Hackers, Crackers, & Attackers

(...Oh My!)

http://www.JasonDion.com
Hackers

• Originally a computer enthusiasts
  • Didn’t necessarily mean the person had malicious intent, but due to popular media and new outlets that has changed

**Ethical hacker** is a term to distinguish the “good guys” from the “bad guys”
Crackers

- Short for “Criminal hackers”
- Illegally hack into computer software or system without permission
The Hats Hackers Wear...

White Hat
- Help secure an organization’s systems
- Believe you must “think like an attacker to beat the hackers”
- Hack networks with permission

Black Hat
- Perform illegal activities
- Hack into networks without permission

Gray Hat:
- Work on either white or black sides
- Bug finders who post in open press before notifying companies may fit this category
Attackers (Phreakers)

- Focused on telephone and PBX systems

John Draper (CAP’N CRUNCH)
Attackers

Software Crackers/Hackers
  • Experts in reverse engineering to break license and registration keys

System Crackers/Hackers
  • Specific expertise in a operating/network system
  • Create botnets, Trojans, viruses, malware

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Attackers

Suicide Hackers

- Carry out attacks even though they will most likely get caught or arrested

Insider Threat/Disgruntled Employees

- Authorized user to the networks
- Makes them extremely dangerous
- May be a skilled or unskilled
Script Kiddies

- Low-skilled attackers
- Use freely available vulnerability assessment and hacking tools
- May not understand what they are doing
Cyberterrorists/Cybercriminals/Hactivists

- Conduct activities against governments, corporations, or individuals
- Can be an individual or member of a group
Ethical Hacker (aka the “Good Guys”)

• Hired by an organization to perform security tests

• Help secure the organization’s systems and network

• Performs hacking activities without malicious intent and with permission
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