INTERNET SERVICES AND SOCIAL ORDER IN NIGERIA

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Abstract
The computer revolution has been found to be the most effective revolution in the world today. The computer has enhanced the globalization of the world through the internet. Despite the gains of the internet, there is the inherent crime committed by the introduction of such development. These crimes threaten the social order of the society and the process is ad infinitum. This is a theoretical paper examining the unending relationship between the internet and the development of any society. As members of the society begin to develop a mastery of their environment, there is the concomitant establishment of crime. The paper examines the cycle of unending crime of development.

Keywords: computer, internet, globalization, crime.

INTRODUCTION
“The internet’s anonymity and global reach make it a low-risk high-return environment for crime” (McAfee, 2007).

The advent of the computer in the modern day society is an ironical product of the Abacus of the 500 BC. The link between these two discoveries has beaten the imagination of the whole world. According to Roger (1995) the rapid evolution of the computer brought internet and such evolution presents a unique opportunity to revisit the theories about the diffusion of innovations. The internet differs from previous innovations because it is an extraordinary dynamic innovation. The developed capabilities of the internet include animation and extended interactivity. This phenomenon demonstrates how a dynamic technology such as the internet can adapt to areas beyond those originally intended (Chen and Crowston, 2001).

The internet has been described as the gateway to a world of seemingly inexhaustible resources, which is also referred to as information super highway of unlimited opportunities synonymous with globalization (Nzeako, 1999). This position vests the usability of the internet on the individual. This is not to say that the internet is used only at the individual level, but to buttress the point that it is also used by organisations. At any level, the use of the internet is zeroed upon the individual. With these opportunities presented by...
the use of the internet, the world is made vulnerable and susceptible to the misadventures of the individuals. The ability of the internet to break hitherto level of technology gave birth to the inevitability of the emergence of new patterns, which produces other avenues for crime to prevail.

This is a theoretical based paper which attempts to formulate a position that explains the advent of the interest, the birth of other crimes that require more skills and fewer risks, and the rebirth of new society through the control of the criminal misadventures generated through the internet.

THE GAINS OF THE INTERNET
It is worthy to mention that the internet has contributed more positive values to today’s world. The negative impacts of the internet have highlighted the attention given to this phenomenon than the position gains. Where the positive gain promises hope and the emergence of better world, the negative impacts threaten social order in the society. The gains of the internet according to Young Media Association (2007) include:

1. Facilitation of job search and employment
2. Accessibility to research information for education and businesses
3. Rural Integration
4. Enhancement of trade and commerce
5. Sharing of resources and ideas.

The low cost of communications and accessibility of the global networks means it is easy to reach one person as well as 10 million people. This offers great possibilities for creating new jobs in the emerging information based economy. It presents the ability to manage a conglomerate at a single spot. Secondly, research information for education and business becomes accessible through the internet. It is important to note that distance learning programme is also enhanced through the internet. Individuals can acquire university degree in their homes with the internet connectivity.

In addition, to the above, the internet has enormous potentials as a tool for integrating rural areas into the national economy by providing access to public services such as education, healthcare, and environmental protection awareness programmes. Furthermore, the ability to acquire, store, and transmit information has become the most powerful new currency of economic exchange throughout the world - marketing, public relations, shopping, market research, sales and support could all be conducted on the internet.

Finally, the transfer of ideas and resources have also been encouraged and supported by the internet. Even with all these possibilities in mind, the internet still poses serious threat to social order.

THREATS OF THE INTERNET
Throughout the world, there are over a billion people using the internet or the global network of computers. Billions of dollars move across these networks every year. According to the McAfee North American Criminology Report (2007) online transaction for Canada increased by 38%, retail e-commerce in U.S increased by 25% in 2006, to $108 billion while the business-to-business transactions reached about $2 trillion. That of North America grew by 30% and Asia, Western Europe, and Africa also experienced increase in e-commerce. Although, the increasing pattern of e-business is more in Asia, Europe, U.S. and North America, Africa has put up modalities to increase e-commerce especially in the banking sector by enforcing online withdrawal of cash into the use of value card, ATM cards, credit card, and the encouragement of domiciliary account for online transactions.

As such, U.S., North America, Asia and Europe are primary targets of cyber criminals. In Africa where the revolution is just being felt, the whole population is susceptible to the misadventures of the hackers. The losses in Africa are however, non-comparable to that which is experienced in the advanced countries where the culture has diffused from, but it is felt. The difference in the rate is as a result of stringent modalities to control online transaction through the use of PIN and passwords and the coding of passwords for counter-protection. Yet there were losses. In recent study, about 2 million Americans had their account illegally accessed and were robbed, in 2006. Credit Card Company reported 100 million loss in North America in 2005 out of which 30 million occurred online.
These losses are not comparable to that which occurs in Africa, but it is gradually having a far-reaching effect on the African economy. According to information retrieved from a bank recently, a member of staff once created an online strategy that transfers 50 thousand naira from all customers’ account at the zenith International Bank on a daily basis, after that has been done for about 10 years, the staff resigned, moved abroad and left the process on. A total of N200 million was withdrawn from the account recently and that brought the existence of the account to the knowledge of the bank, while trying to find the owner, they found a process and at the root of the matter, a conglomerate of criminals who are invisible.

The bottom line here is that criminals can make money online with little or no risk. It is easy to counterfeit a legitimate website. For example, if a person mistakenly types www.lasunigeria.com for www.lasunigeria.org a website will come up. The fact is that, all lucrative websites have their counterfeits. The anonymity of the web makes prosecution very difficult. Attack can be launched from anywhere on the globe for a low cost. Furthermore, it is even difficult to collect evidence from another country and the nature of cyber-crime is intangible.

