

**TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES – MANILA**

**College of Science**

BS Computer Science 4B

**SOCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL ISSUES  
ASSESSMENT**

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Out of the four types of cybercrime – financial, identity-related, data-related, and system-related, I believe that identity-related crimes ought to be severely punished in the Philippines because of their rising incidence and the severe consequences that they inflict on their victims. Recent data shows a concerning increase in identity theft cases, which shows the urgent need for strict legislative measures to prevent these crimes and safeguard people.

In 2023, the Philippine National Police (PNP) recorded nearly 3,000 cases of cyber identity theft, marking a 14% increase from the previous year. This surge includes various forms of identity theft, such as "hijack profile" scams, where hackers gain unauthorized access to social media accounts to exploit victims' identities for financial gain. Between November 2023 and February 2024 alone, the PNP reported 178 cases of such scams, with half occurring in February 2024. These statistics illustrate not only the growing threat of identity-related crimes but also their capacity to inflict significant financial and emotional distress on victims, necessitating harsher penalties under existing laws like the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012 (Republic Act No. 10175).

Identity theft has effects that go beyond immediate financial losses. There are long-term effects on victims, including damages credit scores, reputational harm, and anxiety. According to the survey conducted by Fico, about 4.5% of adult Filipinos or over five million individuals reported being victims of identity theft, while 6% of them thought their identities had been illegally exploited to open financial accounts or trick other people for personal gain. This users' fear and vulnerability shows how crucial it is to punish identity-related crimes harshly to protect personal data and rebuild public trust in using digital applications.

With that being said, the Philippines' legal system upholds serious penalties for those who practice these offences. According to Republic Act No. 10175, violators may be imprisoned for six to twelve years and fined a minimum of ₱200,000, the amount may potentially increase based on the extent of the damage. Such penalties are essential for discouraging potential offenders. Authorities has the power to prevent the growing number of this type of crime and shield citizens from additional harm,

In conclusion, proper legal intervention and awareness for users should be implemented. As a computer science student and user of different digital platforms, we should be able to have the right information upon using it. We may contribute to the creation of a safer digital environment by protecting our digital footprint and make sure not to overshare our personal data. Identity assassination goes a long way, we do not want to be their victims.