2024-2025." The purpose of this study is [focuses on upcoming Senior High School Students at Meycauayan National High School(MNHS) and aims to assess their cybersecurity awareness]. Your participation is voluntary, and you may withdraw at anytime without penalty.Data Privacy Notice:

In compliance with the Data Privacy Act of 2012, all information collected will be treated confidentially. Your data will only be used for this research, anonymized, and stored securely. You have the right to access, correct, or request deletion of your personal data. By selecting "I agree" below, you consent to participate in this study and acknowledge that your personal data will be handled in accordance with the Data Privacy Act.

Researchers:

Autentico, Ken Gian D.C

Tan, Jasper Jade F.

Dano, Jianmar P.



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- ☐ I agree to participate
☐ I do not agree to participate

Name: _____

Age: _____

- ☐ Male
☐ Female
☐ LGBTQIA+

Grade Level/Section: _____

Previous Cybersecurity Training:

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Frequency of Internet Use:

- ☐ Daily
☐ Weekly
☐ Rarely

Instruction: Select 4 if you strongly agree, 3 if you agree, 2 if you disagree, and 1 if you strongly disagree with the given statements.

Password Security Questions;

All my passwords include: 12 upper and lower characters, numbers, and symbols.

- ☐ 1 - Strongly Disagree
☐ 2 - Disagree
☐ 3 - Agree
☐ 4 - Strongly Agree



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I must change my password periodically.

- ☐ 1 - Strongly Disagree
- ☐ 2 - Disagree
- ☐ 3 - Agree
- ☐ 4 - Strongly Agree

I use one strong password across different websites and accounts.

- ☐ 1 - Strongly Disagree
- ☐ 2 - Disagree
- ☐ 3 - Agree
- ☐ 4 - Strongly Agree

It is better to have a long and strong password for each website and account.

- ☐ 1 - Strongly Disagree
- ☐ 2 - Disagree
- ☐ 3 - Agree
- ☐ 4 - Strongly Agree

I shall not share my password with others.

- ☐ 1 - Strongly Disagree
- ☐ 2 - Disagree
- ☐ 3 - Agree
- ☐ 4 - Strongly Agree

Browser Security Questionnaire

The web browser should be updated regularly.



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- ☐ 1 - Strongly Disagree
- ☐ 2 - Disagree
- ☐ 3 - Agree
- ☐ 4 - Strongly Agree

Click 4 upon reading this statement.

- ☐ 1 - Strongly Disagree
- ☐ 2 - Disagree
- ☐ 3 - Agree
- ☐ 4 - Strongly Agree

I should avoid installing extensions for thirty-party websites.

- ☐ 1 - Strongly Disagree
- ☐ 2 - Disagree
- ☐ 3 - Agree
- ☐ 4 - Strongly Agree

I must check the security settings configuration of the web browser periodically.

- ☐ 1 - Strongly Disagree
- ☐ 2 - Disagree
- ☐ 3 - Agree
- ☐ 4 - Strongly Agree

I must check the browser history and find suspicious activities.

- ☐ 1 - Strongly Disagree
- ☐ 2 - Disagree



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REGION III - CENTRAL LUZON
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF CITY OF MEYCAUAYAN
MEYCAUAYAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
CAMALIG, CITY OF MEYCAUAYAN, BULACAN

- ☐ 3 - Agree
- ☐ 4 - Strongly Agree

Social Network Platform Questions

It is not acceptable to post personal pictures on social media.

- ☐ 1 - Strongly Disagree
- ☐ 2 - Disagree
- ☐ 3 - Agree
- ☐ 4 - Strongly Agree

It is not okay to accept friend request from stranger.

- ☐ 1 - Strongly Disagree
- ☐ 2 - Disagree
- ☐ 3 - Agree
- ☐ 4 - Strongly Agree

I should not expose all personal information like date of birth, current job, etc. in social media.

- ☐ 1 - Strongly Disagree
- ☐ 2 - Disagree
- ☐ 3 - Agree
- ☐ 4 - Strongly Agree

I know how to report any threat or suspicious activity in social media.

- ☐ 1 - Strongly Disagree
- ☐ 2 - Disagree



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☐ 3 - Agree

☐ 4 - Strongly Agree

CURRICULUM VITAE



Ken Gian D.C. Autentico

17 years old

Prenza II, Marilao Bulacan

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EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Primary School: Deparo Elementary School (2013-2017)

Primary School: Prenza Elementary School (2017-2019)

Secondary - Junior High School: Prenza National High School (2019-2020)

Secondary - Junior High School: Meycauayan National High School (2020-2023)

Secondary - Senior High School: Meycauayan National High School (2023-present)

Information and Communication Technology

First Quarter Honor (2024-2025)

REFERENCES

Elger David

Teacher III - MNHS

09255092909

I hereby certify that the information above is truthful.



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Signature of the Researcher above Printed Name



TAN, JASPER JADE F.

17 years old

Bagbaguin, City of Meycauayan, Bulacan

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EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Primary School: De Jesus Elementary School at Bignay, Valenzuela City (2014-2016)

Primary School: Perez Elementary School at Meycauayan Bulacan (2016-2019)

Secondary - Junior High School: Meycauayan National High School (2019-2023)

Galaw Pilipinas champions of Meycauayan National High School (2022-2023)

Secondary - Senior High School: Meycauayan National High School (2023-present)

Information and Communication Technology

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REFERENCES

Elger David

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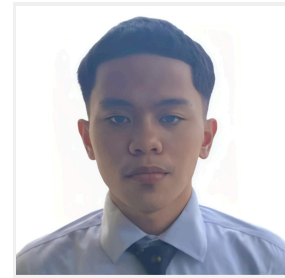
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DAÑO, JIANMAR P.

17 years old

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EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Primary School: Perez Elementary School (2014-2019)

Secondary - Junior High School: Meycauayan National High School (2019-2023)

Secondary - Senior High School: Meycauayan National High School (2023-present)

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REFERENCES

Elger David

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I hereby certify that the information above is truthful.

Signature of the Researcher above Printed Name