

E-Government and the Challenge of Cybercrime in Nigeria

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Full

Text Views

[Abstract](#)

Document Sections

•

I.

Introduction

•

II.

E-Government and Cybercrime: A Review of Literature

•

III.

Theoretical Framework

-

IV.

Methodology

-

V.

E-Government and Cybercrime in Nigeria

Abstract:

Data driven government has become significant in the quest for quality service delivery in the public sector. Countries all over the world are now using Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) to enhance the quality of their governance. ICTs have been found to improve efficiency and effectiveness of public administration and enhance citizens access to government services, hence, improvement of the quality of governance. The increasing development of ICTs however, presents new and emerging threats for government to contend with. The issue of cybercrime has become a critical factor in digital government practice in recent times. The internet which provides free access to information has also led to the abuse of technology in perpetrating crimes capable of undermining a nations security. This study examines the implications of cybercrimes on the implementation digital government in Nigerias public sector. The paper makes use of qualitative secondary data gathered from publications of peer reviewed journals and international bodies, books, internet materials to interrogate the implication of cybercrimes in Nigerias quest for digital government adoption. Data gathered were analysed through a systematic literature review with the Routine Activity theory serving as the theoretical framework. Findings of the study reveal the great threat that the increasing spate of cybercrimes pose for digital government implementation in the Nigeria public sector. The paper argues for a data driven government in Nigeria and the political will for its implementation and as well, a vigorous public awareness campaign and decisive application of cyber laws in the country.

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I. Introduction

The advancement of information and communication technology (ICT) has made it easier for various sectors of governance to perform effectively. Nations, in the 21st century, are using the power of big data for more citizen-centric governance. Data driven government has become significant in the quest for quality and cost-effective service delivery in the public sector [1].

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