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**Situative prevention of cybercrime:
a promising suppression approach**

Abstract

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There is much truth to the old saying "opportunity makes the thief". The established discipline of Criminology focuses on the thief, whereas the more recent discipline of Crime Science focuses on the opportunity. The principal objective of Crime Science is to reduce crime by reducing the opportunity for crimes to be committed.

We will present some of the highlights of opportunity reduction through situational crime prevention first in general terms. For example there is a rich collection of practical advice on the web site for problem Oriented Policing at <http://www.popcenter.org/> . However, most of the material that is available on this website applies to traditional crime, and not to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) related crime.

Then we move on to discuss the role of ICT in situational crime prevention. ICT poses a number of interesting challenges to the methods of situational crime prevention. For example how should we interpret the convergence in space and time of a motivated offender and a suitable target in the absence of a capable guardian? A phisher can commit his crime from the comfort of his own home!

There is significant opportunity for ICT related crime. For example the engineers responsible for the design of the Internet only started to think about security long after the Internet was established. We discuss a case study into the relationship of ICT and crime.

To conclude we suggest how the principles of situational crime prevention that have been shown to be successful in the prevention of "traditional" crime could be applied to cyber-crime too.