BACKGROUND
Studies on traditional crime have consistently suggested that there is a strong relationship between an individual’s criminal behaviour and the criminal behaviour of one’s social ties. Recent research on cyber offenders has also suggested that, compared to non-offenders, cyber offenders more often have cybercriminal social ties. However, the latter studies are based on less reliable methodology than the studies on traditional crime. Before prevention interventions that target cybercriminal social ties can be implemented, these methodological issues need to be addressed.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS
"To what extent is there a relationship between the cybercriminal behaviour of social ties?"
- To what extent are there selection and influence effects for the actual cybercriminal behaviour of offline social ties?
- To what extent is there a difference in the effect of perceived cybercriminal behaviour of offline social ties compared to social ties that exist exclusively online?
- To what extent do influence and selection effects of social ties differ between cyber-dependent, cyber-enabled, and traditional criminal behaviour?
- What are the implications of our findings for prevention?

METHODS & ANALYTICAL STRATEGY
- **Population**: Dutch juveniles between the ages of 12 and 23.
  - Regular students
  - IT-profile students (high risk)
- **Measures**: Questionnaire on wide range of topics
  - Self-reported criminal behaviour: cyber-dependent crime, cyber-enabled crime, traditional crime
  - Friendship networks: offline friends, online friends
  - Potentially explanatory factors for cyber-offending: time use, family situation, social competence, IT-skills

**Analysis**: Social network analysis on three waves of longitudinal data. Through stochastic actor-oriented models we are able to study the mechanisms underlying the similarity in (cyber)criminal behaviour of social ties. This analysis allows for separating the effects of friend selection from the effects of social influence.

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