**Statistical Design Consulting**

**SEMESTER REPORT**

**Spring 2024**

**Client:** Dr. Joseph Beckman  **File Number:** 24-031

**Department:** Cybersecurity Technical Assistance Program (TAP/cyberTAP)

**Major Prof:** N/A

**Consultant:** Sumeeth Guda **Initial Meeting Date:** 03/27/24

**Meeting Attendees:** Sumeeth Guda, Dr. Joseph Beckman, Dr. Chong Gu

**Statement of Problem:** To determine how best to put local governments in contact with top tier cybersecurity experts in order to strengthen Indiana’s cybersecurity.

**Goal of This Project:** Journal Article, Grant Proposal, and Technical Report.

**Background:**

The client is a researcher with CyberTap interested in analyzing cybersecurity safeguard implementations among IoT technologies. Their research is funded with a grant under the Indiana Local Government Assessment Program from the Indiana Office of Technology.

They aim to provide data-driven analysis to the Indiana Office of Technology (IOT) supporting recommendations for action by IOT to advance cybersecurity postures among Indiana's local governmental entities. They created a survey and sent it to Indiana local governments concerning cybersecurity safeguard implementations. The ratings scale of the implementations is qualitative – {Not Implementing, Developing, Implementing, Optimizing}. They are evaluating several qualitative and quantitative factors attempting to determine what factors, if any, are predictive of strong cybersecurity postures as defined by the previously mentioned ratings scale.

The end goal of their study is to create statistical metrics to support recommendations to the Indiana Office of Technology regarding how it can best interact with Indiana local governments to move cybersecurity posture forward in that environment. Specifically with putting local governments in contact with top tier cybersecurity experts, and provide them with practical, prioritized advice about doable, powerful cybersecurity fundamentals in order to make Indiana more secure in the short term and shape the state collective cybersecurity strategy and policy in the long term.

**Progress During Current Semester:**

One of the biggest concerns the client and Dr.Gu had with this client was that they did not have a clearly defined question or specific goals they wanted to achieve with the consulting service. Ultimately, no work could be completed this semester because the client did not have clear goals and problems they wanted to be solved. What was suggested in the IM meeting was that the client come up with a series of clearly defined goals and questions the client wanted to know from their dataset, and to finish collecting data from their survey by a set date. The client should notify the consultant once they have finished all of the above tasks, and a follow-up meeting can take place.

**Current Status:** Continuing.