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Cyber crime reports grow by 1,000 per cent

[Haneen Dajani](#)

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ABU DHABI // A federal court judge said today trends in new cyber crime – reports of which have grown by 1,000 per cent over the past three years in the capital – are developing faster than the law can evolve to fight them.

In some cases, he added, the five-year-old law can let some suspects entirely off the hook. Websites such as those that demonstrate bomb-making or black magic, he said, cannot be prosecuted as cyber crimes.

"When we face such cases, we try to relate them to an existing law. But in some cases we cannot criminalise the offense," said Dr Mohammed al kaabi, a judge in the federal court.

"So we are working on updating the UAE cyber crime law," he added.

Moreover, suggestions for a GCC-wide cyber crime law are being collected, with the aim of developing a guide for countries that don't have their own laws.

According to a study by Dr Ibrahim Baggili, director of the advanced cyber forensics research laboratory at Zayed University, reports of cyber crimes in Abu Dhabi have increased by 1,000 per cent in the past three years.

This does not necessarily mean that crimes have increased, he cautioned: it could also mean there is more awareness on what a cyber crime is and how it could be reported.

Investigating cyber crimes is made more difficult around the world as forensics labs are backlogged by up to two years, he added. He and researchers in the UK have tried to solve this problem with a process they call "digital triage".

"You can insert it on the computer in the crime scene to see if a case is worth investigating or not," he said, saving effort and time.

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