

Individual Proposal for SESA 2024

Paper Presentation

Title: Advancing Technological Capabilities hindering National Security

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Topic: Security and Intelligence

Abstract:

This paper explores the impact of technology on intelligence sharing and collaboration among agencies within the US Intelligence Community (IC) that support national security. With rapid technological advancements, collaboration and timely information exchange are essential to address emerging threats effectively. However, the increased reliance on technology for intelligence sharing may hinder collaboration due to data silos, cybersecurity risks, and information overload across the IC. This study addresses the technological challenges of collaboration and information exchange posed by incompatible computer systems in fostering effective intelligence sharing. Specifically, examining how incompatible computer systems affect the ability of analysts to share intelligence data between agencies. The study contributes to the existing literature by identifying the challenges of technology use in intelligence sharing as an underrepresented topic in previous research.

Moreover, the research highlights the critical role of organizational culture in influencing information-sharing practices and the roles of Social Construction of Technology and Organizational Culture theories to inform the suggested theoretical framework. The findings reveal the IC's use of diverse and non-compatible technology platforms hinders collaboration and prevents seamless intelligence sharing. As different agencies invest in distinct technological platforms, these decisions increase the potentiality of duplications of efforts and a fragmented intelligence picture. The research argues that the IC should prioritize investments in compatible technology that enables efficient collaboration and information sharing. The research's implications extend to policymakers, security agencies, and technology developers as a resource that may inform the development of collaboration and effective technology use within the various US IC agencies and organizations.