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**Carnegie Mellon University**  
Software Engineering Institute



SEI Bulletin — March 18, 2020

## **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.”

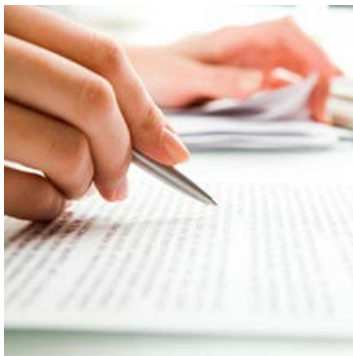
Read “[Five Reasons the Cybersecurity Field Needs Trusted Data Sets and Meaningful Metrics.](#)”

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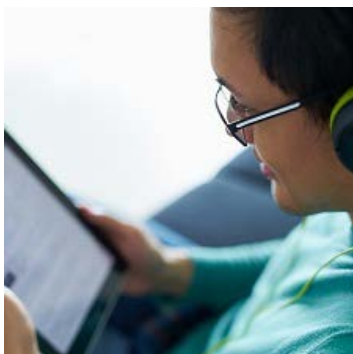
- [Integrability](#)
- [Comments on NISTIR 8269 \(A Taxonomy and Terminology of Adversarial Machine Learning\)](#)
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- [Security Automation Begins at the Source Code](#)
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- [Designing Trustworthy AI for Human-Machine Teaming](#)



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- [Reverse Engineering Object-Oriented Code with Ghidra and New Pharos Tools](#)

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The SEI is evaluating all upcoming courses, conferences, and events case-by-case in light of COVID-19 developments. Check individual training pages for the latest information. You may also contact us at [courseregistration@sei.cmu.edu](mailto:courseregistration@sei.cmu.edu) or +1-412-268-7388.

- [Foundations of Incident Management](#)  
May 12-15, 2020 (SEI, Arlington, Va.)
- [Introduction to the CERT Resilience Management Model](#)  
May 19-20, 2020 (SEI, Arlington, Va.)

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## About the SEI Bulletin

The SEI Bulletin is a biweekly newsletter designed to keep you up to date on SEI news, events, research, and other matters of interest to the SEI community. We hope you find the SEI Bulletin useful and informative.

## Send Us Your Story

Do you have a story about how an SEI technology has positively affected your team or organization? If so, the SEI would like to hear about it. Send a short summary of your success to [info@sei.cmu.edu](mailto:info@sei.cmu.edu), and you could be featured in a future issue of the SEI Bulletin.



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