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## A Small World of Bad Guys: Investigating Cooperation in CyberAttacks

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Given the technical and logistical problems that must be overcome in cyberspace, it is inevitable that many malicious actors operate in (more or less) formal and structured groups. Such groups are social entities, and their interactions and relationships can be investigated through Network Analysis. Using a well-known and tested dataset, this paper provides a first, empirical analysis of how several malicious hacker groups cooperate and highlights some of their behavioral characteristics. One important conclusion of this study is that malicious actors tend to populate a “small world”, where they consult, coordinate and help each other for their attacks.

### Keywords

cyberattack, computer networks, computer security, cybersecurity, network analysis

### Topics

- Network analysis for security and cybersecurity

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