Cyber warfare as a form of conflict: Evaluation of models of cyber conflict as a prototype to conceptual analysis

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This research states, “Given the unstructured domain of cyber warfare knowledge a specific model will allow experts to produce a concept map significantly more detailed than absent the model.” Experts were solicited in a variety of venues to map cyber warfare using a concept mapping process and provide a deeper understanding of the concept. Two technology-centric models were given to groups of experts to assist them in explaining elements of cyber conflict. One group was just given the cyber warfare question and no specific model as guidance. The groups were then compared to see if either of the models had better explanatory power per the experts responses.

Key Conclusions

- This study was conducted to evaluate whether conceptual models have specific effects on the depth of understanding in an ill-defined or ill-structured domain of knowledge.
- The evidence does not support either hypothesis, the wide variance between experts in understanding of the domain does suggest a significant contribution to the field.