

Abstract

The maritime sector faces unique challenges regarding cyber awareness, this qualitative analysis examines the current state of cyber awareness among seafarers and explores possible strategies to improve their knowledge and preparedness. Outdated systems and limited bandwidth often hinder the implementation of modern security measures, while human error remains a significant vulnerability. To collect data, a questionnaire was sent out to shipping companies' cybersecurity team, and later an interview was conducted. The study's findings show a clear and urgent need for increased cyber awareness and the establishment of standardized training programs for seafarers. The results indicate a knowledge gap among seafarers regarding cyber security practices and a general lack of preparedness to deal with the reality of cyber threats. The proposed educational measures, integrated into maritime universities, can play a vital role in equipping future seafarers with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively navigate the evolving cyber landscape and mitigate potential risks.