

David Carter's Visionary Description of Computer Crime Categories

David L. Carter offered one of the earliest and most forward-looking frameworks for understanding computer crime. His categories anticipated the ways computers would become central to both traditional and entirely new types of crime.

1. Computer as a Target

Crimes where the computer or its data is the direct victim: - Hacking into systems - Viruses and malware - Denial-of-service attacks - Data destruction Carter foresaw that computers and data would become valuable enough to be primary crime targets.

2. Computer as an Instrument

Computers are tools used to commit traditional crimes in new ways: - Fraud and embezzlement - Theft and money laundering - Distribution of child exploitation material He emphasized that computers expand scale, speed, and global reach.

3. Computer as Incidental

The computer is not essential, but it aids in criminal activity: - Keeping criminal records - Communication among offenders - Storing illegal information This anticipated how digital evidence would become routine in investigations.

4. Crimes Associated with the Computer Environment

Crimes that arise specifically because of computer technology: - Software piracy - Copyright and intellectual property violations Carter predicted that new legal frameworks would be needed to address these issues.

Carter's framework was visionary: he foresaw the globalization of cybercrime, the fusion of traditional and new crimes, the centrality of digital evidence, and the need for legal and policy innovation in the digital age.