CYBER CRIME AND SOCIAL ORDER
The attainment of social order in any society is a venture which may not be attained for along period of time. This is because crime is always a threat to social order. Where crime is perceived not to be thriving, it is incubating and the hatching may just be explosive. The incubation period entails when the new art of criminality is learned more criminals would venture for less-risk criminal adventures for personal protection. This incubation period was experienced in Nigeria when internet was newly introduced into the system. Within a certain period of time, the art was learned and there was shift to internet crime and other crimes with high risk reduced. This led to the incorporation of the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) in Nigeria. Unlike, the other property criminals, cyber criminals are after the money and not fame.

These criminals can be found in the following expanding arsenal.

1) Blended threats – A cyber-crime attack that combines multiple tools such as e-mail virus, a Trojan, or other malware. For example “life is beautiful”
2) Bots and Tombies – A bot is a short form of robot. It is a computer in which a worm or a virus has been installed automatically and allows cyber criminals access and subsequently control the computer. This invariably, leads to formation of network which is controlled by the criminal altogether. E.g. autorun. It affects computers that are always online.
3) Bundling - Covertly attaching a virus or spyware to a legitimate download of game or screensaver, the legitimate downloads give unwilling permission to installation of criminal programmes.
4) Denial of Services (DOS) – This is an attack to prevent the normal functioning of a computer network and prevention of access by authorized users. The captured computers are then used to launch e-mails at the targets within a short period of time.
5) IP Address Hijacking - This involves taking up a legitimate address of an internet service and rerouting traffic from it to the criminals.

According to McAfee North America Criminal Report (2007) other forms of strategies that threatened social order include – key logging, packet sniffing, ransomware, rootkit, screen grabbing, scripts, spyware, Trojan, virus; war-driving; and worms. All these misadventures are elements of change emerging out of individual capability to learn, innovate, and invent strategies of working as a criminal without being noticed. This then forms a theoretical base for this paper.

THEORETICAL BASE OF CYBER CRIME AND DEVELOPMENT
When an individual starts learning a new language, the abusive part of the language is usually the easiest to comprehend and put into use. The same belief can be associated with technological tools which at first comes handy as a weapon and then later as a developmental tool. The first individual to innovate an idea usually does so to accelerate certain processes or to make work easier. When this technology diffuses, it may be at first adopted for destructive purposes. At a later time, it is put into better use and the intended development is achieved. The invention of the internet was to make possible communication by the military in the event of nuclear attack. The communication is ensured even when all parts of the communication system are rendered inoperable. Today, the purpose has transcends beyond that to
enhancement of communication between individuals, organizations and acceleration of business transactions.

The theoretical locale of this position is noted in Durkheim’s social differentiation, structural functionalism, and the social drift theory of Matza and Sykes (1964). The prevalence of cyber-crime started from social differentiation, brought about social isolation, led to criminality, which invariably causes disequilibrium in the system. These imbalances then create a new ground for better technology to be invented as a development over the previous technology. The new technology gives birth to new crime and a cyclical relationship is established between technology and crime. Crime creates new technology and new technology creates new crime. Social order is achieved only when new technology is created, but disorder is established as soon as people develop the mastery of the new technology. This represents the relationship between technology and cyber crime. The invention of the internet technology brings about social differentiation. That is, a division of labour through the identification of functional roles in the society. With increasing technology, social differentiation becomes more complex and alienation will set in and gradually individuals will become isolated. The social isolation with its inherent alienation brings about boredom and the need for adventures. This adventure is as a result of innovation, which invariably results to crime.

The above is to lay claim to the fact that cyber criminals are not always into criminality, rather they operate in-between law abiding and criminality. They hold values, beliefs and attitudes very similar to those law-abiding citizens; respect and admire law abiding, honest individuals; and are not immune to the demands of conformity. In order for the cyber criminals to continue to succeed in their nefarious acts, they adopt neutralization techniques, which help in the rationalization of their attitudes. These techniques include:

i) **Denial of responsibility** as they presume they are only victims of circumstance;

ii) **Denial of injury** because the acts do not cause any physical harm and the victims can afford the losses;

iii) **Denial of victims** because they either deserve the harm or injury or there is no real victim;

iv) **Condemnation of condemners** as cyber criminals will see them as hypocrites who are only condemning because they do not have the same opportunity or the requisite skills to handle the crime

Armed with these skills, characteristics, and the neutralization of guilt techniques, the cyber-criminals then begin to operate without remorse even when their attempts fail, they create other means of surviving. Naturally, a gang is formed to cater for those who are not successful and then eventually an organized crime syndicate is formed to further protect the invisibility of the cyber criminals. Inevitably, social disorganization becomes the order of the day where the society loses its ability to engage in self-regulation. This way, social problem is manifested and the orderliness of the society threatened.

In order for the society to re-establish self-regulation, policies are made, agencies are set up, and law enforcement is beefed up to help in the eradication of the cyber-crimes. These policies may eradicate the immediate problems or the techniques involved in cybercrime, it will still be capitalized upon for new strategies for committing cyber-crimes to be formulated. Such that newer technology to combat cyber-crimes gives birth to newer crimes. This way, the process becomes ad infinitum. As the society continues to thrive technologically, newer crimes are created by those who have developed the mastery of the pace of technological development. Development then creates avenues for the birth of even newer crimes. This endless process is represented below
CONCLUSION

It is pertinent to note that crime and development have unending relationship. The origin of crime in itself may be associated with the origin of technological advancement. The desire to eradicate cyber-crime is an attempt to forestall the development of the society. Since development cannot be stagnated, then crime will continue to thrive in all societies. Cyber-crime is a parasite of the computer evolution and Internet services.

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