Topic 7 Discussion 2

What laws provide U.S. entities the authority to perform cyber operations? Provide at least two laws.

Hello Class,

Two significant laws are:

The Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (CFAA) - Enacted in 1986, the CFAA is a key piece of legislation that addresses computer-related offenses. It prohibits unauthorized access to computer systems and provides a framework for prosecuting cyber crimes(Brands, 2023). The CFAA allows federal and state authorities to take action against individuals or entities that engage in hacking or other malicious cyber activities, thereby empowering U.S. entities to protect their systems and data(ICLG, 2024).

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) - This annual legislation outlines the budget and expenditures for the Department of Defense. Recent iterations of the NDAA have included provisions that enhance the cybersecurity capabilities of the U.S. military and other federal agencies(IT Governance, 2016). For instance, the NDAA for Fiscal Year 2021 included measures to improve the cybersecurity posture of the Department of Defense and authorized offensive cyber operations to deter and respond to cyber threats.

These laws reflect the U.S. government's commitment to safeguarding its cyber infrastructure and provide a legal basis for entities to engage in necessary cyber operations to protect national security and public safety.

References:

Brands, M. (2023, November 13). *Cybersecurity Laws and Legislation (2023) | ConnectWise*. Www.connectwise.com. https://www.connectwise.com/blog/cybersecurity/cybersecurity-laws-and-legislation

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