# CYBERSECURITY SKILLS JOURNAL



# What is a Dialogue?

CSJ's open Call for Proposals



# **Get Assigned** a Team 0,0,0





A CSJ Dialogue is research manuscript that documents an exchange of ideas between subject matter experts (SMEs) and stakeholders highlighting different points of view, experiences and expertise on a problem or area within the human factors of cybersecurity.

There may or may not be any prior substantive and rigorous evidence-based research about this problem from within the arena of cybersecurity.

The goal of a Dialogue is to discover common themes and ideas for a future systematic study.

Dialogues begin by asking the same questions of each participant, but participants may end up talking directly to each other, asking and answering new questions.



# Comparing Dialogues, Notes and Articles

## Dialogue

- Planning study
- Discussion of specific questions related to problem
- Gather data for systematic study
- Opinions & experiences of stakeholders
- Not peer reviewed

### Note

- Proposed or early stage of study
- Documents design of systematic study
- Peer reviewed

### Article

- Study in progress or complete
- Reports early findings or outcomes from systematic study
- Supports replication of study
- Peer reviewed



A Dialogue is not a panel presentation with experts presenting data, but more of a roundtable discussion or fireside chat, with each participant responding to each question.

A Dialogue author is like a moderator, bringing together subject matter experts for a discussion about a few critical questions.

- Discussions may be real time or asynchronous, written or verbal, or a combination.
- $\succ$  The participants create the substance of that Dialogue's content.





Dialogues discuss ideas, methods, or approaches, with supporting statements and observations from participants rather than facts of an investigation.

Dialogues can arise from:

- Facilitated collections of opinions
- Narratives from interviews

>Other interactions such the classical Plato's Dialogues – a linear conversation between the interrogator and the interrogated



A Dialogue should be grounded in a few "how" or "why" type questions related to the core problem to be explore with key stakeholders or SMEs.

Points to help identify the primary and secondary questions for a Dialogue:

- What questions have not been answered by prior investigations of the problem?
- Why are practitioners or prior systematic investigations lacking an understanding of the problem or issue?
- Is information needed to address the problem missing or unknown?
- How might different factors contribute to different perspectives on the problem?





- Responses from different practitioner interviews to the same questions,  $\bigcirc$ e.g., User Interface/User Experience/Use Case design, testing, demo, evaluation – e.g., to identify gaps in tools or training requirements
- Team discussions of problems and potential solutions encountered in 0 research efforts that do not yet have results
- Discussions about the applicability / pros / cons of related work in other  $\bigcirc$ areas (engineering, social sciences) that may be adapted to cybersecurity
- A "Hot Topic" discussion that provides additional support for, expands on,  $\bigcirc$ or offers contrary evidence about an idea, recommendation or inference published elsewhere
- Student discussions on problems with open ended questions suggested by  $\bigcirc$ instructors



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Creswell, J. W. (1998). *Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing* among five traditions. Sage Publications.

Denzin, & Lincoln. (2003). Strategies of Qualitative Inquiry. Sage Publications.

Josselson, R. (2013). Interviewing for qualitative inquiry: A relational approach.