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Indonesia's digital illiteracy as a challenge to enhance cyber security

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Abstract

Indonesia has 132.7 million of internet users in 2016, although many has failed to be critical in analyzing the accuracy of information that circulates among the web. Despite its exponential growth of internet users, the threat of cyber space in Indonesia has increased dramatically. In 2018 Badan Siber dan Sandi Negara (eng: State Cyber and Cryptography Agency) or BSSN recorded 230 million cyber attacks on Indonesia, the largest type of attack being malware. Indonesia's vulnerability to malware and virus attacks due to the use of pirated software and operating systems. The use of illegal software or applications increases the risk of Man in the Middle Attack, in which the attacker secretly relays and possibly alters the communications between two parties who believe they are directly communicating with each other. With its vulnerability to cyberattacks, however, Indonesians are less equipped with sufficient knowledge of digital literacy. Digital literacy is defined as the ability to access resources and critically evaluate and create information through digital technology. The spread of hoaxes and hate speech, rampant cyberbullying, radical and terrorist groups using social media to attract recruits, and high dependence or addiction to the internet signify the state of Indonesia's insufficient digital literacy. The author argues that digital literacy is important in order to better equip Indonesia to minimize the impact of cyberattacks and ensure cyber security of Indonesia.

Keywords: digital literacy, cyber security, malware, cyberattacks

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