# Mapping Cybersecurity Practices and Mental Models in Danish SMEs: A Comprehensive Study using Focus Groups

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## Introduction and Background

- ▶ The Danish SMEs in defense and IT sectors face significant cybersecurity threats.
- Importance of bolstering cybersecurity frameworks for national security.
- Previous studies focused on quantitative metrics, neglecting human factors.
- ▶ This study uses a blend of qualitative and quantitative methods, including simulations.

## Aims & Objectives

### **Research Questions**

- Document and analyze perspectives on current cybersecurity practices.
- Explore mental models underpinning these practices.
- RQ1: Perceptions of policymakers on Denmark's cybersecurity stance.
- RQ2: Comparison of Denmark's cybersecurity posture compared to global standards.

#### Mixed Methods Approach **Quantitative Approach** Survey Qualitative Approach Focus Groups Scenario-based Simulation Interviews Multiple focus group sessions will be Using the scenarios developed, there conducted with the target groups. will be interactive sessions to Follow-up interviews will be Open ended questions to gather data conducted with focus group simulate acute cybersecurity threats on their perspectives on cybersecurity. to test the participants' responses participants to gain deeper Maximum of 10 participant at each insights into individual. and decision-making processes level. under stress **Target Groups** Policy Makers Policy Promoters Policy Implementors Involves top officials from Made up of industry-level Made up of representatives national security and the Ministry experts from Danish SMEs of Foreign Affairs Conclusion

- Map cybersecurity landscape from multiple perspectives.
- Identify implementation gaps and provide actionable recommendations.

Future Work: Expand scope to other sectors and countries if results are promising

# Contributions

- Reveal gaps between policies and practices.
- Provide strategic policy recommendations.
- Enhance cybersecurity frameworks.

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# Methodology