Methodology for Counting Cyber-Related Bills in the 116th Congress

This methodology section details how the authors of the "Taking Action on Cyber Enforcement: Assessing US Legislative Progress in the 116th Congress" identified and categorized cyber-related legislation introduced during the 116th congressional session.

Using congress.gov, the authors searched for legislation with "cyber," "cybersecurity," "cybercrime," "encryption," "data protection," and "technology" in the title. Once the authors identified a bill, the following categories were used to form the report's analysis:

- Whether the bill had bipartisan co-sponsorship
- 11 issue-areas based on the authors of the "Taking Action on Cyber Enforcement: Assessing US Legislative Progress in the 115th Congress" analysis of research performed by the Congressional Research Service
- Whether the bill was reintroduced from the 115th Congress
- The date the bill was introduced
- The current status of the bill
- Whether the bill was placed into another bill that was signed into law
- The primary House Committee the bill was introduced in
- The primary Senate Committee the bill was introduced in
- A summary of the bill
- Whether the bill imposed consequences on a malicious cyber actor, both non-state and nation-state actors
- Whether the bill was defensive (e.g., strengthening networks) or offensive (e.g., imposing sanctions)
- The Member of Congress who sponsored the bill
- The political affiliation of the Member of Congress who sponsored the bill
- The bill's sponsor state
- Other related bills as identified by congress.gov. If a bill was considered identical by congress.gov, then the authors combined both bills into one and counted those two bills as one.

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