Five Reasons the Cybersecurity Field Needs Trusted Data Sets and Meaningful Metrics

A new blog post by CERT Division Director Bobbie Stempfley and Risk and Resilience Technical Director Matt Butkovic discusses the importance of drawing meaningful insights from rich but often uncultivated cybersecurity data. “Solutions rooted in empirically rigorous measurement are much more likely to be effective than those derived from codifying the conventional wisdom of a community,” Stempfley and Butkovic write in the post. “This lesson is as important to cybersecurity as it is to all other domains.”

The post draws parallels between cybersecurity and other fields informed by statistics, such as actuarial science, econometrics, and medicine. Advances in those fields might be adapted for cybersecurity, which in turn can inform national policy and help organizations manage risk.

Stempfley and Butkovic caution that cybersecurity statistics must first focus on the inputs. “Substantive progress in the domain requires a renewed focus on the veracity and completeness of data,” they write. “These are the prerequisites for the scientific inquiry acknowledged as a collective blind spot in the profession.”

Read “Five Reasons the Cybersecurity Field Needs Trusted Data Sets and Meaningful Metrics.”
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