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ARE HACKERS OUTLAWS OR WATCHDOGS?

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The aim of the paper is to find out what a hacker society is and what role they play in our lives nowadays. ***The tasks*** are to study the occupation and the history of hackers, to get acquainted with the most famous individuals and with some interesting facts and news from the world of hacking, to figure out the advantages and disadvantages of being a hacker, and also to learn how to protect our personal information from them.

***The s*tudy object** is hackers, their coming into our lives, the reasons for the development of hacking and dispelling the myth that hackers live only outlaws.

The methods of observation, classification, generalization, description are used in this paper.

The scientific novelty of the presented work is that for the first time the author tried to systematize information about the whole hacking world by focusing on describing hackers not only as criminals who should be punished, but also as heroes due to their assistance in the development of information technologies in the past, the present and also in the future, too.

Results and discussion. Hacking is just like a cancer that has very dangerous effects on the society. In recent years we have seen a drastic change in the field of IT, where electronic commerce, email, online shopping, online banking, information bank of numerous data, software development has improved in leaps and bounds. As the technology has increased to new heights the hackers have found a way to get easy money. They find ways to get into government confidential files, personal banking details, steal away their money from the banks, implant a Trojan or virus into different computers to make them vulnerable to work.

Hacking according to oxford dictionary means to "gain unauthorized access (to data in a computer)". Banks defines hacking as "something that boring mainframe computer operators did to improve performance and battle boredom." [1]. Here a bank focuses on boredom as the reason of hacking. Darlington believes hacking is not limited to accessing data or information but also includes an attack on the privacy of all people [2]. On the other hand, the word "hacker" is the agent of hack or hacking and it was defined as a person who enjoys accessing files whether for fun, imposing power or the interest related to the accessed files or data according to Taylor [3]. While Marotta has a negative view of the hacker as a data lord, a barbarian who takes what he wants [4]. Himanen defines hacker as any person who performs illegal actions whether they were related to computer or not which means the usage of a device apart from its functionality. Seems hacking according to Himanen is related to any illegal or unauthorized action [5]. Almost all different opinions agree on the illegality of hacking.

Basically, there are three types of hackers: a black hat, a white hat and a grey hat hacker. Black hat hackers, so-called crackers or dark side hackers, are unethical who use their skills to break into computer networks for earnings, protest, or they are being motivated by the confrontations, and just an ordinary criminal intent. The white hat hacker, an ethical cyber spy and a computer security expert, guarantees the security of a company's information systems by means of evaluating systems and testing methodologies for security. And, in addition, a grey hat hackers are skilled hackers that sometimes fall from either ethical entities or unethical. They do not have malicious reasons and personal achievement but may perform criminal intention to ensure complete and better security.

Also there is another side of the world of hackers called ethical hacking. Entities that perform ethical hacking functions for organizations usually fall into one of three categories: the white hats, the former black hats, and independent consulting organizations. The white hat ethical

hacker has the appropriate computer skills and understanding of the black hat hacker mentality and methods. This person might be an independent consultant hired to perform ethical hacking activities. The former black hat hacker is reformed and brings actual black hat experience to his or her work. There is a concern about this individual in that you can never be certain that he or she will not revert to their former malicious activities. The third category of ethical hacker is taken by consulting companies that perform a variety of services for organizations including accounting, auditing, and information system security.

Different kinds of hacking attacks are considered as computer crimes. The following is the list of some examples of crimes which are committed frequently:

− password hacking (hackers find a way to illegally hack into the passwords of users of federal bureau, banks in order to gain benefits from them);

− cheat (illegal use of people identities such as credit card details);

− viruses (viruses, Trojan horses and worm cause the computers to become more vulnerable and susceptible to hardware damage);

− software piracy (illegal copying and use of software);

− IP address spoofing (disguising the IP address and using that to gain illegal access into countries most confidential files);

− money laundering (illegally acquiring funds through the manipulation and falsification of financial statements and illegal transactions) [5].

Conclusion. Earlier hackers were considered to be genius because they helped in many ways in the development of computers and Internet technology as such, but in this modern world where personal benefit has played a major importance in one's life, people are often attracted to things they can do and gain through illegal entry into people privacy and using for their own benefits. Different motivations and opinions have been discussed in this paper, but if we consider hackers personally they are a live example of genius because of their abilities of doing the unbelievable and unachievable by getting more involved into the programming and understanding the loop holes in the security systems. Because of these, scientists and researchers have spent lots of technology to improve the systems security and make them more secure so that no illegal access can be gained.

Black hat hackers are always going to be seen as a menace to society, and in many cases they should be. However, many white hat hackers and even some gray hat and reformed black hat hackers have done great things for technology and the Internet. In truth, hackers are almost in the same situation as motorcycle enthusiasts in that the existence of a few motorcycle gangs with real criminal operations tarnishes the image of the entire subculture. You don't need to go out and hug the next hacker you meet, but it might be worth remembering that the word "hacker" doesn't equal criminal – at least not all the time.

Keywords: a hacker, hacking, ethical hackers, a white hat, a black hat.

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